



## In this newsletter you will find:

New publications, lab updates, and more. Keep Reading!





## Erin

**Erin** is a first-year PhD student in biological anthropology. She is a registered dietitian (RD) with a background in nutrition and food studies. She plans to pursue a dissertation project on early-life feeding practices and food allergy risk.



## Heba

**Heba** is a research assistant for the SUNBEAM study. She has a BSPH-MS in Nutrition Research and Science from UNC Chapel Hill. She is a volunteer doula on the pre-health track.



## Aliviya

**Aliviya** is a research assistant for the SUNBEAM study. She has a BS in Biology from Arizona State University. She is interested in scientific exploration, women's health, and she hopes to attend medical school in the future.



### Emma

**Emma** is FAI's new admin! She has a dual degree in Biology and Religious Studies from UNC Chapel Hill. She loves travel, specialty coffee, and being outdoors.



#### $\circ \circ \circ$

Click <u>here</u> to access the SUNBEAM study protocol, published in August 2023 by Dr. Keet!

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#### For Toddlers Allergic to Peanuts, a Tiny Bit of Protein Therapy Under the Tongue Could Be The Best Approach

UNC Health | October 10, 2023

A 3 YEAR CLINICAL TRIAL HAS SHOWN THAT THE SUBLINGUAL IMMUNOTHERAPY, OR SLIT, IS SAFE IN PEANUT-ALLERGIC CHILDREN AGES 1 TO 4, WITH A GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF DESENSITIZATION AND REMISSION THE EARLIER THE TREATMENT BEGAN.

"Led by Edwin Kim, MD, associate professor of pediatrics at the UNC School of Medicine, this is the first randomized, controlled trial to investigate – in this young age group – the efficacy and feasibility of SLIT, which involves a tiny bit of peanut protein absorbed under the tongue.

Findings showed that peanut SLIT can be highly effective in treating peanut-allergic toddlers with **almost 80% tolerating 15 peanuts without allergic symptoms** after completing the treatment. With most typical peanut-allergic reactions being caused by one peanut or less, these results would translate into strong protection against exposures to peanut. In addition, researchers showed that remission of the peanut allergy may be possible after peanut SLIT with 63% of the toddlers maintaining their protection three months after stopping the treatment. These new findings show that early intervention with peanut SLIT is promising and warrants further development."

For the full UNC Health Article, click here.

LINK TO PAPER IN JACI

Edwin H. Kim, MD, MS; J. Andrew Bird, MD; Corinne A. Keet, MD, PhD; Yamini V. Virkud, MD, MPH; Lauren Herlihy, DNP; Ping Ye, PhD; Johanna M. Smeekens, PhD; Rishu Guo, PhD; Xiaohong Yue, MS, DDS; Anusha Penumarti, PhD; Bahjat Qaqish, PhD; Quefeng Li, PhD; Michael D. Kulis, PhD; A. Wesley Burks, MD

## Phase 3 Trial of Epicutaneous Immunotherapy in Toddlers with Peanut Allergy

M Greenhawt, SB Sindher, J Wang, M O'Sulllivan, G Du Toit, **EH Kim**, D Albright, S Anvari, N Arends, PD Arkwright, P Begin, K Blumchen, T Bourrier, T Brown-Whitehorn, H Cassell, ES Chan, CE Ciaccio, A Deschildre, A Divaret-Chauve, SL Dorris, MJ Dorsey, T Eiwegger, M Erlewyn-Lajeunesse, DM Fleischer, LS Ford, M Garcia-Lloret, L Giovannini-Chami, JO Hourihane, N Jay, SM Jones, L Kerns. KM Kloepfer, S Leonard, G Lezmi, JA Lieberman, J Lomas, M Makhija, C Parrish, J Peake, KP Perrett, D Petroni, W Pfutzner JA Pongracic, P Quinn, RG Robison, G Sanders, L Schneider, HP Sharma, J Trujillo, PJ Turner, K Tuttle, JEM Upton, P Varshney, BP Vickery, C Vogelberg, B Wainstein, RA Wood, KJ Bee, DE Campbell, TD Green, R Rouissi, A Peillon, HT Bahnson, T Bois, HA Sampson, AW Burks. Phase 3 Trial of Epicutaneous Immunotherapy in Toddlers with Peanut Allergy. N Eng J Med. 2023; doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2212895



"A Phase 3 trial involving children 1-3 years of age with peanut allergy showed that epicutaneous immunotherapy for 12 months was superior to placebo in desensitizing children to peanuts and increasing the peanut dose that triggered allergic symptoms."

To read more, click here



## Considerations for the Initiation and Implementation of Early Peanut Oral Immunotherapy

S Leeds, **EH Kim**. Considerations for the Initiation and Implementation of Early Peanut OIT. J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2023; doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2023.06.069

# IWEALA LAB UPDATES

# WELCOME!

#### Dr. Yinghui Wang Postdoctoral fellow

**Dr. Wang** is the Iweala Lab's first Postdoc Research Fellow. She received her Medical Degree from Tianjin Medical University, and her Master's Degree in Immunology from Guilin Medical University. During the past five years, her research was focused on the field of cancer immunotherapy, such as CAR-T, CAR-NK-based pre-clinical/clinical studies, as well as investigation on Treg-mediated immune escape.

### Dawn Ritzwoller

#### MPH student

Dawn is a second-year Masters in Public Health candidate in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. She hopes to pursue a career particularly focused on prevention, control, and treatment for individuals with food allergies and other chronic conditions.

#### Katherine Fitzgerald

#### Undergraduate researcher

**Katherine** is a senior undergraduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill majoring in biology and sociology and minoring in chemistry. After graduation, she plans on pursuing a PhD or DO/PhD.



**Soorya** has been a fantastic undergraduate research assistant in the lab since August 2022. She graduated in December 2023 and plans to pursue a career in healthcare.



## **NOW ENROLLING**



Who Can Participate: Anyone who is 18 years or older, is currently pregnant, and is planning to deliver at UNC



PEANUT SUBLINGUAL IMMUNOTHERAPY (SLIT)-TABLET FOR TREATMENT OF PEANUT ALLERGY

Who Can Participate: Part Two of Study: Ages 4-65

VIASKIN PEANUT IMMUNOTHERAPY TRIAL TO EVALUATE SAFETY, SIMPLICITY, & EFFICACY (VITESSE)

Who Can Participate: Peanut-allergic children aged 4-7 years who meet other inclusion and exclusion criteria



#### FOOD ALLERGY INITIATIVE

# 2023 HOLIDAYS

HALLOWEEN 2023

2023 FAI HOLIDAY PARTY!

## UNC FAI IN THE NEWS

## Food Allergy and Your Kiddo Podcast: Can SLIT induce remission in young kiddos with food allergies?

(December 2023, Food Allergy and Your Kiddo)

#### Key Findings on Oral Immunotherapy ADP101

(November 2023, HCPLive)

#### <u>Antibodies to Cow's Milk Linked to Increased Risk of</u> <u>Cardiovascular Death</u>

(November 2023, UNC Health News)

<u>Sublingual immunotherapy safely, effectively induces peanut</u> <u>allergy remission in toddlers</u>

(October 2023, Healio)

<u>Sublingual Immunotherapy May Result in Desensitization and</u> <u>Remission for Peanut-Allergic Children</u>

(October 2023, AAAAI)

<u>Thoughts on Intranasal Epinephrine Spray as an Alternative to</u> <u>EpiPen</u>

(September 2023, HCPLive)

