



RESEARCH UPDATE

May 2008

RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE RATE OF STDs AND THEIR COMPLICATIONS IN ADOLESCENTS



Drs. Amy scurlock and Jennifer Woods explore strategies to reverse the prevalence of STDs, particularly chlamydia, in young women.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented study findings that estimate 1 in 4 (26%) young women between the ages of 14 and 19 in the US (3.2 million teenage girls) is infected with at least one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases [human papillomavirus (HPV), chlamydia, herpes simplex virus, and trichomoniasis]. The study is the first to examine the combined national prevalence of common STDs among adolescent women in the United States and provides the clearest picture to date of the overall STD burden in adolescent women. The two most common STDs overall were HPV (18%) and chlamydia (4%).

At ACHRI, these facts are significant to two physicians involved with research aimed to improve adolescent women's health in regards to STDs. Dr. Amy Scurlock of the Immunology section and Dr. Jennifer Woods of Adolescent Medicine are conducting studies exploring strategies to reverse the prevalence of STDs, particularly chlamydia, in young women. "Of adolescents tested for chlamydia infection at ACH's Adolescent Center, 1 in 4 tested positive," says Dr. Scurlock. This rate of 25% is higher than the national rate reported by the CDC and the statewide rate.

With chlamydia infections epidemic among sexually active adolescent and young adult women, they are placed at significant risk for complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain and involuntary infertility; infections also contribute to first trimester pregnancy-related deaths arising from ectopic

pregnancy. *C. trachomatis* ocular infections cause trachoma, which remains the world's leading cause of preventable blindness. In addition, infection with *C. trachomatis* facilitates the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is a potential co-factor in HPV-induced cervical neoplasia.

Dr. Scurlock's research focuses on immune responses at mucosal surfaces with particular interest in the T-cell responses that drive the development of oviduct scarring and infertility following chlamydia infection. Her research goals include translating her basic science findings into immunologic interventions, such as a vaccine, that will positively influence disease outcomes.

Dr. Woods conducts research regarding risk taking behaviors of adolescents. Her analyses of interviews and questionnaires aid in the shaping of preventative interventions for adolescents. Her research has also included defining patterns of contraceptive use among adolescent females. Overall, the goals of Dr. Woods' research are to translate patterns of contraceptive use and STD infections into clinical education for patients and physicians to improve adolescent health and well-being.

A likely cause for the extremely high prevalence of chlamydia infection is its production of largely asymptomatic infections. Although infections are readily cured with antimicrobial treatment, because infection induces mostly short-term immunity that is strain specific, the risk of reinfection is high, and carries an increased risk of tissue damaging effects.

The work of these researchers addresses two approaches to reduce chlamydial disease and its complications. Their collaboration to understand the behavioral and immunologic factors that contribute to infection and reinfection lays the groundwork for more informed decisions regarding treatment and intervention strategies.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Stop by the bulletin board located in the first-floor lobby of the ACHRI building to see this month's President's Choice publications. The following articles were selected as this month's feature publications.

- Perry TT, Vargas PA, Bufford J, Feild C, Flick M, Simpson PM, Hamilton RG, Jones SM. Classroom aeroallergen exposure in Arkansas Head Start centers. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2008 Apr;100(4):358-63.
- Myhill J, Baumler W, Hennings L, Bearden ED, Buckmiller LM, Shafirstein G. The interaction of broadband intense pulsed light (IPL) and skin during a multi-pulse application. *Medical Laser Application* 23 (2008) 71-78.

ACHRI would like to know about your published findings, as your articles are published, please email or mail a copy to [Phaedra Yount](#) (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.

RECENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS AND PUBLICATIONS NOW POSTED ON THE ACHRI WEB SITE

Please visit the recently updated [Research Highlights](#) web page and the new [Recent Publications](#) web page. Thanks to everyone who submitted highlights to the ACHRI Research Administration Office. Please continue to forward your publications to our office. If you have questions regarding either of these web pages, please contact [Phaedra Yount](#).

ACHRI F&A RATE CHANGES

ACHRI's federal facilities and administrative (indirect cost) rates have changed. The new agreement dated April 24, 2008, increases the on-site rate from 43% to 47% and the off-site rate from 14% to 17%. ACHRI now has a rate for other sponsored programs of 17%. All new proposals need to reflect these changes. The industry-sponsored rate will remain at 25%. If you have questions, contact Barry Brady at 364-6517 or Lee Smith at 364-3581.

HIPAA REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES PREPARATORY TO RESEARCH

Do you ask for personal health information (PHI) from ACH Information Technology or Medical Records when you are preparing for your latest research project?

Federal regulations and ACH policy (N05)* require that any personal health information (PHI) gathered during "preparation for research" activities requires a certification signed by the individual gathering this information. To better enforce this policy, information technology and medical records will now be asking for a certification form from anyone requesting PHI. For your convenience this form is available on the ACHRI web site (in the forms section) at: http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/HIPAA_Forms/Reviews%20Prep%20Form.doc.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tanda Grisham, Esq. ACHRI Human Protections Administrator/Contracts Attorney at 364-3571 or Margie Brackeen, ACHRI Regulatory Compliance Specialist at 364-3586.

*ACH Policy N05 can be found in the policy vault (in My ACH) and the ACHRI HIPAA policy can be found at: <http://achri.archildrens.org/resources/policies/HIPAA.pdf>.

NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY

If you are publishing findings from NIH-funded research, it is now mandatory that your peer-reviewed manuscripts be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all final peer-reviewed manuscripts accepted for publication after April 7, 2008. NIH has developed a web site (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>) that offers policy guidance, answers to frequently asked questions, and other information to assist you in complying with the policy. If you have questions regarding the policy, please contact [Phaedra Yount](#) at 364-2469.

NEW INDUSTRY-SPONSORED PROJECTS

PI	Agency	Project Period	Funding
Kimo Stine	Amgen	4/2008 - 4/2010	\$43,890
Robert Saylor	Roche	4/2008 - 3/2009	\$62,766

RECENT GRANT OR CONTRACT SUBMISSIONS

PI	Agency	Project Title	Project Period	Total Funding
Carri Brown	Picker Institute	Teaching Family Centered Care in a Pediatric End of Life Setting	7/1/08-6/30/09	\$25,003
Pat Casey	Boston Medical	CSNAP	4/1/08-3/31/09	\$134,851
Charlotte Hobbs	NIH	National Children's Study	9/26/08-9/25/13	\$15,328,218
Kathryn Thrailkill	Juvenile Diabetes Foundation	Matrix Metalloproteinases and Diabetic Nephropathy	12/1/08-11/30/11	\$672,780

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.

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 is updated twice monthly. Bookmark the page! The listing of funding opportunities is located on the intranet; you must have access to MyACH vault files to open the file.

GRANT WRITING TIP: CRISP ON THE WEB GETS A FACELIFT

After many years CRISP, the public-facing database of federally funded biomedical research projects, is undergoing a series of updates. During the next year, there will be several releases of an enhanced version of CRISP on the Web. The new system will continue to provide the same ability to search NIH-funded research but eventually will include more information associated with funded projects, including budget information and links to publications and patents resulting from NIH-funded research. In addition, the new version of CRISP on the Web will offer a new way of searching for grants and contract portfolios that reflects current research investments in specific diseases and other conditions, and research areas.

In the past, users have searched CRISP using terms that were manually indexed for each abstract. Indexing for Fiscal Year 2008 will be automated to provide a more extensive and flexible set of search options.

The new public face of CRISP may be accessed by going to <http://report.nih.gov/> and clicking on "Search Funded Scientific Projects," or by going directly to <http://report.nih.gov/crisp.aspx>. Bookmarking this site will provide you access to the enhanced features as they come on-line.

Considering an ABI Grant Application This Year?

On May 20 (2:00 to 3:30 p.m., Brandon North A and B), ACHRI will hold a workshop on the ABI grant program. For more information, contact [John Gregan](#) (364-6296) or [Amy Stalls](#) (364-3627).