



It has been a busy start to the fall for the SOAAR team!

Over the past month, the team and our collaborators submitted twelve abstracts on our current food allergy and asthma research to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Conference that will take place this upcoming February in San Francisco, CA. Shortly thereafter, SOAAR re-submitted an U01 Grant Application to the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for

a project that aims to increase pediatrician adherence to the [new peanut introduction guidelines](#) from 2017. While we await feedback on these submissions, we are back to work finding answers and shaping policies surrounding pediatric food allergy and asthma!

To learn more about what we've been up to for the past month and what's in store for the future, continue reading below!

Research News

Abstracts Submitted to the 2019 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Annual Conference (AAAAI)



1. **Assessing Asthma Management Knowledge in Caregivers of Children with Moderate-to-Severe Asthma**
2. Differences in Failed Oral Food Challenges Among Five Common Tree Nuts in Children
3. **Epidemiology of Sesame Allergy in the United States**
4. Evaluating Proper Inhaler Technique in Children with Moderate-to-Severe Asthma
5. **Family History of Atopy in Food Allergy Development**
6. Implementation, Practices, and Barriers to the 2017 Peanut Allergy Prevention Guidelines Among Pediatricians
7. **Prevalence of Food Allergy among Immigrants in the United States**
8. Enrollment for the Food Allergy Outcomes Related to White and African American Racial Differences (FORWARD) Study

9. **Racial Differences in Food Allergy Outcomes among Children in the United States**
 10. Micro-Diversity: Successful Strategies and Challenges of Microbiome Sample Collection from African American and Caucasian Children with Food Allergies
 11. **Phenotypic differences between African American and Caucasian children with food allergy in the FORWARD study**
 12. Differences in Timing of Allergenic Food Introduction between African American and Caucasian Children with Food Allergy in the FORWARD study
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NIH/NIAID U01 Grant Submission; iREACH study



The guidelines and recommendations surrounding introduction of peanut products to infants have varied greatly over the years until the release of the [Addendum Guidelines for the Prevention of Peanut Allergy in the United States](#) in early 2017 which recommended assessing an infant's risk of developing a peanut allergy and encouraging early dietary introduction of peanut products depending on their risk level. These guidelines were incredibly noteworthy as peanut allergy is one of the leading causes of fatal food-allergic reactions and it is estimated that 25% of food-allergic children have a peanut allergy. The recommendations once were to **avoid** these peanut products all together, and with this shift in focus comes an important opportunity to help try and decrease the incidence of peanut allergy among children.

Due to the nature of these new guidelines, the SOAAR team and collaborators set

out to establish **iREACH**, or **I**ntervention to **R**educe **E**arly **P**eanut **A**llergy in **C**hildren, which is a practice-based cluster-randomized controlled trial that aims to determine the effectiveness of a clinical-decision support tool in increasing pediatrician adherence to these new PPA guidelines. In September 2017, they submitted a U01 grant application to the National Institutes of Health/ National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to conduct this study, and re-submitted this application in early September.

We hope that the implementation of this tool and increased adherence to the new guidelines may subsequently decrease the incidence of peanut allergy among children, and are excited for the potential opportunity to work to make this a reality!

Congratulations to all of those who were an integral part of this rigorous grant submission process!



Recent Events

Illinois Asthma Partnership Statewide Meeting



September 18, 2018

**Illinois Department of Public Health Chicago Laboratory/
UIC School of Public Health**

On September 18th, the SOAAR team attended the Illinois Asthma Partnership Statewide Meeting with representatives from:

- [Respiratory Health Association](#),
- [McClellan County Health Department](#),
- [Chicago Asthma Consortium](#),
- [American Lung Association](#),
- [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#)
- [Sinai Urban Health Institute](#)
- [Illinois Primary Health Care Association](#)
- [Mobile Care Van](#)

This meeting was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other asthma stakeholders in Illinois to discuss updates on research, policy, and the current projects and programs in place to make a difference asthma outcomes in our state. We are grateful to have an opportunity to come together and discuss our successes and challenges in making a change and look forward to the next meeting!

Life As an Academic Clinician, Seminar

On September 26th, Dr. Gupta participated in a professional development seminar, *Life As an Academic Clinician*. Here, the audience was made up of master's in

health services and outcomes research students, who are primarily residents, fellows and junior faculty. Dr. Gupta was asked alongside some of her colleagues to talk about her career path. She spoke on how she found mentors of her own when she started balancing research and clinic, she talked about maintaining work/life balance, recommendations on career paths for young individuals, and the differences between clinical work and research.

Upcoming Events

ACAAI Conference November 2018



American
College
of Allergy, Asthma
& Immunology

Dr. Gupta is invited to speak at the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology conference this November 18th and 19th, 2018. Her first presentation titled “Role of Shared Management Between Specialists and Primary Care in Food allergy” falls under the session called “Addressing Unmet Needs in Food Allergy Research.” Here, she will give insight to identifying unmet needs in Food Allergy prevention, acknowledging pediatrician, allergist and food allergy families’ roles in management.

Her second presentation is titled, “What Can Population Data Teach Us about Food Allergy?” This presentation will show the evolving evidence surrounding how population data directly affects food allergy health care costs, the number of ED visits for children each year early-life interventions, and how allergists can further assist their own recommendations to families of food allergy.

To learn more about ACAAI’s conference this year, click <https://acaai.org/>

FARE Food Allergy Heroes Walk



Join the food allergy heroes and SOAAR for the FARE Food Allergy Heroes Walk! This walk is to celebrate your food allergy heroes and show support for food allergies through fundraising and walking across the country together with one mission: change the lives to children through advocacy, research and awareness. This walk is an opportunity for all families and individuals affected by food allergies to connect with others and unite in a safe space.

When: Saturday, October 13th, 2018

Where: Grove 16 - Montrose Harbor

Address: 600 W. Montrose Harbor Drive Chicago, IL 60613

Walk Starts: 11:30 AM

To register and learn more about how you can participate in this event:

http://fare.foodallergy.org/site/TR/Walk/HeroesWalk?pg=entry&fr_id=1726

Partner Spotlight



Food Equality Initiative, Inc. (FEI) is a non-profit corporation that supports low-income food allergy and celiac communities. Their vision is to provide allergy friendly and gluten free food to low income people with food allergies, educate their communities about nutritional gaps that occur when there is food restriction, and be an advocating voice for low-income individuals. FEI has had an impact on so many individuals that need assistance.

2017 achievements:

- 10,223 “free from” food items have been distributed
- 0 residency restrictions
- \$40,892 worth of “free from” food to people in need
- Legislative bills supported in Kansas and Missouri State Legislature

FEI strives to improve health and end hunger in low-income food allergic families and families that have Celiac disease. To see if you qualify to be a part of FEI’s mission, go to <https://foodequalityinitiative.org/programs/qualifications-for-assistance/>

Support low-income families with food allergies and Celiac disease here by donating to a cause SOAR supports: <https://foodequalityinitiative.org/donate/>



New Website!!

Denise Bunning, the founder of MOCHA (Mothers of Children Having Allergies), is a strong advocate for parents living with children who have life-threatening allergies.

She shares her experiences as a mother of two food allergic children by establishing this parent support group to share and discuss better strategies to better the lives of their children. Through MOCHA, parents are given the support to make living with allergies "just a little bit easier!"

To learn more about MOCHA and all of the amazing resources they have to share, visit their beautiful new website at www.mochallergies.org!



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