



## Foundation Features

Spring 2009

A Quarterly Newsletter from Dean Foundation for Health, Research & Education

### Wearable Defibrillator Research offers insight into Cardiac Arrest

The wearable external defibrillator may look like it's right out of a sci-fi movie but it could be the key to understanding the who, what and why of heart attacks. In 2008, heart attacks accounted for 310,000 deaths in America. This is more than the deaths caused by breast cancer, lung cancer, stroke, and AIDS combined and discouragingly, doctors know little about what predisposes one person to it an not another.



The LifeVest , a wearable defibrillator, is currently being researched.

Currently, Dean Foundation's cardiology research department and **Dr. Peter Lee** are one of 60 sites across the country participating in the first clinical trial using a wearable defibrillator called the LifeVest®. The **Vest** Prevention of Early Sudden Death Trial/ **Prediction** of ICD Therapies Study (VEST/PREDICTS) is a two phase study funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute a branch of the National Institute of Health, and three industry sponsors, Zoll-Lifecor, Medtronic and General Electric.

The research is both clinical and observational. The first phase, VEST, is a clinical trial to determine whether a wearable defibrillator vest can reduce mortality in the first 2 months after a heart attack. The vest is worn outside the body rather than implanted in the chest and continuously monitors the patient's heart with dry, non-adhesive electrodes. If it detects a life-threatening rhythm, the device alerts the patient to allow a conscious person to prevent a shock.

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**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Madison Marriott West in Middleton**

**A Reception, Dinner and Physician Talent and Art Show featuring Dean & St. Mary's Physicians and Friends**

**5:30 pm Reception, art show & silent auction**

**7:00 pm Dinner and talent show**

### Dean Foundation Program Profile: Crash Helmet®

For almost twenty years this community icon has been spreading the message of bicycle safety to area children. Crash Helmet® can be seen traveling to area schools, daycare centers and community events encouraging children of all ages to wear a bike helmet no matter how long or short the ride.

"Crash Helmet® relates to children and hopefully begins a lifelong helmet habit," says Passenger Safety Educator Sherri Faust. "With the nice weather finally here, more and more people will be turning to bikes for transportation. Wearing a bike helmet no matter what your age is a smart decision."

Dean Foundation helps to reduce the cost of a new helmet by offering a coupon worth \$5 off the purchase price courtesy of participating retailers. Visit [www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org) for a printable coupon and for more information on properly fitting your helmet.



## LifeVest continued from front

If the patient is unconscious, the device delivers an electrical shock to restore normal rhythm.

"The weeks following a heart attack are an essential time in understanding who is at high risk of having future attacks," says Dean Foundation's principal investigator Dr. Peter Lee. "The data captured from the heart monitors in the vest might provide the essential information we've needed to understand the who and why of heart attacks."

PREDICTS is the observational phase of the study that follows after the 2 month VEST portion is complete. In PREDICTS all subjects have an echocardiogram to determine whether they should, according to current standards, receive an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). Those not receiving an ICD will have a Medtronic Reveal implanted. This is a small (cigarette lighter) size device that is placed under the skin and does not require any wires. The Reveal does not deliver therapy but is able to continuously monitor and record any abnormal heart rhythms. In addition, all subjects will receive a battery of risk stratification testing that is repeated every year for 3 years. The rationale for PREDICTS is that a large number of people who receive the ICD according to the current criteria do not receive shocks. The goal of PREDICTS is to develop a better method for identifying patients at the highest and lowest risk of needing an ICD. The VEST/PREDICTS study is enrolling over 4,500 patients across the country and will be recruiting patients for 3 to 4 years. If you are interested in finding out more about the study visit

[www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org).

## Spotlight on AD Research

Recently, **In Business** magazine profiled the heated debate of whether consumers should gain early access to clinical trial drugs. Dean Foundation was highlighted because of our involvement in conducting two Alzheimer's trials of Dimebon<sup>®</sup>. Dimebon has shown promise in past studies and is currently on the fast track for FDA approval. To read the entire article visit [www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org).

## FEATURED STUDY



### With Depression, Life goes on. You're just not a part of it.

If you are feeling sad or isolated you may qualify for a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of depression.

Qualified participants:

- Are 18 to 64 years old
- Have been feeling depressed for at least 8 wks

Study participants will receive all study related care and medication at no cost and will be compensated for time and travel.

For more information, contact **JoAnn** at **608-827-2333 or 800-844-6015**.

Please mention study #548.

## Welcome New Employees



Dean Foundation is pleased to welcome **Jenny Stahr** as a **Clinical Interviewer** for Psychiatric Research. She has a Master's in Social Work from UW-Madison and has experience in mental health, AODA, and criminal justice



**Susan Cooper** has spent the past two semesters at Dean Foundation's BSP-Free Clinic as a social work intern. After practicing law for over 20 years with non-profits she returned to Wisconsin to pursue a Master's Degree. Upon graduation she hopes to work with persons and families who have a mental illness.

## Saying Goodbye

**Angie Diggs** has retired from the Foundation. She was an Oncology Clinical Research Coordinator in Medical Research.

Dean Foundation For Health, Research and Education

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