

## Staying Cool This Summer With nPOD

August 2011 Issue 11

### Publications Spotlight

The Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes (nPOD), is a collaborative, type 1 diabetes project supported by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation ([JDRF](#)). At this time, we partner with nearly 20 OPOs nationwide and support over 60 not-for-profit scientific research studies in type 1 diabetes and are still growing! Recently, there have been some new and exciting developments:

**The following publication presents findings from studies using nPOD tissues. It is representative of the many publications emanating from nPOD investigators. Thank you to our OPO partners who recover these tissues and to our dedicated investigators who are working to find a cure.**

- We welcome nPOD's new Director **Suzanne Ball, RN, MHS!** See her bio below for more details and contact information.
- nPOD launched a new initiative centered around attaining samples from **donors with insulinitis**. This initiative includes collaborations with hospitals, international investigators, and targeted OPOs.
- In October, nPOD will hold a small **OPO workshop** for various coordinators from our partner OPOs.
- This summer nPOD has been busy attending various conferences all over the country. These conferences include [AOPO](#), [FOCIS](#), [ADA](#) and [NATCO](#).
- Since the last quarter we have **reached hundreds of OPO coordinators** with our regular webinars.

**Title:** [On-tissue identification of insulin: In situ reduction coupled with mass spectrometry imaging](#)

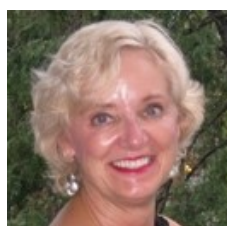
**Authors:** Green-Mitchell, S.M., Cazares, L.H., Semmes, O.J., Nadler, J.L., Nyalwidhe, J.O.

**Summary:** This study used a new chemical technique to identify insulin and localize pancreatic islets. As the Clinical Relevance section of this paper explains, "this approach will be used in future studies to determine differential protein expression between non-diabetic and diabetic pancreas."

For more about nPOD [click here](#).

### New Faces at nPOD

#### Suzanne Ball, RN, MHS, nPOD Director



Suzy brings twenty years of experience in the field of donation and transplantation. She has worked as the Director for both organ and tissue organizations. She has also served as two-term Chair of the National Donor Family Executive Council for the National Kidney

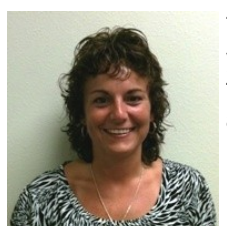
Foundation. Suzy is a Registered Nurse, with a Master's degree in Health Science. Suzy can be reached by email at [suzanneball@pathology.ufl.edu](mailto:suzanneball@pathology.ufl.edu) or by phone at 352-273-9268. Jayne Moraski has resumed her position as Assistant Director and can still be reached at [jmoraski@pathology.ufl.edu](mailto:jmoraski@pathology.ufl.edu) or by phone at 352-273-9271.

#### nPOD Investigator Annual Meeting Miami, FL



January 16-17, 2012  
Abstracts Due Sept 16th

#### Teresa Keppel Hodges, nPOD Administrative Assistant



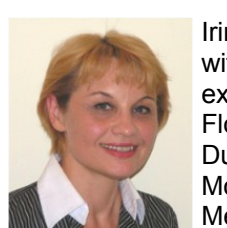
Teresa comes to us with eighteen years of administrative experience at the University of Florida. She will assist with all aspects of the program including scheduling, nPOD online pathology passwords, events and much more. She will be taking Lindsay Kallman's place effective

August 29th. You can reach Teresa at [tkeppel@ufl.edu](mailto:tkeppel@ufl.edu) or by phone (352) 273-9295.

### OPO Webinars

nPOD is always available to provide webinars for new OPO coordinators to explain our program and importance of our OPO partners in the nPOD project. Please contact the nPOD coordinator via email at [npod@pathology.ufl.edu](mailto:npod@pathology.ufl.edu) or by phone at (352) 273-9271. Webinars can be created to suit your organization's needs – from half hour to one hour sessions, and can be done for individuals or groups.

#### Irina Kusmartseva, PhD, OPPC Lab Manager



Irina Kusmartseva is an immunologist with over 11 years of research experience. Prior to joining University of Florida, Dr. Kusmartseva worked at Duke University Medical Center, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Mount Sinai Medical School. She has unique experience with the molecular and

primary cell culture techniques and is an author of several articles *published* in the *Journal of Immunology*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*. She received her PhD in Immunology at the Tomsk Medical University, Russia. Her key area of expertise includes mechanisms of immunoregulation in inflammation, cancer and autoimmune diseases. Irina can be reached at [inkusmartseva@ufl.edu](mailto:inkusmartseva@ufl.edu) or by phone at (352) 273-7737.

#### Farewell to Lindsay Kallman, nPOD Administrative Assistant



We wish the best of luck to Lindsay as she embarks on a journey traveling across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. She and Max will be traveling entirely overland during this next year. Travel mercies! We will miss her at nPOD but are excited for her adventure.

### Welcome New Investigators

Congratulations to the following new nPOD Investigators:

#### [Maria Grant, M.D.](#)

University of Florida

Project Title: Bone Marrow Progenitor Cell (BMPCs) Dysfunction in Diabetes Is Mediated by Reduced Bioavailability of NO

#### [Salvatore Sechi, Ph.D.](#)

George Washington University

Project Title: Molecular Profile of the Pancreatic Tissue of Long-Standing Type 1 Diabetic Patients

#### [Thomas Waldmann, M.D.](#)

National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIC/NIH)

Project Title: The Role of IL-15 and IL-15Ra in the Pathogenesis of Type 1 Diabetes

### nPOD Day at FOCIS



nPOD was pleased to participate in the [Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies \(FOCIS\)](#) meeting this year in Washington, D.C. Ten nPOD investigators were invited to give talks about their current research projects during the Member Society Symposium hosted by [Immunology of Diabetes Society \(IDS\)](#) and the [Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International \(JDRF\)](#). Below is a synopsis of a few talks given by nPOD investigators this year.

[Jeffrey Bluestone](#), from UCSF Diabetes Center in San Francisco, addressed the important questions that have challenged researchers to date – Is the islet the primary site of pathogenesis, could insulinitis actually be a by-product of a reaction occurring elsewhere in the body, and are other lymph organs implicated in beta cell destruction?

[Dale Greiner](#), from University of Massachusetts, is working to understand immune cell responses to auto-antigens in type 1 diabetes using mouse models that have been "humanized." By using nPOD tissues, Dr. Greiner takes cell lines of autoreactive cells from humans and injects them into the mouse to determine the degree of islet infiltration and the subsequent memory response of the immune system.

[Matthias von Herrath](#), from La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, uses nPOD samples to research the increased expression of proteins that present antigens to other immune cells for destruction. While it is known that this particular protein is expressed more frequently after diagnosis, it is not clear what is causing the up-regulation and persistence.

[John Todd](#), from University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, focuses his research on the role of viruses in type 1 diabetes. There is evidence that viruses are implicated in the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes; however, it remains to be determined which virus could possibly cause type 1 diabetes. In addition to viral pathogenesis, Dr. Todd works to determine regions in the human genome that control the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes.

[Peter Butler](#), from University of California – Los Angeles, studies beta cell turnover and regeneration in human pancreas samples. He seeks to address the reason that beta cells are still present in long-term diabetic patients. Dr. Butler's main focus is on finding a compartment that creates beta cells and if it is located within the pancreatic ductal glands.

Want to learn more about nPOD? Please contact the nPOD coordinator via email at [npod@pathology.ufl.edu](mailto:npod@pathology.ufl.edu), or by phone at (354) 273-8277 during regular business hours. To refer a donor to nPOD please call our 24hr toll free referral line at (866) 731-6585 or contact IIAM if you are an OPO partner through them.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)