

# Pediatric News

**USF Health  
Pediatrics**

Volume 5, Issue 2

March 2009

## RESEARCH DAY 2009

Check out coverage of USF Research Day 2009, including the list of award winners, plenty of photos, and audioclips of several students describing their research. <http://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/health/now/?p=3949>

### Inside this issue:

*Faculty News Re-views* 2-3

*Departmental Up-dates* 4-5

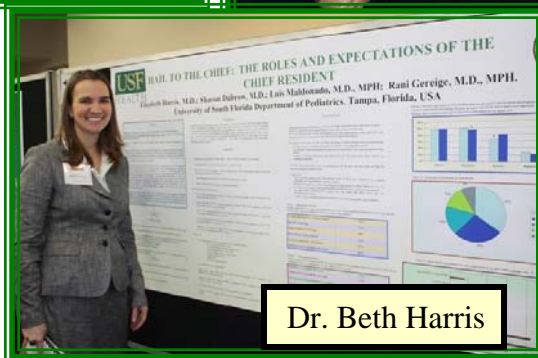
*Announcements* 6



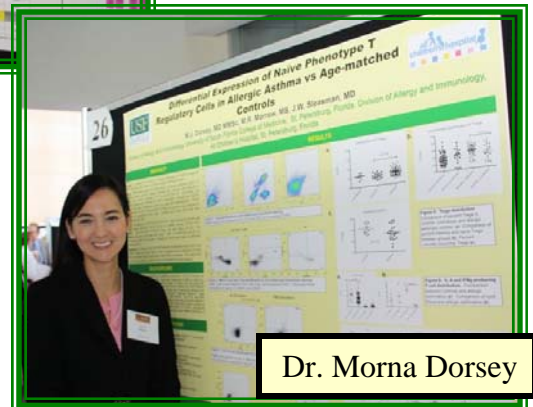
Medical student 2- Sara Saporta and her dad Dr. Sam Saporta. Sara worked with Dr. John Sleasman et al in Pediatric HIV.



Dr. Antoinette Spoto-Cannons



Dr. Beth Harris



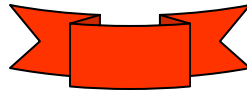
Dr. Morna Dorsey

### From the Chairman's Desk

I write these notes on the Sunday before the Match comes out (not that the Publisher/Editor has not wanted it sooner). This week is always one of the most nerve wracking and exciting of the academic year. I hope to see you at Cha Cha Coconuts on the St.Pete Pier Thursday night 3/19 at 5:30 to share in the excitement.

I want to thank Val and Lynn and their staffs on the excellent recruiting effort. I also want to thank Jane Carver, Alastair Hutchison and Jennifer Takagishi on the superb Grand Rounds. I was especially excited about the GR on global health that Beatriz, Michelle and Mas gave. If you missed it go to: <http://hscf.hsc.usf.edu/videostream/bblogin.cfm?c=cpd1000> and watch. Finally stop by the offices at the STC and see the San Diego Future of Pediatrics Conference abstracts. Hopefully we will also display those from Research Day.





### **March Birthdays:**

Al Campos (Mar 3); Patricia Emmanuel (Mar 4); Ronda Litman (Mar 4); Stacey Borst (Mar 7); Jillian Williams (Mar 9); Bruce Schnapf (Mar 10); Kathleen Armstrong (Mar 11); Katherine Bruning (Mar 12); Jane Norman (Mar 16); Terri Stepanchak (Mar 16); Colleen Corkery (Mar 17); Susan Clopper (Mar 19); Marie Pierre (Mar 22); Greg Kaiser (Mar 24); Michelle Brucker (Mar 25); Bonnie Patterson (Mar 25); Wendy McLeod (Mar 29); Kristen Lagor (Mar 31)

### **Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments**

**Carina Rodriguez, MD:** Was recently notified that her proposal entitled “**Defective immunoglobulin somatic hypermutation results in pneumococcal vaccination hyporesponsiveness in HIV infected children,**” was selected for funding by the FL-CFAR (Florida Center for Aids Research) Developmental Core Seed Award. This award spans January to December 2009. Congratulations !

**Ulla Uusitalo, PhD:** Assistant professor and ‘nutrition coordinator’ in the Pediatrics Epidemiology Center, recently received notification from Public Health Nutrition that her manuscript with eight co-authors from Finland and U.K. entitled, “Unhealthy dietary patterns are associated with weight gain during pregnancy among Finnish women” was accepted for publication.

**The Division of Genetics:** The Neurofibromatosis Clinic, an Affiliate Clinic of the Neurofibromatosis Clinic Network of the Children’s Tumor Foundation, has been awarded funding for salary support for a Clinic Coordinator. This clinic is directed by our Genetics faculty.

The Genetics Division received a \$10,700 grant to perform a feasibility study of prenatal genetic counseling by telemedicine for high risk women.

**Kersti Linask, PhD:** Was recently appointed to the NIH Study Section on Cardiovascular Differentiation and Development for July 09 to June 2012.

**Rani S Gereige, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP** participated with HRSA/MCHB on several expert panels on Oral Health representing the AAP. Finally the expert report consensus is finalized. You can see at the end of the report the expert panel and the organizations they represent. This report will be available through the National Oral Health Resource Center website soon and a powerpoint will be created for training purposes.

**Heather Curtiss, PhD,** was recently notified that she was elected for a three-year term on the Faculty Senate. Congratulations! Her term on the Faculty Senate will be effective beginning with the Fall Semester 2009 until the beginning of the Fall Semester 2012. She will officially begin her tenure at the September Senate meeting.



### Faculty News Reviews / Accomplishments con't

**Lynn Ringenberg, MD**: Was recently appointed by Dean Klasko to serve on the new initiative called Faculty Forward, to be headed by Dr. John Curran, Senior Executive Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs. The Task Force is charged with examining and finding ways to improve upon faculty satisfaction, retention and vitality. This initiative is a 3-year project and will include input from 25 other US medical schools.

**Antoinette Spoto-Cannons, MD**: Was notified of the acceptance of her abstract for poster presentation at the PAS Annual Meeting in Baltimore in May. The title of her abstract is "Becoming Teachers: Pilot Study of Longitudinal Approach to Prepare Medical Students".

**Beth Harris, MD**: Our GAP Primary Care Fellow had her first poster accepted for presentation at the USF Research Day 2009 on February 20th. Her poster is titled, "Hail to the Chief: The Roles and Expectations of the Chief Resident." along with Drs. Dabrow, Maldonado and Gereige. She will also be presenting this poster at the PAS Annual Meeting in Baltimore in May.

**Maxine Sutcliffe, PhD** co-authored a manuscript entitled, "A Case Study of Disorganized Development and Its Possible Relevance to Genetic Determinants of Aging" that was accepted on Feb 15, 2009 for publication in the Journal entitled "Mechanisms of Ageing and Development".

**Maxine Sutcliffe, PhD** recently passed the American Board of Medical Genetics Extended Maintenance of Certification (EMOC) examination in Clinical Cytogenetics. This once-every-10 year examination forms part of the new re-certification process introduced in 2008 by ABMG for those who initially certified in 1993 or later. The re-certification process also includes open-book journal article examinations every 2 years as well as annual CEU/CME documentation.

In December 2008 **Dr. Linask** attended the American Society for Biology Meeting where she and the Dept of Chemical Engineering postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Barbara Garita, presented an abstract entitled "Cardiac Jelly Facilitates Cellular Communication between Endocardium and Myocardium during Heart Looping". The authors are: Barbara Garita, Michael Jenkins, Andrew Rollins, Michael VanAuker, and Kersti K. Linask. Drs. Jenkins and Rollins are collaborators at Case Western Reserve University.

We recently learned that the NIH grant "Investigating the Early Embryonic Murine Heart Using Optical Coherence Tomography" on which Dr. Linask has a subcontract has been funded for 2009-2013. The PI of the grant is Dr. Andrew Rollins in the Department of Bioengineering at Case Western Reserve University.

Since August 2008, Dr. Ana Luisa Neves, a Fulbright Fellow, has been doing basic research in our Laboratory of Pediatric Cardiology at CRI and clinical research in Perinatal Cardiology at ACH. Dr. Neves recently learned her abstract: "Cardiovascular profile score in fetal right heart defects" (authors: Neves AL, Mathias L, Leshko J, Linask KK, Areias JC, Huhta JC.) has been accepted for presentation at the 5th World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, to be held in Cairns, Australia, 21st-26th June, 2009. This World Congress is a prestigious meeting at which to present and are happy for Dr. Neves to have this opportunity.



Idia Binitie recently learned she was matched to Harvard Children's Hospital, where she will complete her internship in Clinical Psychology. We are so proud of Idia, and her contributions to the Department. Idia wrote a small grant, which was funded and will be used for group counseling with teenage girls who are immunology patients. She has also mentored an upcoming doctoral student, who will hopefully be filling her shoes this next year.

Congratulations to Idia! We look forward all the wonderful things that Idia will do for children and families.

Please join us in welcoming Juliet S. Collins, MD to our Voluntary Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics. She joins us as an Affiliate Assistant Professor. Dr. Collins will be volunteering her time in the Continuity Clinic at the South Tampa Center and helping with teaching. Dr. Collins completed her MD degree at USF in 1997. She went on to obtain a Certificate of Public Health at the University of Colorado in 2005. She currently volunteers at the Hillsborough County Health Department.



A group of 12 USF pediatricians including attendings, fellows and residents participated in the "Ask Dr. Jo" portion of Fox News Channel 13 on Thurs night Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. The physicians answered phone calls from parents and grandparents who had questions about their children's health live during the evening news broadcast. Dr. Dabrow and Dr. Whitehead were interviewed by Dr. Jo, Fox's medical correspondent, and this was played during the evening. Over 150 calls were answered during the show. The physicians that participated included the following: Drs. Dabrow, Harris, Brown, Eftekhari, Whitehead, Adami, Cabiatic, Perea, Arvelo, Salud, Dembinski, Chang.





**Congratulations to Dr. Robert Nelson and Linda on the arrival of grandchild number 5! Oliver Nelson arrived on March 5th weighing in at 8 lbs 12 oz. Congratulations to the entire family!**



**Above, at the Future of Pediatrics conference in Anaheim, CA, where Rani Gerige, MD presented two posters, Lisa Getzko, MD presented one poster and Luis Maldonado, MD presented one poster.**

USF Health Pediatrics  
South Tampa Center for Advanced  
Healthcare  
5th Floor

Phone: (813) 259-8867  
Fax: (813) 259-8792  
Email: bcockrea@health.usf.edu



See us on the Web

[http://health.usf.edu/  
nocms/medicine/](http://health.usf.edu/nocms/medicine/)

## HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

Name	Position	Division
Lisa Jarboe	LPN	STC Pediatric Clinic
Catherine Wesley	MA	ACH Clinics

Please join us in welcoming the above employees to the USF Health Pediatrics team!

### "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



Shuttle launch on March 15, 2009 as seen through the Chairman's lens !



**You don't need superpowers to change the world...**

**You need passion.**

**USF Health Pediatrics**  
Committed to transforming our community for the better ... one child at a time.

**USF HEALTH**

