



DEAR \_\_\_\_\_ ,

We're excited to announce the launch of a new program through the Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation called the HS Buddy Program. The HS Buddy Program is a peer support system that connects individuals who are currently participating in a clinical trial or are interested in participating in a clinical trial with a "buddy" who can help navigate decisions and challenges specific to trial involvement. This access to a peer mentor brings together people with shared experiences to learn from and support each other, providing a space where HS patients feel more supported and informed of the clinical trial process.

While clinical trials can be lengthy and present their own challenges, the HS Buddy Program offers participants the ability to benefit from speaking to those who have previously been through the full clinical trial process. HS Buddies are trained to provide interpersonal support that fosters greater trust and community spirit through education and communication.

Trial buddies are matched based on criteria identified by you in the form below. While we can't guarantee we can match all preferences, every effort will be made to pair you with a buddy that aligns with your most important qualities. Trial buddies cannot provide medical advice, but can share experiences, provide an open space for listening, and guide you towards additional resources. Once you are matched with a buddy, you will remain with that buddy for the duration of the program, allowing you to form a connection and build trust. Regardless of where you are in your clinical trial journey – if you're only considering joining a trial or you're already participating – you can be matched with a buddy.

To learn more about participating in the HS Buddy Program, please scan the QR code below to be directed to the program website.

KIND REGARDS,



HS Buddy Program Site to Participant Email Template v1.0 English 21APR2025

Novartis is the founding sponsor of the HS Buddy Program. This grant does not relate to any specific company, trial or treatment. HS Foundation is responsible for the HS Buddy Program. This document and the HS Buddy Program are not intended to establish any legally enforceable rights, obligations, or commitments on Novartis or between the Buddies.

[www.HSbuddies.org](http://www.HSbuddies.org)