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## From the RUSH Clinical Trials Office

### Genital Herpes Study

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is participating in a multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of Valtrex (valaciclovir). In the study, subjects who have been diagnosed with HSV-2 genital herpes in the last six months will be given one gram of Valtrex daily. The study will determine if Valtrex (valaciclovir) when taken in this dose, once daily, for six months versus placebo will suppress genital herpes recurrences in immunocompetent subjects. The overall safety of valaciclovir will also be evaluated during this study. For more information and eligibility criteria, please contact Veronica Torres at (312) 563-2713.

### Eczema Study

The Department of Dermatology is participating in a multi-center research study to assess the impact of topical corticosteroids on the safety and efficacy of Protopic (Tracrolimus) ointment in the short-term treatment of atopic dermatitis (eczema) and to assess Protopic in its long-term management. Eligible volunteers (age two or older) should be diagnosed with moderate to severe eczema. For more information, contact Ruby Page at (312) 563-4001.

## RUSH Programs and Services Spotlight

### Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health

Patients with urinary or stool incontinence or sexual pain don't have to suffer in silence: RUSH now offers a comprehensive abdominal and pelvic health program to address these issues and more.

Unique in the Chicago area, the Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health at RUSH brings together specialists to treat the entire abdominal and pelvic region — gynecologists, urogynecologists, colorectal surgeons, gastroenterologists, and a physiatrist and physical therapist. The program also focuses on issues beyond the physical — providing education on nutrition, exercise and overall health, as well as access to a psychologist to address the stresses of living with a physical condition that can impact relationships and self-image.

Specialists work as a team — conferring on cases to find the best treatment plan for a patient — and encourage ongoing communication with the referring health care provider.

Conditions treated:

#### Disorders of control:

- Constipation
- Stool or urinary incontinence

#### Painful disorders:

- Cystitis
- Dyspareunia
- Endometriosis
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Pelvic, postprostatectomy or rectal pain
- Urinary infections
- Vulvodynia

#### Disorders of support:

- Pelvic floor muscle dysfunction
- Prolapse of the bladder, rectum or vagina

Treatment options include biofeedback, electrical stimulation, pelvic floor physical therapy and minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery.

#### High-risk patients for abdominal and pelvic floor issues:

- Women who have had multiple childbirths
- People who have had previous pelvic organ surgery (particularly any gynecologic or urologic surgery or history of spine disorders or surgery)

*Patients and referring physicians may contact the program manager, Mary P. Kraus, first to discuss their symptoms to ensure they see the appropriate specialists. To schedule an appointment, call Mary at (312) 942-7274.*

#### Participating Physicians and Therapists

**Colorectal surgery**  
Marc Brand, MD  
Theodore Saclarides, MD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 810

**Gastroenterology**  
Keith Bruninga, MD  
Ali Keshavarzian, MD  
Ece Mutlu, MD  
Carline Quander, MD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 207

**Gynecology**  
Eric Brown MD, PhD  
1645 W. Jackson,  
Suite 310

**Physiatry**  
Sheila Dugan, MD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 970

**Psychology**  
Laurie Keefer, PhD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 207

**Urogynecology**  
Bruce Rosenzweig, MD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 358

**Urology**  
Christopher Coogan, MD  
Lev Elterman, MD  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 758

**Jerome Hoeksema, MD**  
1725 W. Harrison,  
Suite 917

## PROGRESS NOTES

**Paul M. Carvey, PhD**, was appointed as dean of the Graduate College of RUSH University in January. He has been the acting dean of the Graduate College since 2002. As dean, Carvey will continue to strive to improve the array of activities in the Graduate College, including the new core curriculum and a proposal to establish a new masters program in biomedical technology.

**Martha Gulati, MD, MS**, assistant professor of preventive medicine, recently joined the RUSH Hypertension Center in the Department of Preventive Medicine. She specializes in women and heart disease, with a focus on both primary and secondary prevention of heart

disease. She is now seeing patients in the Department of Preventive Medicine in the Triangle Office Building, Suite 470. She can see your patients to screen for heart disease, provide treatment for cardiac risk factors and offer preoperative evaluations.

**Claire Smith, MD**, received the American Board of Radiology's Distinguished Service Award in January in recognition for volunteering her "time, expertise and energy" toward the Board's certification process.

## Clinical CORNER

### New Once-a-Month Drug Tysabri for Multiple Sclerosis May Reduce Frequency of Relapses

A new once-a-month intravenous infusion therapy, offered by the RUSH Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center, may reduce relapses for many people with multiple sclerosis.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the drug, Tysabri, in November 2004, as a treatment for all relapsing forms of MS. It is now available for general use to appropriate MS patients, says Dusan Stefoski, MD, Director of the RUSH MS Center and principal investigator of this phase III study.

Tysabri, the first humanized monoclonal antibody approved for the treatment of MS, inhibits adhesion molecules on the surface of the immune cells, lymphocytes. Research suggests that Tysabri works in MS by preventing immune cells from migrating from the bloodstream into the brain and spinal cord where they cause inflammation and damage myelin insulation on nerve fibers and nerves themselves.

The medication has at least twice the efficacy of the current first-line medications for treatment of MS. Patients receive the treatment (administered intravenously) once a month over several years. According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Tysabri reduced the rate of clinical relapses by up to 66% and reduced the development of new or newly enlarging MRI-detected brain lesions by 80% to 92%.

### Solar Cell Implant May Restore Some Sight for the Blind

In January, ophthalmologists at RUSH University Medical Center implanted artificial silicon retina (ASR) microchips in the eyes of four patients to treat vision loss caused by retinitis pigmentosa. The implant is a silicon microchip 2 mm in diameter and one-thousandth of an inch thick.

RUSH principal investigator John Pollack, MD, performed the surgeries with Kirk Packo, MD, Pauline Merrill, MD, Mathew MacCumber, MD and Jack Cohen, MD. All are members of Illinois Retina Associates, S.C., a private practice group, and are on the RUSH faculty.

Patients leave the hospital the same day and will be followed for two years as part of the study, and then indefinitely. Packo, study investigator, oversees the three participating sites: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine/Atlanta VA Medical Center and RUSH.

The implants are designed for people with retinal diseases such as macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. The ASR chip contains approximately 5,000 microscopic solar cells that convert light into electrical impulses. The purpose of the chip is to replace the damaged photoreceptors occurring in people with retinitis pigmentosa and other retinal diseases.

## INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a list of physicians who joined the RUSH medical staff between November 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. The Medical Staff Office and the Office of Marketing Communications have made every effort to publish accurate information that is as complete as possible; however, if the information below is incorrect or we have omitted information, we apologize and ask that you contact Muriel Coleman in the Medical Staff Office at (312) 942-5496.

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## focus on CONTINUING AND GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

### Upcoming CME Courses at RUSH

#### Optimal Management of HIV Disease — Clinical Conference XIII

March 17 - 20, 2005

12 credit hours

Sponsoring department: Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

Location: Sheraton Bal Harbour, Bal Harbour, FL

Cost: TBD

Contact: R&R Healthcare Communications

Phone: (727) 376-1770

Fax: (727) 376-3020

#### Clinical Competency Assessment and Training Program (CCAT)

40 credit hours

and

CCAT – Individualized Activity

Credit hours vary by participant

Sponsoring department: Department of Psychiatry, RUSH Behavioral Health

Location: RUSH University Medical Center, RUSH Oak Park Hospital

Cost: Specialty specific

Contact: Betsy White William, PhD, MPH

Phone: (312) 563-3624

Email: Betsy\_W\_Williams@rush.edu

#### Grand Rounds

Noon – 1 p.m.

Cohn Research Building conference room

March 9, 2005

Laurence Levine, MD, Department of Urology  
“Peyronie’s Disease: Examination into Etiology and Treatment Options”

March 16, 2005

Announcing the Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health at RUSH

Marc Brand, MD  
Sheila Dugan, MD

April 7, 2005

“Investigator 101: Questions & Answers”

All day workshop

Sponsored by the Clinical Trials Process Office (CTPO)

Moderators:

Lisa Pitler, RN, MS, JD, Senior Director CTPO

David Clark, PhD, Director of Research Compliance Office

Stephanie Gusik, RN, Senior Auditor, Research Compliance Office

Eileen Yates, BS, Director, IRB - CTPO

Gia Hayes, Senior IRB Coordinator - CTPO

## NEWS TO USE

### Ordering research posters for the April 6 research forum has never been easier!

The RUSH graphic design department and the RUSH Photo Group can help you produce your custom research posters. To design it yourself, simply use the new RUSH PowerPoint template available on the RUSH intranet, and then email your finished poster to the RUSH Photo Group at [photo\\_group.rushu@rush.edu](mailto:photo_group.rushu@rush.edu). Or, have the graphic

design department format your poster for you. The RUSH PowerPoint template, as well as information about poster sizes and design/print pricing is available at <http://iris.rush.edu/photogroup/groupindex.html>, or contact Kimberly Sareny in graphic design at [Kimberly\\_Sareny@rush.edu](mailto:Kimberly_Sareny@rush.edu) or (312) 942-7104.