

Dr. Fasano may test CD pill within a year

Alba Therapeutics, a Baltimore-based biopharmaceutical company, has sought approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to conduct clinical trials to test the use of AT-1001, an oral zonulin blocker, in patients with celiac disease. While no exact dates were given, Dr. Fasano said, "If everything goes to plan, we could have a product ready by the end of 2006."

In the initial study, led by Alessio Fasano, M.D., professor of pediatrics, medicine and physiology and director of the University of Maryland Mucosal Biology Research Center, researchers used an animal model of

diabetes (mice genetically predisposed to develop diabetes) and found a way to prevent the disease by changing the permeability of the intestinal wall with AT-1001. Dr. Fasano calls the substance that regulates intestinal permeability 'zonulin'.

Zonulin regulates the permeability of the intestines by controlling the opening and closing of specialized structures that act like gates between cells. When the body pro-

duces too much zonulin, these gates get stuck open for too long and allow undigested foodstuff, toxins and other bacterial and viral particles access to the immune system.

Dr. Fasano has theorized that the immune response mechanism responsible for the development of diabetes is similar to that causing celiac disease. The drug has been successfully tested on diabetic mice, but not celiac mice as these rodents do not get celiac disease.

There is no guarantee that humans will have the same response as the mice, but celiacs can hope.



Hoggan talk

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in his talk are mentioned in his book in more detail. Autism, ADHD, osteoporosis, additional food allergies, lymphoma, and fibromyalgia are just a few of the topics he briefly discussed.

After his talk, Hoggan answered nu-

merous questions that provided further avenues for discussion and investigation by audience members. For a great read, or to further your own research, *Dangerous Grains* is a valuable addition to your home library. Thanks to Ron for his insights and perspective.

Dangerous Grains is available at Amazon.com for \$10.17 plus shipping (used books available, also). Even more information is available from his website at <http://www.gluten-free.org/hoggan>. Articles he has written concerning the variability of the response to gluten - from *Acne* to *Vascular Disease* - are available for download.

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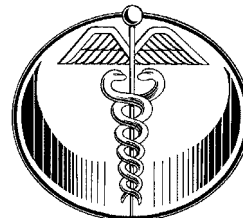
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Health news to use

Tonsillitis or allergy?

Had your tonsils taken out as a rite of passage before you entered junior high? Maybe it was a food allergy that led to some unnecessary surgeries.

In a study published on Medscape.com, 136 children ages three to seven years who had enlarged tonsils, in over 28% of the cases, food allergy was confirmed as the main cause of the complaint. The doctors recommended that children not be exposed to known allergens to reduce the chance of inflamed tonsils.



Thymus gland not useless?

Norwood Abbey is commercializing a gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) product designed to rejuvenate the thymus gland and boost the immune system through regulation of specific sex steroid hormones. They are hoping to explore treatment of autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and Type 1 diabetes.

Certainly this effort could apply to treatment of autoimmune disorders related to celiac disease, and, perhaps, even celiac disease itself.

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