

Research News

Newsletter of
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics



Research Committee News

Michael A. Rapoff, Ph.D.

Behavioral Sciences

Last October the committee reviewed four grant submissions by faculty for Children's Miracle Network telethon pilot study funding. These grants are intended for junior faculty to assist them in obtaining pilot data for extramural grant submissions. Two grants received the highest scores and were recommended for funding (\$10,000 per grant):

Jose Cocjin, M.D. (PI): "Evaluation of the efficacy of amitriptyline in children abdominal pain of nonorganic origin."

Ann M. McGrath, Ph.D. (PI): "Development of a videotape coding scheme for evaluation of pediatric residents in cardiology."

Congratulations to Drs. Cocjin and McGrath!

Also, the committee would like to reiterate that we are available to assist faculty members in finding funding sources and submitting grants. Please contact Dr. Mike Rapoff (588-6373; mrappoff@kumc.edu.)

Division Highlights: Pediatric Gastroenterology

Each quarter the Research News will highlight one division within the Department of Pediatrics and focus on their research projects and goals. This issue we have chosen Pediatric Gastroenterology to be the highlighted division.

The division of Pediatric Gastroenterology is composed of Paul Hyman, M.D., Jose Cocjin, M.D., Nonko Pehlivanov, M.D., Caroline Danda, Ph.D., Teri Comninellis, ARNP, and J.T. Gerken, Research Assistant. Drs.

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Hyman and Cocjin joined KUMC Pediatrics in July 2001 from the Children's Hospital of Orange County in Orange, California. There they were clinicians and researchers in pediatric neuro-gastroenterology and have brought their specialty to our department. Specifically, Drs. Hyman and Cocjin state they would like to improve the care of children with chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, the rarest and most severe of the enteric neuromuscular disorders. They hope to define and validate the pediatric functional gastrointestinal disorders and advance treatment for these disorders. Finally, their team is also interested in the entire spectrum of enteric neuromuscular disorders, or what Dr. Hyman commonly refers to as "the brain-gut connection." Dr. Pehlivanov is Associate Director of the integrated pediatric and adult GI motility program. Trained as an adult gastroenterologist and researcher, Dr. Pehlivanov adds expertise on motility to the mix.

Dr. Danda joined the division in August of 2002 as the pediatric psychology fellow. Since her arrival Dr. Hyman reports that Dr. Danda has become an integral member of the team, not only seeing patients, but also submitting grants, writing projects up for presentation at national meetings and submitting publications with the team. Dr. Danda is most interested in functional fecal retention, an area in which she and the rest of the team recently received a KUMC Research Institute grant. Dr. Hyman is very happy to report that after Dr. Danda finishes her postdoctoral hours, she will be joining their team as a faculty member. Teri Comminellis, ARNP joined the team shortly after Dr. Danda and serves as the research coordinator, nurse, and project leader. Dr. Hyman reports that most projects would never get off the ground without Teri's involvement. Finally, J.T. Gerken serves as the research assistant for the division and plans to matriculate to KUMC in the fall. He helps the team with data entry, data analysis and write-up of projects for presentation and publication. J.T. will be presenting his first research paper during the Digestive Disease Week Convention in Orlando this spring.

The division has several on-going research projects. Specifically, Dr. Hyman reports that they are currently in the second year of a two-year study with Children's Mercy Hospital looking at the diagnosis and treatment of childhood functional dyspepsia. The study was funded by the Hall Foundation and compares three different treatment groups. In the area of clinical research, the division is currently reviewing all patients they have seen for toileting issues to learn more about the reasons for failed toilet learning. Dr. Hyman believes that functional fecal retention is due to failed toilet learning, rather than to disease. The team is also studying the effect of fear on anal sphincter pressures ("The Pucker Study"). Finally, as Drs. Hyman, Pehlivanov, and Cocjin are experts in gastrointestinal manometry, they are currently studying the interobserver variability in manometry in a worldwide collaborative study.

The Pediatric Gastroenterology division has several research goals they hope to accomplish over the coming years. Specifically, Dr. Hyman states that next year the team hopes to complete the first ever intestinal pacing in a human with a 7-year-old child from Indiana who is under Dr. Hyman's care. The child is currently on TPN and is listed for an intestinal transplant. However, because these procedures are risky, and because of advances in technology, both Dr. Hyman and the family are interested in attempting intestinal pacing. Dr. Hyman is working with Drs. Richard McCallum and Kurt Schropp and reports that they have the funding already in place.

Research Tips: Submitting to the Human Subjects Committee

Ann M. McGrath, Ph.D.

Behavioral Sciences

Each volume the Research News will publish research tips that may be helpful for those trying to get a grant, publish a paper, prepare a talk, or complete some other research endeavor. This quarter's topic is how to submit a project to the KUMC Human Subjects Committee. The Human Subjects Committee reviews all proposed research projects conducted by or at KUMC that involve Human Subjects. There are 4 items that must be submitted with every protocol:

1. Form HSC 1-83 – This form can be found on the KUMC Research Administration website at <http://www2.kumc.edu/researchadmin/humansubjects.htm>. The form is a cover sheet that requires the signature of the responsible investigator and all sub- or co-investigators along with the department chairman.
2. The Protocol Summary – According to the KUMC Research Administration website the protocol summary “should describe the project's long-term objectives and specific aims, and describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the goals. It should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work. It should, however, be in sufficiently "lay" language so as to be understandable by all HSC members, and not just those with expertise in the particular field. It should rarely be longer than about 2/3 of a page and should never exceed one (1) page (absent getting the prior consent of the Committee to such a length).”
3. The HSC Consent Form – This is probably the most important part of the HSC application. The consent form must follow certain sub-sections and must have specific signature lines. For a sample consent form, see the website listed in #1(above).
4. Proof of Completing the Human Subjects Tutorial – This certificate must be included for all personnel on the research project, including the responsible investigator and all sub- or co-investigators. Also, all project coordinators, nurses, research assistants and other project staff must complete the tutorial and get proof of such to the HSC before they begin working on a research project.

It is also possible that your project may qualify for “exempt” status. This status is for projects that: 1) study commonly accepted educational or classroom techniques; 2) research involving educational tests; 3) research involving the collection of existing data; 4) taste and food quality evaluation and consumer acceptance studies. When in doubt, always call Sharon Grable at the HSC at 588-5712 to see if your study is exempt. Or, you can just go ahead and submit the full protocol and have the HSC decide whether or not your study is truly exempt. The important thing to remember is that all research involving human subjects, especially children, should go through the HSC, even if it is simply a chart review of your own patients. Also, keep in mind that more and more journals are requiring proof of HSC approval before they will publish studies that involve human participants.

Human Subjects Committee Deadlines

Deadline**	Meeting
April 14	April 22
May 5	May 13
May 19	May 27
June 2	June 10
June 16	June 24
June 27	July 8

all deadlines are at **noon**

For more information, go to <http://www2.kumc.edu/researchadmin/hs-meetdates.htm> or call 913-588-1240

Current Pediatric Grants

Unfortunately, I received very few replies to my requests for information on all ongoing grants within the Department of Pediatrics. Therefore, this information was gathered through department records and random hallway chats. I apologize in advance if your grant was left out or if any information is inaccurate. Please let me know (at amcgrath@kumc.edu) and I can correct it for the next volume.

Casey, J. (PI)

08/02 – 08/03

“Kabi international growth study”
Pharmacia & Upjohn

Casey, J. (PI) 06/02 – 05/03
“The genetics and neuroendocrinology of short stature study”
Lilly

Casey, J. (PI) 08/02 - 08/03
“Genentech national cooperative growth study (NCGS)”
Genentech

Hyman, P.E. (PI) 07/02 - 06/03
“Diagnosis and treatment of pediatric functional dyspepsia”
Hall Foundation - Direct Costs \$360,000

Hyman, P.E. (PI), Danda, C., Cocjin, J., Comminellis, T. 03/03-02/04
“Improving treatment for functional fecal retention”
KUMC Research Institute – Direct Costs \$25,000

Johnson, C. (PI), Richman, D. 07/00 – 06/05
“Leadership education in neurodevelopmental disabilities.”
Maternal and Child Health Bureau - Total Costs \$2,675,000

Kanarak, J. (PI), Perry, G. (Co-PI) 07/02 - 06/03
“Cystic fibrosis grant”
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - Direct Costs \$18,852

Lowry, J. (PI), Shaw, P. (Co-PI) 2001-2003
“Lead and its effects of cytochrome P450”
Hall Family Foundation - Direct Costs \$75,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 07/02 - 06/03
“Obesity among school age children in the state of kansas”
Sunflower Foundation - Direct Costs \$137,383

Perry, G. (PI) 05/02-05/03
“Genetic modifiers of cystic fibrosis”
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Perry, G. (PI) 2002 - 2003
“Epidemiologic study of cystic fibrosis: A multicenter, longitudinal follow-up study of patients with cystic fibrosis for monitoring pulmonary function, pulmonary exacerbations and the safety of long-term treatment with pulmozyme (dornase alfa)”
Genetec

Raghuv eer, G. (PI) Mattioli, L (Co-PI) 07/02 - 06/03
“Effect of statin therapy on vascular function in children”
American Society of Echocardiography - Direct Costs \$75,000

COS/SPIN Searching

I just did a quick search of SPIN using the keyword “Pediatrics” and found 30 grants that are currently available! They range from research to teaching to improving clinical care and amounts are from \$500 up to \$200,000. Take a minute to search for something in your area and if you need any help let me know – I’m happy to help those who are interested.

Rapoff, M. (PI)

10/02 - 09/03

“Headstrong: A novel minimal contact behavioral intervention for recurrent pediatric headache”
AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical Company - Direct Costs \$50,000

Richman, D. (PI)

05/01 - 05/03

“Effects of hypodopaminergic function and environmental variables on self-injury”
University of Kansas Research Institute, Mentored-Clinician Grant - Direct Costs \$100,000

Voziyian, P. (PI), **Scheinman, J.**

08/02 -07 /03

“A new rx of hyperoxaluria”
NIH - STTR Grant - Direct Costs \$100,000

January-March, 2003 Pediatric Publications

The general structure of citations is authors on the first line, title on the next line, and journal information on the third line. This newsletter includes 2002 faculty publications that were inadvertently left out of the last newsletter and new 2003 publications; it does not include “in press” publications. Once again, if your information was left out, I apologize and please let me know (amcgrath@kumc.edu) so I can include it in the next volume.

Burklow, K.A., McGrath, A.M., Allred, K. & Rudolph, C.D.
Parent perceptions of mealtime behavior problems in children fed enterally.
Nutrition in Clinical Practice, (2002), 17, 291-295.

Burklow, K.A., McGrath, A.M., Valerius, K.S. & Rudolph, C.D.
Relationship between feeding difficulties, medical complexity, and gestational age.
Nutrition in Clinical Practice, (2002), 17, 373-378.

Deymann, A.J. & Goertz, K.K.
Myocardial infarction and transient ventricular dysfunction in an adolescent with sickle cell disease.
Pediatrics, (2003), 111(2), e183-e187.

Hyman, P.E., Bursch, B., Sood, M., Schwankovsky, L., Cocjin, J. & Zeltzer, L.K.
Visceral pain-associated disability syndrome: A descriptive analysis.
Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, (2002), 35, 663-668.

McGrath, A.M., Bosch, S., Sullivan, C.L. & Fuqua, R.W.
Training reciprocal social interactions between preschoolers and a child diagnosed with autism.
Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions, (2003), 5(1), 47-54.

Raghuveer, T.S., McGuire, E.M., Martin, S.M., Wagner, B.A., Rebouche, C.J., Buettner, G.R., Widness, J.A.
Lactoferrin in the preterm infants' diet attenuates iron-induced oxidation products.
Pediatric Research, (2002), 52 (6), 964-972.

Scheinman, J.I.

Sickle cell disease and the kidney.
Seminars in Nephrology: Tropical diseases, (2003), 23 (1), 66-76.