



9800 Vinson Court, Little Rock, AR 72205
Phone: 501-223-DOWN (3696)
www.ardownsyntax.org

ARKANSAS DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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DOWN SYNDROME LEGISLATION May Open Center of Excellence at UAMS

If legislation that would allocate \$6 million annually for the National Institutes of Health to establish six centers of excellence for Down syndrome research is approved, Arkansas could have one of them at the Genetics/Down Syndrome Clinic at UAMS in Little Rock. The legislation would also require NIH to create and update a Down syndrome research plan every five years and the bills call for the establishment of three research databases.

The set of new bills introduced in Congress would establish the first-ever centers for studying Down syndrome. Since 2000, the Children's Health Act has specifically authorized research for several conditions including autism, epilepsy, asthma and fragile X syndrome, but not Down syndrome. Now, the two bills introduced by U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., could change that.

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DOWN SYNDROME STUDY FINDS FAMILIES ARE HAPPY

Having a child with Down syndrome (DS) may come as a surprise, but it's a good experience, families are reporting in a trio of new surveys. Researchers surveyed more than 3,000 family members and people with DS across the country for what's believed to be one of the largest looks at life with DS. The findings, which were published in three articles in the October issue of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, offer a rosy picture.



The Cockmon Family

(See HAPPY FAMILIES, Page 2)

Gettin' Down for Down Syndrome 2011
Fun for All!!!



Families who have a child or an adult with Down syndrome are invited to attend the

Family Holiday Party

Hosted by
Arkansas Down Syndrome Association

Saturday, December 3, 2011

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

at
Genetics/Down Syndrome Clinic
Freeway Medical Center
6th Floor

Fun for all including a visit from Santa
Refreshments (including gluten-free)