

**Response Form for the Final Performance Review Report—
Monell Chemical Senses Center 2009F***

1. Name of Grantee: Monell Chemical Senses Center
2. Year of Grant: 2009 Formula Grant

A. For the overall grant, briefly describe your grant oversight process. How will you ensure that future health research grants and projects are completed and required reports (Annual Reports, Final Progress Reports, Audit Reports, etc.) are submitted to the Department in accordance with Grant Agreements? If any of the research projects contained in the grant received an “unfavorable” rating, please describe how you will ensure the Principal Investigator is more closely monitored (or not funded) when conducting future formula funded health research.

Management for the overall grant at Monell is the responsibility of Monell Administration. Dr. Gary Beauchamp, Monell’s Director, oversees the grant by meeting periodically with individual investigators to discuss scientific progress and results. John Tran, Monell’s Administrator, oversees the budget and manages expenses to ensure that investigators stay within the established budget parameters. Erin West, Monell’s Research Grants & Contracts Administrator assists John Tran in ensuring all activities are in accordance with our Grant Agreements and acts as coordinator for the project by working with investigators about deadlines, assembling required reports and reviewing reports prior to final submission.

This research project received a rating of “outstanding” and therefore no need for additional monitoring of investigators is needed at this time.

For each research project contained in the grant, please provide a response to items B-D as listed on the following page(s). When submitting your response please include the responses for all projects in one document. The report cannot be submitted as a ZIP file, because the Department’s exchange server will remove it from the email. If the report exceeds 2MB, please contact the Health Research Program for transmittal procedures: 717-783-2548.

* Please note that for grants ending on or after July 1, 2007, grantees’ Final Performance Review Reports, Response Forms, and Final Progress Reports ***will be made publicly available on the CURE Program’s Web site.***

Project Number: 0991701

Project Title: Relationship between Parental Smoking, Dietary Habits, Salt and Sweet Preferences and Blood Pressure among Children

Investigator: Mennella, Julie

B. Briefly describe your plans to address each specific weakness and recommendation in Section B using the following format. As you prepare your response please be aware that the Final Performance Review Report, this Response Form, and the Final Progress Report will be made publicly available on the CURE Program's Web site.

Reviewer 1: None.

Reviewer 2:

1. The investigators should be sure to address their aims as the primary conclusion of any publication resulting from this work. For example, the included abstract does not mention the null association between maternal smoking and child taste preference, or the implications of this finding. The abstract also does not include the genotyping results (perhaps not available at that time).

Response: The manuscript which reports the results of this project is current being prepared for publication and the original aims of the project will be systematically reported, including the lack of effect of maternal smoking on the taste preferences of the child. There are several possible explanations for this lack of association; the most obvious is that the effects of development on taste preferences, such as the preference for sweetness and saltiness may overshadow the effects of maternal smoking. However, the effect of early exposure to second hand smoke may emerge later in life. On a related topic, the genotyping results are now available and will be included in ensuring manuscripts.

2. The analysis should account for clustering within mothers; it is not appropriate just to include the same mothers twice when there are siblings.

Response: Genetically informative methods of data analysis are available to analyze data where there is one parent and several siblings, such as intraclass correlations. As one example, the FCOR module of the SAGE package computes parent-offspring correlations which corrects statistically for this type of family structure.

Reviewer 3:

It is recommended that the data also be analyzed using a statistical method that accounts for potential lack of independence due to some families having multiple siblings. These results can be compared to their current results based on statistical methods that assume independence of observations in order to determine the extent of the impact of correlated observations on the results.

Response: There are several family-based methods of genotype and phenotype analysis which take into consideration family structures with multiple siblings, e.g., intraclass correlations. We

have experience with these methods, and have previously published similar results using either SOLAR and the FCOR module of the SAGE package.

Generic Recommendations for Monell Chemical Senses Center

Reviewer 1:

This is an outstanding project. It was well-conceptualized and well-carried out. The project produced results that are important to understanding the environmental and genetic sources of preferences for sweet and salt, major contributors to dietary choice and to the health consequences thereof.

Response:

No response required.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reviewer 3:

I did not identify any significant weaknesses that require improvement; although I would recommend that the data also be analyzed using a statistical method that accounts for potential lack of independence due to some families having multiple siblings. These results can be compared to their current results based on statistical methods that assume independence of observations in order to determine the extent of the impact of correlated observations on the results.

Response:

As mentioned above, there are statistical methods which are frequently used to control statistically for the family structures used here, mothers and one or more children. The data analysis in its final form will use these methods.

C. If the research project received an “unfavorable” rating, please indicate the steps that you intend to take to address the criteria that the project failed to meet and to modify research project oversight so that future projects will not receive “unfavorable” ratings.

Response: The average score for this project 1.33 placing it in the outstanding category and thus no response is required in this section.

D. Additional comments in response to the Final Performance Review Report (OPTIONAL):

Response: None.