Partnership in Action... 

TIPS Research Study

In this month's partnership in action, we are highlighting TIPS (Trial of Infant Probiotic Supplementation to Prevent Asthma), a clinical research trial of the UCSF Department of Pediatrics. TIPS, led by Michael Cabana, MD, MPH, is attempting to prevent asthma in children by giving them a dietary supplement. Previous studies have shown that introducing probiotic supplements into an infant's diet may affect their immune system development and prevent the onset of early markers of asthma. TIPS is furthering this research.

Infants are eligible to participate in the study if at least one parent has a history of asthma. Once it is determined that an infant is eligible, parents give the infant a daily probiotic supplement for the first 6 months of the infants life. Probiotics are naturally occurring bacteria which are identical to those found in fermented food products such as yogurt, some cheese, and other fermented foods. The children are monitored by the study team until they are three years of age. The study not only tracks the affects of the probiotic on the development of asthma, but also provides valuable information which helps researchers understand more about the factors associated with the later development of asthma.

The success of TIPS relies on active recruitment, communication and partnership with the community. Michelle McKean, Program Manager said that an important factor in the success of the program has been making sure nurses, doctors and other hospital staff are well-educated about the program and can speak positively about the study to potential program participants. The program does outreach throughout San Francisco and recently hired Liz Hernandez, a native Spanish speaker, to help with this effort.

The program, which has been actively recruiting for just over two years, currently has 72 participants. If you are a pregnant woman and either you or the baby's father has a history of asthma you may be eligible to participate. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact TIPS at 1-866-913-TIPS or TIPS@ucsf.edu.

UCPP Publishes Annual Report

We are pleased to share our 2007-2008 Annual Report, which highlights the initiatives of the program and council. Over the past year, the University Community Partnerships Program has provided access to University resources and expertise, distributed more than $100,000 in grant money to partnership projects throughout San Francisco, assisted in the creation of new partnerships focused on research, education and service learning, and connected community job seekers with University employers.

As we reflect upon our work and move forward into our third year, we strive to continue discovering innovative ways for UCSF faculty, staff, students and community members to connect, gather resources, and develop richer partnerships.

To view the report online, go to www.sf.ucsf.edu. There are a limited number of copies. To request one, please send an email to avogt@cgr.ucsf.edu and include your mailing address.