

WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF A LONG-AWAITED DAY. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CELIAC DISEASE CENTER, WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF BRINGING YEARS' WORTH OF INTENSIVE AND MULTIFACETED RESEARCH TO THE GOAL WE ALL SEEK SO FIERCELY: PREVENTING, TREATING, AND CURING CELIAC DISEASE.



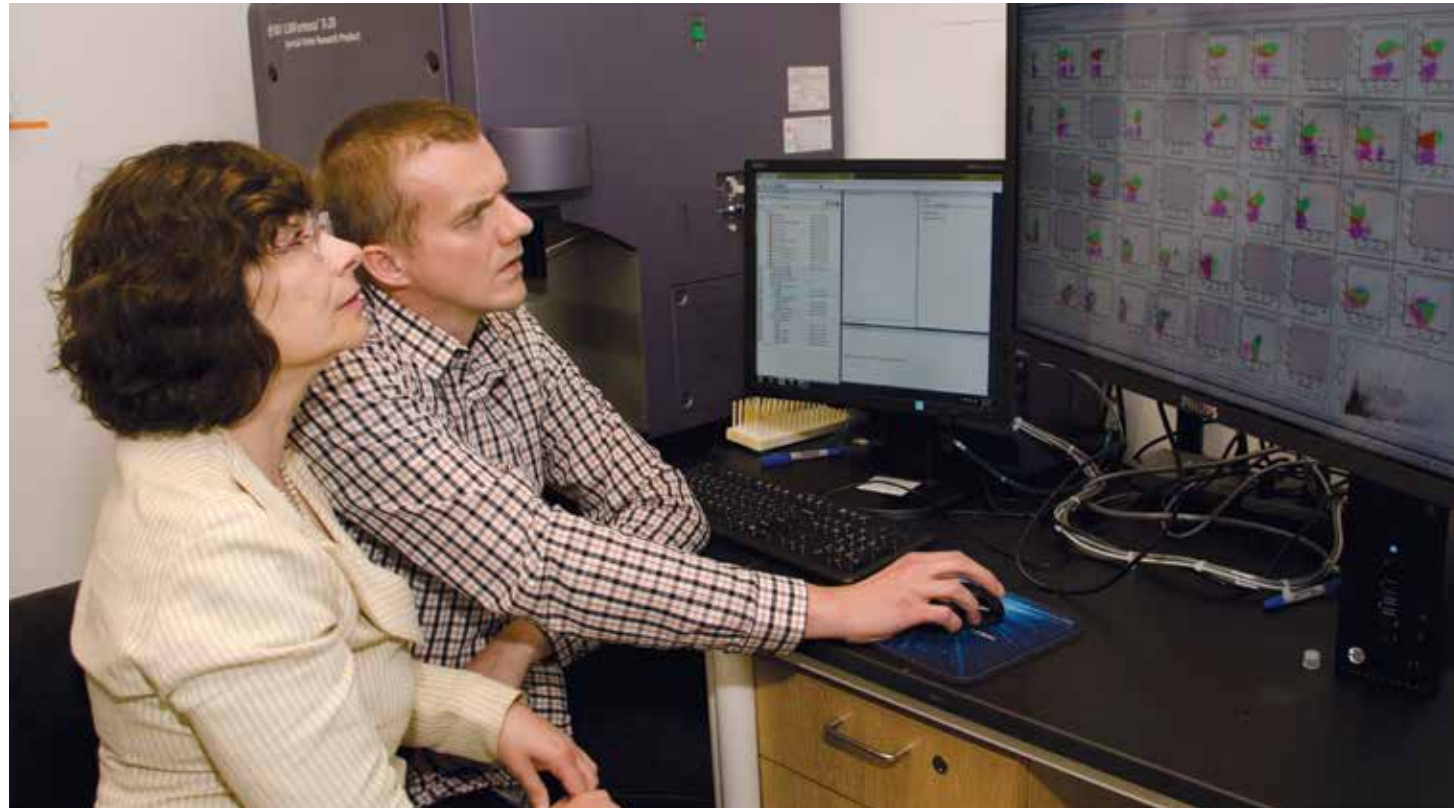
AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago
Medicine**

cureceliacdisease.org

Celiac
Disease
Center

Dr. Jabri and Cezary Ciszewski make good use of the far-reaching capabilities of the donor-funded FACS machine



With your help, Bana Jabri, MD, PhD, and her team of world-renowned scientists are making discoveries that are unraveling the complex workings of celiac disease.

We are an international hub of clinical trials—the critical step before doctors can prescribe novel therapies. Between those trials and ongoing basic research, we are closer than ever to bringing profound changes to the lives of those living with celiac disease.

Equally committed to providing care, we host a team of dedicated clinicians and expert nurses and dietitians who attract patients from around the country. We are looking to enhance our treatment of the whole person by meeting each individual's psychosocial and nutritional needs, and by building our health outcomes research.

We are focused, too, on training the next generation of physician-scientists—and educating clinicians who are unfamiliar with celiac disease.

WE COULD NOT HAVE COME THIS FAR WITHOUT YOU! YOU CAN TAKE PRIDE IN BRINGING ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES IN UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING CELIAC DISEASE, AND BRINGING US TO THIS EXCITING MOMENT. YOU CAN HELP US REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

Please support our work moving forward. You can mail in your gift or donate online through our secure website at www.cureceliacdisease.org/donate



MAJOR ADVANCE IN EDUCATING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

We have long been dismayed at the widespread ignorance about celiac disease within the medical profession, which leads to delays in diagnosis and additional suffering. We responded in 2006 by creating our Preceptorship Program, which brought over 200 doctors, nurses, and dietitians to the University of Chicago Medicine for a two-day intensive course on celiac disease.

We were limited, however, in the number of clinicians we could bring on site. So this year, we took the program online.

We recorded our lectures, made them available to the public for a small donation to the Celiac Disease Center, and with the help of a donor will be marketing the course widely. The Online Preceptorship Program in Celiac Disease is now universally accessible, bringing accurate information about diagnosing and treating celiac disease to health care clinicians worldwide. With this expansion, we hope to reach over 1,000 medical professionals each year.

TOP: Dr. Semrad works closely with Adult Gastroenterology nurse Sharese Newsom.

BOTTOM: Dr. Kupfer in the lab.



GAME-CHANGING DISCOVERIES

These are some of our research achievements that are poised to bring real change to the future of celiac disease:



Viral influences

The recent discovery of an innocuous reovirus that trigger some celiac may provide the first step in developing a vaccine to prevent the disease entirely. These studies may help uncover other viruses or environmental factors that trigger the disease.



Animal models/genetic risk

The first preclinical mouse model is helping accelerate FDA approval and new targeted therapies.

It is also identifying ways to prevent celiac or diagnose it at an earlier stage, reducing or eliminating years of painful and embarrassing gastrointestinal issues.



The microbiome

By studying the difference in gut microbes between those with celiac and those without, we may identify a probiotic that can reduce or extinguish symptoms completely. These studies can lead to drugs or foods that rebalance the gut's bacterial makeup and thus decrease inflammation and pain. A new effort to identify gut bacteria that specifically digest gluten may reduce damage due to accidental exposure.



Big data

Epidemiological/bioinformatics studies of hundreds of medical records of people with celiac may expose likely genes, microbes, and other influences that put patients at greatest risk. Probable agents can then be tested in our animal models to identify new targets for treatment.

For example, we are conducting an extensive study of genetic material taken from different demographic groups of patients to study the way celiac disease behaves in each. We have discovered differences between men and women, and between adults and children—an important first step toward personalized medicine targeting treatment to specific sub-groups.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Celiac Center Nutrition Advisor, Lori Welstead, MS, RD, LDN shares her knowledge at the International Celiac Disease Symposium; Dr. Guandalini consults with a patient and her family; a young guest enjoys a piece of gluten-free pizza at Spring Flours™.



Living healthily with celiac disease requires skill in negotiating the everyday environment—especially for children and teens, where most positive social encounters, from school lunches to prom, is organized around food.

Dr. Jabri takes Gianna Carlino of The Alissa and Gianna Carlino Fellowship in Celiac Disease Research on a tour of the lab.



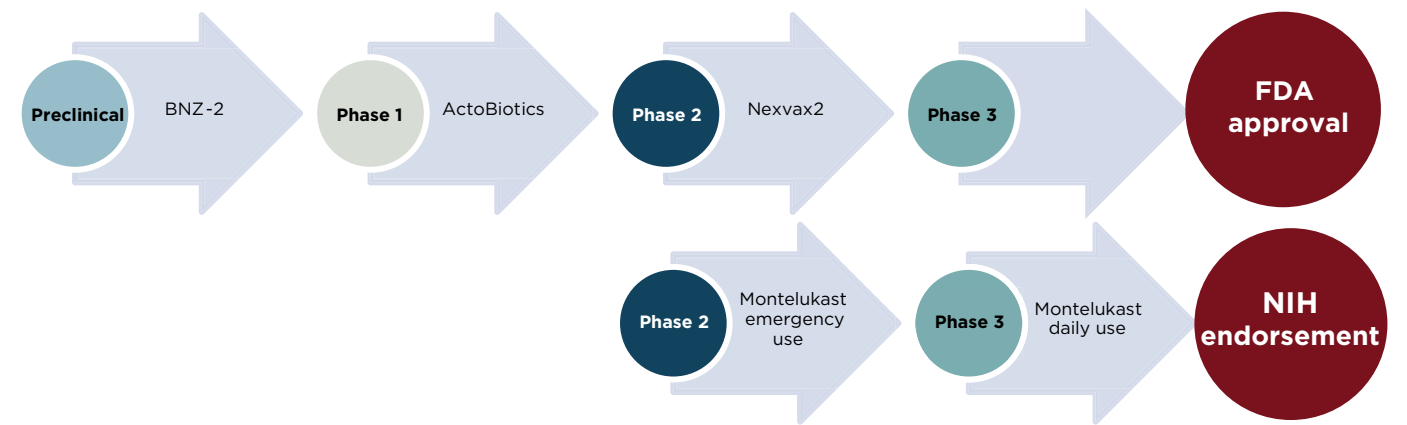
PIVOTAL MOMENT IN CLINICAL TRIALS—THE PATH TO NEW TREATMENTS

The mouse model Dr. Jabri developed has been key to our leading role in the clinical trial space. Promising new treatments must first be tested in mice—and Dr. Jabri’s model is the first, and so far only, mouse model of celiac disease.

Moreover, our clinical staff has attracted a patient population of extraordinary size and diversity, which attracts the interest of pharmaceutical companies with the newest drugs to test. Pharma’s engagement means that our patients regularly have access to the latest drugs in development or hear first about treatments already approved for other conditions that may be effective against celiac.



PROPOSED CLINICAL TRIALS



Under the leadership of Dr. Jabri and in collaboration with Sonia Kupfer, MD, and Carol Semrad, MD, the Celiac Disease Center is working to develop and advance to market four types of drugs:

ImmusanT

an injectable vaccine called Nexvax2 that induces a measure of gluten tolerance and thus may counter gluten’s ability to induce intestinal damage—the only possible cure of celiac disease in development

ActoBiotics

a new class of orally delivered biopharmaceuticals that uses beneficial bacteria to induce tolerance to gluten Testing is expected to advance to Phase 1 clinical trials for safety.

Bioniz

a first-in-class protective agent that tamps down the deleterious immune response induced by gluten Our researchers just finalized a manuscript showing Bioniz to be effective—an essential step in order to win FDA approval of clinical trials in humans.

Montelukast

a drug previously approved as safe and effective for asthma that appears to alleviate inflammation in adults exposed to gluten We are ready to conduct clinical trials to validate the drugs’ efficacy for celiac disease when we get donor support

The therapeutic approaches utilized by both Bioniz and Montelukast stem directly from research discoveries made at the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center.



IMAGINE: A LIFE UNENCUMBERED BY CELIAC

We are leading the race toward a bright future in addressing celiac disease. You can be a crucial part of that future.

With gratitude for your support in getting us to this exciting point, we ask you to help us move forward and bring to reality new approaches that will transform patients' lives for years to come.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK.

Donate now at www.cureceliacdisease.org/donate

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FRONT COVER: Founder and Medical Director Dr. Stefano Guandalini with Dr. Sonia Kupfer, Celiac Center Director of Clinical Genetic Research, and Dr. Carol Semrad, Director of Adult Clinical Research

TOP RIGHT: Dr. Bana Jabri, Celiac Center Director of Research; **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Dr. Hilary Jericho, Celiac Center Director of Pediatric Clinical Research. **BACK COVER:** Alissa & Gianna Carlino Fellowship in Celiac Disease Research recipient Dr. Valentina Discepolo with Preston Stotler, an industrious young fundraiser who donated his profits to The Center.

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