CLINICAL RESEARCH AT CAN CLINICS

CAN is firmly established at the forefront of HIV research. CAN conducts clinical research at select clinic locations within our network through collaboration with team-members who have extensive clinical research experience. Clinical research trials are important medical research studies where our doctors are studying promising new options with emerging potential for the treatment of HIV and co-infections. Whether studying the efficacy of new approaches to treatment failure, new agents promising to positively influence adherence to therapy, or optimizing treatment for therapy-experienced infected patients, our research team is addressing complex questions leading to better outcomes in the treatment of the HIV-positive patient with co-morbidities. Through the results of these trials we hope to advance the 'standard of care' for all patients with HIV infection and co-infections.

All of the currently available successful strategies for the treatment of HIV infection were developed over the last 30 years through clinical research trials. Each of today's current agents were evaluated for safety and efficacy in volunteers and then moved to approval by the FDA for widespread use in the treatment of HIV. The clinical research studies conducted today at our clinics provides a unique opportunity for our patients to participate in cutting-edge advancements under scientific evaluation. These therapies or therapeutic combinations are evaluated using carefully designed and controlled protocols, with safety in the position of highest importance. The safety and efficacy results of these trials will provide the foundation for the best possible treatments providing the best possible patient care with best possible outcomes for future patients. While participation in any research trial is totally voluntary, those patients who decide to participate may be among the first to benefit from promising new approaches to the treatment of HIV and co-infections.

At CAN, we are currently enrolling in protocols that have been evaluated by our multispecialty team of experts who have chosen the studies based on the needs of our patient population. Each patient is thoroughly evaluated by our doctors to

determine if they ‘fit’ into a protocol and if that study may provide a potential health benefit or potential improvement in quality of life. The patient is then fully educated by the doctor about the research protocol so that an informed decision can be made about whether to participate. The doctor will take time with the patient to discuss what is going to happen along each step of the study, what exactly the treatment consists of, what the care and testing will be at each study visit and how participation in the study may affect everyday life, since participation may require more of a patients’ time. An informed consent will be signed; this is the ‘contract’ listing all of the facts about the study and what is expected from each participant throughout the course of the study. Participation in a clinical research trial may necessitate a patient to have more tests performed or more doctor visits than if not participating. Throughout participation and for a set follow-up period following discontinuation of a study, each participant will be closely and continuously monitored for well-being/health-benefit and safety. All of this information is contained in the informed consent that will be signed and given to each participant.

Anyone interested in participating as a volunteer in a clinical research trial or to explore which studies are currently active and enrolling at CAN, call 366-0461.