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Perinatal News & Events

Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Outreach Program

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New Research Center Aims to Solve the Mystery of Premature Birth

Cincinnati Children's has joined with the March of Dimes Foundation and six major Ohio universities and hospitals to establish a new collaborative research program aimed exclusively at finding the unknown causes of premature birth. The March of Dimes intends to invest $10 million in the program over five years.

"The March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center -- Ohio Collaborative is a unique research enterprise," says Jennifer Howse, PhD, president of the March of Dimes. "This new transdisciplinary, team-based research model will leverage the expertise of leading scientists here in Ohio to discover breakthroughs in our understanding of premature birth. Extraordinary research requires extraordinary funding, and we are very grateful to the leadership of the GE Foundation for awarding the program's first grant for $200,000."

Partners in the research collaborative include:

- University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center;
- The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus;
- Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals MacDonald Women's Hospital and Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and MetroHealth System, Cleveland.

"This new research approach has assembled creative, accomplished and dedicated scientists to work together to generate innovative strategies to transform our understanding of causes of prematurity and use this knowledge to enhance

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Cincinnati Children's

March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center – Ohio Collaborative *continued*

obstetrical care and infant outcomes for Ohio and its residents," says **Louis Muglia**, MD, PhD, co-Director, Perinatal Institute, and the coordinating principal investigator for the new collaborative. "Too many babies, here in Ohio and throughout the United States, are born too soon, and this program will help prevent that."

To create the research collaborative, investigators from many disciplines will share information and create hypotheses to identify the many underlying causes of preterm birth, and translate new knowledge into new approaches to the prevention of premature birth.

Initially, the Ohio Collaborative will focus on five investigatory aims:

- Evolution of Human Pregnancy
- Genetics of Unique Human Populations
- The Molecular Developmental Biology of Pregnancy
- Progesterone Signaling in Pregnancy Maintenance and Preterm Birth
- Sociobiology of Racial Disparities in Preterm Birth

Also participating in the program are investigators from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee; Dartmouth College, New Hampshire; University of Iowa; and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

B4 Project -Before, Between & Beyond Pregnancy for Your Baby & You

Among known risk factors for premature birth (delivery before 37 weeks completed gestation), prior preterm delivery is one of the most accurate predictors. Women who have a premature baby are more likely to have another premature baby in future pregnancies. In fact, their risk is as much as five times higher than women who have not had a premature baby.

Inspired by this fact, and evidence-based strategies proposed by Merry-K Moos and the CDC Select Panel on Preconception Health, TriHealth designed and initiated the **B4** Project (**B**efore, **B**etween, and **B**eyond Pregnancy for Your **B**aby and You) in October 2012. By focusing on maternal health, as well as wellness promotion and risk reduction between pregnancies, TriHealth seeks to establish an innovative prematurity prevention model for significantly at-risk women. The primary goals of the B4 Project are to:

1) Promote a continuum of risk-appropriate wellness care for women who have experienced a very premature birth (<32 weeks gestation);
2) Reduce modifiable risk factors and improve the interconception health status of women who have had a very premature baby in order to improve their own health status; and
3) Increase the likelihood of improved birth outcomes in future pregnancies, including full-term deliveries.

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Before, Between & Beyond Pregnancy for Your Baby & You *continued from page 2*

Specifically, the B4 Project identifies women who spontaneously deliver a very preterm baby (<32 weeks) while their infants receive care in the Good Samaritan Hospital NICU; initiates support, screening, interconception health promotion, and referrals to needed healthcare and services; educates women and families about optimal spacing between pregnancy; engages patients to create a Reproductive Life Plan; and maintains targeted case management services for the period of one year following a very premature birth.

Response to the B4 has been positive among both patients and staff in the Good Samaritan Hospital NICU. Please see B4 Facts at a Glance for more information. For questions or more information, please contact Jennifer Pavelka, TriHealth Women and Infant Health Coordinator, at Jennifer_Pavelka@TriHealth.com or Barbara Shappie, Good Samaritan NICU Social Worker and B4 Project Coordinator, at Barbara_Shappie@TriHealth.com.

B4 Project – Facts at a Glance

34	Women who delivered very preterm infant (<32 weeks completed gestation) approached for enrollment in the B4 Project
24	Women who enrolled in the B4 Project
2	B4 Project clients whose babies were transferred to Cincinnati Children's
20	B4 Project clients who completed a Reproductive Life Plan ("Your Best Life Plan")
22	B4 Project clients who reported they wanted to wait "a long time" before a future pregnancy or "not have more children"
10	B4 Project clients who reported "significant challenges" obtaining their desired method of birth regulation

B4 Project clients' compliance with postpartum visit (PPV)

18	Attended
10	Clients who missed their first scheduled PPV but completed PPV with B4 Project Coordinator support/intervention
1	Scheduled (to attend in upcoming weeks)
2	Did not attend
1	Challenges scheduling appointment due to discharge from prenatal care
2	Unknown (transferred to Cincinnati Children's)

Common challenges reported by B4 Project clients

- **Accessibility of desired care in support of patient's Best Life Plan**
- **Healthy relationship with partner/father of baby**
- **Stress and/or trauma related to baby's preterm delivery**

Demographics

11	B4 Project clients first time mothers
7	B4 Project clients who had experienced a prior preterm birth or other adverse birth outcome
27.6	Average age of B4 Project clients
	Race/ethnicity of B4 Project client
15	African-American
8	Caucasian
1	Asian
	Marital status
2	Married
22	Unmarried

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Our mission is to improve The health of newborn infants through innovation in clinical care, education and research.

www.cincinnatichildrens.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/perinatal

Perinatal Resource Directory

Announcements

Ethical Issues in Perinatal Social Work

8:30-11:00 am, Wednesday, June 12, 2013
Cincinnati Children's Hospital, MERC Rooms 1103-1105
For more infomration contact: danielle.bolton@cchmc.org

Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative Launch

3:00 pm, Thursday, June 13, 2013
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
For more information contact: ryan.adcock@cchmc.org

Perinatal Community Action Team (PCAT)

2:30-4:00 pm, Thursday, June 27, 2013
Cincinnati Children's, MERC Classrooms 1103 & 1104
For more information, contact: kathy.hill@cchmc.org

Regional Perinatal Nurse Manager Meeting

8:30 -11:30 am, Friday, August 9, 2013
University of Cincinnati Medical Center – Hoxworth Center
For more information, contact: kathy.hill@cchmc.org

Save the Dates!

AWHONN Ohio 8th Annual Conference

September 12 & 13, 2013
Ohio 4-H Center, Columbus, Ohio
For details, visit: www.awhonn.org

12th Annual Regional Perinatal Leaders' Summit

Friday, October 25, 2013
Sabin Auditorium, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
For more information contact: danielle.bolton@cchmc.org

March of Dimes Conference "Saving Ohio's Babies: Preventing Premature Birth and other Causes of Our Infant Mortality Crisis"

Thursday, November 14, 2013
Schiff Conference Center at The Cintas Center (Xavier University)
For more information, contact: LHolloway@marchofdimes.com

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