

Non- Dystrophic Myotonia Meeting, Kansas City, Kansas, June 2nd-June 4th, 2007

The CINCH Non-Dystrophic Myotonia (NDM) study group convened an international conference on the clinical and electrophysiological features and molecular genetics of NDM on June 2-3, 2007, in Kansas City, Kansas. 58 NDM and channelopathy investigators from North America and Europe participated in the conference, including 12 current and former CINCH trainees. CINCH (the Clinical Investigation of Neurologic Channelopathies) is one of ten consortia in the NIH-funded Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network.

The meeting provided the participants with the opportunity to discuss the latest NDM research and to foster interactions among the clinicians and scientists focused on NDM and other area of channelopathy research, to identify future research directions and treatment strategies, and to develop outcome measures for NDM clinical trials. The meeting was supported by awards from NIH and the Office of Rare Diseases and the MDA to the meeting organizer, Dr Richard Barohn, Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurology, Kansas University Medical Center.

The sessions included 1) Clinical Phenotype of NDM; 2) Molecular Genetic Defects of Myotonic Disorders; 3) Channel Function and Pathophysiology in Health and Disease; 4) Animal Models; 5) Neurophysiology; 6) Current CINCH/NDM Natural History Studies; and 7) Presentations of Unique NDM Cases by CINCH Trainees.

An initial manuscript is in preparation, and several possible subsequent manuscripts are under discussion. Many of the presentations have been posted on the RDCRN website.