

## **Mount Sinai Researchers Undertake a Study of a Novel Treatment of Milk Allergy**

Unlike lactose intolerance, persons with milk allergy may experience reactions that include skin rashes, trouble breathing or loss of blood circulation. Milk allergy can be severe and potentially fatal. The primary treatment has been avoidance of milk, with preparation to treat severe reactions with injections of adrenaline. Researchers at the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute at Mount Sinai are conducting a study on the Clinical Research Unit (supported by the Conduits, the Institutes for Translational Sciences, funded by grant # UL1RR029887 from the NCRR), that is aimed at finding a better treatment and a possible cure.

Prior research has show that milk oral immunotherapy, a gradual introduction of milk in minuscule and increasing amounts under doctor supervision, has been effective in allowing some patients to ingest larger amounts of milk despite their allergy. However, this treatment has been prone to side effects and may not permanently cure an allergy. This new study, supported by the NIH, is designed to learn about the safety and medical effects of milk oral immunotherapy alone compared to undertaking this treatment together with Xolair®. Xolair® inactivates a protein made by the immune system, called IgE, that plays a critical role in milk allergy. Xolair® is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use in certain people with moderate to severe allergic asthma, but is has not been tested or approved for use with milk OIT. Researchers are evaluating whether this additional therapy can improve the safety and efficacy of milk oral immunotherapy.