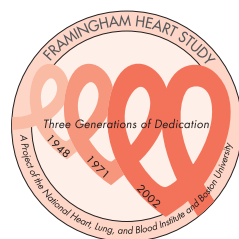
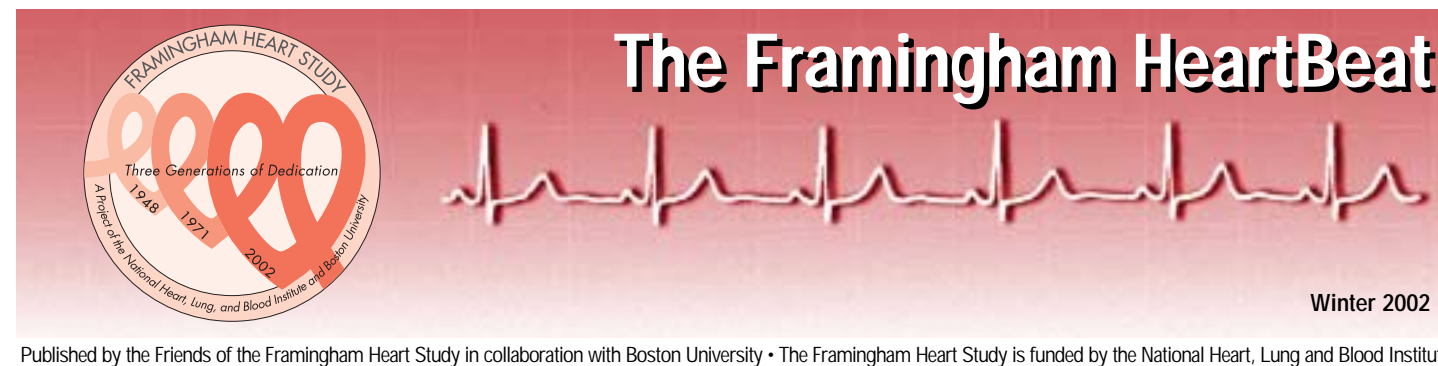


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Marian Bellwood, Offspring Participant Coordinator, will be contacting offspring participants about several ancillary studies, which have been approved by the Framingham Heart Study Executive Committee.

WE SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER ...

Samuel Seltzer

Samuel Seltzer proudly held the distinction of being the oldest surviving member of the original cohort of the Framingham Heart Study until he died suddenly in West Palm Beach, Florida, on December 29, 2000, at the age of 105. His daughter and son-in-law Millie and Phil Radlauer tell us that he enjoyed relatively good health, lived alone and was active and alert until his death. He voted in the recent presidential election as a citizen of Palm Beach County and emphatically stated that he had absolutely no problem with "that ballot". We extend our condolences to Sam's family, as well as our great appreciation for his dedication and loyalty as a Framingham Heart Study participant for over 51 years.

THOSE WE LOST ON SEPTEMBER 11

We continue to be haunted by the unspeakable tragedy brought upon our nation on September 11, 2001, and share on many levels the terrible losses suffered on that infamous day.

Meta Waller

We extend our deepest sympathy to Harriet Fuller, a member of the original Cohort of the Framingham Heart Study, on the death of her daughter, Meta Waller on September 11, 2001. Meta, an offspring participant in the Heart Study, was Special Programs Manager for the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon where she worked for 12 years. She was at her desk when the hijacked airliner crashed into the Pentagon.

Paige Hackel

Paige Farley Hackel, on her way to California, lost her life on American Airlines Flight 11. Paige had eagerly anticipated becoming a member of the third generation of the Framingham Heart Study. We join her mother, Marjorie Farley and her husband Allen Hackel in mourning her most untimely death.

Framingham Heart Study to Enter New Phase

Thanks to the dedicated participation of you, our participants, for the past half century the Framingham Heart Study has pioneered in the discovery of risk factors for heart disease and stroke. Findings from Framingham about the adverse health effects of high blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol and other conditions continue to change the way medicine is practiced. "Knowledge gained from the Framingham Heart Study has contributed to dramatic declines in deaths from heart disease and stroke over the past 30 years. Deaths from heart disease have declined by more than 50 percent and those from stroke by more than 60 percent," according to Dr. Claude Lenfant, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Dr. Aram Chobanian, Dean of the Boston University School of Medicine, agrees. He stated "Framingham researchers have helped change people's basic habits and, in doing so, have improved the health and well-being of countless lives." But these are complicated diseases and many questions remained unanswered.

Now the Study is about to enter a new phase: the enrollment of a third generation of participants, the grandchildren of our original cohort of 5,209 men and women who enrolled in the Study in 1948 and the children of their offspring, who joined the Study beginning in 1971. This step is of vital importance to increase our understanding of heart disease and stroke, and especially how these conditions affect families. With the help of another generation of participants, the Framingham Heart Study may close in on the root causes of cardiovascular disease and help in the development of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cardiovascular disease. "The Third Generation Study's participants will make vital contributions to scientists' understanding of the role of genetics in the development and progression of cardiovascular and other important diseases," according to Dr. Philip A. Wolf, Boston University's Principal Investigator for the Study.

When Dr. Dawber and other founders of the Framingham Heart Study recruited Framingham residents in 1948, they had the foresight to envision that heart diseases might cluster in families. Indeed, Framingham researchers subsequently discovered that a reported "family history" of heart disease does predict future risk for heart disease. With enrollment of a third generation, the FHS researchers will be able to examine how cardiovascular conditions are related in children, parents and grandparents from hundreds of families.

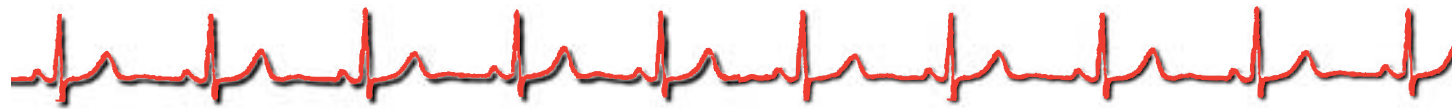
The first phase of the Third Generation Study will last approximately three years during which time participants will visit the clinic for a half-day of examinations, just as their parents and grandparents have done for many years. To qualify, individuals must be 20 years of age or older by December 31, 2004, and have had at least one parent in the Study.

On November 7, 2001, the Framingham Heart Study mailed more than 5,500 letters of invitation to members of the third generation. The response to the mailing has been overwhelmingly positive. In the first week after the mailing went out the Heart Study received over two thousand replies from potential Third Generation participants saying: "Yes, I would like to participate in the Study".

The willingness of the third generation to follow in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents will ensure that people all over the world will continue to benefit from future discoveries made in Framingham.

*Daniel Levy, MD
Director,
Framingham Heart Study*

Maureen Valentino is the participant coordinator for the third generation. Each member of the third generation will receive an enrollment form some time between January 2002 and December 2004. After receipt of the completed form Ms. Valentino or a member of her staff will contact the participant. Ms. Valentino can be reached at 800-854-7582 x417 or 508-935-347 with any questions.



Framingham Heart Study is Moving

We are pleased to announce that the Framingham Heart Study will be moving just a few blocks away from the present location to a wing of the Perini Corporation building at 73 Mt. Wayte Avenue, Framingham, in approximately four to eight weeks. Our new location will provide larger and considerably more modern and up-to-date facilities to continue our valuable research and welcome three generations of participants. We expect that our phone numbers will remain the same. Our study coordinators will provide all participants with directions to our new quarters as they schedule their clinic visits.



Offspring Arthritis Study to Start

Dr. David Felson, a Framingham Study investigator since 1984, has recently been awarded an NIH grant to continue the study of arthritis in the Framingham Offspring. This ancillary study will be a continuation of an earlier arthritis study done in 1992-94, and is scheduled to start in January, 2002. Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis and your participation in this follow-up study will provide valuable information both on what causes arthritis and how we may prevent this potentially disabling disease.

This new study team will include Dr. Marian Hannan, Dr. Douglas Kiel, Mary Hogan and Bob McLean who currently work on the Framingham osteoporosis study. A letter describing the study details will be mailed to the Offspring who participated in the earlier arthritis study. A staff member will call to extend an invitation to participate starting in early 2002 and continuing over the next three years.

The Arthritis Study Office will be located at the Metro West Wellness Center on Route 9 in Framingham and not at the main Framingham Heart Study building. Directions to the new exam site will be provided in the letter.

As always, your participation is greatly appreciated, and whether you believe you have arthritis or not, the information you provide will help us better understand who gets this disease and why. We look forward to seeing you again!

Brain Donation Program

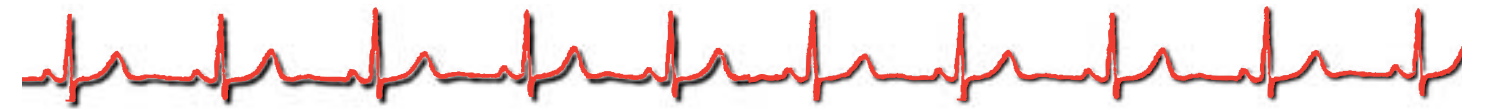
The Framingham Study has been conducting research on neurological disorders for several decades. In 1997, we began a postmortem brain tissue donation program. Over 370 subjects have enrolled so far. Analyzing postmortem brain tissue may confirm a previous diagnosis of stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or other rare neurological illness, provide a diagnosis that was earlier unclear, or discover an unsuspected problem. It can also document the extent of a disease. Having a definite diagnosis may benefit the donor's family, by giving them a better idea of their genetic risks.

Brain donations from mentally healthy individuals are useful to compare with individuals known to have neurological disorders. In this way, we continue to learn why some people remain mentally competent and physically healthy throughout their lives, while others develop strokes or become demented. Many of our participants, by nature altruistic, have expressed a desire to be organ donors. Just as a donation of a kidney or heart gives an individual recipient a second chance at a healthy life, a brain donation to research increases the chance of a healthy old age for the next generation.

We at the Framingham Study are particularly interested in exploring the environmental and genetic links to neurological diseases. Because our original members and many of their children and other family members have been coming to the Heart Study for so many years, we have a wealth of data on physical and neurological conditions, life styles and changes which have occurred over time. Many subjects have also had MRIs and neurological testing. By relating this clinical information to neuropathological findings, we have a unique opportunity to identify risk factors for disease. That is why the Framingham Brain Donation Program is open only to the members of the Framingham Heart Study.

Although we started the program only four years ago, the Brain Donation Program has already contributed significant information on the aging process, and we reported preliminary findings at the American Academy of Neurology in California last year.

If you would like more information about the Brain Donation Program, please call Linda Clark at 1-800-248-0409 or 508-935-3426.



State of the Art Heart Imaging Tests Planned for Third Generation and Offspring Studies

For more than 50 years, Framingham Heart Study research has focused on risk factors for heart attacks and coronary disease, but until now there have been no tests that directly visualize the disease in the coronary arteries before the heart attack occurs. "For the first time in the history of the Heart Study," notes senior Framingham scientist Dr. Christopher O'Donnell, "we are able to detect atherosclerosis in otherwise healthy men and women by measuring the calcium deposited in their coronary arteries using heart CT (computed tomography) scans."

From the first set of heart CT scans completed in 327 FHS volunteers, researchers have made several interesting observations, including the finding that high cholesterol and cigarette smoking measured when participants were younger predicted the presence of coronary artery disease 25 years later.

Calcium deposits in major arteries such as coronary arteries are related to risk for heart attacks. Studies of CT scanning in FHS will help determine whether the extent of calcium deposited in arteries can be considered a risk factor useful for predicting possible future heart attacks.

In a related study involving the same volunteers, another new test called cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was performed to detect heart abnormalities and disease in the major artery (the aorta) of the body. Using this test, atherosclerotic deposits are directly visualized in lifelike pictures.

In the next several years, many Offspring and Third Generation participants in the Framingham Heart Study will be invited to undergo a heart CT scan test. Offspring participants may also be invited to undergo a heart MRI test. These tests are extremely simple, requiring the participant merely to lie flat during the test. The tests will be done at an off-site imaging center and will be arranged at the convenience of the participant.

Research at the Framingham Heart Study will help determine who will benefit from these new sensitive tests in clinical practice. Calcium deposits tend to run in families. Therefore, FHS research based on these tests may also identify genes that lead to coronary artery disease and other forms of heart disease.

The scans will be coordinated by the Framingham Heart Study and by the Family Heart Study.

More information can be obtained by calling Marian Bellwood at 800-854-7582 or Emily Mandeas at 800-446-488.

The Original Cohort

We are delighted to report that of the 5,209 original members of the Framingham Heart Study who enrolled beginning in 1948, 722 are still alive and most are still active members of our Study. Many still come to the clinic for their regular exams and others have home visits or nursing home visits. During this exam cycle (our 26th!) three members of the clinic staff, Suzanne McRae, Bernadette Shaw and Tricia Kelly visited participants in Florida. For members who live far away and cannot come to Framingham or we cannot visit, we keep in touch by telephone or in writing, either with them or their family members.



As this newsletter goes to press, we have five members who are over 100 years of age. Our "senior" senior is Anna Skinner, who will turn 104 at the end of January. Mrs. Skinner lives in Ipswich, Massachusetts, and our staff members enjoy visiting her enormously, and listening to a wealth of memories and fascinating stories. Our next eldest member turned 102 in November. Actually, 170 members of the original cohort are 90 years of age and older, and 35 are 95 and above.

We are extraordinarily grateful to all our original members without whom there would not have been a Framingham Heart Study. They enthusiastically participate in each regular exam cycle, and often sign up for additional studies such as MRIs of the brain, neurological testing, or to be future brain donors. Their incredible long-term dedication to the work of the Study is heartwarming to all our Staff.