From The Chairman

The Holiday Season starting with Halloween has begun! Despite the Bulls’ inability to win a big one, the next two months brings excitement. We have started the interview process for resident applicants and between PEDS and Med-PEDS, we have just about 200 applicants scheduled through February 2010. Currently, we have interviewed almost 30 applicants. If Dr. Panzarino looks increasingly frazzled please understand.

We were informed of the TGH GME money this week and the Department will receive approximately $160,000 over the course of the next nine months. This money is the first new GME money in the last several years and a good boost. I am looking for ideas for new clinical programs and suggestions are welcome for any of our sites. We will be discussing business plans at this month’s Division chiefs meeting.

I want to congratulate Dr. Ringenberg on her new role as Medical Director and announce the search committee for the Chief of General Pediatrics and some new hires for General Pediatrics. I am excited about these plans and the people we have interviewed.

Thanks to everyone for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. Have an exciting and safe Halloween!

~ Bob Nelson

Career Advancement

Dr. Lynn Ringenberg has accepted the position of Medical Director for Tampa Family Health Centers Inc. She will continue on in her USF Faculty position, but will step down as the Division Chief for General Pediatrics. Dr. Nelson has named interim co-chairs: Dr. Carmen Alfaro (interim Clinical chief) and Dr. Rani Ger-eige (interim Academic Chief). Please congratulate them as well.

Dream Gala Ceremony

On Saturday October 3, 2009, Dr. Malone was honored for his life long commitment to patients with Type I diabetes at the Dream Gala, that was sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation-Tampa Bay Chapter.
**Faculty Update**


Sleasman, John Antiretroviral therapy restores diversity in the T-cell receptor Vbeta repertoire of CD4 T-cell subpopulations among human immunodeficiency virus type 1-infected children and adolescents. Published in the Clinical Vaccine Immunology journal on September 2009


**Dr. Woei Eng & Dr. Loren Isakson** received travel grants to the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI) in Miami, FL, where they will represent our division in the FIT Bowl Competition.

**Dr. Patricia Emmanuelle** received a two year (9/1/09-8/31/11) grant from John E. Fogarty International Center titled Program in Adolescent HIV/AIDS Research Training (PAHRT).

**Dr. Jeffrey Krischer** received a one year (9/1/09-7/31/10) grant from National Heart Lung and Blood Institute titled Genetic Disorder of Mucociliary Clearance.

**Dr. Eric Storch** received a two year (9/21/09-8/31/11) grant from National Institute of Child Health titled 2/3 CBT for Anxiety Disorders in Autism: Adapting Treatment for Adolescents.

**Dr. Gary Litman** received a one year (9/22/09-11/30/10) grant from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious titled Novel Innate Immune Receptors in Zebrafish.

**Dr. Elena Perez** received a two year (9/29/2009 – 8/31/2010) grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of NIH titled Uncovering Co-Stimulatory T cell Help Defects in Common Variable Immunodeficiency.

**Dr. Rachel Richesson** received a two year (09/30/09-09/29/11) grant from National Library of Medicine titled Library of Standardized Patient Registry Questions for Rare Diseases.

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**Accomplishments**

**Dr. Terri Ashmeade** was elected Vice-President of the Board of Directors for the Hillsborough County Healthy Start Coalition.

**Dr. John Sleasman** was invited by CSL Behring /CPIDD to lecture on Primary Immunodeficiency Disease in Malabar, FL on September 3, 2009.

**Dr. Robert Nickerson** joined the editorial board of Pediatric Rheumatology Online Journal.

**Carla Duff, RN BSN** gave a Vivaglobin Integrated Training and Learning Information Session in Dallas, TX to physicians at Children’s Medical Center Dallas Cancer treatment wing as well as their counterparts from Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth.
Dr. Betty Horng

Dr. Horng is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neuropsychiatry in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of South Florida. Dr. Horng earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and subsequently received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Binghamton University (a State University of New York). Dr. Horng completed her internship at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA, followed by a two-year, post-doctoral fellowship specializing in the treatment of anxiety disorders at the St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Horng has taught undergraduate courses in psychology and continues to present lectures related to cognitive-behavioral therapy and anxiety. She has also mentored and supervised graduate practicum students in the treatment of anxiety disorders.

Dr. Panida Sriaroon

Dr. Panida Sriaroon has recently joined the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Sriaroon received her MD with high honors from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Following three years in Pediatric residency at Sinai Children’s Hospital in Chicago, she pursued a two-year clinical Pediatric Allergy and Immunology fellowship training at USF/All Children’s Hospital, and then an additional third year in the academic/research track of that program.

Dr. Sriaroon research project has involved studying B cell phenotypes in HIV-infected adolescents and other individuals with various immunologic disorders. She enjoys teaching and supervising residents and fellows.

Dr. Raquel Hernandez

Dr. Hernandez joins the faculty at the University of Florida after completing her pediatric residency and fellowship in general academic pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 2009, Dr. Hernandez relocated to Tampa where she was appointed assistant professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Adolescent Medicine. As a general pediatrician and clinician investigator, she strives to improve pediatric care at the patient as well as the population level. Dr. Hernandez primary scholarly interests relate to child health disparities, evaluating quality of care in patients with English proficiency and management of early childhood obesity. She completed her Master’s in Public health with a focus on public health nutrition while at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Adam Lewin

Dr. Lewin is an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neuropsychiatry in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of South Florida. Dr. Lewin received his PhD in Clinical & Health Psychology from the University of Florida. Subsequently, he completed his clinical residency and a postdoctoral National Institutes of Mental Health research fellowship in biopsychology at the Semel Institute for Neuropsychiatry and Human Behavior at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Dr. Lewin recently received a young investigator award from NARSAD (National Association for Research in Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders) and was awarded the 2007-2008 Joseph Drown Foundation and Friends of the Semel Institute Fellowship to fund his research activities at UCLA. Dr. Lewin’s clinical and research activities focus on obsessive-compulsive spectrum and anxiety disorders. Current interests focus on improving the specificity of treatments and identifying biomarkers of OCD and tic disorders in children.
Dr. Eric Storch

The Department of Pediatrics would like to congratulate Dr. Eric Storch on his newly awarded grant titled “2/3 CBT for Anxiety Disorders in Autism: Adapting Treatment for Adolescents”.

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affect approximately 1 out of 150 children and adolescents in the United States, making them one of the most common neurobiological conditions. Co-morbid anxiety disorders affect as many as 80% of youth with ASD, causing substantial distress and impairment over and above that caused by an ASD diagnosis alone. While cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) has been established as the gold standard treatment for anxiety disorders among developing youth, a protocol does not exist for early adolescents with ASD and co-morbid anxiety disorders. In fact, there are no empirically supported treatment options for early adolescents with ASD and co-morbid anxiety disorders; and existing pharmacological interventions may have some disadvantages. We (Principal Investigator: Eric Storch, Ph.D.) were awarded an NICHD challenge grant for $1,000,005 to examine CBT for early adolescents with an ASD diagnosis and co-morbid anxiety.

Accordingly, this 3-phase study involving USF, UCLA, and University of Miami aims to develop a CBT protocol for anxiety and co-morbid ASD in early adolescence for use in a future multisite clinical trial to test the efficacy of CBT in this population. Initial protocol development efforts will focus on adapting relevant treatment elements from an efficacious CBT program for younger children with ASD and co-morbid anxiety to the characteristics and clinical needs of early adolescents. Thereafter, protocol and measure development will be refined during Phases I and II through our experiences treating a total of 20 young adolescents with ASD and co-morbid anxiety disorder(s) as well as through clinician, patient, and expert feedback. The feasibility of implementation of both protocols will then be examined in the context of Phase III, which is a pilot study incorporating all the features of the planned future efficacy trial comparing CBT to a waitlist condition (N=36). Considering the rising number of youth diagnosed with ASD, and the lack of empirically supported treatment options for those young adolescents with co-morbid anxiety, our proposed work toward an efficacious CBT protocol will provide a timely contribution to public health efforts.

Dr. Tanya Murphy

The department of Pediatrics would like to congratulate Dr. Tanya Murphy on her CDC award studying the impact of Tourette's syndrome (TS) and tic disorders in Florida's children and adolescents. As principal investigator, Dr. Murphy will work alongside Dr. Eric Storch, members of the Pediatric faculty, Dr. Douglas Shytle from the USF Health Silver Child Development Center, and Dr. Norin Dollard from CFS. Dr. Murphy's current investigation augments previous research by the USF Health research team on children and adolescents with tic disorders.

This study will assess the specific challenges for families affected by tic disorders, as well as the resulting burden on public health. Faculty will gather and review a variety of information in order to evaluate disparities in knowledge, diagnosis, and treatment of tic disorders; health care needs and service use of this young populace; and the overall impact of tic disorders on the local economy. Study objectives include conducting a mail survey of caregivers to identify methods for improving interventions for youth with tic disorders, and closely examining child experiences and perspectives on the daily challenges of living with an obvious neuropsychiatric illness. Faculty will also compare and contrast accounts of young people who are coping well with those who exhibit more adjustment problems, and subsequently develop a survey that more broadly and accurately measures the life experience and service needs of this population.
USF will grant a one time, lump sum bonus to all eligible out-of-unit (not otherwise covered by Collective Bargaining Agreement) Administration and Staff employees on October 30, 2009.

Award amounts will be dependent upon performance as follows: all employees rated “exemplary” will receive $2,000 (less applicable taxes); those employees rated “commendable” will receive $1,500 (less applicable taxes); and those employees rated “achieves” will receive $1,000 (less applicable taxes). Eligible employees without an overall rating on file will receive $1,000 (less applicable taxes). The bonus amount will be prorated for part-time employees based on their FTE appointment. The bonus will be paid on Friday, October 30, 2009 and will not increase the employee’s base rate of pay. Retirement contributions will not be deducted from the bonus.

For more information please go to the Human Resource Website: [http://usfweb2.usf.edu/hr/NewsAnnouncements/Bonus.html](http://usfweb2.usf.edu/hr/NewsAnnouncements/Bonus.html)
Pediatric Allergy/Immunology Physicians
September 26th at All Children’s Specialty Care of Pasco, New Port Richey, our physicians gave lectures for Practical Pediatrics for our Clinical Colleagues: Immunology.

Dr. John Sleasman—Overview of Immunology: What the Clinician Needs to Know.
Dr. Morna Dorsey—Recurrent Infections in Children: When is a Work-Up Indicated?
Dr. Mandel Sher—Chronic Rhinitis Made Easy.
Dr. Elena Perez—Approach to Food Allergy in Children.
Dr. Jeffrey Ewig—Pediatric Asthma Care.

Start! Heart Walk
When: Nov. 14, 2009 at 8AM
Where: Raymond James Stadium

Children’s Gasparilla Parade
When: Jan. 23, 2010

November 5: Pediatric Hypertension
John McCormick MD
USF Pediatrics

November 12: The Big Green Monster!! The New and Improved Clostridium Difficile Might be Sitting Next to You!
James McClusky, MD, PhD
USF Center for Biological Defense

November 19: My Last Lecture, NOT! One Person’s Journey in Academic Medicine
Robert Nelson, MD, MS
USF Pediatrics

Grand Rounds
Lectures are from 8:00 - 9:00 AM at MacInnes Auditorium– TGH and videoconference to the ACH/USF CRI 1st floor conference room & CMS Building, Room 2004

October 22: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Cameron Tebbi, MD
Medical Director, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Tampa General Hospital and Children’s Medical Services

October 29: The Pathogenesis of Cardiomyopathy Due to Conduction Defects in Children
Enid Gilbert-Barness, MD
Professor of Pathology

Upcoming Events

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Happy Holidays

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