



Director's Message: ID Week Meeting Follow-up

We just returned from ID Week, where it was wonderful to finally connect with many of you in person (and include others via Zoom)! I feel we had a productive meeting about where things stood with our current research projects, as well as our patient advocacy groups, scholars, pilot program, and our grant cycle. We enjoyed a great presentation by last year's pilot award recipient, Dr. Craig Bierle, who presented the results of his ongoing research analyzing T cell specificity toward viral and paternal antigens in guinea pig (GP) samples to show the maternal and fetal immune response to congenital GPCMV infection and the role of T cells in placental immunopathology after intrauterine viral infection. We were also excited that two of our CPIC Scholars were able to join us to facilitate networking and to enhance their career development (with the other four joining remotely)! After presentations, we had a fruitful discussion including site PIs, Scholars and NIH colleagues. We have many opportunities for expanding our current research and broadening our scope to encompass rare congenital and pediatric infections with our subsequent application. Thanks again to all who were able to join us at ID Week. I am looking forward to continued research progress and to next year's meeting.

Stay safe and well –
David

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Patient Advocacy Group News

A NIAID/CDC Workshop on Genital Herpes will be held November 3-4, to define the burden and epidemiology of HSV, and to identify research opportunities in vaccines, therapeutics, prevention, and diagnostics. CPIC PI, David Kimberlin, will speak about neonatal HSV. This virtual event is open to everyone, but [registration](#) is required to attend.

The National CMV Foundation is proud to fund innovative research through its Early Career Research Awards. 2022 award recipients are:

- Dr. Elisabeth McClymont – a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of British Columbia. Her project will use stored clinical samples from congenitally-infected infants with CMV and their mothers to better understand new and existing infections.
- Ms. Claire Otero – a PhD student in Pathology at Duke University, completing her graduate studies at Weill Cornell Medicine in NYC under the mentorship of Dr. Sallie Permar. Her project will study the viral proteins involved in one mechanism that inhibits key antibody responses and assess their utility as potential vaccine targets.



Protocol Status

- 1) The Neonatal EV Sepsis protocol is active at 29 sites, with 17 subjects enrolled. Protocol version 2.0 has been IRB approved and does not require sites to submit a deviation should a subject be discharged from the hospital and unable to return to the research site.
- 2) The Valacyclovir PK protocol version 3.0 has been activated at 1 site. Others are updating their ICFs, completing eDES training, and submitting required regulatory documents.
- 3) The Longitudinal CMV study start-up meeting provided feedback that resulted in the development of a protocol version 2.0. It is currently under review at the IRB.
- 4) Letemovir PK study development continues, and we anticipate study initiation toward the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023.

CPIC Scholars Program

We want to welcome Benjamin M. Liu, MD, PhD, and Patricia Pichilengue-Reto, MD as our two new CPIC Scholars. Dr. Liu is an Assistant Professor of Pathology, Pediatrics and Microbiology, Immunology & Tropical Medicine at George Washington University. He is mentored by Roberta L. DeBiasi, MD. Dr. Pichilengue-Reto is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Her mentor is John Vanchiere, MD, PhD.

The Scholars Program is led by James H. Willig, MD, MSPH and is open to late-stage infectious disease fellows and early-stage faculty. Learn more [here](#).

Links

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



CPIC is supported by the UAB Central Unit located at:
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Administrative and Financial Updates

The NIH has issued UAB a No-Cost Extension and Carry-Forward of Funds for Year 3 of the U54 grant. Therefore, Year 3 will now span 24 months, (9/1/21-8/31/23). At this time, all site subaward amendments are being drafted at UAB. In the next few weeks, sites should expect to receive an amendment extending Year 3 until 8/31/23 and adding funding.

Please bring invoicing up-to-date for maintenance funds and subject fees provided in your subawards that ended 8/31/22. If you have any questions about this process, 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 (DHA) request from CCHMC. This agreement is between your institution and CCHMC. Direct any questions about the DHA to rd.dmcc@cchmc.org.

Why Apply to be a CPIC Scholar?

Scholar designation provides access to funds for travel to meetings, funding for mini-sabbatical experiences, and training opportunities through CPIC and the larger NIH Rare Diseases Consortium Research Network. Visit <https://rdcrn.org/cpic/scholars> for the RFA and contact Melissa McBrayer (mmcbrayer@uabmc.edu) with questions.

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