

Please give this invitation to your health care professional!

**Southern Arizona Celiac Support Group
Invites You to Attend a Lecture Presented by**



Alessio Fasano, MD

**January 15, 2005
10:00 a.m.**

**University Medical Center – College of Pharmacy
The Auditorium – (room 325)
www.SouthernArizonaCeliacSupport.org**

-
- ▶ Celiac Disease is a genetically transmitted autoimmune condition occurring when the lining of the small intestine becomes inflamed and damaged in response to exposure to dietary gluten (wheat, barley, rye or oats).
 - ▶ A minimum of 1 out of 130 Americans suffer from Celiac Disease and most do not know they have it. Celiac Disease is the most under-diagnosed condition in the United States.
 - ▶ Diagnosis is difficult because ***no two*** Celiacs will present with ***exactly*** the same symptoms. Symptoms ***may*** include some, just one or all of the following: anemia, IBS, depression, chronic fatigue, osteoporosis, diarrhea/constipation, migraines, liver damage, infertility, thyroid problems, GERD, alopecia and neurological complications. Over 30% of newly diagnosed Celiacs are overweight or obese.
 - ▶ There are new diagnostic blood tests available to screen for and detect Celiac Disease.

Dr. Fasano is regarded as one of the foremost authorities worldwide on Celiac Disease, and his epidemiological studies in the United States have changed the preconception that Celiac Disease is a rare disorder in our country.

An accomplished biomedical scientist and educator, Dr. Fasano is currently **Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Mucosal Biology Research Center and Center for Celiac Research at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine** where he concomitantly holds the rank of Professor of Physiology and Professor of Medicine. Dr. Fasano originally came to the University of Maryland Baltimore and to the School of Medicine in 1990 as Research Assistant Professor in the Center for Vaccine Development. He rose to the rank of Professor in six years, reflecting both the extraordinary energy which he brings to his work and the seminal discoveries which have emanated from his laboratory.

Dr. Fasano's scholarly efforts have also focused on the pathophysiology of intercellular tight junctions. Through a series of studies published in prestigious journals, Dr. Fasano described an intestinal mammalian analogue of a *Vibrio cholerae* derived protein, which reversibly opens intestinal tight junctions. Dr. Fasano named this protein zonulin, and subsequently showed its participation in physiological regulation of intercellular tight junctions in a wide range of epithelia beyond the intestine.

CE credits approval pending. See www.SouthernArizonaCeliacSupport.org for updates and details.