SPU RESEARCH GRANT UPDATE

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**Probiotics-Mediated Suppression of Vaginal Biofilm Function and Pediatric Bacteriuria**

Significant progress has been made on the SPU-funded project entitled "Probiotics-Mediated Suppression of Vaginal Biofilm Function and Pediatric Bacteriuria". Specifically, the pilot clinical trial of probiotics for girls with spina bifida (Aim 1) has been completed and has been presented as an abstract at the 2009 Texas Children's Hospital Fellows' Research Day. The clinical data will also be presented at the 2009 meeting of the European Society of Pediatric Urology. Furthermore, the *in vitro* experiments (Aim 2) have also been proceeding well. We have successfully established a *Lactobacillus*-vaginal epithelial cell co-culture model to study genitourinary probiotic biofilms. Our data on the effects of these bioforms on vaginal epithelial cells will be submitted as an abstract for the upcoming AAP meeting. We anticipate submission of a manuscript for publication shortly after the end of the term of the SPU Grant. Finally, the support provided by the SPU has enabled me to obtain additional research funding from the Spina Bifida Association and the Thrasher Foundation.