

## Women's Faculty Association Members in the Spotlight



The Women's Faculty Association (WFA) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine would like to congratulate Gurjit Khurana Hershey, MD, PhD, on the funding of her NIH grant, "Diesel, Allergen and Gene Interactions in Child Atopy." It is a collaborative effort with several investigators at the University of Cincinnati and Children's Hospital Medical Center of Cincinnati.

Grace Lemasters, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is the PI on the grant and Dr. Khurana Hershey, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, is the PI on the Cincinnati Children's subcontract.

The central purpose of this study is to determine if infants, who are exposed to diesel exhaust particles (DEP) via truck exhaust are at an increased risk for atopy and atopic respiratory disorders compared to those unexposed. These studies will also determine if this effect is magnified in a genetically at risk population. In order to achieve the study purpose, a longitudinal cohort and a nested case control study is proposed of infants residing in the Greater Cincinnati Ohio Metropolitan Region. This region is ideal for evaluating the effects of DEP because of the heavy use of a concentric network of interstate highways forming major corridors for inter-coastal and north/south deliveries (135,000 autos and 12-16,000 trucks per day per interstate highway). This network of highways surrounds 1.9 million inhabitants who have higher levels of smog and smog-related hospital respiratory emissions than either Boston or New York. The interplay between genetic and environmental factors will be examined.

Congratulations to the following WFA members on their recent promotions:

- Cindy Bachurski to Associate Professor
- Cynthia Gerhardt to Associate Professor
- Ann Marie LeVine to Associate Professor
- Mary Staat to Associate Professor
- Susan Wert to Associate Professor
- Katherine Yutzey to Associate Professor with Tenure
- Nives Zimmermann to Assistant Professor