

# What's Up Doc?

A KID'S-EYE VIEW OF THE DIABETES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

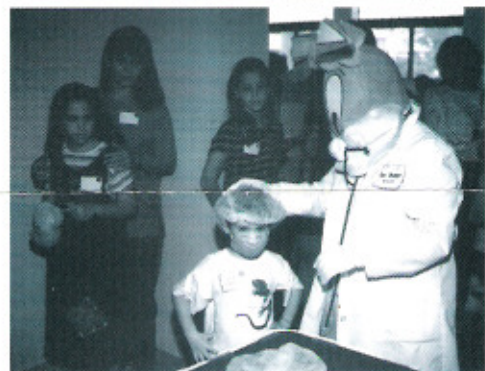
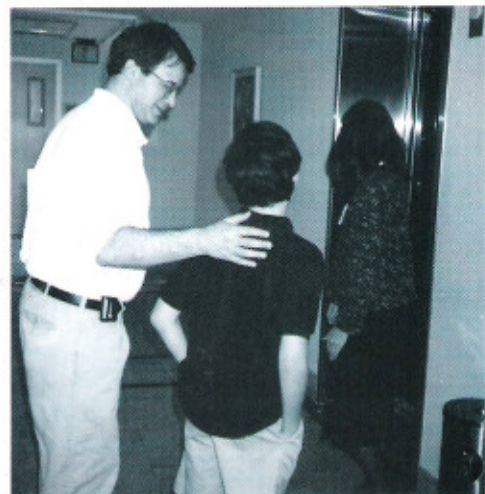


**H**i! My name is Zachary Ullman, and I'm 11 years old. When I was 15 months old, I was diagnosed with diabetes. Ever since then, my whole family has been hoping for a cure. My mom and dad do a lot of reading, and spend a lot of time on the Internet to try and learn about what can be done.

On September 12th, my whole family got to visit the Diabetes Research Institute for the *What's Up Doc?* event, so we could see what the researchers are doing. A lot of other kids with diabetes were there with their families. I enjoyed seeing some friends that I hadn't seen in a long time, like my friend Ramon, who I met at a DRI support group, and saw again at diabetes camp. I also made some new friends. I felt very proud to be there that day, because it's not every day that you get to see for yourself what they're doing at the DRI. And, it made me hope that they will get the cure soon!

When we got there, they put us into groups, and we went to see everything the researchers are doing at the DRI. I sure hope they find the cure soon so I can take off my insulin pump. I've worn the pump since I was 7, so I don't have to take daily shots any more.

When we got off the elevator on the 5th Floor, "Dr. Bugs" was there and gave us a surgical cap and mask to wear. (But I knew it was really a person in the costume!) My first stop was Dr. Inverardi's lab, where we all payed close attention as he showed us



# What's up Doc? Continued

some mice. I also got to look at some cells under the microscope. I think it's cool that they're doing experiments to find a cure.

I was very interested in Dr. Inverardi's work, and had a lot of questions that I wanted to ask. I was glad that I was able to ask him more about his research, and he took the time to explain things to me. I felt good about asking questions to the scientists because you never know when you'll have another chance like this!

Next we visited Dr. Bartlett in "Genetic Park." Dr. Bartlett works in gene therapy, and he showed us a "gene gun," and how it worked. I wondered which part was the trigger and which part was the bullet. Dr. Bartlett explained it to me, and then he let me fire it myself!

We also visited Dr. Kenyon, and she told us about her work in immunology, and how they can trick the immune system to not reject islet cells from a donor. Dr. Kenyon has a daughter named Laura who has diabetes, too, so she is working extra hard to find a cure for all of us.

When we visited Dr. Meneghini in the clinic, he showed us a computer that tells you how much insulin you should take. I really liked learning about that. In fact, I enjoyed my entire day at the DRI, and hope that I will be able to go back again next year.

As you can see, there are really dedicated people working at DRI and that's how they've gotten so far toward finding the cure. I like to think of things in terms of video games. It's like the villain of the game is diabetes, and you try to find a weapon to win against the villain. I think the researchers at DRI will find the weapon to win and cure diabetes for all of us.

That will be a good day!

