Pediatric cardiovascular research a priority for NHLBI

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) released in May a comprehensive report on current research on pediatric cardiovascular disease, and outlined the top eight research priorities reflecting scientific opportunities in the field. NHLBI found research needs in areas spanning from stem cell biology to the relationship between genetic and environmental factors in the development of heart defects.

Identifying the research needs in pediatric heart diseases is only one responsibility NHLBI takes on as an organization. It also coordinates the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program that recently released long-awaited updated guidelines for asthma management (see page 92).

The institute offers numerous other services for those with pediatric concerns. Its Web site has several interactive pages to help parents make sure their child is healthy. With activities like "Garfield's Games for Star Sleepers," children can learn the importance of a good night's rest and how much sleep they should be getting. The site also has information on asthma prevention, sleep disorders, healthy weight management and other health concerns affecting children.

In response to the federal government's Healthy People 2010 program, which outlines the steps toward a healthier American public, NHLBI's Web site features a section to promote education in four specific areas: cardiovascular health, asthma, sleep and minority populations. This gateway offers institutional information and resources on these health topics.

Along with the National Recreation and Park Association, NHLBI also supports a national program called Hearts N' Parks that works to educate children and adults on the importance of a healthy diet and daily activity. The community-based initiative aims to help decrease obesity and the risk of coronary heart disease by providing information on positive lifestyle choices as part of the activities at parks and recreational facilities.

— Erin Verkler

For more information on the task force report, other research publications or additional community efforts by NHLBI, visit www.nhlbi.nih.gov. For publication information, call (800) 575-WELL. For questions, call (301) 592-8573.

Correction

Health professional memberships in the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) (Agency ABCs, June *AAP News*) do not cover the cost of items such as videos and cookbooks. Call FAAN at (800) 929-4040 for the most current membership benefits.