



CPIC eBrief

Congenital and Perinatal Infections Consortium

October 2021



Director's Message: Focus on Research

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us virtually for our CPIC Annual Meeting during IDWeek on September 27th. We appreciate your participation and energy and are looking forward to ramping up our research efforts. As we move forward, please be thinking about next year's competitive renewal application. We will be looking for suggestions about how to build on our current research projects and for new project ideas that are related to CPIC areas of interest. Any suggestions can be sent directly to me. We have also been preparing new content for our CPIC website, focusing on information that is useful to lay audiences. During this process we became aware that some of our personnel didn't know about the RDCRN Members page. It can be accessed by going to the CPIC webpage (<https://rdcrn.org/cpic>) and clicking on "RDCRN Members Login" on the top right. This will take you to an institutional login and then to a protected page with CPIC protocol information, the RDCRN Tool Garden, a member directory and other information. If you haven't accessed this area yet, it is worth checking out.

Stay safe and well –
David

Principal Investigator:

David Kimberlin, MD
dkimberlin@uabmc.edu

Clinical Trials Administrator:

Jill Bailey-Griffin, RN, MSN
jillgriffin@uabmc.edu

Regulatory Administrator:

Susan Branscum
sbranscum@uabmc.edu

Program Management/ Finance:

Sarah Dowdy, MPH
sdowdy@uabmc.edu

Career Enhancement Administrator:

Melissa McBrayer, MEd
mmcbrayer@uabmc.edu

Pilot Program Administrator:

Cheryl Perry, PhD, MPH
cherylperry@uabmc.edu



The Parent's Perspective: Awareness in Action

Join CPIC colleagues for "Awareness in Action" presented by Kristen Spytek, co-founder of the National CMV Foundation and CPIC Coalition of Patient Advocacy Groups (CPAG) representative. Exploring the parent and community role in policy and advocacy, she will present on newborn screening at the state and federal level, a critical area of focus for the National CMV Foundation. She will also share information regarding CPAG activities of the RDCRN. This Zoom meeting will be held 10/15/21 at noon (CDT). Click [here](#) to join (Meeting ID: 880 1027 8463; Passcode: 020695).

Kristen is President at the National CMV Foundation and CEO of Spytek Consulting through which she supports individuals, startups, small businesses, nonprofits, and philanthropists via individualized coaching, organizational development, and cause marketing. She co-founded the National CMV Foundation in 2014 with her husband John, inspired by their daughter Evelyn Grace, born with congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV). A graduate of communication studies from the University of Michigan with an MA in global marketing communications and advertising from Emerson College, Kristen resides in Tampa with her husband and two sons.



Protocol Status

- 1) The Neonatal EV Sepsis protocol has been activated at 25 sites, with 1 subject enrolled to date. We ask all activated sites to ramp up their screening activities. Begin working with your virology labs and neonatology teams to identify possible subjects for enrollment.
- 2) Our Valacyclovir PK protocol has been finalized and the NIH is preparing the FDA IND submission. The Central Unit is reviewing questionnaires to finalize site selection and is preparing the central IRB documents. We anticipate sending this protocol to sites in late 2021.
- 3) Longitudinal CMV protocol development is a bit delayed, with anticipated study initiation in early 2022.
- 4) Letemovir PK study design has been discussed and study initiation is still on track for early 2022.

Scholar Presentation

CPIC Scholars and other interested learners are invited to attend a [Zoom presentation](#) on 10/18 at 11am CDT. [Craig Bierle, PhD](#), CPIC Scholar, 2021 CPIC Pilot Recipient, and Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota will present “Elucidating the effects of cytomegalovirus infection on the guinea pig placenta.” (Meeting ID: 838 3966 9419; Password: 032271)

CPIC continues to seek interested fellows and early-stage faculty interested in becoming CPIC Scholars. Scholars are eligible to request funds to attend meetings or participate in mini-sabbatical research experiences, and they may list participation on their CVs. Click [here](#) for application instructions.

Administrative and Financial Updates

Grant Year 3 began 9/1/21! Please invoice for any Year 2 maintenance funds and subject fees by October 29th. Year 3 subawards are being processed by the UAB Office of Sponsored Programs and will be going out to sites in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about this process, please direct them to Sarah Dowdy sdowdy@uabmc.edu.

Data Hosting Agreements Required for Enterovirus Sepsis Study – CPIC utilizes REDCap database services through the RDCRN’s Data Coordinating Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) for its Neonatal EV Sepsis study. Your site should have received a Data Hosting Agreement request from CCHMC. This agreement is between your institution and CCHMC. Direct any questions about the DHA to rd.dmcc@cchmc.org.

Links

[Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network \(RDCRN\)](#)



CPIC is supported by the UAB Central Unit located at:

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Children’s Harbor Building, Suite 303
1600 7th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233
1-877-975-7280 or 1-205-934-5316

Slack Channel for Scholar Collaboration

A new slack channel is now available to promote collaboration between RDCRN Scholars. A key component of the Career Enhancement Committee’s engagement strategy is to create a space to promote collaboration between scholars. They have created a Slack channel for scholars ([#career-enhancement-cmte](#)). If you are interested in joining the Slack channel, please reach out to chelsea.volpenhein@cchmc.org.

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