



Congratulations!!

You are participating in a study which is taking steps towards a cure for diabetes.

As you will be aware, diabetes is a devastating disease that affects over 3% of all Australians (NHS 2004-5). In addition to the ongoing care and medications, diabetic complications are all too common. To battle this disease and find a cure, we need to identify genetic risk factors that determine your family's susceptibility to developing diabetes. Diabetes is caused by an immune response that goes wrong. We do not know what causes this to happen, but we do

know that children who get diabetes have certain genes which make them susceptible.

Unfortunately, collecting DNA samples for genetic research is both time consuming and costly. This is where the Repository can help.

The Repository will collect the DNA from 3000 Australian families affected by diabetes. Each complete family - known as a 'trio' - consists of the child with diabetes as well as his/her biological parents. This 'trio' family will allow researchers to look at genetic links between diabetes, as well as other autoimmune diseases such as thyroid and coeliac disease.

We are taking a leap to include both children with type 1 diabetes (T1D) and child-onset type 2 diabetes (cT2D) because the number of cases of both diseases is increasing rapidly.

T2D has many environmental factors such as diet and exercise. To limit the effects of these factors, we believe it is important that we research this disease in children.

As of June 2008, the ACDDR contains samples from over 1100 families from four states. Over 1000 of these families are 'trio' families.

Sarah Dye

ACDDR Network Co-ordinator



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS
DIABETES?**

**WOULD THEIR PARENTS BE HAPPY TO
PARTICIPATE?**

PLEASE REFER THEM TO OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.acddr.org.au>

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

The National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) supports the Repository with funds. Each year, the Chief Investigators present a report to the NHMRC. The report was submitted in March 2008. This issue of UPDATE contains information from the report.

ACDDR WEBSITE

A website for the Repository has been developed. The website aims to provide you with up-to-date information about the Repository. Researchers interested in diabetes can also find out how the Repository can help their research. If you haven't yet, please have a look at:

<http://www.acddr.org.au>

EMPLOYMENT

The Repository supports two full-time positions in Perth: a Network Co-ordinator and a Laboratory Research Assistant. In addition, five hospitals nationally have people working for the Repository. These are the important people who spoke to you about the Repository and helped you to participate.

EQUIPMENT

Specialised equipment is needed to ensure long-term storage of your samples in the Repository. We have purchased tubes and storage racks ready for the processed samples.

RECRUITMENT

We have been gradually increasing recruitment however we still need more families to participate. This is a big ask from only 5 recruitment hospitals nationally, so if you know of any other families who would like to participate, please contact us.



CHALLENGES

We continue to work hard in the laboratory processing your samples. We have found some saliva samples with discolouration and less than the amount of liquid required to collect your DNA. Please rinse your mouth before spitting and feel free to ask recruiters if you are not sure if you have provided enough saliva.

Some samples, regardless of the amount of saliva, contain less DNA. This could simply due to the fact that some people have less DNA in their saliva. The laboratory staff do their best with every sample however as a last resort we may ask you to provide another sample.

***Thank you for your commitment in helping
families affected by diabetes.***