



## **Why Participate in Research?**

Sixty years ago, there were few or no treatment for medical conditions such as Diabetes, High Blood Pressure or even Cancer. Today, although we cannot cure or even treat some diseases, current technology has made it possible for physicians to diagnose and treat conditions which would have claimed the health and life of millions.

An example of what research has done over the years is to take a look at Diabetes. Diabetes has claimed the lives of millions. Sixty years ago, the only treatment option for this disease was diet, exercise and insulin; blood sugar levels could only be checked at a laboratory and results were not available for days. Many patients suffered from blindness, amputations due to decreased blood supply in their legs, kidney failure and other diabetes related conditions before the disease claimed their life.

Today, the medical community has come a long way in the treatment of Diabetes. Diabetes can now be treated with medication; blood sugar levels can be checked at home by the patient, providing an early way of detecting increasing blood sugars and gauging medication doses. Diabetes continues to affect the lives of millions, but the numbers suffering devastating complications of the disease are decreasing. There is still a long way to go before we see a cure, but the possibility is there.

Without the participation of thousands of volunteers, people just like you, very few of the advances in medicine would have been possible. Life expectancy around the world is continually rising because the medical research community is constantly learning new ways to diagnose, treat and/or cure disease.

The information obtained from clinical research participants is invaluable in providing the same kind of advancements in health care for our children and grandchildren that current and previous generations have provided for us.

The next time you take a medication to help maintain your health; do not forget to thank the thousands of people who made that drug possible, by participating in a clinical research study. Your participation could contribute to a *CURE!* For more information, call WellMed Clinical Research at (210) 615-4460.

***“Participate in the Search for a Healthier Tomorrow!”***

*Debra delaRosa, LVN, CCRC*  
WellMed Clinical Research