

CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Children's National physicians Jodi Pike, MD, and Rachel Moon, MD, led a study examining data from 53 infant deaths that involved a bassinet as reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) between 1990 and 2004.

"Since so many babies sleep in bassinets, we thought that it was important to know if bassinets are safe sleep places for babies," said Dr. Moon.

The average age of the infants who died of infant death syndrome was nearly 3 months old. The study found:

- In 85 percent of the deaths, the infants had suffocated or they had a lack of oxygen
- 74 percent of the bassinets had blankets, pillows, or plastic bags in the bassinets

- 37 percent of the babies had been placed face-down to sleep
- 50 percent of the babies were found in their bassinets face down
- 9 percent of the deaths were due to sudden infant death syndrome
- 16 percent of the infants died because the bassinets had mechanical problems or they were not used correctly

The complete results are published in the June edition of the *Journal of Pediatrics*. Drs. Pike and Moon stress the importance of following the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for putting babies to sleep:

- Put babies to sleep on their backs
- Avoid having soft bedding, loose pillows, or stuffed animals in or around the baby's sleeping area



Rachel Moon, MD
 Director of Academic Development for the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health

Rachel Moon, MD, is an internationally recognized expert in SIDS and serves as the director of Academic Development for the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health at Children's National Medical Center. Dr. Moon's research focuses on high-risk populations for SIDS, specifically African-Americans and infants who are in child care. She currently serves on the Task Force on SIDS for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For more information about this study, contact Rachel Moon, MD, at 202-476-3948 or rmoon@cnmc.org.

PEOPLE NOTES

Roger J. Packer, MD, executive director of the Center for Neurosciences and Behavioral Medicine, received the Founder's Award at the 13th International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology (ISPNO). He leads Children's Brain Tumor Institute and is an active member of Children's Research Institute. The Brain Tumor Institute, working through the Pediatric Brain Tumor Clinical Trials Consortium, has been selected by the National Cancer Institute to serve as one of only nine centers in the United States to perform innovative clinical research in neuro-oncology. The award was given by the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.



Joseph L. Wright, MD, executive director of the Child Health Advocacy Institute, was appointed by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to the seven-member Prince George's Hospital Authority. The group is charged with evaluating potential buyers of Prince George's Hospital System.

Rhonique Shields-Harris, MD, received the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia's inaugural Partnership Award at its 19th annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner. Dr. Harris is the medical director of Children's mobile health program, Children's health center at THEARC, and the Children's Health Project of DC. The Partnership Award was created to recognize significant collaborations between Legal Aid and other non-legal organizations or individuals that directly increase the organization's ability to serve its clients.



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