



Indiana University
School of Medicine

Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine Newsletter Vessels and Vitality

Fall 2016



Cryptic Masons Medical
Research Foundation

Happy Fall! We hope many of you are enjoying this wonderful season of crisp coolness and color. This newsletter focuses on the importance to our team of excellent clinical coordinators and, in particular, on the newest coordinator to join the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, **Ashley Vektor**. Ashley became a member of our elite cell therapy coordinating staff during the summer of 2016, and has jumped into the planning and performance of our clinical trials involving adipose stem cells, the amazing cells that are found plentifully hidden in our fat! She will also be available to assist during the conduct of our NIH-sponsored cardiac cell therapy studies, which will be covered in more detail in the next newsletter (spring 2017). Ashley comes to us with excellent background experience coordinating research in cancer therapy as well as in neurology trials involving genetic predispositions to degenerative diseases.



As a clinical research coordinator, Ashley is responsible for identifying appropriate subjects and explaining the details of study participation to these individuals, ensuring that the study participants are well aware of the study timeline and visits. Behind the scenes, Ashley confirms that all the appropriate study tests and appointments are scheduled, submits regulatory documentation to Indiana University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) as well as the Food and Drug Association (FDA), and overall, makes sure the study is running smoothly.

Ashley is currently working on two main projects:

1) TGAIT: The first FDA-approved trial in the United States **using adipose stem cells to avoid lower limb amputations**. This study is focused on finding and treating patients with Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) who have run out of

treatment options. PAD is a slow, but vicious disease that manifests from the buildup of fatty material, called plaque, in the arteries. This buildup of plaque blocks or severely decreases blood flow to the leg muscles, which in turn cause incredible pain during exercise, such as walking. Potential benefits from treatment may include reduction of pain and avoidance of amputation.

If you or someone you know suffers from the symptoms or diagnoses listed below, please contact Ashley at (317) 274-0858.

- Decreased blood flow to the legs
- Severe pain at rest or History of non-healing leg wounds
- Diagnosis of Critical Limb Ischemia (CLI)
- Have undergone leg revascularization procedures without improvement

2) Knee OA: The newly-approved FDA trial, which is the first in the United States initiated by an academic medical center **to determine the utility of one's own adipose stem cells to avoid knee replacements**. Osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee is a leading cause of disability among adults today, with the knee joint among the most common sites of the disorder. It is a degenerative, "wear-and-tear" type of arthritis that occurs most often in people 50 years of age and older, but may occur in younger people, too.

This trial will be open to enrolling patients in the near future. If you or someone you know suffers from osteoarthritis in the knee and can answer "yes" to the below statements, please contact Ashley at (317) 274-0858.

- Suffers from symptomatic osteoarthritis and pain, mostly in one knee
- Have previously tried 6 weeks of at least one conservative treatment without improvement (conservative treatment may include activity modification, weight loss, physical therapy, or anti-inflammatory therapy)