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From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

Pediatric Growth Study

The Department of Pediatrics is participating in a study to determine whether daily administration of an insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) in concentration-controlled dosages will result in growth similar to what was achieved with twice daily administration of IGF-1 in previous studies.

Patients may qualify if they:

- Have not yet reached puberty
- Are of short stature (less than the third percentile)
- Do not have other serious medical problems
- Are not being treated for attention deficit disorder

For more information, contact James Moy, MD, at (312) 942-6296. Prospective patients should call Rahab Gandy at (312) 563-2647.

Diet and Breast Cancer Study

The Department of Clinical Nutrition is participating in a study called "Be Leaner and Stronger" (BELS) to determine whether a lifestyle modification program for female breast cancer survivors administered via the Internet/e-mail is as successful as a traditional program in which patients are contacted by telephone or mail.

Qualified participants must:

- Have a diagnosis of stage 1, 2 or 3 breast cancer
- Have access to a computer at work or at home with Internet access
- Be able to come to RUSH at least four times during the 18-month study
- Be able to read, write and speak English
- Be between 18 and 80 years of age

For more information, contact Christy Tangney, MD, at (312) 942-5995. Prospective patients should contact the BELS research dietitians at (312) 942-4760.

RUSH Programs and Services Spotlight

Stem Cell Transplantation program

An integral component of the Section of Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation, the Stem Cell Transplantation program provides leading-edge treatment for patients with hematological malignancies and benign disorders, including:

- Acute myeloid leukemia
- Bone marrow failure syndrome
- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Chronic myeloid leukemia
- Hemoglobinopathy
- Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplasia
- Myelofibrosis
- Myeloproliferative disease
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
- Primary amyloidosis
- Sarcoma
- Severe aplastic anemia
- Severe immunodeficiency
- Sickle cell anemia
- Testicular cancer
- Thalassemia

Director Henry Fung, MD, has extensive experience in the treatment of lymphoma, leukemia and myeloma and the use of stem cell transplantation for these life-threatening hematological disorders. He works in concert with his colleagues in hematology to develop comprehensive treatment plans for each patient at the time of diagnosis; therefore, donors can be found more quickly for patients who need transplants earlier in the course of the disease. Patients not eligible for transplants or whose transplants fail have immediate access to alternate treatments through a full range of hematology and oncology clinical trials.

Among the program's goals are to create specific protocols for patients over the age of 65, who are not currently eligible for stem cell transplantation; to increase stem cell sources by further developing a cord blood transplantation program; to develop novel strategies for decreasing the acute and chronic toxicities from transplant; and to apply stem cell transplantation to other life-threatening diseases, such as autoimmune diseases.

Participating physicians

Stem Cell Transplantation
Henry Fung, MD, director
Deepak Malhotra, MD

Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation
Stephanie A. Gregory, MD, section director
Jamile M. Shammo, MD
Parameswaren Venugopal, MD

Stem Cell Transplantation
Section of Hematology and Stem Cell Transplantation
1725 W. Harrison Street, Suite 834
(312) 942-3047

focus on CONTINUING AND GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Upcoming CME Courses at RUSH

Revisiting Approaches to the Management of Complex Gastrointestinal Disorders: NSAID-Induced Injuries and Non-Cardiac Chest Pain

American College of Cardiology Annual Session

March 12, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Credit hours: 1.5

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition

Course director: Seymour M. Sabesin, MD

Location: Atlanta, Ga.

Contact: Seymour M. Sabesin, MD, University Gastroenterologists

Phone: (312) 563-3877

E-mail: ssabesin@rush.edu

Optimal Management of HIV Disease: Clinical Conference XIV

March 16 – 19, 2006

Credit hours: 12

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases

Course director: Harold Kessler, MD

Location: Bal Harbour Sheraton, 9701 Collins Avenue, Bal Harbour, Fla.

Cost: \$325.00; on-site registration: \$350.00

Contact: Ken Reiss, R&R Healthcare Communications

Phone: (813) 855-5533

Fax: (813) 855-5889

E-mail: kreiss@rrhealthcare.com

Clinical CORNER

RUSH among first in U.S. to use stent designed for brain

The first stent specifically designed for use in the brain made its Illinois debut at RUSH in November 2005. While it is possible to attempt to open narrowed brain vessels using existing coronary stents, the new Wingspan stents are designed to be gentler on the distal portions of the brain. They are self-expanding and can curve or taper to fit specific blood vessels, according to Demetrius Lopes, MD, an endovascular neurosurgeon at RUSH.

Until now, the only treatment option for many patients at risk for stroke was medical therapy, such as aspirin. But recent studies have shown that medical therapy is not as effective as it was originally thought to be. "For patients who are not responding to medical therapy, the Wingspan stent is a welcome new treatment option," says Lopes. "Preliminary tests have shown that the stent is better than medication alone."

The stent had a procedural success rate of 97.7 percent in a 12-site study in Europe and Asia. The study involved patients who had a stroke caused by an intracranial lesion and for whom medical treatment failed to prevent another stroke.

Wingspan is intended for patients who have a brain blood vessel blockage greater than or equal to 50 percent of the vessel and who have not responded to medical therapy. It is currently being introduced to only the most experienced neurovascular centers in the country, including RUSH.

Progress Notes and Kudos

Melanie C. Dreher, PhD, RN, has been appointed dean of the College of Nursing of RUSH University. Dr. Dreher is a nationally recognized leader in nursing education and a distinguished researcher on the health and welfare of underserved communities and the influence of culture in patient-provider communication. She comes to RUSH from the University of Iowa College of Nursing, where she had served as dean since 1997. During her tenure she was instrumental in establishing their Masters in Nursing and Health Care Practice degree, which became the national model for professional nursing education.

Anthony Perry, MD, director of the Johnston R. Bowman Health Center, and **Robyn L. Golden, LCSW**, director of older adult programs, represented RUSH and Illinois as delegates to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, which was held in Washington, D.C., December 11-14, 2005. Dr. Perry was selected by Senator Richard Durbin to serve as a congressional delegate; Golden was an at-large delegate. The White House Conference on Aging occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following is a list of physicians who joined the Medical Staff of RUSH University Medical Center between November 1, 2005, and December 30, 2005. 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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EYE on QUALITY: JCAHO Update

New survey process to debut in 2006

As you know, JCAHO will be conducting its unannounced survey of RUSH some time in 2006. But this year's survey process will be markedly different than in years past, and there has been some confusion about what will occur during the survey.

For the first time, JCAHO will use the "tracer" methodology. This is a way to analyze RUSH's systems of providing care, treatment and services using patients as the framework for assessing compliance. It involves mapping a patient's stay throughout the hospital by pulling and evaluating random patient charts.

The process for selecting patients for "tracers" includes, but is not limited to, those in high volume diagnostic-related groups, those who cross programs, those on multiple or high-risk medications, those with hospital-acquired infections and those receiving complex services. Each tracer may take from one to three hours. Based on this methodology, units, departments and clinics may be visited multiple times throughout the survey process.

If you have questions regarding this new process or anything related to the Joint Commission, please call Quality Improvement at (312) 942-7116.

NEWS TO USE

Wheelchair clinic will keep patients rolling smoothly

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is now offering a monthly wheelchair clinic, led by Christopher Reger, MD, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, and featuring a wheelchair seating expert and physical therapist. During clinic, the team evaluates patients to determine which type of wheelchair or scooter best accommodates their needs and lifestyle; to ensure that their wheelchairs and scooters fit and function properly; and to make sure they are using appropriate wheelchair cushions to prevent skin breakdowns or sacral ulcers. To contact the wheelchair clinic, call (312) 942-8905.

focus on *continued*

RUSH Uveitis and Retina Update: New Drugs and Devices

March 25, 2006
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Credit hours: 7.5
Sponsoring department: Department of Ophthalmology
Course directors: Pauline Merrill, MD, and Mathew MacCumber, MD, PhD
Location: Armour Academic Center, 600 South Paulina, 9th Floor
Contact: Jennifer Cruz, education coordinator
Department of Ophthalmology
Phone: (312) 563-2302
E-mail: jrcruz@rsh.net

Grand Rounds

Department of Preventive Medicine

Cohn Research Building, Field Auditorium

Tuesday, April 18, noon

"Hypertension and Diabetes: Challenges in Managing the High-Risk Patient"

William Kannel, MD, Boston University School of Medicine; Visiting Scientist Program at the Framingham Heart Study

Tuesday, April 25, noon

"Preventive Cardiology: An Educational and Research Approach"

Philip Liebson, MD, Section of Cardiology