

Baby's Breath Healthy Baby Campaign

Heart Anomalies have a New Chance at Life

Children born with a congenital anomaly that causes a severe hole in the heart won a breakthrough treatment: the first patches that can seal those holes without risking open-heart surgery.

These patches are placed through thin groin incisions instead of the serious heart surgery which many toddlers and young children have faced until now. "This is a big deal," said Dr. Dianne Atkins of the University of Iowa, who also chairs the American Heart Association's board on pediatric heart disease.

Approximately 10,000- 17,000 children are born each year with this type of anomaly. An anomaly that can cause death by short-circuiting how the heart pumps.

Because oxygen-rich blood is kept in the left chambers, oxygen-depleted blood in the right. A hole in the septum means oxygen-rich blood mixes with oxygen-depleted blood and gets sent to the lungs a second time - a vicious cycle that causes the heart to overwork repeatedly.

In recent studies, the patch proved just as successful at closing holes in the atria at a rate of 98 percent. But it caused far fewer serious side effects -

7.4 percent compared with 24 percent of side effects surgery patients faced. Plus, patch recipients stayed in the hospital one day instead of three.

There are risks however. Because scar tissue must form over the patch to keep it in place, the patient must have frequent post-op check ups. Other risks include the possibility of blood clots or a fracture in the patch itself.

It is imperative that a pediatric cardiologist who is trained in the use of these patches performs the surgery.

More on Sudden Death Research

Researchers have identified a gene that helps regulate heart rhythm and may help explain some of the baffling deaths of apparently healthy children in their sleep.

"The gene, called SCN5A, helps to control how heart cells use sodium to regulate their electrical rhythm," said Dr. Michael Ackerman of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. The gene is associated with long-QT syndrome, a heart irregularity that can cause sudden death. This electrical disturbance in the heart often goes undiagnosed and would leave no distinguishable features in the postmortem evaluation.

Ackerman's findings are published in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) and offers some hope for the enhanced understanding of sudden death that occurs throughout all stages of infancy and childhood.

*Emotional sickness is
avoiding reality at any cost.
Emotional health is facing
reality at any cost.*

--M. Scott Peck

Fullterm Stillbirth Research is Underway

On September 8, 2001, following the MISS Foundation's testimony before the National Academy of Sciences on child death in America, Richard K. Olsen, Executive Director of recently formed The National Stillbirth Society and member of the MISS Foundation, met with Congressional leaders to urge that they issue a request to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to undertake an initiative to study the causes of stillbirth. On December 18, 2001 the House/Senate Joint Appropriations Committee released its report (Congressional Record pages H10265-66). In that report they singled out stillbirth for special attention as the NSS and MISS Foundation had requested, by inserting into the FY 2002 Appropriation Bill for NICHD the following language, which the National Stillbirth Society provided to committee members for inclusion:

"The conferees are pleased to hear that over the past year NICHD has begun to plan a major initiative on stillbirth, In March, 2001, the Institute convened scientific and medical experts from around the country to explore the available information about the incidence of stillbirth, its varying causes, and the opportunities for research. The conferees urge NICHD to build upon this knowledge by planning for a prospective investigation of the scope and causes of stillbirth nationally and internationally. The conferees also encourage NICHD to work with professional organizations on this issue to assess current knowledge and develop research opportunities in the management of stillbirth."

NICHD is the organization that has led the fight against SIDS during the past decade and we are confident that once they turn their attention to stillbirth we will see great progress at reducing the more than 26,000 deaths that occur every year in America. Stillbirth is truly the destroyer of dreams and must be eradicated. Once again, Arizona has led this fight. Congressman Bob Stump wrote the language and supported the federal legislation to fund research. In 2001, Arizona volunteer lobbyists saw HB2416, the MISSing Angels Bill, through the House and Senate. Arizona is now the first state in the United States to issue a *Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth*. Previously, infants who died just prior to birth were only issued a death certificate. This monumental change has been the impetus for the changing face of stillbirth in America. For more information, contact Joanne Cacciatore at joanne@misschildren.org or Richard Olsen at rko@home.com



Remembering Our January and February Children...

Happy Birthday

January

Eloy Arevalo, Jr.
Nicholas Allan Beisner
Shannon Elizabeth Jenkins
Courtney Lynn Brown
Alexis Brianna Stempien
Megan Renee Clemenson
Kelsey Lynn Clemenson
Rayden Michael Cocozza
Lyndsey Brooke Cox
Nicholson Taylor DeAngelis
Ross Martin Droge
Jon Dukes
James Edwards
Meghan Elizabeth George
Savannah Dawn Gilliam
Timothy David (T.J.) Hulme
Priya Cecelia Jain
Paul Samuel Gummadi
Tatum Tea-Ann Hawley
Brooke Leilani Hodgson
Cody Elijah Iverson
David Isaac Jacobs
Sonia Jimenez
Ryan Michael Smith
Samantha Lackey
Robert Lopez, IV
Tyler Branden Lotz
Kelly S. Luciano
Joseph Moreno, Jr.
Christopher Wayne Griswold
Shawn William Scaturro
Kylie Laine Schuetz
Scotti Denise Sheppard
Deanne Michele Smith
Keanu Wesley Sobalvarro
Harold Thompson

January (con't)

Diego Velez
Briana Marie Vlearbone
Alyssa Brooke Vorhis

February

Emily Irene Adomaitis
Antoine Wilson Albin
Keegan Edwin Beamer
Annabel Cameron
Brandon Carter
Ben Cogburn, Jr.
Nicomah Patrick-Michael Scherr
Brent Garcia-Daniel
Savannah Hope Davis
Serena Duncan
Britney Garcia
Savannah Gladden
Brandon Allen Gomez
Dylan Margus Harris
McKenzie Louise Hartman
Samuel Bythel Haynes, IV
Danielle Nicole Heddlesten
Ruben Paul Huerta, Jr.
Cody Alan Johnson
Michael Jones
Sara Victoria Koski
Edward (Eddie) Christian Lunsford
Audrey Sinclair Marshall
Paulie Michael Mullenix
Scottie Michael Mullenix
Mya Jozefa Nicolosi
Jillian Perry
Emily Yuriko Quan
Spencer Calvert Respass
Carlos Roel

February (con't)

Chelsie Leigh Scaff
Julien A. Hartsook
Destiny Raelynne Guffy
Franklin Natale Raimondo Scully
Ellie Settelen
Jaden Morra
Gregory Richard Joseph Shoemaker
Luke Sielaff
Jacob Edward Thiede
Christopher Michael Toth
Amerilo Josephine (Amy Jo) Treadway
Bobby V. Tripodi
Catilyn Diane Smith
Karsten Voss
Caitlin Marie White
Briana Danielle Nunez



*"Death is nothing at all. I have
only slipped away into the next
room. I am I, and you are you...
whatever we were to each other
then, that we remain...Let my
name be spoken...Why should I be
out of mind simply because I am
out of sight? I am but waiting for
you, for an interval, somewhere
very near; just around the corner.
All is well."*

- Henry Scott Holland 1918

In Memoriam

January

Daniel Armstrong-Morre
Chase Montgomery Arthur
Nicholas Allan Beisner
Marisa Reyanna Botello
Charlotte Fulton Brochhausen
Courtney Lynn Brown
Tristan Andrew Castellanos
Tea Elyse Cepeda
Julia Marie Cheney
Megan Renee Clemenson
Kelsey Lynn Clemenson
Rayden Michael Cocozza
Elysia Isabel Contreras
Abel Correa
Candace Correll
Lyndsey Brooke Cox
Nicholson Taylor DeAngelis
James Edwards
Alyssa Marie Furman
Nicholas Geitz
Meghan Elizabeth George
Savannah Dawn Gilliam
Paul Samuel Gummadi
Daniel Kieran Heath
Cassie Ann Hubbard
Cody Elijah Iverson
Ryan Michael Smith
Payton King
Samantha Lackey
Matthew Lester
Tyler Branden Lotz

January (con't)

Kelly S. Luciano
Tyler Marimon
Marnie Darlin Johnston
Emma Montgomery
Rose Adriel Morris
Christopher Wayne Griswold
Daniella Palacios
Blake Merrow
Joseph Michael Perez
Angela Faith Pritchard
Jordenn Polk
Skyler Kirby Schmidt
Ellie Settelen
Deanne Michele Smith
Rebecca (Becca) Christen Stewart
Macy Thomas-Narcia
Brooke Thompson
Briana Marie Vlearbone
Alyssa Brooke Vorhis

February

Emily Irene Adomaitis
Antoine Wilson Albin
Joey Elizabeth Messina
Morgan Gray Moss
Morgan Leigh Armstrong
Keegan Edwin Beamer
Shannon Elizabeth Jenkins
Samantha Leigh Baker
Annabel Cameron

February (con't)

Devin Paul Carlisle
Brandon Carter
Blake Cash
Ben Cogburn, Jr.
Wyatt Edward Boehly
Brent Garcia-Daniel
Savannah Hope Davis
Savannah Gladden
McKenzie Louise Hartman
Samuel Bythel Haynes, IV
Danielle Nicole Heddlesten
Timonty Dakota Hollon
Michael Jones
Joseph Moreno, Jr.
Angela Matthews
Mya Jozefa Nicolosi
Chelsie Leigh Scaff
Destiny Raelynne Guffy
Franklin Natale Raimondo Scully
Kolton Siebert
Luke Sielaff
Harold Thompson
Christopher Michael Toth
Amerilo Josephine (Amy Jo) Treadway
Catilyn Diane Smith
Karsten Voss
Caitlin Marie White
Isaiah Otto Bruce Williams
Julian Williams

To the families of these children, Our sympathies for your recent loss...

Corbin Elyott Ackley
Eloy Arevalo, Jr.
Dennison Aston
Ta-Neya Butler
Max Colbath
Cody Dale Elder
Britney Garcia
Emily Caitlin Jared
Daniel Engle, III
Devin Jennings
Sucele Jimenez-Perez
Ariel Jessica Tello

Damiana Sabori
Jaden Morra
Edward Lugo
Alyssa Maria Victoria
Marissa Lorraine Valencia
Andrew Ballantine
Colby Lee Bellissimo
Steven Bolton, Jr.
James (Jimmy) Carr
Xavier Carter
Isaac Ryan Cruz
Joshua Girard

Joseph Robert Finnell-Glover
Jose Tierrablanca
Justin Mark Madison
Kailyn Ashley Noyes
Manuel Andres
Jennifer Lynda Perez
John Devereaux
Isiah Ellis
Esmerelda Espinoza
Yapheth Ingram
Tevita Siasau
Jesus Angel Carrillo

Memorial Donations

Brett and Megan Wondra

*By Karen and Alan, their loving parents
and Jennifer and Aaron, their siblings*

Josephine "Jo" Cacciatore

*By Tammy and Larry Haimovitz
By Helen and Raymond Mantifel
By Jennine Jo and Brian Shull
By Jami, Cody and Colby Garrison, also remembering
Lois E. Miller
By Deborah, Keith and Kyle Brooks
By Rollie and Jody Garard
By Joanne Cacciatore and David Garard
By her grandchildren, Arman, Cameron,
Stevie Jo, and Joshua Cacciatore
By Dr. Mark and Lauren Fischione
By Jim Leonard
By Debbie Bartlett-Cantor
By Nancy and Peter Grayson
By Leonard, Clancey and McGovern
By Cindi Nannetti and Family*

Geneva Elaine Hedman

By the Contreras Family

Elysia Isabel Contreras

By her loving mother, father and big brother Dominic

Blake Cash

*With love and remembrance by Kristine Pierce
By an anonymous, loving friend
By his loving Mother, Katie Hodge*

Kelly Luciano

By Dan and Lisa Luciano, her loving parents

Kody Stevens Rye

*By his parents who MISS him every day,
Brooke and Rory*

Camille Rayana Olsen

By her beloved parents, Richard and Sharon

Kimberly Deanne Orta

By her parents, Tony and Mary and her sisters

In Loving Memory of . . .

Justin Synan

By his father, Dean Synan

Jacob Guerrero

By Jennifer Jones Smith

Hunter Michael Johnson

By Roger and Gege Johnson, his loving grandparents

Alyssa Brooke Vorhis

By a friend

Cecilia DiNapoli

By Katy and Andy Gaenicke

Brittney Angelique Grace

*By Joseph and Tammy Grace, her loving parents
MISSing her still...*

Robbie Harris

*By his parents, David and Stephanie and his loving
brother and sister*

Jenna Marie Zanger

By Paul and Inge McKenney

Charles Samuel Caskey

*by Milo and Marilyn, his loving parents
and his siblings*

Andrew Zuong

By his loving parents MISSing him, Jennifer and Peter

Stephanie Denise Brooks

By Danielle Toussaint

Josef Damien "J.D." Moeschl

By Josef P. and Malia L. Moeschl, his loving parents

Emily Ann Nolan

By her loving grandmother, Ann Schmoyer

Tori Elizabeth Kuhn

*by her loving parents, Bob and Maureen
MISSing her so much*

From the Heart of a Loving Mother: A Letter to the Family of My Peanut, Blake

Dear Family & Friends,

I was just lying down to take a nap and the following started to come to me...We all are grieving and we need to go through the process, and it is a process, there are different stages... this honors Blake...What did he teach you? Did he teach you...

-How fun it is just to sit underneath the kitchen table?

-That even though you're told "no" a thousand times, it won't hurt to try one more time?

-That you don't need words to communicate? There are hugs, screams, open-mouth kisses, and as a last resort: sign language.

-The power of music? Of laughter? Of dancing?

-Did he teach you to rejoice in "naked time"?

-That balloons are the neatest thing ever invented?

-To eat heartily, even if it is only five things?

-The pure joy and peace of being outside?

-Did he teach you that big blue-eyes, a great smile, and as last resort screaming and wailing will get you anything, except from mom.

-That nothing more than a grunt will get you picked up and some cookies from Oma? (my mother) And Aunt Kolleen?

-Did you learn from him to test the boundaries of every new person you meet so you know what you can or cannot get away with?

-And while you're testing these boundaries you instantly trust that person with everything you are.

-Did he teach you to always want to do things on your own, but to know your boundaries and when you need help you ask for it. He was really good at this when he was learning to walk.

-That if you don't know what you're saying, make eye-contact, use hand gestures and sound as confident as possible.

-That even if you don't have certain things in life or don't quite know how to use them...Pretend. He used to pretend everything was a phone. He had many toy phones, my parents put one in the casket with him. He might need it where he is.

-Only have your binky when you sleep.

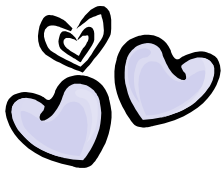
-Drink lots of milk.

-You don't need to color inside the lines, you don't even need to drag the color across the paper, you can just bang on it a lot.

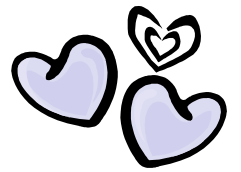
-If you ever do something wrong and you knew you weren't supposed to do it, just smile a lot and change the subject, for instance, fall or something.

-And as he slept, sideways in his crib, one arm and one leg sticking out the sides, mouth wide open, did he remind you that there really are angels on this earth?

By Katie Hodge, Blake's Mother, Remembering all that he taught her and continues, even now, to teach her...



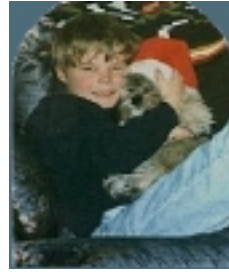
Remembering ...



Jakob Jeffrey Ollar



Cody Elijah Iverson



Jon Dukes



Marisa Reyanna Botello



Emily Irene Adomaitis



Jacob Thiede



Alyssa Brooke Vorhis



Corrie Armstrong



Mary Palmer



Alyssa Marie Furman



Carlos Roel



Blake Cash



Daniel Armstrong Morre



Danielle Marie Hansen



Deanne Michelle Smith