Meil Family Foundation 2026 Research Award for Neurocognitive Studies

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Title: ***Literacy Skills in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease and the Impact on Health Literacy and Quality of Life***

Neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive deficits have become increasingly recognized in adults with congenital heart disease (ACHD). The same neurocognitive problems that have been identified as vulnerabilities in the ACHD population are foundational to literacy skills and reading comprehension. We hypothesize that ACHD patients have a higher risk of having literacy limitations and that these limitations affect overall health literacy and quality of life. There have been no published studies to date that specifically examine literacy and reading comprehension in the ACHD population.

The proposed study will seek to enroll young adults age 18-30 years old with moderate to severely complex congenital heart disease who are cared for at either Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt or Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute's Adult Congenial Heart Disease Program. Participants will be evaluated by a study team member to assess their reading skills, health literacy, and quality of life with validated assessment tools. We anticipate that these data will help to identify patients who are at risk for poor literacy skills and inform development of literacy interventions and communication tools to improve overall functioning of ACHD patients.