

Jessica Woo, MHSA, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatrics; Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and Division of Endocrinology

Description of Research:

Dr. Woo's research is focused on the role of adiponectin and other biomarkers in the development of obesity and its complications during childhood. Specifically, she is interested in the role of breastfeeding and human milk components in early-onset obesity, as well as the contribution of early life events in the development of severe obesity by adolescence. Dr. Woo is also interested in how genetics and early life influences may impact a child's likelihood of developing obesity and specific metabolic complications of obesity, such as insulin resistance and dyslipidemia.

Collaborations:

Dr. Woo maintains a number of collaborations within the Digestive Health Center. She collaborates with Dr. Martin on defining the genetic underpinnings of adiposity in adolescents. She is preparing an R01 ancillary study to Dr. Inge's U01 of bariatric surgery patients, and is working with Dr. Morrow to extend recruitment and follow-up of a birth cohort to explore early-onset obesity and milk adiponectin. In addition, she is collaborating with Dr. D'Alessio to analyze β -cell sensitivity among adolescent Type 2 diabetics, and with Drs. Kirk and Xanthakos to determine the effects of dietary intake in adolescents undergoing medical and surgical treatment for severe adolescent obesity, respectively.