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Albert Einstein College of Medicine
OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

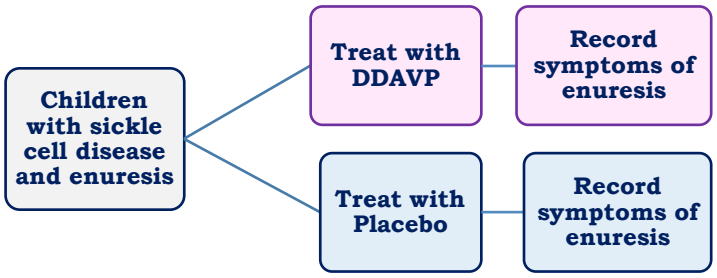
# Pediatric Hematology/Oncology News

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore

DECEMBER 2015

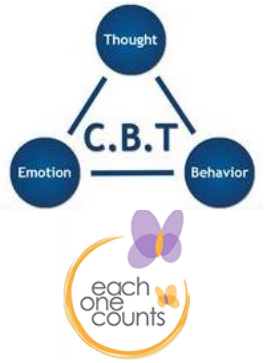
## CHAM Clinical Trial Seeks to Improve QOL for Patients with Sickle Cell Disease

The Division of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Marrow and Blood Cell Transplantation is actively recruiting patients between the ages of 8-21 years old with sickle cell disease (SCD) who have frequent episodes of nocturnal enuresis. Nocturnal enuresis is a common complication of SCD and a survey conducted at our institution demonstrated that this condition affects one third of our pediatric patients with SCD. The literature supports the use of desmopressin (DDAVP) in the general pediatric population with nocturnal enuresis, however, the utility of DDAVP in pediatric patients with SCD is not known. This prospective, randomized, double blinded trial using DDAVP is designed to answer this question and to further investigate sickle cell disease-related variables that are associated with the development enuresis. **Dr. Kerry Morrone**, PI and Director of the Sickle Cell Program, is leading this effort in conjunction with **Dr. Deepa Manwani**, Director of Hematology, **Dr. Arpan Sinha**, pediatric heme/onc fellow, and Dr. Moriah Rabin, pediatric resident.




## Mind-Body Therapies Improve Outcomes for Children with Pain

On November 14th-16th, members from the **Qu**ality **I**n **L**ife **T**eam (QUILT), under the leadership of **Dr. Sarah Norris**, presented a poster reviewing their program at the 12th Annual International Society of Integrative Oncology Meeting in Boston, MA. The theme of this year's conference was "Integrative Innovation." The CHAM team, including psychologist **Dr. Leslie Cunningham**, psychology intern Corinne Sweeney, and yoga therapists **Bess Abrahams and Doris Eugenio,** presented their findings demonstrating that a therapeutic group utilizing cognitive behavioral therapy and integrative movement therapy helped children with blood disorders and cancer cope more effectively with their pain. Thank you to the Each One Counts Foundation who funded all of the therapeutic sessions.




## CHAM Patient Battles Rare Leukemia then Returns to the Football Field

In March 2014, teenager John Peter (JP) Labella was admitted to CHAM and diagnosed with a rare blood cell cancer called undifferentiated leukemia. He was told his cancer was very difficult to treat and he required intensive chemotherapy that would result in a long hospital stay. After months of treatment, a repeat bone marrow biopsy demonstrated his cancer was not responding to treatment. JP wanted to be home to spend time with his friends and family, and hopefully return to school in the fall. The Leukemia Service treated JP with a novel outpatient chemotherapy regimen and, defying the odds, at the end of the summer JP's leukemia was in remission. Knowing that his leukemia would return without additional aggressive treatment, and without a well-matched stem cell donor available, JP underwent the first haploidentical identical stem cell transplant at CHAM. One year later JP is doing well and this past fall, not only was he back in school, he was playing football for his high school team.

### Haploidentical Transplant

Many patients who need a stem cell transplant do not have a donor who is a full match in their family or in the Bone Marrow Registry. Recent advances now allow family members who are half-matches, such as parents, to donate their stem cells, increasing patients' chances to receive life-saving therapy.

## Publications


- Zang D, Chen G, **Manwani D**, Mortha A,Xu C, Faith J,…& Frennette P. (2015). Neutrophil ageing is regulated by the microbiome. *Nature*, 525(7570), 528-532
- Isakoff M, Goldsby R, Villaluna D, Krailo M, **Gorlick R**,…& Janeway K.(2015) Rapid protocol enrollment in osteosarcoma: A Report from the Children's Oncology Group. *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*. In Press.