

# UAB UNDIAGNOSED DISEASES PROGRAM

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

The Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN) is a research study that may be able to help you find a diagnosis.

The UDN has three main objectives:

1. Improve diagnosis and care for patients with undiagnosed diseases
2. Research causes of undiagnosed diseases
3. Create research community to identify improved option for patients

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



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



## 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)



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## REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCESS

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



**Patients:**

[undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/participate/](https://undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/participate/)

**Physicians:**

Referring physicians with patient inquiries may reach out to the UAB UDP at this email address: [udp@uabmc.edu](mailto:udp@uabmc.edu).

**Complete an application to the UDN Gateway and provide informed consent for participation.** Medical records will be reviewed, and some patients may have an initial telemedicine or in-person visit to verify their eligibility to be evaluated in the program.

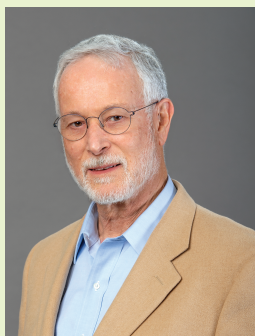
**Once accepted into the program,** clinical evaluations with UDP physicians will be arranged and appropriate medical tests ordered. All clinical visits and tests will be billed in the usual manner. There is no charge, however, for submission of medical records for consideration for evaluation in the program.

**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 UAB UDP does not assume ongoing care for patients after making a diagnosis.*

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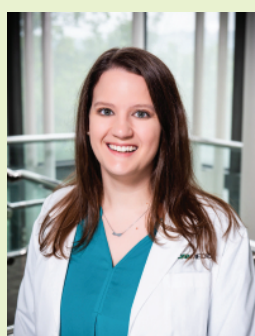
## UAB UNDIAGNOSED DISEASES PROGRAM SPECIALISTS



**Bruce Korf, M.D., PhD**  
Professor & Chair,  
Department of Genetics



**Martin Rodriguez, M.D.**  
Professor,  
Department of Medicine



**Anna Hurst, M.D., MS**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Genetics



**Nathaniel H. Robin, M.D.**  
Professor & Clinical Division  
Director, Dep't of Genetics