

Research News

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Department of Pediatrics

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Research Highlights

Dr. Okonkwo, an intern in the department, continues to pursue his passion for research. He has multi-faceted interests in psychosocial as well as molecular bases of disease. In August of 2006, he joined the team at the Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, to further his interest in basic science research. He explained that he had always been fascinated by the factors that determine the effect of hypoxia on vascular tissues particularly the mechanisms that define microvascular response to both acute and chronic hypoxia at the molecular level. Dr. Okonkwo is presently studying the role of nitric oxide synthase [iNOS] upregulation in cerebral microvascular acclimatization to chronic systemic hypoxia using murine models [Sprague-Dawley rats], a hypothesis he says, to his knowledge, has never been studied in intact animals.

Dr. Okonkwo recently won a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation scholarship [October 2006] to attend and present his work titled: Mother To Child Transmission of HIV in African Women:

Barriers to Widespread Participation in Preventive Measures, at the 2006 International Conference on Urban Health, Amsterdam, Holland. Dr. Okonkwo presentation evaluated the effects of culture, beliefs, attitude, education and the part they play in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. In addition, he recently completed his manuscript on a case report titled, Potts Puffy Tumor: An intracranial complication of frontal sinusitis in a 7 year old and is writing a case report under the supervision of Dr Lisa Gilmer on a case of testicular trauma with associated systemic inflammatory response syndrome in a 13 year old.

In December, 2006 Dr. Okonkwo completed the Introduction to Clinical Research course organized by the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC). The certification course, he acknowledges, has broadened his knowledge and understanding of how to conduct state- of- the- art research.

In This Issue:

Research Highlights:

Pages 1

Current Pediatric Grants &
Clinical Trials

Pages 2-3

Recent Pediatric Faculty
Publications & Presentations

Page 3-4

Faculty Honors

Page 4

Incentives for Scholarly Work

Page 5

Current Pediatric Grants/Contracts Fiscal Year 2007

Barnard, M (PI) "Writing Interventions for Teens whose Parents Have Cancer"

Turning Points – Total direct costs: \$5,000 07/01/04-8/31/07
(requested extension pending)

Davis, A.M. (PI)

"Enhancing Nutrition and Activity of Rural Children"
Nat'l Inst of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease. 04/15/05-04/14/10
Total Direct Costs \$566,721

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)
2/1/05-2/1/07

"Sex Differences in Autism: Potential Role of Oxytocin Signaling"
Cure Autism Now (CAN) Foundation – Total direct costs: \$120,000

Gilmer, L (PI) 7/1/2005-6/30/2007
"Evaluating Clinical Competency of Ped Res. Cont Clinic"
Children's Miracle Network Total Direct Costs \$9076

Johnson, C (PI) 7/1/05-6/30/07
"Pediatric Consultation, PKU, Seizure, Rheumatology/Cardiology Outreach"
Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)-Total Direct Costs \$125,362

Lindsley, C (PI) 7/29/03-12/31/08
"Juvenile RH North Short Long Island Jewish Health"
Total Direct Costs \$390

Lowry, J (PI) 9/1/2005-8/31/2007
"Poison Control Stabilization and Enhance"
Poison Control Center – Total Direct Costs \$161,566

Nelson, E. (PI) 04-05
"Teaching Tool for Cultural Competence, Aetna Foundation Regional Community Health"
TeleKidcare - Total direct costs: \$40,000.

Peacock, G (G0-PI) & Nelson, E. (Co-PI) 7/1/06-6/30/07
Implementing the American Academy of Pediatrics Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Diagnostic Guidelines in a School-based Telemedicine Clinic.
Children's Miracle Network-\$9,980

Perry, G.(PI) 7/1/2005-6/30/2007
“Cystic Fibrosis”
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – total Direct Costs \$49070

Rapoff, M. (PI), Belmont, J. & Knobler, S. (Co-Investigators) 8/1/06-7/31/07
"Headstrong Intervention for Recurrent Pediatric Headache"
R01, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke-Total Costs: \$563,090

Rapoff, M (PI) & Wasson, MC (Co-PI) 7/1/06-6/30/07
“A minimal contact cognitive-behavioral intervention for pediatric functional gastrointestinal disorders: A pilot study of Gutstrong.”
Children’s Miracle Network - \$9,963

Shaw, P (PI)- 9/1/05-8/31/06
“An Oral Health Program for Kansas”
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund – Total Direct Costs \$27968

Veal, K. (PI), Lowry, J (Co-PI) 7/1/05-6/30/07
“A Pilot Study to Evaluate Effects of Exposure to School Bus Diesel Fuel Emissions on Pediatric Respiratory Health”
Children’s Miracle network – Total Direct Costs- \$10,000

Current Pediatric Clinical Trials

Principle Investigator: Jo-Ann Harris, MD
Protocol Title: A Phase III, Randomized, multinational study, double-blinded for the immunogenicity and consistency evaluation of 3 Hib-MenCY-TT vaccine lots and single-blinded and controlled for the evaluation of safety and immunogenicity of GSK Biologicals’ Haemophilus influenzae type b and Neisseria meningitidis serogroups C and Y-tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine combined (Hib-MenCY-TT) compared to monovalent Hib vaccine in healthy infants at 2, 4, 6, and 12 to 15 months of age.
Sponsor: GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals S.A.

Principle Investigator: James Casey, MD
Protocol Title: Natural History Study of the Development of Type 1 Diabetes

Recent Pediatric Publications

Andersen J, Belmont J, Cho CT. Journal impact factor in the era of expanding literature. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect* 2006;39:436-443.

Cassidy, J., Kivlin, J., Lindsley, C., Nocton, J, et al. (2006). Ophthalmologic examinations in children with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. *Pediatrics*, 117, 1843-1845.

Hyman, P.E. (2006). Adolescents and young adults with hirschprung’s disease. *Current Gastroenterology Reports*, 8, 425-429.

Hyman, P.E. (2006). Electrical stimulation and pacing for digestive disorders in adults and children: a status report. *Digestive Health Matters*, 15, 26-27.

Kamps, D., Wendland, M. & Culpepper, M. (2006). Active teacher participation in functional behavior assessment for students with emotional and behavioral disorders risks in general education classrooms. *Behavioral Disorders*, 31 (2), 128-146.

Milla PJ, Hyman PE, et al. Pediatric Functional GI Disorders: Infant/toddler, in DA Drossman, ed. Rome III The Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders. McClean Virginia: Degnon Associates. 2006.

Rapoff, M.A. & Bartlett, SJ. Adherence in children and adults. In S. J. Barlett, C.O. Bingham, M.J. Maricic, M.D. Iverson, & V. Ruffing (eds.) (2006), *Clinical care in the rheumatic disease*, 3rd ed (pp. 279-284)., Atlanta: American College of Rheumatology.

Sood M, Hyman PE, Chapter 32. Intestinal Motility Disorders in Mark D. Stringer, Pierre D. E. Mouriquand, Keith t. Oldham and Edward R. Howard (eds) *Pediatric surgery and Urology: Long Term Outcomes* 2nd edition. 2006 pp 416-428.

Young, J., Zarcone, J., Holsen, L., Anderson, M.C., Hall, S., Richman, D., Butler, M.G. & Thompson, T. (2006). A measure of food seeking in individuals with prader-willi syndrome. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*.

Faculty Presentations

Rapoff, M.A. & Lindsley, C.B. Improving adherence to medical regimens for pediatric rheumatic diseases. Presented at the American College of Rheumatology/Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals Scientific Meeting, November 12, 2006, Washington, D.C.

Veal, Kathryn. "Keynote address: epidemiology of pediatric environmental exposures." 3rd Annual Healthy Indoor Environments Conference, Kansas City, KS, October 5, 2006.

Faculty Honors

Dr. Rapoff has been chosen to be an Associate Editor for *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* beginning in 2007. He is currently on the editorial board of the journal.

Incentives for Scholarly Work

"Did you know that the Department of Pediatrics has three excellent programs to support your scholarly work? First, the administration offers \$500 to all faculty to purchase books, attend conferences, etc. There is also an additional \$250 to support attendance at the annual Kansas AAP meeting. Finally, the department also supports a limited number of individuals to attend conferences at which they are presenting or engaging in leadership activities. These funds are for up to \$1500 for a national meeting and \$2000 for an international meeting. Be sure to take advantage of these great opportunities to give your research and scholarship activities a boost!"