A Message from the Chair

National Nurses Week began on May 6 and ran through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale. This special week provides a great opportunity to thank all of the nurses who help to make USF Pediatrics such a strong and vital department, known for its excellent and compassionate care. Our nurses play major roles in teaching and leadership, carrying out their varied and challenging roles with professionalism, patience and kindness.

We commend the nurses whose efforts extend beyond their daily duties to include research, innovation and leadership. These efforts include the impressive activities of Carla Duff whose research is improving care for patients with immunological disorders, Jeannette Fleischer’s tireless efforts on behalf of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to ensure that her team can continue to deliver cost-effective medical care to underserved children in their own neighborhoods, the leadership of Cati Hinton and Sandy Leck, nursing supervisors for the STC/17 Davis Pediatric/MedPeds clinics and the CMS clinics, respectively, and the numerous ARNPs whose specialized training contributes to Pediatric’s reputation for delivering exceptional care in services such as neonatal intensive care, pulmonary, oncology and infectious disease.

Let’s remember to thank all of the nurses who make our jobs easier and who work so hard to improve the lives of our patients and their families. Nurses are the glue of the health care team, and are essential professionals who help to make USF Pediatrics such a remarkable department.

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

Chris Curran
Congratulations on Your 30 Years of Service in the Department of Pediatrics!
Each month we feature Pediatrics investigators and their research. Please submit ideas to pedicom@health.usf.edu

**Kersti Linask, PhD**, recently returned from her Fulbright Fellowship and sabbatical to Tartu University in Tartu, Estonia. While there, she investigated hematopoietic stem cells, working with Dr. Hele Everaus, who is Director of the Bone Marrow Transplantation Clinic at the Tartu University Hospital and a highly acclaimed oncologist-hematologist. During her sabbatical, Dr. Linask gave lectures within the Developmental Biology Graduate Program at Tartu University and she initiated new collaborations within the Human Reproduction Center.

The goal of Dr. Linask’s research is to elucidate the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying the development of heart birth defects associated with exposure to factors such as alcohol, and increased levels of homocysteine or lithium. She and her team have demonstrated the mechanism by which folate and myo-inositol protect normal cardiac development in the presence of these environmental factors. An additional focus of research is biomechanical factors related to blood flow. She and her team work with bioengineers at MIT and Case Western Reserve University to investigate how biophysical factors associated with blood flow affect cardiac development. Related work on embryos has also led to advances in wound cell biology, and to the filing of a patent application.

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**Residency News**

Residents presented the results of their quality improvement projects at the April 25 Pediatric Grand Rounds:

- **Food Insecurity and Children**: Dr. Baker
- **Patient Centered Medical Home**: Drs. Youschak and Baker
- **Pilot Study: Understanding Parental Perceptions of Children’s Body Image, Health and Dietary Intake in Panama**: Drs. Byra, Jasin, Chow, Perez, Dornshuld
- **Improving Compliance with ACGME Resident Duty Hour Rules**: Drs. Aungst, Kubiak and Montgomery
- **Addressing Infantile Pertussis**: Drs. Barry and Howard

Congratulations to **Drs. Jackie Endaya** and **Gina Obmana** who got married in April and to **Dr. Lauren Friedman** on her recent engagement!
Kudos

**Dr. Tanya Murphy** was selected as a Master Clinician for the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry’s annual meeting to be held in October, 2014.

**Dr. Laura Levitt**, PGY2, and **Dr. Jennifer Takagishi** received Very Good Care certificates from Tampa General Hospital's HealthPark clinic for April.

**Dr. Cristina Pelaez-Velez** was invited to join the Expert Group of the Florida Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act’s Pediatric Medical Home Demonstration Project.

**Dr. Cristina Pelaez-Velez** and **Janet Hess** were invited by the National Center for Medical Home Implementation to serve on an advisory group that is developing educational videos.

**Dr. Heather Curtiss** was interviewed by WFLA 970 on autism in March.

Publications


**David Hadley, PhD** is an author on a paper entitled: *Identification of heart rate-associated loci and their effects on cardiac conduction and rhythm disorders.* Nature Genetics, April 14, 2013.

**Kirsti Linask, PhD** is the author of a review article on mechanotransduction and heart development. The article, written in Estonian, was published in the journal Meie Arst, 92(2)80-84, 2013.

Congratulations

**Faculty Promotions**

**Promoted to Professor**

Jennifer Takagishi, MD

**Promoted to Associate Professor**

Angel Luciano, MD

Ulla Uusitalo, PhD, MS, MM

Kendra Vehik, PhD, MPH

Wanda Barker, RN will be retiring this May following 47 years of compassionate and outstanding service. All the best wishes and gratitude from the Division of Infectious Diseases.
Teddy Bear Clinic at Healthy Kids Day

USF Pediatrics participated in Healthy Kids Day held at Curtis Hixon Park on Saturday, April 27th. Students, residents, as well as Drs. Kiluk, Dabrow and Emmanuel helped Tampa Bay area kids run their own Teddy Bear Clinic to simulate what it’s like to visit a doctor’s office. Thank you to the medical students and residents who volunteered!

THANK YOU to all of those who donated stuffed animals!

Welcome Angela Cirignano, Client Services Assistant, The Rothman Center
Drs. Robert Nelson, Eric Storch, Adam Lewin and Linda Nelson visited Cedro Galan, Nicaragua in April, joined by 5 medical students and a public health graduate student. They further strengthened ties with the nonprofit, Manna Project International, to establish a clinic in this resource poor community, and they held discussions with leaders from a medical school about creating a rotation for residents and students from all Colleges of USF Health. Pictured: Drs. Lewin, Nelson, Storch, along with Nicole Teal, Linda Nelson and the children of Cedro Galan.

Walk Now for Autism Speaks

Several Pediatrics faculty and staff participated in the Walk Now for Autism Speaks event held at Raymond James Stadium on April 20.

Pictured: Hollis Mutch, Elysse Arnold, Morgan King, Dr. Jane Mutch, Erika Crawford

Annual Faculty/Resident Softball Game

This year’s annual Faculty/Resident Softball Game held on April 6 included a March of Dimes fundraiser that raised $320. The event featured a raffle, a hockey stick signed by the Tampa Bay Lightning, and a “treat tent”. Lunch was provided by Jerk Hut.
Grand Rounds

June 6  What a Spineless Relative is Teaching Us About the Clinical Relevance of Our Microbiome
Larry Dishaw, PhD

June 13  Anaphylaxis: Recognition and Treatment
Richard Lockey, MD

June 20  Spectrum of Granulocyte Disorders
Jennifer Leiding, MD

June 27  Targeting Leukemia Stem Cells in Acute Myelogenous Leukemia
Felipe Ricco, MD

**This will be the final month of Grand Rounds prior to our summer break**

Lectures are from 8:00 to 9:00 AM
MacInnes Auditorium—Tampa General Hospital

Lectures are video-conferenced to the All Children’s Hospital/USF Children’s Research Institute first floor conference room and to the CMS Building, Room 2004

Archived copies of most lectures are available on our website: http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/grand_rounds.htm

Other Upcoming Events

- Resident Graduation Dinner, June 16
- Resident Welcome Party, June 29

Photography Note: If possible, please take high resolution photos using a digital camera. If you must use your cell phone, please make sure that your lens is clean and you have your phone on the highest resolution setting available.

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Please email submissions for next month’s issue by June 1st