From the Chairman’s Desk

I had planned to use the June newsletter to review exciting events over the 08-09 academic year. However there were just too many exciting events from May and June to not just share them. The telemedicine Genetics clinic is exciting and environmentally friendly. Paola Dees, PL-1 was honored by the M-III class. I am sure she is environmentally friendly as well. We announce the 10-11 Chief residents, Jeanine and Karolina. The others who applied were similarly outstanding. June is the month we say Hail and Farewell to our residents who have been with us for 3 or 4 years as they seek additional training or start their practices. We then welcome the new residents who start their 3-4 year journey with us. I look forward to seeing you at the Graduation event on 6/20 and the Welcoming Party at our house on 6/27. Finally I am looking for Facebook and Twitter help. We need to move with the times! Have a great Summer.

Bob Nelson

Congratulations to Paola Dees, MD who was the recipient of the Humanism & Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Dees is currently a PGY-1 in the Department of Pediatrics. The award was presented during the Student Clinician Ceremony on June 5th. This award recognizes the resident who has proven to be an excellent example in patient care and in doing so have taught us to be better physicians.

Dr. EJ Prijoles, above, participates in the first telemedicine genetics clinic held between Ft. Myers CMS and CMS Tampa. Ft. Myers split their wide-screen monitor in half to show the geneticist on one half and the kids on the other half - the kids loved seeing themselves on camera. Clinic was a success and we’re looking forward to the next run.
**Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments**

**Nembhard WN, Salemi JL, Loscalzo ML, Wang T, Hauser KW.** *Are Black and Hispanic Infants with Congenital Heart Defects at Increased Risk of Preterm Birth?* Pediatric Cardiology 2009 [ePub ahead of print].

**Lynn Ringenberg, MD and Jeanette Fleischer, ARNP** were invited presenters for RMH-Chicago’s International “Care Mobile” webinar During the week of May 11th (there was one other presenter from Philadelphia). There were over 80 participants from all over the US and world that got to see/hear all about our mobile outreach program with RMHC of Tampa Bay.

The following manuscript has been accepted for publication: Han, Mingda, Maria C. Serrano, Rosana Lastra-Vicente, Pilar Brinez, Ganesh Acharya, James C. Huhta, Ren Chen, and Kersti K. Linask. *Folate rescues lithium, homocysteine, or Wnt3A induced vertebrate cardiac anomalies.* 2009. In Disease Models and Mechanisms.

On April 8th Dr. Linask presented a seminar on at the Cardiology Grand Rounds at Tampa General Hospital. The lecture was on “Cardiac Teratogenicity and Congenital Heart Disease: Implications for the Adult Heart”.

Dr. Linask was invited to present a lecture on April 21st at the recent FASEB 2009 meeting in New Orleans. The lecture was part of a Forum on Medical Education. Her lecture was entitled: “Early Heart Morphogenesis: Cellular and Molecular Perspectives”.

Dr. Linask is on the organizing committee of the national Weinstein Conference on Cardiovascular Development. At this year’s Weinstein 2009 Conference held on May 7-9 in San Francisco, she chaired a session on the Epicardium. In addition her lab presented two abstracts:

(i) **Folate suppresses Wnt/β-Catenin effects on cardiogenesis to protect against induction of congenital heart defects.** **Authors:** Mingda Han, M.D., Maria Serrano, M.D., Rosana Lastra, B.A., and Kersti K Linask, Ph.D.

(ii) **Insights into Structure and Function of the Developing Heart Using OCT.** **Authors:** Barbara Garita, Michael Jenkins, Andrew Rollins, Michael VanAuker, Michiko Watanabe and Kersti K. Linask.

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**June Birthdays:** Shona Varanelli (Jun 2); Jane Stephens (Jun 5); Diane Straub (Jun 5); Kaye Connolly (Jun 6); Carol Lilly (Jun 8); Brian Bundy (Jun 9); Jose Lizzarelde (Jun 10); Priscilla Julian (Jun 11); Pamela Lynch (Jun 12); Jessica Meneses (Jun 14); Melissa Santos-Gregory (Jun 14); Luis Maldonado (Jun 15); Rolly Chaudhary (Jun 16); Allyson Casey (Jun 18); Lavanya Nallamshetty (Jun 25); Karen Richardson (Jun 25); Lesia Staples-Messick (Jun 25); Beatriz Arvelo (Jun 25); Gary Litman (Jun 26); Avelyna Matus (Jun 26); Lisa Jarboe (Jun 28); Denise Edwards (Jun 29); Cynthia Hayes (Jun 29); Sonia McGriff (Jun 30); Sharon Perlman (Jun 30); Barbara Ross (Jun 30)
Residency/Fellowship Program Updates

Jennifer Pesce, MD has been appointed Resident Liaison to the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society.

Karolina Dembinski, DO will serve as the Chair to the Resident Section of the Florida AAP and Jeannine Del Pizzo, MD will serve as Associate Chair.

Announcing the new Chief Residents for 2010-11

Jeannine Del Pizzo, MD  Karolina Dembinski, DO

Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments Con’t

Rani Gereige, MD:  Was recently appointed to the Editorial Board of Pediatrics in Review of the AAP. This appointment runs from July 2009 through June 2012.

Patricia Emmanuel, MD:  Was reappointed to the Committee on AIDS of the AAP.

The following posters were presented at the PAS/SPR meeting in Baltimore in May:

Thomas Havranek, Rajan Wadhawan, Jane Carver:  Type of Feeding Affects the Development of Intestinal Blood Flow in Very Low Birth Weight Infants.


Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments Con’t

News from the Rothman Center:


Dr. Eric Storch was asked to review NIH ARRA grants.

Drs. Storch and Murphy (Storch PI; Murphy Co-I) received funding from the FMHI to study “Telephone Administered Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Pediatric Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder”.

Soichi Haraguchi, PhD: presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of The American Association of Immunologists in Seattle, May 8-12, 2009. His abstract was entitled: “Involvement of a receptor tyrosine kinase in the activation of cAMP and ERKI/2 by a retroviral-derived immunosuppressive peptide.”

Dr. John Sleasman was in Madrid, Spain for a meeting and in the local paper was a medical news article about his work. Below is a translation of that article.

3rd Generation of IVIG-Increased Treatment security

Dr. Sleasman presented his study at the First Immunology conference titled “New advantages in Basic Immunology and Treatment” in Madrid, Spain. He showed the results of one of his studies related with Primary Immunodeficiency treatment. Patients were between 3 and 6 year old. Privigen (IV Human Immunoglobulin) was administered every 3 or 4 weeks to increase IgG values up to normal limits. Patients without treatment in the past didn’t get more bacterial infection after Privigen was given.

Conclusion: Privigen increases IgG levels and keeps values within normal ranges. First dose used was 0.5 mg/k/min increasing q 30 minutes up to 4 mg in the first three sections and then up to 8 mg.

Due to good results, Sleasman’s group increased dose up to 12 mg with low toxicity and ½ of the patients tolerated well.

Dr. John Sleasman and Dr. Jason Caldwell are presenting at the annual meeting for the Florida Asthma, Allergy and Immunology Society in Orlando.
Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments Con’t

Dr. Jason Caldwell received a travel grant from the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology to attend this year’s annual meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

Dr. Jason Caldwell will be representing the AIR division at the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies in San Francisco, California. Dr. Jason Caldwell will have a poster on a case of Griscelli Syndrome seen at All Children’s by the division.

Carla Duff, RN CCRP and Dr. Sleasman will be speaking at the Immune Deficiency Foundation in Orlando.

Michael Fant, MD, Ph.D.; was recently awarded a research grant from the March of Dimes. His grant is one of only three in Florida and is by far the largest award.

   TITLE: PAC1 in Placental Development and Function
   From 6/1/2009 to 5/31/2012 for $314,965

This research project is attempting to define the role of a gene (Plac1) in regulating the development of the placenta, to learn how abnormalities in this gene may contribute to poor placental growth and function. The placenta plays a crucial role in assuring normal fetal growth and development, and placental problems can lead to poor fetal growth and other pregnancy complications. The study also seeks to determine whether some maternal antibodies may increase the risk of pregnancy complications including miscarriage, preeclampsia, preterm labor and uterine infections. The ultimate goal of the study is to develop innovative treatments for these pregnancy complications.

A. Petrovic; M. Dorsey; J. Miotke; C. Shepherd; N. Day; Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for pediatric patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases at All Children’s Hospital/University of South Florida.
“Items of Excellence”
By now everyone has probably seen the email publication of “Items of Excellence”. This publication will run every two weeks.

**What:** Items of Excellence (IOE) are summaries of wins and accomplishments that support the vision and strategic goals of the HSC, the College and the department – timely items that we would like everyone to know about. Examples include announcements of recently awarded federal grants, recent recent publication in a major peer-reviewed journal or presentation at a national research conference, top-level appointments and honors, collaborative/team initiatives and accomplishments by departments or colleges, etc. – all leading to national prominence.

**Who Can Submit:** Anyone at the HSC – deans, chairs, faculty, staff and students.

**How:** Please report your IOEs to your department or college under the following five categories. Be concise – just the basic facts needed:
- Creative Educational Models (emphasis on national prominence, interdisciplinary collaboration)
- Research Really Matters (emphasis on national prominence, interdisciplinary collaboration)
- Entrepreneurial Academic Practice (successful clinical practice and community outreach programs/projects, collaborations with community partners— e.g. TGH, Moffitt, VA, ACH, outpatient sites).
- Operational/Financial Innovation (streamlining of clinic operations resulting in greater efficiency and profit – scheduling, patient flow, medical records, billing, etc)
- People Excellence – Items that demonstrate the Winning Spirit, Creativity and Accomplishments of the people at HSC

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**HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Division</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Copney</td>
<td>Nursing Supervisor</td>
<td>General Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamara Schonacher</td>
<td>LPN</td>
<td>DJJ</td>
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Please join us in welcoming the above employees to the USF Health Pediatrics team!

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Look for us soon on Facebook And Twitter!
Information forthcoming.