Podcast Transcript:
Dr. Ron Falk
Minimal Change Disease
“Minimal Change Disease: What causes it?”

Parent of Patient	What causes Minimal Change Disease?
Dr. Falk	Unfortunately, we really don’t know what causes it. When you take a kidney biopsy and look at the results of that biopsy under a microscope, you hardly see any alterations to the glomerular architecture. Remember that you have about a million, a million and a half of these little filters called glomeruli, that filter blood, getting rid of toxins and water. Minimal Change Disease is a disease that alters the final barrier to filtration of those toxins and water with a group of cells called epithelial cells. For some reason, these cells are damaged, allowing protein that’s supposed to stay in the blood compartment, to go into the urine. What actually makes these epithelial cells, or podocytes, almost fuse, is unclear. We think that it may be due to something coming from circulating lymphocytes, but the sad truth is we really don’t know.