



Children's
Hospital of Pittsburgh

Contact:

Melanie Tush Finnigan, 412-692-5016, Melanie.Finnigan@chp.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Doctor Heads U.S. Contingent in Trial to Prevent Type 1 Diabetes

PITTSBURGH – May XX, 2002 – Dorothy Becker, MBBCh, chief of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, will head the U.S. contingent of a multinational trial to prevent Type 1 diabetes. The 10-year Trial to Prevent Insulin Dependent Diabetes in the Genetically at Risk (TRIGR) is the first diabetes trial to intervene before babies develop antibodies that signal the inflammatory process that destroys insulin-creating islet cells in the pancreas. Funds totaling \$24 million have been secured to cover the first five years of the international study. After five years, the TRIGR team must submit a renewal of the grant to obtain funding for the remainder of the study.

TRIGR will attempt to prevent diabetes in babies who have a parent or sibling with Type 1 diabetes. The focus will be on predigested cow milk formula, known as a hydrolyzed formula, which does not contain intact cow milk protein. This formula has been shown by researchers in Canada to reduce the incidence of Type 1 diabetes in diabetes-prone mice and rats by as much as 80 to 90 percent. The absence of the protein could be the reason. Researchers will determine whether feeding this formula to babies from birth to 6 to 8 months old who are bottle-fed will prevent the disease. Researchers will follow these children to age 10.

Dr. Becker will coordinate the research efforts of six centers: Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh; St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; VA Puget Sound Health Care System and Washington State University, Seattle; Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and Columbia University, New York, N.Y.; Mattel Children's Hospital Divisions of General Pediatrics and Neonatology and the University of Southern California, Los Angeles; and San Luis Hospital and Ponce University, Puerto Rico. Researchers in Finland will coordinate the multinational trial. Australia, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Sardinia, Spain and Sweden also will participate in the trial.

Dr. Becker is professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a past president of the western Pennsylvania affiliate of the American Diabetes Association and the National American Diabetes Association Youth Council. She is a former member of the western Pennsylvania board of directors of JDRF. For more than 25 years, Dr. Becker has been actively involved in a large number of diabetes research studies, as well as in the care of children with diabetes. She has achieved national and international recognition for these endeavors.

The TRIGR trial is made possible by funding from a consortium of organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDKD).

Individuals who are interested in having their children participate in the trial should contact Margaret Franciscus at 412-692-5250 or margaret.franciscus@chp.edu.

PITTSBURGH - May XX, 2002 - Dr. # # # at MURDOCH School of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh will lead the U.S. contingent of a multinational trial to prevent Type 1 diabetes. The 16-year trial to prevent Insulin Dependent Diabetes is the Genetically at Risk (TRIGR) is the first diabetes trial to intervene before diabetes develops. The study will signal the inflammatory process that destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Funds totaling \$24 million have been secured to cover the first five years of the international study. After five years, the TRIGR team must submit a renewal of the grant to obtain funding for the remainder of the study.

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