Frequently asked questions:

How do I participate? You will receive a buccal cell collection kit with instructions in about 2 weeks.

Where should I collect my sample? The buccal cell collection can be done at home at your convenience. The collection kit includes instructions and all supplies needed for collecting and mailing your sample to the study laboratory.

What if I have questions or trouble collecting my sample? Please call the study office at 1-800-447-6466 for assistance. Study staff are available Monday-Friday between 8 am and 4:30 pm Central Time.

What will you do with my sample? Buccal cell (saliva) samples are processed and stored for future analysis which will be done over a period of years. Stored samples include only a sample ID number and no other identifying information.

Will I get any results? The buccal cell samples are for research only. You will not receive individual results. Study findings are reported to participants through periodic newsletters and on the study website: http://radtechstudy.nci.nih.gov/index.html

Voluntary participation
Your participation is voluntary and will not affect your future contacts with the ARRT, any medical facility, or government agency. This study is authorized under Section 411 of the Public Health Service Act [42 USC 285a].

Confidentiality
We value your privacy and protect your information. Participant information are securely stored in locked file cabinets or encrypted in password-protected computer files. This information is only available to the researchers and staff on this study.

Data are stored and analyzed using only study ID numbers, not names. Study findings are published in statistical summaries and never include names.

Contact us if:
- your address has changed
- the person this mailing was sent to has moved, died, or cannot participate.
- you do not want to be contact further about this study

Call the study office at:
1-800-447-6466

U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Your participation can make a difference!
The U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study is collaborating with researchers at the University of Washington to understand how environmental exposures, specifically ultraviolet light from sun exposure, affect the risk of multiple sclerosis.

To better understand these relationships, we are inviting USRT study participants to take part in a genetics study by providing a buccal cell sample — or more simply put — a saliva sample.

What are buccal cells? Buccal cells are the cells from the inner lining of the mouth or cheek. These cells are routinely shed and replaced by new cells. As old cells die, they accumulate in the saliva in the mouth and are easily collected by a simple procedure at home.

Buccal cells contain genetic material similar to what is found in blood, but is more easily collected by study participants at home. The material in the buccal cell samples — combined with information on occupational, environmental, and other factors — allows us to better understand how these factors affect health.

Although you may not benefit directly from the study, many people across the country — both health care workers and patients — may be helped by what is learned through this study.

The U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study — then and now.

In 1983, the University of Minnesota and the National Cancer Institute — in collaboration with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists — began a health study of 146,000 current and former radiologic technologists to understand possible health effects of occupational exposure to low dose radiation.

Study findings have shown that the risk for some cancers, such as breast cancer, skin cancer, and possibly thyroid cancer, is higher in technologists who had the highest exposures.

In the 1990's, we began collecting blood and buccal cell (saliva) samples to explore the role of genetics — alone or in conjunction with environmental exposures — in the risk of various diseases.

The buccal samples being collected in the current study will be stored for future analysis to help us understand how environmental exposures, such as ultraviolet radiation, affect the risk of multiple sclerosis.

Making a difference
Understanding the potential risks of radiation is important to protecting the health of radiologic technologists and patients. Research like the U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study is necessary to answer these questions.

Your participation CAN make a difference!

Collecting the buccal cell sample is a simple “at home” procedure that takes just a few minutes and can be done at your convenience.

Participation involves collecting a buccal cell sample
Collecting the buccal cell sample is a simple “at home” procedure that takes just a few minutes and can be done at your convenience.

We provide all the supplies and prepaid mailers for returning your sample and questionnaire.

Please call the study office at: 1-800-447-6466 if you have any questions.