

## ABCD General Study Information

*Who is doing this research and why is the study needed?*

Adolescence is marked by dramatic developmental changes, particularly brain development. A child's brain and cognitive development go on to influence their lives throughout adulthood. Despite this, there is still much to learn about how childhood experiences (playing video games; participation in sports, music, art; sleep patterns; screen time; etc) affect brain development. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) challenged researchers to develop a comprehensive investigative approach to learn more about brain and cognitive development from childhood to young adulthood. To meet this challenge, a consortium of nineteen distinguished academic institutions, including VCU, have come together to establish this landmark study on brain development covering childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. *VCU's MATR has been chosen as one of only four twin-recruitment sites. The twin sites play a singular role because twin participants will help provide unique insight needed to unravel important gene-environment interactions influencing brain development.*

*Who can participate?*

- Generally healthy MATR twin pairs (9 & 10 years old)
- One or both parents/legal guardians of the twin pair

*What does participation involve?*

- *All participation is voluntary.*
- Parent(s) of juvenile twins complete a phone call with a MATR Interviewer. This call will include: more information about study participation, a few eligibility & contact preference questions, and possibly providing your permission for the study to contact you.
- If willing and eligible following the MATR call, the participants would need to come to VCU in Richmond, VA to complete the study over one day or, if preferred, split into two days (if needed, hotel accommodations can be provided):
  - Study tasks for the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) include: providing consent & completing surveys.
  - Study task for the twins include: Completing surveys and computerized tasks checking their memory, attention, and thinking—these are a lot like playing a game or solving puzzles; having 3-D pictures of their brain taken in a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine; providing some samples.

*Will participants be compensated and how does compensation work?*

- Each twin receives up to \$100 for completing the study.
- Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) receive up to \$200 total.
- Depending upon distance travelled to the study site overnight accommodation as well as some level of travel compensation may be provided.

This information is just to provide an overview of some of the topics that may be helpful for you to know about prior to completing a phone call with a MATR Interviewer. You are also welcome to review this plus some additional information by visiting [go.vcu.edu/abcdtwin](http://go.vcu.edu/abcdtwin). If we haven't already, we will contact you soon by phone to discuss this further and to see if you might be willing to allow the study staff to contact you about participation.