

R Baby News

Sharing light and love to save babies' lives.

Five Lifesaving Grants

IMPROVING PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE ONE STEP AT A TIME

As 2007 came to a close, R Baby Foundation's Granting Committee and Medical Advisory Board reviewed numerous proposals submitted by hospitals across the Northeast wishing to improve medical care for infants. Five new grants were chosen to receive funding in January 2008 at \$500,000 in total. While all focus on pediatric emergency care, the plans seek to improve medical needs across a broad spectrum of areas, including training, equipment, education and communication. Initially these programs are estimated to impact hundred of thousands of babies a year – with millions affected over time.

These five grants are all different ways to improve emergency health care for infants. They are R Baby's first steps in an ongoing process to evaluate programs and publish materials that will save babies' lives and change the way urgent care for infants is viewed. We look forward to working with the hospitals to raise awareness on the need for better care and will also partner to track the results of each program so we can continue to invest in making our programs as successful as they can be. Our granting cycle will continue to be January and June.

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1.

"Bridging the Gap Between the Care for Children Given at PEDs and EDs in Community Hospitals"

*Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of
NewYork-Presbyterian*

Aimed at helping children cared for in community emergency departments that lack pediatric emergency expertise, this program will provide general emergency medicine physicians with the training necessary to bridge the gap between the care given for babies and children at pediatric emergency departments (PEDs) and general emergency departments (EDs). Specifically, R Baby Foundation will fund the establishment of a pediatric emergency medicine (PEM) phone consultation service, staffed 24/7 by PEM specialists.



grants cont'd

2.

"Improving the Quality and Effectiveness of Resuscitation of Neonates, Infants and Children by Pediatric Providers"

NYU/Bellevue

In emergency situations, there is no room for error. Better training and equipment is needed to train providers caring for critically ill infants and children in emergency situations. This grant focuses on providing highly skilled resuscitation teams high-fidelity simulation technology that will allow them to perform optimally and with minimal errors. A robotic infant attached to a monitor will be used to simulate a "real-life" resuscitation experience in which the pediatric provider will enhance their knowledge and skills for real-life resuscitations. By enhancing exposure to appropriate "code" situations, providers can perfect resuscitation skills and gain real-life experience through this grant's funding of high-fidelity simulation technology and training for faculty and residents.

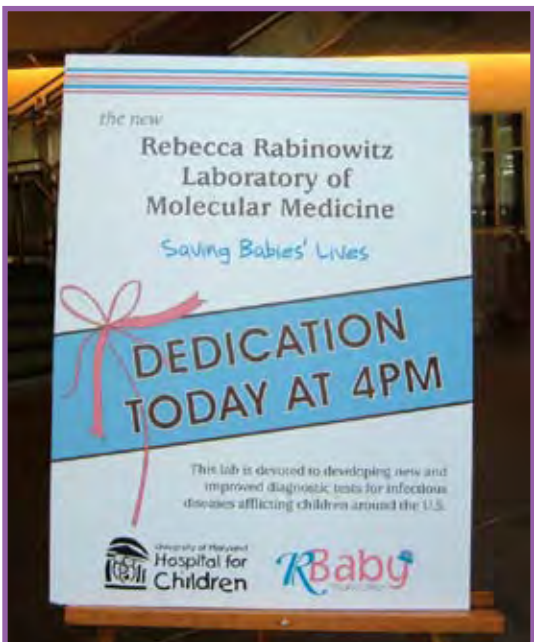
3.

"Training Fellowships in PED ER" and "R Baby Lectureship"

The Mount Sinai Department of Emergency Medicine

The R Baby Foundation Fellowship will support the challenging clinical and academic training of a talented individual as a pediatric emergency medicine specialist focused on infectious diseases. The fellow will conduct a research project on pediatric infectious disease emergencies, lecture and train over 100 physicians. She will also work with New York City EMS to develop a training program to aid in recognition of the diseases that necessitate emergency management. In addition, the grant will support an R Baby Lectureship, which allows for an infectious disease/pediatric emergency medicine expert to educate over 300 physicians on the optimal management of neonatal and pediatric patients who are critically ill due to infectious illness.

Saving Babies' Lives Through Research, Diagnosis and Treatment



ON AUGUST 24, 2007, R BABY FOUNDATION TEAMED UP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN TO OPEN THE REBECCA AVA RABINOWITZ MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY.

Devoted to the development of new and improved diagnostic tests for viral infections afflicting babies and children, the lab will serve as a hub for hospitals seeking diagnoses and treatments for babies in need of urgent medical care.

A test to be developed by the lab will allow clinicians to acquire a single sample of blood or spinal fluid, extract the genetic materials and inject it into a machine that identifies the genetic blueprint for disease-causing organisms. Currently it can take weeks to identify germs causing an infection, but these tests will reduce the time to hours, greatly accelerating accurate diagnosis, intervention and treatment. The molecular tests focus on several viruses afflicting babies and children including but not limited to respiratory and gastrointestinal viruses.

The research center was created with \$110,000 in funding from the R Baby Foundation. The first generation test is projected to be available by the end of 2008. Learn more about the new lab at www.rbabyfoundation.org.

4.

“Emergency Departments Approved for Pediatrics”

Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical

This grant aims at ensuring that any infant or child requiring emergency care in the Hudson Valley has access to pediatricians and emergency departments that are specifically equipped and trained in recognition, initial stabilization, and transfer or referral for pediatric emergencies. The hospital will share its pediatric expertise through education and by developing guidelines for optimal emergency care. An Emergency Department (ED) Certification Program will educate the community about the preferred locations at which to seek urgent medical care for babies. An ED will only gain the certification after the equipment and training requirements are met.

5.

“Improving Communication to Improve Care”

Goryeb Children’s Hospital at Morristown Memorial Hospital

Throughout the U.S., many children (and adults) die each year due to medical errors. Ineffective communication can result in poorly documented or lost medical information, and mistakes can be made with the failure to understand patients’ or families’ perspectives. This grant is aimed at optimizing communication between healthcare professionals and patients. By eliminating inefficient communication, a model of family-centered care rather than a provider-centered approach will allow for an environment with true collaboration, better exchange of ideas and shared decision-making. Specifically, R Baby Foundation will fund the training to promote better communication, reduce medical errors and save lives beginning in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and the Gagnon Pediatric Emergency Department.

R Baby Stories

In November 2007, R Baby launched a new section to its Web site – “R Baby Stories.” Featuring testimonials of families who have lost – or almost lost – their babies due to infections or unfortunate medical experiences, “R Baby Stories” serves as a dedication to these children and as a reminder of R Baby’s commitment to saving babies’ lives. We wish to thank all the families who chose to share their stories with us. Please visit rbabyfoundation.org to read more or to share your own experience. [Read the full stories online.](#)



Rebecca’s Story

Daughter of Phyllis & Andrew Rabinowitz, Co-Founders of the R Baby Foundation

Our daughter Rebecca was born four weeks early on July 13, 2006. We loved her from the moment of birth and savored every hour with her... [continue reading online.](#)

Garrett’s Story

Son of Susanne & Tony Rogers

Garrett was our second miracle baby after seven years of infertility and the birth of our daughter. Pregnancy progressed normally, but when the time came to deliver, I sensed something was wrong... [continue reading online.](#)



Daniel’s Story

Son of Jealynn & Michael Coleman

Our son Daniel was born full-term on April 3, 2006 as a healthy baby boy. On April 24, we took him to see the pediatrician for a well-baby check-up, and he was doing great... [continue reading online.](#)

Rhiannon’s Story

Daughter of Corinne & Dan McMurray

Rhiannon Fay-Marie was our miracle baby after we had been told that we could never have children – ever. She was born on May 3, 2006, weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was in picture-perfect health... [continue reading online.](#)



Surgical Team Receives Grant for Nursing Care Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago

In 2007, R Baby Foundation gave a grant to the Department of Transplantation Surgery at Chicago’s Children’s Memorial Hospital to aid in the addition of an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) with a background in clinical research to the department’s surgical team. A full-time APN will develop educational and advocacy programs at the community level on the symptoms of liver disorders acquired during infancy and childhood, establish programs and resources for their network of families with children affected by liver disorders, facilitate education with their network of 1,100 community pediatric specialists to enhance the knowledge of diagnosing viral infections in infants, and assist with promising clinical research and patient care initiatives.

The Best Things in Life Come in Small Packages

ON MAY 15, 2007, R BABY FOUNDATION HELD ITS FIRST MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT AT THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL IN NEW YORK CITY

The theme of the night was "The Best Things in Life Come in Small Packages." This event sold out four weeks early, with a great turnout of over 850 guests. The foundation raised over \$2.5 million dollars, with 95% of proceeds going to improving medical care for infants.

Special guests and speakers at the event included Kelly Ripa, Boomer Esiason, New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and CW11 News at Ten weather expert Mr. G. Guests enjoyed musical performances by two Grammy-nominated artists: Staind frontman Aaron Lewis and Chris Barron of the Spin Doctors. The evening included a cocktail party, silent and live auctions, dancing, as well as additional entertainment.



January 2008 Infectious Disease Symposium

On January 9, 2008, the Department of Emergency Medicine at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine held its annual critical care symposium focusing on infectious diseases in the emergency department. R Baby Foundation supported a lecture titled "Not All Pediatric Viral Infections are Benign," which successfully drew 326 registrants from 10 emergency medicine residency programs. Represented were The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Maimonides Medical Center, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York Methodist Hospital, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Metropolitan Hospital Center. The presentation will be further developed and given at the "Clinical Decision Making in Emergency Medicine: An Evidence-Based Conference and LLSA Review," which will be held in Ponte Vedra, Florida from June 26 to 28, 2008.

No Step Is Too Small... And Every Step Counts

For a limited time, give \$150 to R Baby Foundation and we will send Minnies "No Step Is Too Small" baby shoes with a special card to the recipient your donation honors.



Learn more at www.minnies.us

Donate online at rbabyfoundation.org

A Letter from Phyllis & Andrew Rabinowitz

Co-Founders and Co-Presidents
of R Baby Foundation, Inc.

Dear Friends, Family and Supporters:

The past 18 months has been life-changing – both for our lives and for the lives of many other families greatly affected by R Baby Foundation's dedication to saving babies' lives. Through our grants and our publicity campaign, we've raised awareness on infant healthcare issues and have begun to make changes within the medical community to save lives.

It all began on July 13, 2006, when our beautiful daughter Rebecca Ava Rabinowitz was born. Misdiagnosed with having a common cold eight days later, Rebecca passed away at 9-days-old from a serious viral infection. If her symptoms had been recognized, she might still be here today. As a result of this tragedy, we created the R Baby Foundation. Our mission: to save babies' lives. We can attest that losing a child is a parent's worst nightmare, so we are committed to helping other families avoid this permanent pain that is with us every day.

Having established a very passionate and prominent board of directors and medical advisory board by the end of 2006, we approached the New Year determined to make a difference – little did we know how successful R Baby's first year would be. In May 2007, our first fundraising event at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City raised over \$2.5 million dollars, with approximately 95 percent of the proceeds going straight to improving medical care for newborns, and Kelly Ripa, a key speaker at the event, talked about our cause on *Live with Regis and Kelly* the morning after the gala!

Not only R Baby Foundation, but also the issue of infant mortality in the United States has resurfaced and is gaining attention from the public and the government. Still, too many babies die each year. During mid-2007, we partnered with many family oriented magazines and Web sites for advertising opportunities to raise awareness on infant mortality in the U.S. and the need for better care for babies. We also helped to lobby a bill in New York and New Jersey to guarantee that all children's hospitals have pediatric-trained physicians available 24/7. The results are pending, but the issue is gaining momentum.

By August 2007, we had received many proposals from hospitals wishing to partner together and save lives. We thoroughly reviewed each submission and are excited to report that, as of January 2008, we are funding five of the best proposals in addition to two previously funded programs in 2007.

Working on the grants reaffirmed our mission and the need for better healthcare for newborns. It is very apparent that there are different standards of pediatric emergency care, and we want to make sure every newborn has the best possible care available. We are as committed as ever to R Baby Foundation and to helping thousands of other babies get their chance at life.

Warmly,

Phyllis Rabinowitz Andrew Rabinowitz



We can still do so much more together.

Here are more compelling reasons to support R Baby Foundation and all future families:

FACT: Children make up 27% of all emergency department (ED) visits, but only 6% of EDs in the U.S. have the necessary supplies for pediatric emergencies.

FACT: Many drugs and medical devices have not been adequately tested on, or dosed properly for, children – including babies.

FACT: Although pediatric skills deteriorate quickly without practice, continuing education in pediatric care is not required or is extremely limited for many prehospital emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

FACT: Emergency medical services and emergency departments are not well equipped to handle pediatric care. Most children receive emergency care in general (not children's) hospitals, which are less likely to have pediatric expertise, equipment, and policies in place for the care of children.

Source: "The Future of Emergency Care,"
Institute of Medicine, 2006 Report

Our Mission :: R Baby Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that newborn babies, primarily those in the first month of life suffering from viral infections and other infectious diseases, receive the highest quality of care and service through supporting education, research, treatment, training and life-saving equipment.

~ Talmud
"He who saves one life is as if he saved the entire world."



Contribute – Volunteer – Educate

TOO MANY BABIES ARE DYING

FACT: 1 in 141 babies die in the U.S. each year. Babies within the first 28 days are twice as likely to die as older babies.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

FACT: There are approximately 20,000 newborn deaths within their first month of life and close to 30,000 in the first year.

Source: WebMD

FACT: Babies born in the U.S. are twice as likely to die than many other developed countries, including Sweden, Japan and Spain. The United States is ranked 36th among 196 nations.

Source: World Health Organization

Families and Babies Need Your Help

Learn more online

www.rbabyfoundation.org

Contact us

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Send donations to

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Make checks payable to
R Baby Foundation Inc., or donate online.

R Baby is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.