



AAP Richmond Center awards first research grants

from the [AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence](#)

The AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence for Children has awarded the first Building the Field grants to promote pediatric research careers related to children and secondhand smoke (SHS).

Two small grants to new investigators and two fellowship grants have been awarded.

The grants of \$10,000 each will allow pediatricians and other child health researchers nationwide to conduct research aimed at reducing children's exposure to SHS.

Grantees are Melanie Prusakowski, M.D., of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Roopa Shankar, M.D., of SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y. Dr. Prusakowski's study is titled "Using Pediatric ED Visits at 'Teachable Moments' for Maternal Smoking Cessation." Two brief motivational interventions will target smoking mothers of children younger than 6 years who present to emergency departments with high and low motivation to quit. The study's primary outcome is change in self-reported number of cigarettes smoked daily at one month.

Dr. Shankar's study is titled "The Effect of Using a Structured Tobacco Cessation Education Program in Resident Training on Reducing Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Young Children." This randomized controlled trial will evaluate the effectiveness of a tobacco cessation education program, delivered by pediatric residents in the outpatient continuity clinic of a pediatric residency program, in reducing the exposure of infants to secondhand smoke. It also will

evaluate the efficacy of using cotinine measurement and feedback as an adjunct to counseling vs. usual care.

Grantees will receive technical and other assistance to help them identify SHS expertise and mentorship from Richmond Center Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) members and AAP Tobacco Consortium members. Additionally, grantees will present their findings at Center meetings and will be able to participate in discussion and learn from the findings emerging from other Center projects.

The Julius B. Richmond/Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI) Scholarship Program provides postdoctoral fellowship support for academic general pediatricians and subspecialists working on reducing children's exposure to SHS. The goal is to train future leaders in research and community advocacy. This program provides \$20,000-\$25,000 a year for two years to support research activities.

Scholarship awardees are Karen Wilson, M.D., M.P.H., of the University of Rochester/Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong, and Stephen Wilson, M.D., M.Sc., of the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Karen Wilson's research is titled "Reducing Secondhand Tobacco Smoke Exposure through Inpatient Interventions." The aims of the study are to 1) determine the validity of the current standard admission secondhand tobacco smoke exposure assessment compared to a structured assessment and cotinine levels, 2) determine the effectiveness of the inpatient parent smok-

ing cessation initiative on quit rates and secondhand tobacco smoke reduction, and 3) determine whether caregivers of children admitted for "smoking exacerbated" illnesses are more likely to quit smoking following an inpatient intervention compared with those admitted for other conditions.

Dr. Stephen Wilson's study is titled "The Role of Biomarker Feedback in Reducing Children's Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke." This is a pilot study to test whether providing feedback to parents on their child's biomarkers of tobacco susceptibility (using DNA adduct levels) affects smoking behaviors, leading to a reduction in their child's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. The primary outcome is the child's environmental tobacco smoke exposure, measured by serum cotinine at three and six months.

The awardees also will attend the Richmond Center SAC meetings to gain exposure to the research projects conducted by Center investigators and will have opportunities to present their work at the Richmond Center SAC meetings, at the Pediatric Academic Societies meetings and the FAMRI Scientific Symposium.

The AAP Richmond Center is supported by a Center of Excellence grant from FAMRI. The Center is named after Julius B. Richmond, M.D., FAAP. Dr. Richmond is MacArthur Professor of Health Policy Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and is a former U.S. surgeon general.