

## **Children's Care study on growth and nutrition of children with cerebral palsy published in Journal of Pediatrics**

Dr. Julie Johnson, MD, and Lois Vogel, MS, PT, PCS, co-authored a study comparing growth and nutrition in children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) who lived in a home environment and those who lived in a residential care facility. The study, titled "Growth and Nutritional Status in Residential Center versus Home - Living Children and Adolescents with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy" was published in the August 2007 Journal of Pediatrics.

The study assessed more than 205 children and adolescents with moderate to severe CP living at home and 75 children living in a residential care facility. With parent consent, some of the children who reside at Children's Care Hospital & School participated in the study. This was a joint effort involving other facilities and researchers who are members of the North American Growth in Cerebral Palsy Project (NAGCePP).

The study consisted of completing a detailed evaluation including a medical history, Tanner staging, the Children's Health Status and an assessment of each child's various bone length, limb circumferential measures, and skinfolds.

Children with CP frequently are smaller and thinner as compared to typically developing peers. Overall, results of the study indicated that children in residential care grew differently than children living at home. Results showed a positive association of residential care with growth and nutrition. Reasons for these positive effects may relate to the fact that children living in residential care facilities have complex health-care needs that involve 24/7 nursing care with access to physicians. Facilities also have easier access to various therapies and dietary support.