March 2018 Newsletter
Register Today For The First Midwest FACES Conference!
Exchange ideas, create connections, and learn the latest and greatest in food allergy research! Register today to share your perspective and gain support from others who get it...know it...live it! The two action-packed days will feature separate tracks for parents and children (ages 9+) including:

- Public health Impact of Food Allergies
- Diagnosis & Testing: What You Need to Know
- Safe Food Ideas & Labeling Laws
- Microbiome and New Research
- Immunotherapies & Emerging Treatments (physician presentations and panel with participating parents)
- Latest in Food Allergy Prevention
- Daily Life Tips to Reduce Stress & Anxiety
- Special sessions for asthma, eczema, environmental allergies and EOE
- Plus, expert Q&As, vendor expo, and interactive activities (live cooking, yoga demos and more!)

To learn more about this conference, visit: [http://www.midwestfaces.com](http://www.midwestfaces.com).

Register Today!

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**New Student Health Empowerment Curriculum Now Available**

Team SOAAR is pleased to announce that its’ **Student Media-based Health Research Team (SMHRT) curriculum** is available—at NO COST—for schools, community-based organizations and other youth-focused programs to implement. SMHRT’s goal is to empower students to better understand their own health conditions and how their environment/community helps or hurts their health.

Students become researchers as they explore their neighborhoods and document their findings with pictures, journal entries, and discussion with peers. They then develop interventions that are used to educate the community and improve overall health.

“We tested an asthma version of this curriculum in Chicago schools and found that students were empowered to improve their own management and quality of life”, says
Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, Director of SOAAR. “The students researched and developed interventions to improve the community’s health and asthma knowledge. The SMHRT curriculum was expanded to include any chronic health condition. We are pleased to share it with anyone who wants to implement it in their community.”

SMHRT bridges the goals of educators, public health practitioners and the community to improve population-level health.

What Does the Curriculum Include?

The SMHRT Curriculum includes:

- Syllabus,
- Goals and objectives,
- Lesson plans,
- PowerPoint slides,
- Resource sheets,
- Homework activities, and
- Evaluation forms.

The SMHRT Curriculum can be modified to address specific health needs of different communities.

How Do I Order A Free Copy?

Click here.

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2018 Publications
Team SOAAR is pleased to share three journal articles, listed below, recently published in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* and *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI)*.

- **Parental and parent-perceived child interest in clinical trials for food allergen immunotherapy. Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (March 2018).**
  - [Immunotherapy Trials for Food Allergy Hold Strong Appeal for Parents: A Press Release from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](https://www.luriechildrens.org/newsroom/releases/2018/03/31/Immunotherapy-Trials-For-Food-Allergy-Hold-Strong-Appeal-For-Parents.html)
- **School nurse perspectives on school policies for food allergy and anaphylaxis. Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (March 2018).**
- **Anaphylaxis in Infants. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (February 2018).**

**Questions?** Please email soaar@northwestern.edu.

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**Conference Presentations**

*2018 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (March 1-5, 2018)*

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, moderated the following sessions at this year’s conference:

- **Comprehensive Management of FPIES**
- **Management of Feeding Difficulties in Non-IgE Mediated Food Allergy**
While Dr. Gupta was at AAAAI, she met with several members of the FORWARD research team (pictured above, from left to right are: Mahboobeh Mahdavinia, MD, PhD, Susan Fox, PA-C, Jialing Jiang, Amal Assa'ad MD, Dr. Gupta, Hemant Sharma, MD, Amaziah Coleman, MD, and Mary Tobin, MD).

Community Outreach

Upcoming Events

March 28th: Parker Community Research and Medicine Club- Field Trip!
The SOAAR Team will be taking the CRM Club from Francis W. Parker High School on a field trip to tour Northwestern's Medical School and to hear from some of Lurie Children’s SCHROA Community Research stakeholders! The speakers will include representatives from Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) and Center for Childhood Resilience (CCR). To learn more about these groups their amazing contributions to pediatric research, click here.

May 1st: World Asthma Day Summit at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
The SOAAR Team is partnering with Chicago's Respiratory Health Association to host a World Asthma Day Summit at Lurie Children's Hospital! The event aims to bring together asthma program, policy, and research stakeholders to share their expertise and address the disparities in the city's pediatric asthma rate.

Starting at 9:00am, there will be a brief press conference to kick-off the event, followed by presentations on topics such as:

- What the Data Reveal
- Lessons Learned From Local Research
- Programmatic Landscape
- Payer and Patient Perspectives
- Where Do We Go From Here?

Interested in attending? Please email soaar@northwestern.edu!

Completed Events
2018 Food Allergy Mini-Conference (Reno, NV)

On March 17, 2018, Dr. Gupta presented "Food Allergy: Latest Research, Current Therapies, and Best Practices" via teleconference at the 2018 Food Allergy Mini-Conference, hosted by the Northern Nevada and Food Allergy Parent Education Group (AAPE). Hospital administrators, nurses, and physicians attended and tuned into the teleconference and shared some wonderful insights about the event. Listed below are a few responses:

- "Participants appreciated the ability to hear cutting-edge research from a reputable researcher."
- "It was amazing to obtain such pertinent information about the latest food allergy therapies and best practices. Attendees included the local pediatric pulmonologist, rural community health nurses and rural school nurses. The reach of this conference was great."
- "I very much needed the information presented by Dr. Gupta. Since her presentation was via teleconference, I was able to participate despite being 240 miles away from educational and medical resources. I plan to use SOAAR's food allergy videos when training school staff and unlicensed assistive personnel about anaphylaxis and epinephrine administration."

Follow up About January 24th Parker Presentation

The SOAAR team was pleased to receive the following feedback from John Novick, Jr., Head of Intermediate and Middle Schools at Francis W. Parker School regarding Dr. Gupta’s anaphylaxis education presentation to students on January 24th.
"Dr. Ruchi Gupta presented to our students on food allergies, and while she included the science, she went well beyond the science, empowering our students at all ages to be more inclusive, sensitive, and better members of our school community," says Mr. Novick. "The presentation and the film clips Dr. Gupta shared made us a better school for all."

For more information about Dr. Gupta’s presentation, click here.

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**Partner Spotlight:**

**Murdoch Children's Research Institute**

On March 7th, SOAAR met with Katie Allen, MD, from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Australia, as she presented her groundbreaking food allergy research at both Northwestern University and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Dr. Allen is a pediatric gastroenterologist and allergist and serves as the principal investigator of the HealthNuts Study, which tracks 5,300 infants to understand the cause of the food allergy epidemic. Dr. Allen presented the current findings from this study and also explained her theories on "The Five D's of Food Allergy Prevention".
It was a pleasure hosting Dr. Allen and having her share her expertise with us. To learn more about her work, click here.

Questions?
Email Brenda Silvia-Torma at brenda.torma@northwestern.edu.