

2006 Trainee Grant Recipients

Elizabeth A. Schaefer, M.D.

Dr. Schaefer is a senior clinical fellow in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, & Nutrition at Indiana University. She worked with Dr. Sandeep Gupta on her research project.

Dr. Schaefer presented research results at the First International Gastrointestinal Eosinophil Research Symposium (FIGERS) on October 18, 2006, and at the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition Annual Meeting on October 19, 2006.

Dr. Schaefer presented information on treatment of eosinophilic esophagitis with prednisone and flovent. Patients received either swallowed flovent or prednisone. She specifically looked at the time to relapse (when symptoms appeared again) after a 12 week treatment course. Relapse rates and time to relapse were similar with both treatments (an average of 17-20 weeks). Her research may help doctors develop better treatment protocols in the future.

Congratulations to Dr. Schaefer!

Thuy Anh Le

The soon-to-be Dr. Le is a fourth year medical student at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine and is presenting an abstract at DDW (*Digestive Disease Week*) in May in conjunction with Northwestern's Dr. Nirmala Gonsalves. The presentation is entitled "**Distinct Allergic Predisposition of Children and Adults with Eosinophilic Esophagitis.**" DDW is an international conference for gastroenterology professionals.

In Dr. Le's grant application, she wrote: "My interest in eosinophilic esophagitis began during my medicine rotation as a third year medical student. I began noticing an increasing number of patients who presented with dysphagia, initially thought to be due to GERD, but who were later diagnosed with EE. From my background reading, I began to learn much more about this disease, and was fascinated with this entity, particularly how little is known about it compared to other diseases. This fascination led to my involvement in research on EE with Drs. Hirano and Gonsalves of the Gastroenterology Department at Northwestern. Aside from preparing for my upcoming presentation at DDW, I am currently working on my second project, a study comparing endoscopic diagnosis in children versus adults with EE. I plan to have this project completed for an abstract submission in June 2006."

Congratulations Dr. Le!!

Dr. Miguel Stein, a Research Fellow at the Division of Allergy and Immunology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for his abstract entitled: "**Anti-IL-5 (Mepolizumab) Therapy in Hypereosinophilic Syndromes and Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Cytokine Secretion and**

Decreased Peripheral Blood Eosinophilia", presented at the 2006 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting.