

February 2008

RECLAIMING MOMENTS OF CHILDHOOD

Every minute of childhood is important: moments to play, grow and learn and occasions to make connections with family and friends. Missed experiences and opportunities can affect a child's well-being, confidence, and maturity. Children wouldn't choose to miss a second of their busy active lives, but what if something unconsciously caused them to miss out on the important moments of their lives?

A child with absence epilepsy can miss brief pieces of their lives seconds at a time, dozens of times a day, through seizures. Absence epilepsy, also known as petit mal epilepsy, has its onset in childhood or adolescence, and most children outgrow it. An episode usually lasts less than 10 seconds but no more than 20 seconds with the child appearing to be daydreaming or inattentive. These seconds, though, are enough time to place a child in harm's way, to cause the child to miss a teacher's lesson or to attract unnecessary attention to the child's condition. Over time, the child may have lower self-esteem as a result of the seizures' impact. Giving this time back to ensure safety, learning and self-esteem is the foremost reason to help children control their seizures.

"I asked Leah to follow me in the grocery store to produce, and she stood there just staring," Allyson says of the first time she noticed her daughter's seizures, "It looked like she was daydreaming." In another case, Leah was playing with her dolls and her eyes rolled back. Leah's pediatrician referred them to Dr. May Griebel, an ACH neurologist. During her EEG test, Leah experienced three seizures. Dr. Griebel discussed the possibility of Leah's enrollment in a childhood absence epilepsy trial, and the family agreed.



Leah was seizure free after the first round of medication.

Dr. Griebel is the site principal investigator for an NIH-funded clinical study begun in 2004 of the three most used medications for absence seizures. This multi-center study is being conducted by the Network of Pediatric Pharmacology Research Units (PPRUs), funded by NIH. The PPRU at Arkansas Children's Hospital is one of 13 PPRUs in the nation established by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in response to the need for appropriate drug therapy for pediatric patients. "The study is the only NIH childhood absence epilepsy study and the largest one of any kind, anywhere for this type of epilepsy," says Dr. Griebel. One goal of this study is to determine what medication controls the seizures quickest with the least amount of side effects.

The study requires children with active absence epilepsy that have not taken medication for the condition. "The EEG techs at the hospital have been great in helping with recruitment by identifying abnormal EEGs," says Research Nurse Lee Howard, RN, CCRC. The Arkansas site is one of the lead enrolling sites. Since 2005, 21 patients have consented to be in the ACH trial; 435 patients are in the entire study network.

Leah was the first child enrolled at ACH. "She was good first experience for us as we began the study," says Dr. Griebel. "She was darling and so bright and made our work seem negligible...it was encouraging for us." More importantly, Allyson says that Leah was seizure free after the first round of medication. Her only side effect was some tiredness; "...but she never missed a beat," her mom adds.

During her two years of treatment on the study, Leah would receive neurological examinations and blood draws in the Pediatric Clinical Research Unit (PCRU). Leah completed the treatment phase of the study last year and now, at age 10, continues with follow-up visits at the PCRU. "The unit setting is conducive to child comfort, especially with the family area," says Dr. Griebel. "It has a nourishing atmosphere and has the same faces for the families." "The personal care and attention we were able to receive was incredible...we are grateful and happy for such excellent care," says Allyson.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Stop by the bulletin board located in the first-floor lobby of the ACHRI building to see the poster featuring this

month's President's Choice publications. The following articles were selected as this month's feature publications.

- Rose-Jacobs R, Black MM, Casey PH, Cook JT, Cutts DB, Chilton M, Heeren T, Levenson SM, Meyers AF, Frank DA. Household food insecurity: associations with at-risk infant and toddler development. *Pediatrics*. 2008 Jan;121(1):65-72.
- Tilford JM, Aitken ME, Goodman AC, Adelson PD. Measuring the cost-effectiveness of technologic change in the treatment of pediatric traumatic brain injury. *J Trauma*. 2007 Dec;63(6 Suppl):S113-20; discussion S121.

ACHRI would like to know about your published findings, as your articles are published, please email or mail a copy to [Phaedra Yount](mailto:Phaedra.Yount@uams.edu) (mail slot 842). The number of publications by our researchers is reported to hospital and ACHRI boards, so it is important that we receive an accurate count of the publications your research produces.



WELCOME TO ACHRI

Join us in welcoming Amanda Goad as ACHRI's new Research Auditor. She joined ACHRI after a year as an auditor with the Office of Research Compliance at UAMS. Previously, Amanda worked as a nuclear medicine technologist for seven years with Cardinal Health. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nuclear Medicine from UAMS and is a Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist. She has recently completed the Certified Research Specialist (CRS) program at UAMS. Welcome to ACHRI!

RESEARCH BUILDING ACCESS

Research Building access is now by approved card access only. If you do not have approval for card access and need entry, you will need authorization for card access. Use eRequest to initiate approval of card access to the Research Building

If you have visitors to the Research Building, you will need to make arrangements to meet them upon arrival at a building entrance. A house phone is located in the first floor lobby in the Medical Arts Building (South Campus). Visitors can take the elevator to the 4th floor of Medical Arts to meet you at the skywalk to the Research Building.

CLINICAL TRIAL WEB SITE AVAILABLE

The clinical trial web site is available for you use to help with participant recruitment for your studies:

<http://www.archildrens.org/research/>. After you have received IRB approval for your study advertisement, forward a copy of the approved material and a completed Clinical Trial Web Site Form to [Mark McGhee](mailto:Mark.McGhee@uams.edu) (phone: 364-3577). The form can be found at http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/web_site_form.xls.

2008 ACHRI INVESTIGATOR MEETINGS

Please mark your calendar for the 2008 ACHRI Investigator Meetings: April 9, August 5, and October 29. All meetings will be held in the Brandon Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided to the first 50 attendees.

REQUEST FOR MENTORS

Summer is right around the corner. If you are interested in mentoring a student, please contact Sandy Burrow in ACH Volunteer Services (phone: 364-1812). It is important for us to know who is available to mentor so that students can be matched quickly.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY CHANGES

The UAMS and ACHRI Conflict of Interest policies have been revised. These revisions will affect:

1. The way that you report conflicts of interest.
2. The types of gifts you can accept.
3. How institutional officials handle these conflicts

To ensure your compliance with these new policies please review them as soon as possible.

- UAMS Policy 4.4.11 for non-academic staff:
<http://www.uams.edu/orsp/COI%20Other%20employees%20FINAL.pdf>
- UAMS policy 4.4.10 for academic staff:
<http://www.uams.edu/AdminGuide/PDFs/4.4.10.pdf>.
- The ACHRI policy:
<http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/policies/ConflictofInterest.pdf>

NEW RESEARCH FEE SCHEDULE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH

ACH has issued a new Research Fee Schedule for Clinical Research. Please contact Janet Storment 364-2760 regarding any clinical pricing your project may need. All previously arranged pricing will not change.

BUSINESS MILEAGE RATE FOR 2008

The IRS has announced that the business mileage rate for 2008 will be \$0.505. The current rate is \$0.485. For travel occurring after 12/31/07, the new rate should be used when requesting mileage reimbursement.

PURCHASE REQUESTS MADE CLOSE TO THE END OF THE PROJECT PERIOD

Requests for all purchases that are made close to the end of a project period should provide a justification for the purchase in the comment box of the request. Justification should include how the item will benefit the project and the reason the item is being ordered when the project is scheduled to close in the near future. By including the justification in the comment box, the request can be expedited and you and ACHRI will have documentation in the event the project account is audited. At this time ACHRI does not have a policy regarding purchases being made at the end of a project period but will be working to establish one.

NEW INDUSTRY-SPONSORED PROJECTS

Clinical Trials	Agency	Project Period	Total Cost
Jill James	ACH Foundation	1/1/08-12/31/08	\$316,811
Richard Kurten	AstraZenect	1/1/08-12/30/10	\$215,232
Stephen Kemp	Tercica	1/1/08-12/31/09	\$20,400

RECENT GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Extramural Award Submissions				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
K. Sunny Anand	NIH/Michigan Sub.	Therapeutic Hypothermia After Pediatric Cardiac Arrest (THAPCA) Trial	12/1/08-11/30/13	\$282,119
Karen McNiece	Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	Therapeutic Goals for Hypertensive Youth; Ambulatory versus Casual BP Measures	8/1/08-7/31/11	\$405,000
Maria Portilla	NIH/Stanford Sub.	Risedronate for the Treatment of Reduced Bone Mineral Density in Anorexia Nervosa	1/1/09-12/31/13	\$143,379
Bradley Schnackenberg	NSF	Cell - cell Adhesion as a Mechanism for Coordinating Cell Motility	8/1/08-7/31/11	\$481,379
Frank Simmen	NIH	Dietary Factors in Colon Cancer Prevention	12/1/08-11/30/13	\$1,787,500
Rosie Simmen	DOD	Diet, Stem Cells, and Breast Cancer Prevention	11/1/08-10/31/09	\$107,250
Intramural Award Submissions				
PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding

Steve Bowman	Lyon Award	Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Injury Mortality: Variability in Place of Death, Autopsy and Hospital Equality	4/1/08-3/31/10	\$49,880
Tamara Perry	Lyon Award	Impact of Endotoxin and Allergen Exposure on Childhood Asthma in Arkansas Delta Region	4/1/08-3/31/10	\$50,000
Michael Stroud	Lyon Award	Goal-directed Resuscitative Interventions during Pediatric Interfacility Transport (The GRIPIT Trial)	4/1/08-3/31/10	\$49,458

CLINICAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

ACHRI invites you to the 2008 Clinical Research Compliance Symposium. This unique education and networking event focuses on solving your most complicated and pressing compliance challenges in a highly interactive platform. Expert presentations will expose you to best practices, peer experiences, and authoritative advice that will give you insight and information on how to create strong research compliance programs.

The keynote speaker will be E. Haavi Morreim, PhD Professor Dept. of Human Values and Ethics, College of Medicine, University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Dr. Morreim will be discussing the issues of Quality Improvement projects (QI) versus Research.

This event, which will be held **February 19**, is free and will be held on our campus, but registration is required. Please see our symposium web site for more information. <http://achri.archildrens.org/guidebook/symposium.html>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Margie Brackeen](#); ACHRI Regulatory Compliance Specialist at 364-3586.

UPCOMING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

For a complete listing of research education opportunities at ACHRI, please visit our [Research Education Calendar of Events](#) on the ACHRI Web page.

2008 SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is again sponsoring a Summer Science Program for college level juniors and seniors. This program is intended to give outstanding upper level college students the experience of working in medical research and a view of medicine in general. Students in the program are assigned to work with a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics on a research project involving children's health. The projects are varied, including both laboratory and clinical projects. In addition, a lecture series is conducted focusing on research methods and recent advances in medical research, along with valuable information regarding the pursuit of a medical career.

The program will last for ten weeks during the summer and will begin on June 2, 2008. Students at the junior or senior level in college and with a science background will be selected to participate in the program. **The deadline for receipt of the application in our office is March 1.** If you have a student interested in applying for a position in our program, please contact the Pediatric Clerkship Office (501) 364-1052 or e-mail hobbygyndal@uams.edu for an application.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The National Association of Children's Hospitals (NACH) prepares and distributes upcoming funding opportunities every two weeks. Funding opportunities recently distributed by the NACH are available on the ACHRI web site (http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/funding_opp.htm). This file will be updated twice monthly. Bookmark the page! The listing of funding opportunities is located on the intranet; you must have access to ACH webapps to open the file.

GRANT PREPARATION TIP: FOCUS ON ACHRI'S INTRAMURAL GRANT PROGRAMS

ACHRI Administrative Staff is now presenting panel discussions for its two multi-category, competitive intramural grant programs: the Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute/Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ACHRI/ABI)

Competitive Research Grant Program and the Children's University Medical Group (CUMG) Grant Program. These meetings will focus on assisting researchers interested in submitting applications to these programs. These discussions will provide an overview of the grant program, assistance in preparing CUMG grant applications, and insight into the application review process. ACHRI Administrative Staff responsible for intramural programs and grant writing will sit on the panel. When possible, a past reviewer for the program will participate as well. If you plan to submit (or are thinking about submitting) an intramural grant application, attending a workshop will be helpful whether you are a senior investigator or a new investigator. More information about ACHRI's intramural grant programs is available at our [Web site](#).

2008 Meeting Schedule:

ACHRI/ABI Grant Program: Tuesday, May 20, 2 to 4 pm, Brandon North A and B

CUMG Grant Program: Tuesday, June 17, 2 to 4 pm, Brandon North A and B

CUMG Grant Program: Tuesday, November 18, 2 to 4 pm, Brandon North A and B