

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2, 2010 Hackensack, New Jersey -

Statement of the SUDC Program concerning the article published in the Feb. 3 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* entitled: "Brainstem Serotonergic Deficiency in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome" by Kinney et al.

The above article represents a profound advancement in our understanding of SIDS, and we commend Dr Kinney and her team for their vigilance in pursuing the pieces to these mysterious tragedies.

Several past studies, including those of Dr Kinney's team, have already revealed abnormalities in the brainstems and serotonin systems of infants who have died of SIDS but they were not able to determine whether there was an overproduction or underproduction of the neurotransmitters involved. The findings reported in this JAMA article demonstrate a deficiency in the production of serotonin, as well as the enzyme which produces it (tryptophan hydroxylase). In addition, by showing a presence of a SIDS risk factor in 95% of all cases in this study, the paper further underscores the need for caregivers of infants to be ever vigilant in implementing all safe sleep/SIDS risk-reduction practices. The work is a monumental step towards our full understanding of SIDS and we are thrilled by its release!

The SUDC Program and the CJ Foundation for SIDS are proud to continue our work to support Dr Kinney's team and facilitate researching ways to identify why this deficiency occurs in some babies and then work towards identifying those babies affected and how to treat them.

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The SUDC Program of the CJ Foundation was established in September 2001 and provides families and professionals with a centralized resource for information, support and advocacy. Similar to SIDS, SUDC is a sudden unexpected death that remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation however it occurs after the child's first birthday.

For more information on the above referenced research article, visit [www.jama.com](http://www.jama.com) or [www.SUDC.org](http://www.SUDC.org) . For all SUDC press inquiries, please contact Laura Crandall at 800-620-SUDC.

