

**You are being asked to join a research study. You do not have to join.  
Please read this form carefully before you decide.**

<b>Study Title</b>	Modern Middle East Genomics Project
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	John Lindo, Ali Kesserwani
<b>Study Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:john.lindo@emory.edu">john.lindo@emory.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:ali.kesserwani@emory.edu">ali.kesserwani@emory.edu</a>
<b>Study Contact Phone and Study Team Email</b>	334-797-1120 (Kesserwani)
<b>Sponsor or Funding Source</b>	n/a

## Key Points

This section contains some key points that will help you decide if you want to join this study. There are more details about the study after this section. If you do not understand something, please ask someone.

<b>Purpose</b>	The objective of this project is to reconstruct population histories in the Middle East through Whole Genome Sequenced human DNA. This modern DNA will be sequenced from saliva samples. The research questions will examine Lebanese, Syrian, and Mesopotamian population dynamics, admixture events, and pattern migrations, both in the modern and premodern periods. The populations in which saliva samples will be acquired will be individuals of Middle Eastern descent (adults only) living in the United States. Specifically, descended from Lebanese, Syrian, and Iraqi populations. The source of the specimens will be saliva samples. The acquisition of the saliva samples will ideally occur over the Summer of 2026.
<b>Length of Time</b>	30-60 minutes
<b>Research Procedures</b>	Users will provide saliva samples.

<b>Risks</b>	This study has no risks.
<b>Benefits</b>	This study has no benefits (apart from contributing the genetic history of the Middle East and general science)
<b>Other Options</b>	This is not a treatment study.

## **The rest of this form tells you more about this study.**

### **Why have I been given this form?**

To see if you are interested in taking part in a research study. A research study is a planned study to learn about a topic.

### **Do I have to join this study?**

No. Being in research is voluntary. It is your choice. There is no penalty if you don't want to take part in the study. You will not lose your current benefits. The study team will explain the study to you. Please ask questions. Take your time deciding if you want to take part in this study. You can talk to others about the study. If you choose to join, you can change your mind later and leave the study.

If we learn something new during the study that may affect your choice to be in the study, we will tell you. Then you can choose if you want to stay in this study or leave it. You may be asked to sign a new form if you choose to stay in the study.

### **Why is this study being done?**

The objective of this project is to reconstruct population histories in the Middle East through Whole Genome Sequenced human DNA. This modern DNA will be sequenced from saliva samples. The research questions will examine Lebanese, Syrian, and Mesopotamian population dynamics, admixture events, and pattern migrations, both in the modern and premodern periods. The populations in which saliva samples will be acquired will be individuals of Middle Eastern descent (adults only) living in the United States. Specifically, descended from Lebanese, Syrian, and Iraqi populations. The source of the specimens will be saliva samples. The acquisition of the saliva samples will ideally occur over the Summer of 2026.



### **How long would I be in the study?**

The participation time will only take 30-60 minutes although the data will be used for over a time span of 2-3 years.

### **How many people will take part in this study?**

Ideally 80 individuals will take part in this study although this number may decrease depending on availability of participants.

### **Do the Emory researchers conducting this study have financial interests I should know about?**

No

### **What will I be asked to do?**

#### Screening

The screening will consist of ancestral regional origins.

#### Study procedures

The study procedure will only consist of a saliva acquisition in which the participant will spit into a collection tube.

### **Where will the research procedures take place?**

The research procedure will take place at the Emory University Department of Anthropology.

### **What are the risks of this study?**

This study has no risks.

### **Will I be paid for my time and effort?**

There will be no compensation for the study.

### **Will my information be used to make new products?**

No

**How will my private information be stored and kept confidential?**

Throughout this study, we will protect your privacy and confidentiality to the extent possible. We will store the information that we collect securely. Whenever possible, we will use a study number (code) rather than your name on study records. The key to the code will be securely stored. All genetic data will be encrypted on physical drives (no cloud-based solutions for privacy).

**Will my information be stored or shared with other researchers?**

Yes. Your data may be shared with qualified researchers as part of the scientific and peer-review process. Any data shared will be de-identified to protect your privacy, and access may be limited to approved individuals under data use agreements and controlled-access databases.

**Will any of my own research results be shared with me?**

Participants will be offered access to a general summary of study findings describing overall patterns of genetic diversity and population history identified in the study. These summaries will not include any individual-level data.

**How will my participation affect my medical record?**

n/a

**What if I am injured in this study?**

n/a

**Will there be any costs to me if I join the study?**

No.

**Can I leave the study at any time?**

Yes, you have the right to leave a study at any time without penalty.

The researchers also have the right to take you out of the study without your consent for any reason. They may do this if they believe it is in your best interest, if you are not able or willing to follow the research plan, or if you do not agree to changes that may be made in the study. Emory

expects study teams and participants to be respectful and courteous. You may be withdrawn from the study if you engage in any offensive, threatening, and/or abusive language or behavior. This may also impact your ability to participate in future Emory studies.

## Confidentiality

Ensuring the privacy of the information we collect about you is important to us. We will store the data that we collect securely. When possible, we will use a study number rather than your name on study records. Any personal information that could identify you will be removed before data is shared with other researchers or results are made public. However, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Certain offices and people other than the researchers may look at study records to ensure the research is being done correctly. These offices and people may include the Office for Human Research Protections, the funder of the research, the Emory Institutional Review Board, and other offices at Emory that help oversee studies.

## Contact Information

Ali Kesserwani – [ali.kesserwani@emory.edu](mailto:ali.kesserwani@emory.edu)

This study has been reviewed by the Emory Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure the protection of research participants. If you have questions about your **rights as a research participant**, or if you have **complaints** about the research or an issue you would rather discuss with someone outside the research team, contact the Emory IRB at 404-712-0720 or 877-503-9797 or [irb@emory.edu](mailto:irb@emory.edu). The Emory IRB may also contact you to ask about your experience as a research participant.

For more information, please see the Participant section of our website.

<https://irb.emory.edu/participants/participant-faq.html>

To tell the IRB about your experience as a research participant, fill out the Research Participant Survey at [tinyurl.com/ycewgkke](https://tinyurl.com/ycewgkke) or scan the QR code to fill out the survey.



## Consent and Authorization

---

***TO BE FILLED OUT BY SUBJECT ONLY***

---

**If you choose to be in this research study: print your name, sign, and date below.** You will not give up any of your legal rights by signing this form. We will give you a copy of the signed form to keep.

---

**Printed name of Subject**

---

**Signature of Subject (18 or older and able to consent)**

---

**Date and Time**

---

**Signature of Legally Authorized Representative**

---

**Date and Time**

---

**Authority of Legally Authorized Representative or relationship to Subject**

---

***TO BE FILLED OUT BY STUDY TEAM ONLY***

---

---

**Printed name of person conducting informed consent discussion**

---

**Signature of person conducting informed consent discussion**

---

**Date and Time**



---

**Signature of Interpreter/Witness (if applicable)**

---

**Date and Time**