DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

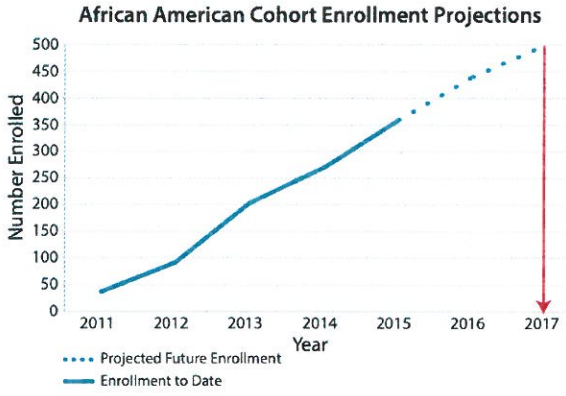
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institutes of Health
10 Center Drive
Room 3C710, MSC 1253
Bethesda, MD 20892-1253
Tel: 301-443-6160
Fax: 301-435-3495
E-mail: clinseq@mail.nih.gov

July 27, 2016

Dear Pastor Johnson,

We are writing to you with an exciting opportunity for members of your congregation to get involved with a research study at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) called ClinSeq®. ClinSeq® is focused on a type of genetic testing that allows us to look at many genes from each person in the study. The research we are doing is vitally important for increasing knowledge about how genes lead to health problems and to learning more about the patient's perspective on this testing. Individuals who participate in ClinSeq® not only get the satisfaction of contributing to the greater good, but also receive many free tests including testing for cholesterol and diabetes, a CAT scan for heart disease and genetic testing results.

It is clear that increasing the involvement of African-Americans in studies like this one will enhance doctors' abilities to use genetic testing to diagnose, treat and prevent disease. To improve the chances of the study results benefiting more people, we are enrolling 500 African American, African and Afro-Caribbean people. To date, we have enrolled 371 individuals. If we continue at this pace, our study will not be complete until 2017, as shown in the graph to the right.



We are reaching out to you in hopes that you will partner with us in recruiting for this important study. We know that you and your congregants are busy, but are contacting you because we also know the value that you place on health-related issues. Enclosed is a brochure that highlights the key features of the study. Please call us directly if you have any questions or to discuss the best ways to reach out to your congregation. Together we can improve the chances that more people, including African-Americans, can benefit from this research.

Sincerely,

Leslie G. Biesecker, MD
Principal Investigator, ClinSeq® Study

Sandra Epps [C]
Outreach Coordinator, ClinSeq® Study