

NYSPI - Subcontract (continued)

**PSYCHOLOGIC DEVELOPMENT AFTER EARLY-PRENATAL DEXAMETHASONE EXPOSURE
WORK STATEMENT**Abstract

This project proposes a follow-up examination of boys and girls (5-12 years of age) who were exposed in utero to exogenous dexamethasone (DEX), because their mothers' pregnancies were classified as being at risk for involving a fetus with congenital adrenal hyperplasia and were, therefore, treated preventively with DEX. The sample size will be 128 boys and girls, as based on power analysis. The follow-up examination will be done with both the child and his/her mother and include demographics, cognitive development, psychiatric development, an aspect of temperament (inhibition), gender development, and lateralization (handedness). The overall objective is to fill the gap of knowledge about the long-term consequences of early-prenatal DEX treatment on childhood development on the one hand, and the success of DEX in suppressing behavioral masculinization in the sub-sample of girls with definitive congenital adrenal hyperplasia on the other.

Division of Labor

The proposed project is a collaborative effort between Dr. Maria I. New, Chairman of Pediatrics and Head of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center (NYH) in New York City, and Dr. Heino F.L. Meyer-Bahlburg and his team, Program of Developmental Psychoendocrinology at the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). All participating children were or are patients of Dr. Maria New, or Dr. Maria New served as consultant on the pregnancy treatment. Dr. Maria New will provide space for the NYH team and for patient examinations at NYH. Her team at NYH will establish the sample (in close cooperation with the NYSPI team) and conduct the patient tracking, contacting, scheduling, and examinations, as well as aggregate pertinent demographic and medical data (e.g., DEX timing and dosage, CAH diagnosis) from Dr. New's medical data bank, as detailed in the grant application. Dr. Meyer-Bahlburg will provide space and computer equipment at NYSPI for the data-analysis staff. As outlined in the grant application, Dr. Meyer-Bahlburg's team at NYSPI is responsible for the training of the NYH team in assessment methods and the training of Dr. Baker in assessment monitoring, for interpreting the examination data, for data entry, for data analysis of the examination data (both quantitative and qualitative) and of medical data to be related to the psychological ones, and for report writing, in collaboration with the NYH team.

Arrangements for Monitoring Performance

The NYSPI team, (especially Drs. Meyer-Bahlburg, Trautman, and Hinton) will initially train the NYH staff in the assessment procedures and Dr. Baker in assessment monitoring and will regularly visit the NYH team to review the data collection process and material obtained, troubleshoot problems in address tracking, patient contact, and assessments. The NYSPI team will also provide feedback on the ongoing data entry and programming procedures at NYSPI. After the initial training of the assessment staff by the NYSPI team (which will take place at NYSPI), there will be several visits a week during the first month of data collection, and then at least one monthly visit for the remainder of the data-collection period, as well as towards the fourth half-year of the project in order to conduct team meetings on the behavioral findings and write ups. Additional contacts will be maintained by e-mail, fax, and telephone with Dr. Susan Baker as the liaison staff member of the NYH team.