FROM THE CHAIR

As a pediatrician who has been on the sidelines, watching the Medicaid lawsuit unfold has been an interesting learning experience. Like many academic physicians, I have been more concerned with grant scores, committees, manuscripts and finding time for my family. I have not previously focused on how I and other pediatricians get paid for our work. Obviously, I realize now that ignorance is not bliss. For those not directly involved in this statewide issue, here are the facts as I know them. After years of lobbying for improved payments for Medicaid-covered children, the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics sued the state of Florida on behalf of poor children for failing to provide access to pediatricians, dentists and subspecialists based on the payment system. After ten years, many delays and appeals, the parties have finally reached a settlement.

The terms are just beginning to unfold. Since Medicaid is now in the hands of managed care, the terms revolve around managed Medicaid plans (MMA). The settlement states that MMA plans will develop incentive plans proposals and will put any savings back into these incentives.

FAREWELL DR. LINASK

Dr. Kersti Linask is retiring after 16 years on the USF Faculty. Dr. Linask’s research focused on the mechanisms underlying early heart development, how environmental factors affect the mechanisms and contribute to cardiac birth defects, and the benefit of high doses of folic acid in preventing the defects. Her work led to the awarding of two patents while at USF. A farewell party for Dr. Linask was held at the CRI on March 23.

PUBLICATIONS


PEDS IN THE NEWS

Dr. Isabel Gross was interviewed by FOX news about her participation in a disaster exercise held at the Florida Fairgrounds last month. The exercise targeted first responders and hospitals who would respond to an attack involving anthrax.

Dr. Eric Storch was interviewed by SafeBee.com for a March 24 article regarding children who are compulsive hoarders.
Initial enhanced payments are related to board certification, and the first to see increased payments will be primary care physicians. Specific Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures will be reviewed – in particular to make sure children and adolescents make their well-child visits. There may also be incentives related to practices participating in patient-centered medical homes (PCMH).

The terms are not completely resolved, and there will continue to be monthly meetings to develop the specifics. For USF Peds, it is important that we monitor this issue and lobby to increase specialist pay in addition to primary care services. We also need to continue to develop a strong multi-layer departmental quality program, including applying for PCMH status for Med-Peds and Health Park so that all of our practices have this designation, like 17 Davis. The payment system is moving towards more incentive payments based on quality and we need to be poised to take full advantage of this change.

We are thrilled and very proud that Dr. John Curran, one of the department’s founding faculty members and current Senior Executive Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs, has been named the Deputy Secretary of CMS. As current CMS Medical Director, he has been instrumental in helping us navigate the shifting landscape of Medicaid and payment systems for children. His statewide advocacy is legendary. It is indeed a great thing for the children of the state.

MATCH DAY

Lots of fun was had at Match Day, held March 18 at Ulele. We welcome 12 new Peds interns and 5 Med-Peds interns, and are very pleased to have so many USF graduates staying on with us!

PEDiatrics
Taylor Alberdi, USF
Alison Cullinane, USF
Elissa Engel, UCF
Lauren Furman, UCF
Jaurel Harley, Boston University
Alexandra Howard, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Kaley McCrary, USF
Carlos Pagan, University of Puerto Rico
Erica Peterson, USF

MED-PEDS
Christopher Hillhouse, USF
Matthew Liu, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Mahad Mohammed, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Seif Shahidain, University of Kentucky
Yilmarie Rosado-Acevedo, USF
Letter continued from page 2 but also for the pediatricians to have him in this state position. But we cannot rely on one person alone. It behooves all of us to understand how we are compensated for our work and our passion: keeping kids healthy.

Patricia J. Emmanuel, M.D.
Chair, Department of Pediatrics

PRESENTATIONS

Dabrow S, Adams C, Takagishi J, Lilly C, Hinojosa S, Armstrong K presented An Innovative Model of Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH): School Psychologists in Continuity Clinic at the Association of Pediatric Program Directors meeting held April 1 in New Orleans. Three Florida programs were represented at the meeting.

Dr. Joanna Robles, PGY2, presented a poster titled Congenital Intrinsic Factor Deficiency Presenting with Methylmalonic Acidemia and Megaloblastic Anemia at the ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting held in Tampa last month. Dr. Sanchez-Valle was co-author.

Dr. Coralee Del Valle, PGY3, presented Rejection or Infection: A 17 Year Old Male with Toxoplasma Myocarditis Following Orthotopic Heart Transplant during the 3rd Annual St. Jude/PIDS Pediatric Transplant ID Symposium held March 3rd in Memphis, Tennessee. Co-authors were Drs. Alfred Asante-Korang, Wilfredo Chamizo, Jose Montoya and David Berman.

USF Pediatrics was well represented at the 2016 meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology held in Atlanta last month:

Poster Presentations:

Idiopathic CD4 Lymphocytopenia: Immunologic Characteristics, Clinical Manifestations, and Disease Course. Yoon J, Srioroon P, Leiding JW, Ballow M.

Herpes Zoster Infection Prompting Diagnosis of Job’s Syndrome in a Teenage Patient. Bina S, Srioroon P, Leiding JW

Construction and Validation of a Health-Related Quality of Life (HR-QOL) Instrument for Patients with Primary Antibody Deficiency Disease. Ballow M, Conaway MR, Rachid RA, Seeborg FO, Srioroon P Duff CM.

Removal of Immunosuppression Unmasks a Case of Autoimmune Lymphoproliferative Syndrome (ALPS). Bina S, Gillespie M, Leiding JW

Case Report of an Infant Female with X-linked Chronic Granulomatous Disease Due to a De Novo Mutation in CYBB and Extremely Skewed X-Chromosome Inactivation (Lyonization). Alberdi T, Morrow M, Leiding JW

A Unique Case of Idiopathic Hypereosinophilic Syndrome in a Patient Presenting with Chronic Urticaria. Hudey S, Niebur H, Leiding JW

Oral Presentations:

Secondary Immune Deficiencies Induced by Drugs and Biologic Therapies. Ballow M

Should Antibiotic Prophylaxis be Routinely Used in Patients with Antibody Immune Deficiencies. Ballow M

SCIG Hands on Workshop. Duff C

Advocacy for Patients with Primary Immune Deficiency Disease (PIDD). Duff C

Skin Testing: Challenges and Practicalities. Duff C

Mechanism of Allergic Inflammation in Omenn syndrome. Walter J

The Link to Immunodeficiency: Targeted Treatment. Walter J. Torgerson T

WELCOME NEW FELLOWS

We are very pleased to welcome 5 new fellows who will join USF Peds in July:

Allergy & Immunology

David Lindsay, MD.
University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

Sonia Joychan, MD.
Western Michigan University Home Stryker School of Medicine

Neonatology:

Vineet Lamba, MD.
Nassau University Medical Center

Shubika D’Souza, MD.
Monmouth Medical Center

Moath Alhamad, MD.
Michigan State University
GRAND ROUNDS

May 5
Resident Scholarly Activity Presentations
USF Peds Residents

May 12
Working Together to Reduce Infant Sleep Deaths: What You Need to Know
Michael Goodstein, MD

May 19
School Based Health Centers: What Are They and Why Should We Care?
Anna Armstrong, PhD, MPH, CPH

May 26
Promoting Maternal and Infant Health Through State Collaborative Quality Improvement Initiatives
Maya Balakrishnan, MD

SAVE THE DATE

May 2
Florida Chapter of AAP Reception and PAS Meeting

May 11
Faculty Meeting

June 12
Resident Graduation

June 18
Resident Welcome Party

ADDITIONS

Dr. Ken Visalli and his wife welcomed Leonardo Salvatore Visalli on March 28. Congratulations!

eDISCLOSE

A reminder that all faculty and administration employees, along with staff and temporary employees assigned a P-Card or FAST role, must complete a Florida Code of Ethics disclosure. It is simple: log into myUSF, open eDisclose from the Business Systems drop-down menu, and complete the disclosure. Contact eDisclose@usf.edu or 813-974-2705 if you need assistance.

FELLOWS FORUM

Thirteen fellows presented their research during the 2016 Fellow’s Forum, which was moderated by Dr. Marianne Felice. During the noon networking luncheon four resident posters were displayed. The abstracts are listed at the end of the newsletter.

CLINICAL TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

This month’s team member is Rene Exposito, Clinical Supervisor at the 17 Davis Clinic. Rene was commended for his positive and friendly attitude, hard work, and dependability. Employees noted that he is always looking out for his team, and that he is an excellent boss!

HAPPENINGS

The YYC fundraiser held last month was a great success! The Advisory Board, staff, medical students and volunteers helped to put on an amazing event that raised $16,000 for the Ybor Youth Clinic!
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

FACULTY & STAFF CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have participated in the Faculty & Staff Campaign! For those of you who have not yet — there is still time! Please consider giving to a great cause! There are a number of funds you can contribute to. (https://usffdn.usf.edu/apps/?a=FUND) or contact Caroline Murphy (cmurphy4@health.usf.edu).

PEDS RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. Kersti Linask was granted a patent titled Method for Modulating Canonical WNT Pathway Using Folate and Inositol. Patent #9,308,210.

Clinical Trials

Investigator: Cameron Tebbi, MD
Title: An open-label extension study to evaluate the safety of Rivipansel in the treatment of one or more vaso-occlusive crises in hospitalized subjects with sickle cell disease.
Sponsor: Pfizer

Happenings continued from page 4

Doctor’s Day at ACH!

There will be a reception at next month’s PAS meeting for the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Please join your colleagues from USF, UF Gainesville/Jacksonville and the University of Miami Monday, May 2nd from 7:30p – 9:30p, Hilton Baltimore Hotel, Key Ballroom 3.

The Faculty/Alumni vs Resident Softball/Kickball Game was very lively this year! More pictures on the USF Pediatric Residency Alumni Group Facebook page.

KUDOS

Dr. Jennifer Leiding was awarded $10,000 from USF for a New Researcher Grant titled Assessment of Immunogenicity of Zostavax® in Patients with Antibody Deficiency 60 Years of Age and Older.

Dr. Christina Baldwin, PGY3, is the recipient of a Cystic Fibrosis Clinical Fellowship Award in GI, granted by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Dr. Isabel Gross, PGY4 is finishing her Master’s in Public Health with a concentration in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief. She also just passed the public health certification exam!

Denise Casey, RN, BSN, has earned the designation of Certified Research Administrator at USF (CRA-USF), which demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to excellence in research administration at USF. She will be inducted into the Academy of Certified Research Administrators at USF on September 19.
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

FELLOWS FORUM PRESENTATIONS

Graciela Rabri, Krishnan Mohankumar, Maureen Groer, Akhil Maheshwari, Terri L. Ashmeade.
*Maturation Changes in Neuraminidase and TGF-β Bioactivity in Preterm Human Milk*

Sheila Bina, Farnaz Tabatabaian, Mark Ballow, Carla Duff, Jennifer Leiding

Kelly Driver, Laura Weathers, Judy Zaritt, Marcia Kneusel, Branko Miladinovic, Maya Balakrishnan.
*Efficacy of Auricular Acupuncture on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: A Randomized Controlled Trial*

*Case of a Brain Abscess Secondary to Specific Granule Deficiency*

Alejandro Diego, Geerte Beesems, MohanKumar Krishnan, Kopperuncholan Namachivayam, Maureen Groer, Akhil Maheshwari.
*Murine NEC-Like Injury in Previously Healthy Pups Results in Low Bacterial Diversity, Loss Of Lactobacilli, and Emergence of Enterococci in the Bowel Lumen: Is Dysbiosis the Cause or Effect of Pre-Existing Perinatal Bowel Injury?*

Jenni Yoon, Larry Dishaw, Stephen Kornfeld.
The Gut Microbiota of Primary Immunodeficiencies

Thais O. Queliz Pena, MohanKumar Krishnan, Angel Luciano, Jaime Flores-Torres, Akhil Maheshwari.
*Maternal Chorioamnionitis and FIRS are Associated with Increased mRNA Expression of PD-1*

Jaqueline Nguyen, Ronald Sutsko, Terri Ashmeade, Laura Drach, Jason L. Salemi, Jean Paul Tanner, Russell S. Kirby, Hamisu M. Salihu.
The Natural History, Survival and Change in Care Practices for Infants with “Lethal” Congenital Malformations: Trisomy 13, Trisomy 18, Anencephaly, Bilateral Renal Agenesis, Thanatophoric Dysplasia, Achondroplasia and Neonatal Lethal Osteogenesis Imperfecta

Akshatha Akshatha, Aaron Germain.
*Association of Abnormal Anterior Cerebral Artery Resistive Indices with Neonatal Intraventricular Hemorrhage and Poor Neurodevelopmental Outcome*

Aimen Ben Ayad, Kopperuncholan Namachivayam, MohanKumar Krishnan, Chitra Palanivel, Akhil Maheshwari.
*Eleutheroside, A Phenol Propanoid Glycoside Can Suppress LPS-induced Inflammatory Signaling in Macrophages*

Melissa Althouse, Kopperuncholan Namachivayam, MohanKumar. Krishnan, and Akhil Maheshwari.
*Murine NEC-like Injury is Associated with Increased Expression of Decorin, a TGF-β binding Small Leucine-rich Proteoglycan, in the Intestine*

Johana Castro-Wagner, Jennifer Leiding.
*Treatment for Immunodysregulation in Patients with Gain of Function STAT3 Mutations*

Matthew Compton, Terri Ashmeade.
*Changes in Nociceptive Evoked Activity in Premature infants Using Near-InfraredSpectroscopy*

RESIDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Melissa Althouse, Kaitlin Sapp, Lauren Swanson. Faculty mentors: Dr. Ronald Sutsko and Dr. Diane Straub. NICU Comprehensive Handbook

Kinjal Parikh. Faculty mentor: Dr. Gul Dadlani. Clinical Utilization of Global Longitudinal Strain in the Early Detection of Subclinical Cardiac Dysfunction in Pediatric Patients with Systemic Hypertension

Rosana Lastra Vicente, Christina Baldwin, Ami Dalsania, Kristen Blackwell. Faculty mentor: Dr. Lana Soylu. Increasing Documentation of Asthma Control Test Scores in the Outpatient Setting

Dennrik Abraham, Kaitlin Sapp. Faculty mentor: Dr. Sharon Dabrow. Effectiveness of Peer Mentoring: The Big and Little Resident Sibling (BLRS) Program