



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT PEORIA

Department of Medicine  
One Illini Drive  
Box 1649  
Peoria, Illinois 61656-1649



Dear Potential Research Participant,

I am contacting you to inquire if you would consider participating in a research study that I am conducting on healthy persons who will be compared in a research study to patients currently being treated for ankylosing spondylitis and chronic low back pain. We are a research group, including myself, an academic rheumatologist at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP), and Bradley University professors.

The purpose of this research is to learn whether the resting back muscle stiffness in healthy subjects is different from patients diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis or other forms of chronic low back pain. Participants completing the study will be reimbursed \$25 for time and travel. We would be most grateful for your interest to participate at your convenience.

This study will use a new, non-invasive electronic measurement device that gently touches your skin to measure your relaxed muscle stiffness at several locations. The process is painless will take approximately one hour.

If you have a question or need more information about this study, please feel free to contact Dr. Sadia Ilahi, research coordinator, at (309) 677-4591, e-mail [lbrsg@fsmail.bradley.edu](mailto:lbrsg@fsmail.bradley.edu) or read about this research at <http://www.bradley.edu/sites/lowbackresearch/>.

Sincerely yours,

Alfonse Masi, MD  
Professor of Medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria