June 2018 Newsletter

Bringing together the many FACES of Food Allergy for Inaugural Conference
On June 9th and 10th, the Science and Outcomes of Allergy & Asthma Research (SOAAR) team brought together families, clinicians, researchers and experts from the Midwest region to share the latest research and advancements in food allergy treatment, prevention and daily living.

Approximately 100 families and 50 health care providers participated in the first-ever Midwest Food Allergy Conference for Education & Science (FACES) held at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. The two-day conference featured educational tracks specific for adults, teens, kids, and health care providers and included topics on emerging food allergy treatments, how to navigate schools with FA, recognizing and managing allergic reactions, increasing advocacy and empowerment, and more! Advocacy organizations and food allergy vendors were also in attendance to share the latest in technology and advancements to improve food allergy management.
"The Midwest is an established hub for medical innovation and advancement, making Chicago the perfect venue for this inaugural food allergy conference," said Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Clinical Attending at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, and Director of SOAAR. “We wanted to host this conference to give the many FACES of food allergy a free opportunity to connect with one another and increase both their understanding of the latest research and their self-confidence in knowing how to manage their food allergy.”

_Pictured: Thomas Shanley, MD_, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, sharing his opening remarks to kick off the conference._
One mother noted that she was "very thankful for this conference and thought the highlight was the session for the kids." Her close to teenage son "really learned a lot and was able to have a better perspective on his allergies after hearing from other kids with allergies even more severe than his."

Another mother stated "We pray that we can encourage other military families to join next time because FACES really had a huge impact on our family. Reaching a critical milestone and deciding to self-carry is incredible! I couldn’t be more proud. I get teary-eyed whenever I think of that moment when she came up to you and shared her great news and I can’t thank YOU enough!"

Researchers do not often personally witness the impact of their work. At Midwest FACES, Team SOAAR was able to do just that. "Hearing these incredible experiences inspires us to keep working to improve the lives of children and their families”, said Gupta. The SOAAR team is so grateful to everyone who attended and participated in Midwest FACES as well as all
those who helped make this conference a reality. They look forward to bringing together even more FACES of food allergy again in the future!

For more information about the 2018 Midwest FACES conference, including the half day health care provider conference, visit the Midwest FACES website at: www.midwestfaces.com

Check out more pictures from the event by visiting our Facebook page!
Photographs taken by: Teresa Crawford and Photo Booth Time
This video was made at the Midwest FACES 2018 Conference in Chicago, IL. This video shows the many faces of children with food allergies, their dreams, personalities, and wishes. Thank you to all the amazing kids who participated!

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**Research News**

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**New manuscripts accepted for publication**


News coverage:
Reuters: People with allergies often leave life-saving epinephrine at home
MedScape: Most Adults Don't Use Their Epinephrine Auto-Injectors During Reactions
WebMD: Many With Severe Allergies Don't Carry an EpiPen
Consultant360: Q&A: What is responsible for the underuse of epinephrine?
KFGO: People with allergies often leave life-saving epinephrine at home

The SOAAR Summer Students have arrived!

SOAAR has recently welcomed Christina Stankey, Gabriel Moore, Omar Bushara, Justin Zaslavsky, Sarah Ann Duck, Simran Kohli, Ahona Mukherjee, Olivia Negris, Rajeshree Das, Rohan Jain, Julia Ross, Frank Belette to participate in our SOAAR Summer Research program. These high school, undergraduate, and medical students will be helping with SOAAR's food allergy and asthma research projects and the team is looking forward to a very educational and productive summer!

Aside from the individual projects the students are working on, they are also attending didactic sessions every week taught by Ashley Dyer, MPH. These sessions have been created to help the students learn about epidemiological, clinical, and community-based research and how they can apply and share this knowledge to improve their own studies.
Pictured: The SOAAR students attending an outdoor didactic session led by Ashley Dyer and Ruchi Gupta

Recent Events
On June 22\textsuperscript{nd}, Dr. Gupta was invited to speak in three separate sessions for this year’s NEA Eczema Expo which was located in Chicago. The eczema expo was a community gathering of patients, and healthcare providers all over the nation that helped better educate their world in relation to eczema. Dr. Gupta’s session title was, “What About the Food? Managing Food Allergies and Eczema,” where she spoke on food allergies that can cause flares, how to see if foods are triggers and useful tips on what to do to minimize risk.

For more info NEA’s annual eczema expo [https://nationaleczema.org/](https://nationaleczema.org/)

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On June 29\textsuperscript{th}, Dr. Gupta presented “Food Allergy Prevalence in Adults and Children, Morbidity, and Management Practices” to the Allergy and Immunology division at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine. She presented updated data on the prevalence of food allergy in the United States, addressed current research being done regarding racial disparities in food allergy, and explained the updated guidelines surrounding early peanut introduction and how to properly implement them.

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**Partner Spotlight:**

*Smith Child Health Research*

*Supporting High-impact Science*
Outreach and Advocacy Center (SCHROA)

The Mary Ann & J Milburn Smith Child Health Research Outreach and Advocacy Center (SCHROA) addresses important clinical and public health problems of children through supported research and collaborations. Led by Director Matthew Davis, MD, MAPP, SCHROA partners with many community-based organizations and engages with policymakers to translate evidence into effective health interventions and policy.

Launched in 2000 with a generous gift from Mrs. Mary Ann Smith in memory of her late husband, J. Milburn Smith, SCHROA consists of several core research programs that possess unique expertise and resources. Together the programs strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration and academic competitiveness. The center is well positioned as a leader and key participant in the area of population health and team SOAAR is proud to be part of these initiatives. To learn more about the center and all of the incredible work the programs do, see below!

- Center on Obesity Management and Prevention (COMP)
- Child Health Data Lab (CHDL)
- Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
- Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS)
- Injury Prevention and Research Center (IPRC)
- Science & Outcomes of Allergy & Asthma Research (SOAAR)
- Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG)
- Strengthening Chicago’s Youth (SCY)
- Evaluation Core
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