

The UAB Undiagnosed Diseases Program

The UAB Undiagnosed Diseases Program seeks to meet the needs of patients with severe chronic medical conditions for whom a diagnosis has not been made despite extensive medical evaluation.

Learn more about the UAB Undiagnosed Diseases Program (UDP):



Learn more about the NIH Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN):



The **UAB UDP team** is led by a group of UAB Medicine faculty physicians and also includes two nurse practitioners who serve as case coordinators.

UAB physicians from various medical and pediatric subspecialties serve as consultants and provide their expertise in each case as necessary.

The UDP is part of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN), and, as such, has access to advanced diagnostic capabilities and expertise of the entire Network.

PATIENT POPULATION

The UDP strives to meet the needs of patients of all ages.

The program is designed to explore conditions amenable to advanced diagnostic evaluation and is not appropriate for evaluation of some chronic conditions such as chronic fatigue, weight loss, fibromyalgia, and diffuse pain.

It is also not intended for initial evaluations, but rather for patients who have already had extensive evaluations that did not lead to a diagnosis.

DETERMINATION FOR EVALUATION

The principal deciding factor regarding the decision to evaluate a patient is that the UDP has the expertise and resources necessary to possibly achieve a diagnosis.

In some cases, the staff may determine that it will be unable to add to an already extensive work-up, in which case we are often able to arrange evaluations in alternative UAB programs. Despite evaluation in the UDP, it is possible that a diagnosis will not be made.

Prospective patients must meet the following criteria:

- Have had an extensive evaluation not resulting in a diagnosis
- The condition prompting the referral must be causing significant impairment to quality of life (organ dysfunction, constitutional symptoms, or loss of function) and must be of at least six month's duration.
- Are clinically stable and not acutely ill (requiring urgent evaluation and/or management in an acute setting)

See reverse side of this flyer for information about the UDP Referral & Evaluation Process

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REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCESS

- 1 Patients can apply** directly to the UDN through the UDN Gateway.



Patients:
undiagnosed.hms.
harvard.edu

Physicians can also send a referral directly to the UAB UDP by completing a form.



Physicians:
go.uab.edu/udp-referral

- 2 Referrals will be reviewed by UAB UDP staff.** Medical records will be gathered and reviewed and some patients may have an initial telemedicine or in-person visit to verify their eligibility to be evaluated in the program. Those deemed eligible for a full evaluation will be asked to complete an application to the UDN Gateway and provide informed consent for participation.
- 3 Once accepted into the program,** clinical evaluations with UDP physicians will be arranged and appropriate medical tests ordered. All clinical visits and tests will be billed in the usual manner. There is no charge, however, for submission of medical records for consideration for evaluation in the program.
- 4 Following evaluation,** the patient and referring physician will be sent a summary of the evaluation. If a diagnosis is established, treatment and management recommendations will be made, to be coordinated by our facility and/or per the patient's local providers, according to each patient's needs and the available resources.

IMPORTANT: The UDP does not assume ongoing care for patients, either during the evaluation or following determination of a diagnosis.

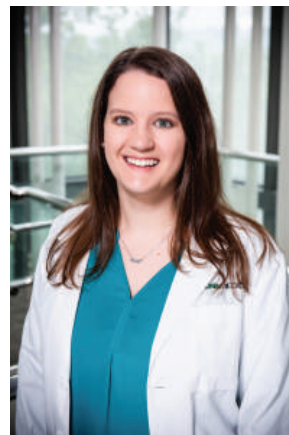
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