



## **The Sturge-Weber Foundation awards Research Grant for First-time Laser Therapy Comparison**

*Dr. Wangun Jia at Beckman Institute to receive funding*

For Immediate Release

MT FREEDOM, N.J./EWORLDWIRE/May 6, 2008 --- When clinical trials of two different modes of delivering laser therapy to port wine stains gets underway, via a grant awarded by the Sturge-Weber Foundation (SWF), the proposed comparison would be the first of its kind.

The one-year research grant was awarded to Wangcun Jia, Ph.D., assistant project scientist at the Beckman Laser Institute of the University of California at Irvine (UCI), for research titled, "Treatment of Port Wine Stain Birthmarks with Multiple Laser Pulses Approach."

Sturge-Weber Syndrome (SWS) is a congenital neurological disorder with no known cause and no cure. SWS occurs in both males and females and in all racial groups. Characteristics of SWS include a facial port wine stain birthmark, seizure disorder and glaucoma.

Because of the complexity of vascular lesions, this study has the potential to lessen the treatment time and enhance the quality of life for persons with port wine stains, according to Karen L Ball, SWF president and CEO.

With an international membership, the Sturge-Weber Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation formed in 1987, which provides education, networking support and outreach for families and individuals coping with Sturge-Weber syndrome as well as related vascular malformations, in addition to fostering research.

Grant funds are provided by private contributions to the Sturge-Weber Foundation from SWF members nationwide, in part, during the Foundations annual Month of Awareness in May. Learn more online at '<http://www.sturge-weber.org>'.

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