



# PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES

## NIH ANNOUNCES MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF CHRONIC PELVIC PAIN (MAPP) RESEARCH NETWORK

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) invites applications from qualified investigators to participate in a multi-center cooperative research initiative entitled **Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain (MAPP) Research Network**.

The purpose of the MAPP Research Network is to advance the understanding of urologic chronic pelvic pain syndromes (UCPPS) (this terminology is used solely for the purposes of this funding initiative) associated with the bladder (i.e., interstitial cystitis/painful bladder syndrome, IC/PBS) and the prostate gland (i.e., chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome, CP/CPSS). An important focus of the MAPP Network will be investigation of the biologic and behavioral relationships between

IC/PBS and CP/CPSS and other frequently related symptom-based conditions such as fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and chronic fatigue syndrome. Vulvodynia and migraine headache may also be studied if adequate scientific justification is provided.

The MAPP Research Network will conduct multidisciplinary, collaborative, multi-site, basic, translational, and clinical research in this relatively uncharted area.

The NIDDK plans to commit up to a total of \$7.5 million dollars each year for the five-year project period.

This project is very important for people with IC as well as those with related conditions. The ICA spearheaded this initiative by working with Congress for many years and directly with the NIH to advocate for a government research program that would fund a multi-year, full-scale project in this untapped multidisciplinary area.

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### MAPP RESEARCH NETWORK IMPORTANT DATES

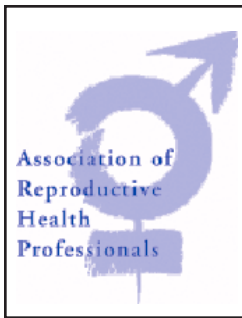
- ◆ Letters of Intent Receipt Date: December 17, 2007
- ◆ Application Receipt Date: January 9, 2008
- ◆ Peer Review Date(s): February-March, 2008
- ◆ Council Review Date: May 2008
- ◆ Earliest Anticipated Start Date: July 1, 2008
- ◆ Expiration Date: January 10, 2008

For complete RFA details please visit:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-07-003.html>

Additional information and updates may be found at:  
[http://www2.nidk.nih.gov/Funding/FundingOpportunities/RFA/RFA\\_FAQ\\_MAPP\\_Research\\_Network](http://www2.nidk.nih.gov/Funding/FundingOpportunities/RFA/RFA_FAQ_MAPP_Research_Network)

## NOW AVAILABLE: SCREENING, TREATMENT, AND MANAGEMENT OF IC/PBS: A MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND THEIR PATIENTS



### Program Description

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) and the Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA) have launched a joint educational program entitled *Screening, Treatment, and Management of IC/PBS (Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome): A Medical Education Program for Health Care Providers and Their Patients*. This comprehensive

program will offer CME modules and associated activities and materials for targeted practitioners whose female—and male—patients suffer from the symptoms of this little understood condition.

You may request an ARHP speaker to present this medical education lecture at your event, including clinical conference or grand rounds session. Speaker honoraria and travel expenses will be covered by ARHP.

### Program Design and Planned Activities

The IC/PBS program includes many carefully developed components to meet healthcare providers' and patients' needs for education. The program commenced with the **Definition Meeting of Interstitial Cystitis Experts** on February 10, 2007 in Washington, DC. This meeting brought together a diverse group of multi-disciplinary healthcare providers, including ob/gyns, urologists, urogynecologists, pain specialists, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and other experts in the field. The goal of the meeting was to develop clear and consistent definition language, which is essential to ensuring that patients receive optimum care and full access to medications, diagnostic methods, and, of course, insurance and other types of financial benefits. The highlights of the meeting, recommendations, and additional educational and practical content will inform other program activities. The discussion and majority statements of the meeting are summarized in a white paper, *Outcome of the Washington, DC, Consensus Meeting on Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome: A Multidisciplinary Meeting of Researchers, Clinicians, and Patients*. See: [www.ichelp.org/pressreleases/ICPBSWhitePaperFinal.pdf](http://www.ichelp.org/pressreleases/ICPBSWhitePaperFinal.pdf)

Following the Definition Meeting, other program activities include the development of a core curriculum. This curriculum is based on a thorough needs assessment and the expertise of an Expert Advisory Committee.

The curriculum is being implemented in a variety of venues, including live sessions at regional and national society meetings, grand rounds, and interactive Webinars. To view the full project curriculum, visit ARHP's slide library at [www.arhp.org/slides](http://www.arhp.org/slides).

ARHP and the ICA will develop two publications for healthcare providers: an issue of ARHP's *Clinical Proceedings* (a clinical monograph series), and an issue of the *Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians* (QRG). Content for both publications will be based on the Definition Meeting and program curriculum. These materials offer healthcare providers evidence-based reference tools and a convenient, succinct, and fully referenced guide to best accommodate each provider's availability and need for information. ARHP and ICA will also produce highly accessible educational brochures in culturally appropriate English and Spanish.

All IC/PBS program modules will be established based on the results of extensive consumer and professional research conducted by ARHP and the ICA. The program will feature a variety of professional education vehicles to meet the needs of as many healthcare providers as possible and will be heavily evaluated throughout its development and implementation with constant fine-tuning to keep the program as current as possible.

For more information, please contact the IC/PBS program manager, Allison Tombros, at [atombros@arhp.org](mailto:atombros@arhp.org) or 202-466-3825.

The project has been made possible through an independent educational grant from Ortho Women's Health and Urology.

### Accreditation

ARHP is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education (CME) for physicians. ARHP designates this continuing medical education activity for 1 credit hour in Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. This educational activity has been approved by the Continuing Education Approval Program of the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health for 1 contact hours, including 0.8 pharmacology hours. Credit can be applied toward the nursing continuing requirements of most professional organizations and State Boards of Nursing.

1. Mayo Clinic. <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/interstitial-cystitis/DS00497>. Accessed December 1, 2006.

## CME/CE ONLINE TUTORIAL ON CHRONIC VULVAR PAIN NOW AVAILABLE

The National Vulvodynia Association ([www.nva.org](http://www.nva.org)) is pleased to announce the release of its CME/CE accredited online tutorial for healthcare professionals titled, *Vulvodynia: Integrating Current Knowledge into Clinical Practice*. This tutorial, jointly sponsored by the NVA and the Dannemiller Memorial Educational Foundation, is free to all viewers. The program includes a self-guided presentation on the prevalence, differential diagnosis, treatment and etiology of chronic vulvar pain. To access the tutorial, please visit <http://learn.nva.org>.

If you have any questions about the program or experience a problem accessing it online, please contact Christin Veasley, NVA Associate Executive Director, by email ([chris@nva.org](mailto:chris@nva.org)) or phone (401-398-0830). This program was funded by an educational grant from The Patty Brisben Foundation.

## URIGEN ANNOUNCES NATIONAL STUDY OF IC/PBS INSTILLATION

Urogen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on the development of treatments for urological disorders, has initiated a double-blind, placebo controlled, cross-over study to investigate URG101 as a treatment for acute symptoms of painful bladder syndrome/interstitial cystitis (PBS).

The URG101 study will compare the efficacy of URG101 (intravesical lidocaine-heparin formulation) and placebo in reducing acute symptoms of PBS. The study will enroll patients at several US clinical sites with the first patient having been enrolled and dosed.

"The URG101 study is important for those patients diagnosed with painful bladder syndrome," commented Bill Garner, MD, Urogen's Chief Executive Officer. "Physicians currently treating patients with PBS have few treatment options, none of which address the patients' need for relief from acute symptoms."

Use this link to read the press release in its entirety: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/070814/20070814005422.html?v=1>

To read more about URG101, use this link: [http://www.urigen.com/rd/urg101\\_pbs/](http://www.urigen.com/rd/urg101_pbs/)

## PLETHORA SOLUTIONS REPORTS SUCCESS OF PHASE II TRIAL

Plethora Solutions announced in early September that its double-blind, placebo controlled clinical trial of PSD597—200 mg lidocaine (as 5 ml of 4% lidocaine solution) instilled into an empty bladder followed by 5 ml of 8.4% sodium bicarbonate (alkalinizing agent)—was successful. The study involved over 100 IC patients from the United States and Canada. This

study was followed by an open-label study which also delivered very promising results.

To view the progress report in its entirety use this link (PDF file):

[www.plethorasolutions.co.uk/ufiles/Clinical%20Update%20PSD597%20Phase%20II%20Data.pdf](http://www.plethorasolutions.co.uk/ufiles/Clinical%20Update%20PSD597%20Phase%20II%20Data.pdf)

## ICA PRODUCES EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH MEDIA SPOTS FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO

We are very excited to announce that three separate media spots for television and radio produced by the ICA with talent provided by ICA Medical Advisory Board member Robert Moldwin, MD, and IC patient advocate, Mary Ellen Altieri, RN, aired this summer on DirecTV, American News Network, and Radio Health Journal. We are definitely getting the word

### NEW J & J PROGRAM CAN HELP

If you have patients who are uninsured or underinsured, they may often find themselves having to choose between medications and other necessities of life. But no one should have to choose. **Access2wellness** is designed to help. It provides access to one of the broadest selections of assistance programs that offer more than 1,000 prescription medications—including Elmiron—for free or at a discount to those who qualify.

**Access2wellness** is a service from Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc., and reflects the company's commitment to improving access to better healthcare. As the number of assistance programs has increased, many patients and healthcare professionals have grown confused by the available choices. **Access2wellness** was developed to help people find information on assistance programs quickly and easily.

Each assistance program has its own eligibility criteria. In order to determine eligibility for any of these assistance programs, your patient can use the Eligibility Tool available at [access2wellness.com](http://access2wellness.com) or call the **Access2wellness** Call Center at **866-317-2775**.

out on IC, the importance of a proper diagnosis and treatment, and the support and information available through the ICA. The feedback from this media campaign has been positive and enthusiastic. This 60-second spot can now be viewed on:

**YouTube**  
**Google Video**  
**Your Update TV**

**Or you can download it as a podcast from iTunes**

We hope you enjoy the media spots and we encourage you to provide your patients with access information.

## **LATEST IC PUBLISHED RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

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## **ICA NURSING PRESENTATION IN DEMAND**

Launched in the summer of 2007, the first in a series of online ICA medical education tools to assist healthcare professionals in becoming familiar with all aspects of IC is gaining in popularity.

This presentation, *Interstitial Cystitis: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know*, is designed to further educate the nursing community about IC and was underwritten by a generous educational grant from The Medtronic Foundation.

A link to the presentation can be found on the ICA's website homepage or use the following link:

**[www.ichelp.org/nursingpresentation/  
ICANursingPresentation.pdf](http://www.ichelp.org/nursingpresentation/ICANursingPresentation.pdf)**

## **FDA Issues CellCept Alert**

In late October the FDA and Roche issued an alert to physicians regarding CellCept (mycophenolate mofetil). CellCept is currently under investigation by the NIDDK as a potential treatment for severe IC.

The alert warns that use of CellCept is associated with increased risk of first trimester pregnancy loss and increased risk of congenital malformations. The pregnancy category for CellCept has now been changed from Category C (risk of fetal harm cannot be ruled out) to Category D (positive evidence of fetal risk).

Within one week of beginning CellCept therapy, women of childbearing potential should have a negative serum or urine pregnancy test. In addition, women of childbearing potential (including pubertal girls and peri-menopausal woman) taking CellCept must receive contraceptive counseling and use effective contraception. Healthcare professionals and patients should be aware that CellCept reduces blood levels of the hormones in the oral contraceptive pill and could theoretically reduce its effectiveness.

For more information regarding this alert, please visit:  
[www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#CellCept2pt2](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2007/safety07.htm#CellCept2pt2)

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The nonprofit Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA) is the leading provider of information and services assisting people with IC in the management of their condition.

The ICA can be reached at 1-800-HELP ICA or [www.ichelp.org](http://www.ichelp.org)

ICA Professional Perspectives is published by the Interstitial Cystitis Association, Rockville, MD USA

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## CHECK OUT CAFÉ ICA at [www.ichelp.org](http://www.ichelp.org)

*Café ICA* is your monthly electronic source for the most up-to-date information on IC research, clinical trials, treatments, and other late-breaking news.



## AUA Annual Meeting 2007

Remember: You can find all IC and IC related 2007 AUA Annual Meeting abstracts conveniently summarized on the ICA's website ([www.ichelp.org](http://www.ichelp.org)) in the Research section.

Also, original abstracts are available at  
[www.abstracts2view.com/aua/](http://www.abstracts2view.com/aua/)

and posters at  
<http://www.posters2view.com/aua07/p://www.posters2view.com/aua07/>

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