



Fortification Study

Later this summer, the Irish Government intends to introduce a programme of fortification of flour with folic acid in order to prevent birth defects. Folic acid taken before and during early pregnancy is known to prevent the occurrence of neural tube defects. BRI is preparing to take advantage of this unique opportunity to determine if relatives will achieve the same blood folate levels after fortification as the general population. If they do not, perhaps fortification does not work for everyone, and that some groups may require additional folate.

We will be sending out a letter to invite you to participate in our study. It will involve attending a clinic in Drogheda to give a blood sample and completing a questionnaire on a Saturday in June or July, before fortification occurs. Later, in about two years' time, we will re-contact those who participate now to see what change has occurred in their blood folate levels. We hope that you will be happy to take part and help us further in our work trying to reduce the incidence of Neural Tube Defects in new babies.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to help out on the Saturdays, if you feel you are able to give up some of your time we would greatly appreciate it. You can call us in the office or get in touch by e-mail, (number and email address below).

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Proband Study

We would like to thank those people who helped us during Phase V of our study, the probands, that is, the person in each family who is living with a neural tube defect. We interviewed early this year and we hope to have the results very shortly.

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MISSION The Boyne Research Institute is a community-based research facility that conducts research for the community and in the community directed towards a better understanding of the origins of birth defects, and methods of prevention.

<p>2007 Staff of the Boyne Research Institute</p> <p><i>Rebecca Scott</i>, our administrator/researcher, works part-time, whilst being a full-time mum to Eve who is 11 months.</p> <p><i>Sharon McGinty</i>, our research nurse, previously worked as a Practice Nurse in London and Drogheda before joining us. Sharon has 3 children aged between 7 and 15 years.</p> <p><i>Julianne Byrne</i> directs the activities of the Boyne Research Institute and divides her time between Washington, DC and Drogheda.</p>	<p>Your donations to assist the work of the Boyne Research Institute are gratefully appreciated</p> <p>In Ireland: Boyne Research Institute Duke House, Duke Street Drogheda, IRELAND Tel: +353 (0)41-9836041 Email: admin@boyneresearch.ie An Irish-registered charity (no. 10275)</p> <p>In the USA: Boyne Research Foundation 1656 Newton Street, NW Washington, DC 20010, USA Tel: +1 202-234-8719 Email: boyne.research@verizon.net</p>
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