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## Announcement

## The Australian NHMRC Twin Registry: A Resource for Pediatric Research

The Australian NHMRC Twin Registry contains more than 4000 pairs of twins under 10 years old and 3000 more up to the age of 18 years. The parents of these twins have volunteered to consider requests from researchers for studies in *bona fide* projects approved by the Registry. This represents a major resource for studies in pediatric and adolescent epidemiology. There are numerous ways in which twins can be used to address scientific and medical questions. Some examples include examining genetic and environmental variation, co-twin control studies based on disease discordant or exposure discordant pairs, longitudinal studies, and studies of gene-environment interaction (Clifford and Hopper: The Australian NHMRC Twin Registry. A resource for the Australian scientific community. Med J Aust 60:149, 1986). Although there have been more than 70 projects conducted over the last 12 years on the 17000 adult pairs in the Registry, to date there have been few studies making use of the younger pairs. Baseline information has been computerized on about 50% of these pairs. Applications to use the Registry can be made from researchers throughout the world. There may be some charge, depending on costs and level of work required by local staff. All applications are reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Registry, and advice on study design and practicalities is available. For more information, contact: Dr. John L. Hopper, Director, Australian NHMRC Twin Registry, 151 Barry Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia.