


nPOD

Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes

August 2011 Issue 11

Staying Cool This Summer With nPOD

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:

- 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 insulitis**. 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.

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 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 or by phone at 352-273-9271.

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 tlkeppel@ufl.edu or by phone (352) 273-9295.

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 or by phone at (352) 273-7737.

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

Publications Spotlight

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.

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."

nPOD Investigator Annual Meeting
Miami, FL

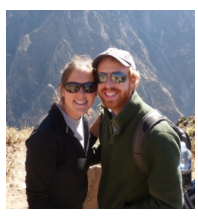
VICEROY Hotels and Resorts

January 16-17, 2012
Abstracts Due Sept 16th

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 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.

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.

nPOD Day at FOCIS

FOCIS 2011

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 insulitis 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.