What is Research?

Research is a study that is done to answer a question.

Scientists do research because they are looking for better ways to help people. Some other words that describe research are clinical trial, protocol, survey, or experiment. Research is not the same as treatment.

Who can participate in research?

Based on the question the research is trying to answer, each research protocol specifies under what conditions a person may or may not qualify to participate in the research.

What do you need to know?

Participation in research is voluntary. It is your choice. Participation in research may or may not help you personally. The results of the research may help others in the future.

What are your rights?

- You do not have to participate in any type of research if you do not want to. That means you decide if you want to be in the research without any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, coercion, or undue influence.
- Participation in research will not affect your usual medical care.
- You have the right to hear about all your treatment options.
- You can leave the research study at any time.
- If you want to talk to other people about the research, you are free to do so.
- You may ask questions about anything that you do not understand.

Who reviews the research?

There is an independent committee called the Institutional Review Board (IRB) that is responsible for safeguarding the rights and welfare of all participants who volunteer in research. The members of the IRB are physicians, other health care professionals and community members. They volunteer their time and expertise in reviewing all human subjects research done at our Trinity Health Michigan locations.

In overseeing the research, the IRB assures there is equitable selection of participants and ensures that potential research-related risks are identified, disclosed, and minimized. All research protocols must be formally reviewed and approved by the IRB prior to the start of the study.

Federal rules help research to be conducted in an ethical manner.

The Trinity Health Michigan IRBs have policies and procedures that guide researchers in the conduct of research.

***Physician Investigators (l to r):** Philip Stella, MD, Varsha Moudgal, MD and Robert Cleary, MD*

What does it mean to consent?

The process of informing you about a study is called consenting. Consenting involves an exchange of information through discussion with research staff. A consent document is used to provide written information about the research before you join the study. You should receive a copy of the consent document if one is required for the research.

The consent document will contain important information for your consideration such as:

- **The purpose of the research; what is the study about?**
- **The risks and benefits of the proposed research.**
- **How much time it will take for you to participate.**
- **What procedures will be performed?**
- **What will happen to you in the research?**
- **Are there any side effects?**
- **What other options do you have?**
- **Will it cost you anything?**
- **Who to call if you have a question.**
- **Who you can talk to about the study.**
- **Finding out the results of the study.**

If you have a question about your rights as a research participant, please contact the Research Compliance Department at 734-712-5470 and ask to speak with the Director. If you do not talk to someone directly, please leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.