

Research News

Newsletter of
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics



2005 Telethon Grant Awardees

The Pediatrics Research & Scholarship Committee is please to announce that the grant proposals submitted by **Dr. Lisa Gilmer** and **Dr. Kathryn Veal** were the two most highly ranked of six proposals for this year's pilot study funding through the Children's Miracle Network Telethon monies. Each award is worth \$10,000 and is for one year. Dr. Veal will be studying the effect of schoolyard exposure to diesel school bus emissions on pediatric respiratory health. Dr. Gilmer will be investigating the feasibility, satisfaction, and reliability of video recording evaluations of pediatric residents' performance during clinical encounters. Congratulations to Drs. Gilmer and Veal!

Focus on Neonatology

Research in the Division of Neonatology is a primary goal of the two active division members. Dr. Perry Clark, Interim Division Chief, and Dr. Talkad Raghuvver are involved in the following research activities:

Dr. Clark is a sub-investigator on a project headed by Stephen Barlow, PhD, of the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing: Sciences and Disorders of the KU Lawrence campus. This project is the "Actifier" project in which the investigating team is evaluating the development of orofacial motor control in premature infants with the aid of the Actifier pacifier, a device designed by Dr. Barlow and his team to measure in the perioral areas motor activity and coordination, in order to allow for assessment of the association of this with brain development.

In addition, **Dr. Clark** is combining efforts with Dr. William Truog, Sosland Professor of Pediatrics at The Children's Mercy Hospital, in assembling a research proposal to look at the number, types, and locations of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in genes of interest with regards to respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) and persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN). These genes could range from those for nitric oxide synthases to surfactant proteins to Na-K ATPase and endothelin-A receptors, as well as many others.

Dr. Raghuvver is actively engaged in development of a rat model of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), one of the diseases specific to the prematurely born population and a significant source of long-term disability in the patient population of NICU graduates. This rat model of ROP is being developed in collaboration with Jeff Radel, PhD, of Occupational Therapy Education. They hope to soon be actively investigating the role of

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various dietary factors, such as docosahexanoic acid (DHA) and zinc, in the genesis of ROP. The timeline to finish the above experiments is about one year.

Current Pediatric Grants

Ahluwalia, J. (PI), & **Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)**
"Helping African-American Light Smokers Quit"
NIH/ NCI - Total direct costs: \$1,604,016

08/01 - 06/05

Barkley, H.W., **Lowry, J., Veal, K.**, Pierce, J.T.

02/01/04 – 01/31/07

"Development of the Region VII Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at the University Of Kansas Medical Center"

AOEC & ATSDR – Total costs: \$128,000/yr

Casey, J. (PI), Delrosario, G. (Co-PI)

02/21/02-12/31/05

"Endocrinology Metabology"

Genet-Internal

Davis, A.M. (PI)

"Enhancing Nutrition and Activity in Rural Children"

NIH/NIDDK K23 – Total direct costs: \$566,724

Davis, K. (PI)

"Connected Kansas Kids: Connecting Schools and Students with Special Health Needs"

Kan-Ed - Total direct costs: \$100,000

** see website at www.connectedkansaskids.com

Ellerbeck, K. (PI), Reese, M. (Co-Investigator) & Jacobson, J. (Co-Investigator)

02/01/05-02/01/07

"Sex Differences in Autism: Potential Role of Oxytocin Signaling"

Cure Autism Now (CAN) Foundation – Total direct costs: \$120,000

Human Subjects Committee Information

Deadline**

April 15

April 29

May 13

June 3

June 17

Meeting

April 26

May 10

May 24

June 14

June 28

all deadlines are at **noon**

* **Office is G006 Sudler.***

Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

For more information, go to

<http://www2.kumc.edu/researchcompliance/fo rms/> or call 913-588-1240.

Huang TTK & **Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)**

7/1/03 - 6/30/05

"Monitoring University Students Tackling Diabetes and Obesity (MUST DO)"

American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) - Total direct costs: \$100,000

Johnson, C. (PI), Richman, D.

07/00 - 06/05

"Leadership education in neurodevelopmental disabilities."

Maternal and Child Health Bureau - Total costs:

\$2,675,000

Li, C & **Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator)**

1/1/04 - 12/31/05

"Influences of Fetal Environment & Growth in Childhood on the Onset of Overweight in Adolescence" American

Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) – Total direct costs: \$143,000

Nelson, E. (PI) 04-05

“Teaching Tool for Cultural Competence, Aetna Foundation Regional Community Health”
TeleKidcare - Total direct costs: \$40,000.

Poston, C. (PI), Kaur, H. (PI on KU Subcontract)

06/03 - 05/08

"An Analysis of Environmental Risk Factors for Obesity"
NIH/ NIDDK - Total direct costs: \$2,489,343

Rapoff, M. (PI), Belmont, J. & Knobler, S. (Co-Investigators) 07/04 – 06/07

"Headstrong Intervention for Recurrent Pediatric Headache"

R01, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke-Total Costs: \$563,090

Sahgal, N. (PI) 04/02 - 03/07

“Fetal Regulation of Placental Biology”
NICHD : K08 HD 42171

Staker, M. (PI)

“Literacy education to Parents of Young Children”
American Express Foundation – Total Costs: \$ 30,000

Staker, M. (Co-PI) & Carta, J. (Co-PI)

“Early Reading First”
Department of Education – Total Costs: \$ 2.8 Million

Other Research & Scholarship News

Dr. Kathryn Veal gave a presentation, “Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units” at the Second Annual Kansas Toxicology Conference: Diagnosis and Treatment of Poison Exposures, in Wichita, KS on April 8, 2005.

Genevieve Delrosario received a scholarship to cover most of the cost of her trip (up to \$1000) to the Pediatric Endocrine Nursing Society conference in New Orleans in May. She will be presenting a poster on a Type 1 diabetic with Stiff Man Syndrome. This is a scholarship awarded by the organization itself.

Dr. Michael Rapoff gave a presentation, “Assessing and improving patient adherence to chronic care regimens”, on April 8, in Wichita, KS at the “Pediatric symposium: Chronic health concerns in the school setting”, sponsored by the American Lung Association of Kansas, the Kansas Asthma Coalition, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, and the Wichita Public Schools.

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