

# Children's Memorial Food Allergy Study

In response to the rapid rise of childhood food allergy and lack of effective prevention and treatment for food allergy, **Children's Memorial Food Allergy Study** was launched in 2005. Our researchers hope to find answers to some fundamental questions about food allergy such as: What are the causes of food allergy? How can we predict and prevent food allergy? Are there alternative or better treatments for food allergy?



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## We Need Your Help



Hello to all of our fellow food allergy supporters! First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your dedication to the **Children's Memorial Food Allergy Study**. You are our biggest advocates.

This Food Allergy Study is an unprecedented study including three large populations enrolled in Boston, Chicago and China using a common protocol.

Here in Chicago, we are gaining new momentum with the upcoming NIH grant award.

We need to enroll at least another 500 families with food allergy to reach our goal

of 1000 food allergy affected families. We need such a large sample size in order to have sufficient statistical power to study over one million genetic markers and environmental exposures that potentially affect food allergy.

As always, we encourage you to share your study experience with friends and family members. Suggest that they help be a part of this ground breaking research that will improve the lives of millions of children.

In order to accommodate families coming in for the study, we can coordinate the blood draw **with their child's allergy clinic** appointment. In addition to our current three study sites (main hospital and outpatient clinic in Lincoln Park and Glenbrook Hospital), the study team will make every effort to accommodate **study family's schedule** and preferred location.

## Research Grants

Our investigators are making great progress!

Within a relatively short time, our team has emerged as one of the leading groups in the field of food allergy research. At present, our team is one of the 12 teams supported by the National Institute of Health to conduct cutting-edge food allergy research. Our study is also supported by the Chicago Community Trust, Food Allergy Initiative and generous donors. Our study will greatly enhance our understanding of environmental and genetic contributions to food allergy and underlying biological mechanisms.

Due to its relatively short history, food allergy is very much under appreciated, under-funded, and understudied. We are very grateful for the philanthropic support and tireless advocacy of the Bunning and Sacks families, as well as many others, which have greatly increased the government and public awareness of food allergy.

## Recruitment

Your participation and commitment has brought us to where we are today. As of April 20, 2009,

- 770 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ENROLLED; OF THOSE,
- 626 FAMILIES WITH FOOD ALLERGIES (CASE FAMILIES)
- 144 FAMILIES WITH NO FOOD ALLERGIES (CONTROL FAMILIES)
- WE NEED AT LEAST 500 MORE FAMILIES WITH FOOD ALLERGY!!

## Contact Information

Interested families may call our toll free number (1-888-573-1833) or email to: [allergystudy@childrensmemorial.org](mailto:allergystudy@childrensmemorial.org)

Please visit our website:

<http://www.childrensmrc.org/allergy>

## Scientific Progress Reports

So far, our team has generated seven papers in leading allergy and immunology journals. They are listed below:

Kumar, R, Yu Y, Story RF, Pongracic JA, Gupta R, Pearson C, Ortiz K, Bauchner H, Wang X. Prematurity, Chorioamnionitis and the development of recurrent wheezing: A prospective birth cohort study. *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology* 2008; 121(4):878-884.

Kim JS, Ouyang F, Pongracic JA, Fang Y, Wang B, Liu X, Xing H, Caruso D, Zhang S, Xu X, Wang X. Dissociation between the prevalence of atopy and allergic disease in rural China among children and adults. *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology* 2008;122:929-935, e4.

Tsai HJ, Kumar R, Pongracic J, Liu X, Story RE, Yu Y, Caruso D, Costello J, Schroeder A, Fang Y, O'Gorman M, Wang X. Familial aggregation of food allergy and sensitization to food allergens: a family based study. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 2009 Jan;39(1):101-9.

Ouyang F, Kumar R, Pongracic J, Story RE, Liu X, Wang B, Xing H, Liu X, Li Z, Zhang W, Fang Y, Zhang S, Xu X, Wang X. Adiposity, serum lipid levels, and allergic sensitization in Chinese men and women. *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology* 2009 Jan 7. {Epub 2008 ahead of print}

Schroeder A, Kumar R, Pongracic JA, Sullivan CL, Caruso DM, Costello J, Meyer KE, Vucic Y, Gupta R, Kim JS, Fuleihan R, Wang X. Food allergy is associated with an increased risk of asthma. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 2009; 39:261-270.

Gupta RS, Kim JS, Springston EE, Smith B, Pongracic JA, Wang X, Holl J. Food Allergy Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs in the United States. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* (in Press).

Liu X, Zhang SC, Tsai HF, Hong XM, Wang BY, Fang YP, Liu X, Pongracic J, Wang X. Genetic and environmental contributions to allergen sensitization in a Chinese Twin Study. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* (in Press).

Special Thanks to All the Families Who have Participated in the Food Allergy Study