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NEWSLETTER

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Viral Trigger for Type 1 Diabetes: Pros and Cons

Christophe M. Filippi; Matthias G. von Herrath
Diabetes. 2008;57(11):2863-2871.

In this paper are taken into account data that could support the hypothesis that viral infections could represent a significant environmental component to type 1 diabetes (T1DM) development and progression having both detrimental and protective effects, on the basis of the nature of the virus, the immune status of the host and the timing of infection. Although, on the basis of the available data, enteroviruses, primarily Coxsackievirus B (CVB), seem to be the prime viral candidates for causing T1DM in humans, the Authors believe that convincing evidence for or against an association between T1DM and the prime candidate for infectious cause is lacking and that it is still unclear whether the infection has a significant role in the development of T1DM, or whether the signs of the viral infection can be found only in a particular subpopulation of individuals with perhaps higher genetic susceptibility to infection. Furthermore, the paper underlines that in the mouse not only different viruses could induce or prevent diabetes, but also T1DM inducers might be capable of preventing disease under certain conditions. Animal studies indicate that modulation of autoimmunity during viral infection does not depend merely on inherent properties of the virus (resemblance with β -cell antigens; tropism for β -cells; induction of a chronic infection), but also significantly on intrinsic factors of the host (generation of sufficient numbers of autoreactive T-cells; nature of the cytokine milieu systemically and in the islets). The same viral infection could thus be an essential disease precipitator once required predisposing events have occurred, but alternatively could represent a disrupter of the evolution of the autoimmune process. Considering also the need to be cautious in extrapolating rodent data to human T1DM in the context of virus infections the Authors conclude that based on current evidence, it thus appears impossible to assess the capacity of viruses to modulate T1DM without knowledge of the state of advancement of autoimmunity and infection history of affected individuals. They hope that closer monitoring of individuals with high risk for T1DM (such as the TEDDY - The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young - study) will give more convincing evidence for the contribution of infectious agents to progression toward autoimmunity.

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We are always in search of items of interest to the international community for inclusion in this newsletter and on the COPES website (www.COPESinternational.org). Contact the Coordinator or Vice Coordinator with your suggestions.

Upcoming Events

Dates and locations in **bold** are annual meetings of the affiliated societies.

2009

JUNE 23-26 Cambridge, UK	5th International Conference of Children's Bone Health Contact: Jeremy Allgrove E-mail : Jeremy.allgrove@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk www.ICCBH5.org
SEPTEMBER 2-5 Ljubljana, Slovenia	35th Annual Meeting of ISPAD Contact: Tadej Battelino, MD, PhD E-mail: tadej.battelino@mf.uni-lj.si www.ispad2009.com
SEPTEMBER 9-12 New York, USA	8th Joint ESPE/LWPES Meeting Contact: Paul Saenger Fax: +856.439.0525 E-mail: phsaenger@aol.com and lwpes-espe2009@ahint.com www.lwpes-espe2009.org
SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2 Vienna, Austria	44th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) www.easd.org
OCTOBER 1-3 Tochigi, Japan	43rd Annual Meeting of the JSPE Contact: Osamu Arisaka, MD E-mail: arisaka@dokkyomed.ac.jp
November 5-7 Naples, Italy	17 th Meeting of the Italian Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes (ISPED) Contact: Laura Perrone or Mariacarolina Salerno E-mail: laura.perrone@unina2.it or mariacarolina.salerno@unina.it
November 11–13 New Delhi, India	ISPAE-PET (Pediatric Endocrine Training program) Contact: Prof Anju Seth E-mail: anju_seth@yahoo.com
November 13–15 New Delhi, India	Biennial meeting of ISPAE Contact: Dr AD Arya and Dr V Bhatia E-mail: adayal35@hotmail.com and vbhatia@sushrut.sgpgi.ac.in
November 15 – 18 Coolum, QLD, Australia	APEG Annual Scientific Meeting www.apeg.org.au

2010

March 4-6 Calgary, Canada	Canadian Pediatric Endocrine Group: 2010 Scientific Meeting www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Canadian_Pediatric.htm
March 26-30 Kyoto, Japan	The 14 th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE2010) Contact: Prof. Kazuwa Nakao or Kenji Fujieda (Pediatric Filed) E-mail: nakao@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp or ken-fuji@asahikawa-med.ac.jp http://www.congre.co.jp/ice2010/
April 1 Tokyo, Japan	International Symposium on Pediatric Endocrinology (Official Satellite Symposium of the ICE2010) Contact: Prof. Kenji Fujieda E-mail: ken-fuji@asahikawa-med.ac.jp http://www.congre.co.jp/ice2010/official_satellite_symposia.html
OCTOBER 27-30 Buenos Aires, Argentina	36th Annual Meeting of ISPAD Contact: Olga Ramos, MD E-mail: ramoso@interlink.com.ar
SEPTEMBER 22-25 Prague, Czech Republic	49th ESPE Meeting www.espe2010.org
November 17 - 20 Xian, China	APPES Biennial Scientific Meeting Email: appes@willorganise.com.au

2011

SEPTEMBER 28-October 1 **50th ESPE Meeting**
Glasgow, Scotland

OCTOBER 19-22 **37th Annual Meeting of ISPAD**
Miami, USA Contact: Alan Delamater, PhD
E-mail: adelamater@med.miami.edu

For more international events, visit www.endo-society.org/apps/Events.

The pediatric endocrinology list serve is a lively international forum for discussing a wide range of interesting topics. To subscribe, send an email message to peds-endo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or go to health.groups.yahoo.com/group/peds-endo for more information.

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The COPES newsletter publishes information on the meetings of the affiliated societies and other meetings of interest. Reports on activities of the Affiliated Societies and information on meetings, workshops, courses, fellowships, and exchange programs, as well as selected letters and brief summaries or reviews pertaining to newsworthy items are published in the Newsletter and on the website. All contributions are welcome, so please mail or fax your correspondence to the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator.

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