Happy Holidays

The holiday season is a time to reflect on the things we have to be thankful for and a time to celebrate our accomplishments. I am immensely thankful for the faculty, staff and trainees who make USF Pediatrics such an outstanding department. It is hard to believe that it will be a one year anniversary for me in the role of Chair. I have learned so much and am more impressed than ever about the diverse work of the Department and the passion you all have to improve the health of children. I am thankful for the support and enthusiasm you have shown.

This is also a season of celebration, and 2012 was a year of great accomplishments that we celebrate, including the numerous faculty and trainee publications and grant awards, the Department’s initiatives in quality improvement and in establishing USF Pediatrics as a medical home, the opening of the new Ybor Youth Clinic, and invigorating our relationships with our main hospital partners. Thanks to all of you for your tremendous efforts and dedication to our mission. I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to celebrating many more accomplishments with you in 2013!

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

Season of Change

Heather Hartling resigned as Department Administrator to take the position of Senior Administrator of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arizona. She will be responsible for promoting integration between clinical care, and research and teaching activities between the University of Arizona College of Medicine and the University of Arizona Health Network. A farewell reception for Heather was held at CAMLS on November 29. We will miss Heather, and wish her the very best of luck in her new position! Desiree Brown has assumed the role of Department Administrator. Desiree joined USF in 2005 as part of the USF Health Office of Human Resources, eventually transitioning to main campus HR as a coordinator for 5 years. She joined our department as a Manager of Fiscal Business & Administration in June 2010.
The 19th Annual John S. Curran Lecture was held on November 8. The speaker, F. Sessions Cole, MD, from the Washington University School of Medicine, presented an outstanding lecture entitled *The Genetic Regulation of Surfactant Deficiency*. Following the lecture Dr. Cole rounded with the neonatal fellows in the NICU. This annual lecture is given to honor Dr. Curran, whose innumerable honors including being the founding neonatologist for USF and for TGH, District X Chairperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics, Medical Director for Children’s Medical Services for several Florida regions, and recipient of numerous local, regional and national awards. USF Pediatrics greatly appreciates Dr. Curran’s tireless service on behalf the nation’s children!

**Buzz Around Peds**

USF Pediatrics and TGH’s Children’s Medical Center have developed a joint Neonatal Follow-Up Program that is providing comprehensive, coordinated care to infants with complex medical conditions who are discharged from the TGH neonatal intensive care unit. The Program helps each infant and family make a smooth transition from the NICU to home and promotes optimal wellness by: providing families with a dedicated Neonatal Nurse Navigator who assists with care planning, coordination and communication; coordinating specialty and primary care within one practice; working closely with families to address their concerns; providing consultation to primary care practices, where coordinated, complex care may be more difficult to access. Once an infant’s condition is stabilized, care is transferred back to the primary care physician or remains with the Program using the Patient-Centered Medical Home Model. Carol Lilly, MD is the Medical Director of the Program, and Susan Angelos, RN is the Neonatal Nurse Navigator. 134 infants have been enrolled since the Program was established in April, 2012.

Dr. Laura Weathers gave a workshop for the Asian Pan American Medical Student Association at USF’s Morsani College of Medicine on November 7. The workshop, open to 1st, 2nd and 3rd year medical students, provided an interactive learning opportunity for students to practice acupuncture techniques. Thank you, Dr. Weathers on behalf of APAMSA.

The NIH released an updated version of *Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection* in November. Carina Rodriguez, MD and Rosa Joseph, MPH announced the release in the December newsletter for the Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Center. Dr. Rodriguez is on the faculty for the Center.
Diane Straub, MD, was interviewed for an ABC Action News article on the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations that doctors talk to teens about emergency contraception choices. Dr. Straub provided information about the use of Plan B in pregnant teens. The article was posted on November 27.

In recognition of World AIDS Day, Youth Education Services, a program of the USF Health Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease, helped organize and participated in a World AIDS Day Event in St. Petersburg’s Williams Park on November 30. The event was organized by the Pinellas Planning Partnership, a collaboration between several AIDS Service Organizations and the Pinellas County Health Department. According to USF’s JaDawn Wright, Chairperson of the Planning Partnership, the goal is to organize HIV prevention activities in Pinellas County and recognize HIV awareness days throughout the year. This year’s theme was “Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-related Deaths.” Over 600 people attended the event, which offered HIV screening, hepatitis B and flu vaccines, blood pressure and glucose screenings, and the distribution of food and backpacks filled with personal hygiene items and HIV prevention materials.

Publications


Our Growing Family: Hires and Births

- Lauren Finell: Residency/Medical Education
- Michael Mansour: Residency/Medical Education
- Deborah Howard: Research Laboratory Technician, Allergy/Immunology
- Reina Zayas: Telephone Scheduler, Specialty Clinic at All Children’s Hospital
- Donna Carr: Community Outreach Caseworker, Child Development
- Kelley Purpura: Community Outreach Caseworker, Child Development
- Sajitha Nair, PhD: Research Associate, Hematology/Oncology
- Deborah Silva: Community Outreach Caseworker, Child Development
- Angela Escoto: Medical Assistant, STC/17 Davis Clinics

Dr. Cary Aungst delivered Brynn Paisley Aungst on November 26.
Jaime Flores-Torres, MD, a third year neonatology fellow, presented his research at the 81st Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium on November 15-18, 2012 on Marco Island, Florida. The meeting was sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Perinatal Pediatrics, and the title of his presentation was: Bacterial dysbiosis in an unusual model for studies of intestinal immune homeostasis. Dr. Flores-Torres’ research mentor is Dr. Larry Dishaw in the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Children’s Research Institute.

Carina Rodriguez, MD presented Grand Rounds at Bayfront Medical Center on November 29th. Her lecture was entitled Thirty years of HIV: Evolving Concepts on HIV Disease, Treatment and Prevention.

Carla Duff, ARNP and John Sleasman, MD attended the meeting of the International Nursing Group for Immunodeficiencies/European Society for Immunodeficiencies held in Florence, Italy on October 3-6. Ms. Duff was invited to give her presentation entitled IVIG versus SCIG: How Do You Choose? She also presented two platform presentations:

- Importance of Ancillary Supplies for Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin Infusion: Management of the Local Infusion Site. C. Duff, D. Ochoa, C. Curtis, P. Riley, E. Murphy, A. Zampelli

……and one poster:

- 20% SCIG Product is Better Tolerated Than 16% SCIG Product While Achieving the Same Efficacy. C. Duff, D. Nguyen, T. Alberdi, M. Dorsey, J. Sleasman

Drs. Jean Brown and Hana Niebur, fellows with the Division of Allergy/Immunology, presented abstracts at the annual meeting of the American College of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology held November 8-13 in Annaheim, California:

- J. Brown, N. Tang, M. Dorsey. Eczema Herpeticum and Profound Mannose Binding Lectin Deficiency in Severe Childhood Atopic Dermatitis

Dr. John Sleasman attended the Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology held October 28-80 in Maui, Hawaii, where he was senior author on a poster entitled IRAK-4 Is Essential for Phytohaemagglutinin to Upregulate the Expression of a Costimulatory Molecule CD80 as well as TNK-α Production in Human Monocytes. Dr. Nathan Tangsinmankong was a co-author.

Dr. Jillian Childres presented a workshop at the Zero to Three’s National Training Institute in Los Angeles on November 28, 2012. Dr. Childres’ workshop was entitled Comprehensive
Early Intervention Training Program: "Crib Notes: A Guide for Your Newborn or NICU Grad". This comprehensive early intervention training program targets the unique needs of preterm and high-risk infants, and was developed by Dr. Childres and Alicia Truitt, ARNP through the Early Steps program and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Eric Storch, PhD was invited to speak at a nationally-promoted program at the Tin Marin Children’s Museum in San Salvador, El Salvador on November 6. He spoke about research related to cognitive behavioral therapy. While there, Dr. Storch met the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Mari Carmen Aponte (pictured right with Dr. Storch).

Kudos

Brian Knox, MD was accepted into the American Pediatric Association’s Research Scholar’s Program. This new program is designed to help APA members enhance their academic credentials and develop research skills by planning, implementing and writing up the results of a research project. The three-year program includes being assigned a national research mentor, monthly webinars and web-based interactive sessions, and full-days sessions at the annual society meetings. Dr. Knox will investigate whether the provision of behavioral modification or cognitive behavioral therapy to overweight adolescents will result in better weight loss, improved diet and self-esteem, and increased levels of physical activity.

The TGH Newborn Hearing Screening Program received the Award of Excellence from the Florida Department of Health’s Office of Newborn Screening. The award is based on having a low percentage of and excellent follow-up of infants who do not pass the inpatient hearing screening, timely and accurate reporting to the State, and successful screening of all infants prior to discharge. TGH’s screening program is unique in that comprehensive hearing evaluations are performed on all NICU patients who do not pass the initial screen, and those in need of hearing aids are usually fitted within 3 weeks of hospital discharge. Dr. Janet Sullivan is Director of the Program.

Fred L. Alberts, Jr., Ph.D., ABPP, Child Protection Team Clinical Psychologist, has been elected President-Elect of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology. The Academy is the member organization of Board Certified Clinical Psychologists and a specialty board of the American Board of Professional Psychology. Dr. Alberts is co-author of the text, Preparing for Board Certification in Clinical Psychology.

Tina Ho, DO, second year neonatology fellow, was awarded a $20,000 Gerber Foundation Novice Research Award for her research project entitled The Effect of Packed Red Blood Cell Transfusions on Intestinal Inflammation in Very Low Birth Weight Infants. She will determine if levels of an inflammatory marker in stool relate to blood transfusions and to the development of intestinal disease. Dr. Ho’s mentors include Drs. Terri Ashmeade, Ángel Luciano and Maureen Groer, and she receives assistance from Judy Zaritt, RN, Shari Roberts, RN, and the TGH NICU nursing staff.
Resident’s Corner

Four residents participated in the Great American Teach-In on November 15. **Drs. Lisa Hayes and Dhaila Siraj** spoke at Pizzo Elementary School and Sligh Middle School, respectively, and **Drs. Vanessa Perez and Kathleen Altemose** spoke at Williams Middle School. Topics covered included how infections are spread and prevented, and what it is like to be a doctor and pediatrician.

**Drs. Erin Wright and Miriah Gillispie** shared their wonderful experiences at the AAP meeting held in New Orleans in October. They participated in meetings of the Residency District Sections, where they discussed their advocacy program to improve literacy, and made resolutions on topics including Medicaid reform, improving options for healthy eating in hospital cafeterias, and making hospitals breast-feeding friendly. All three District X resolutions were passed! They attended numerous educational sessions, and were most impressed and inspired by the keynote lecture given by Stephen Lewis, a global child advocate. They wrapped up the meeting by participating in the Fun Run for Kids through the streets of New Orleans.

**MATCH**

Two residents have matched in critical care fellowship programs: **Dr. Rich Lion** at Baylor University and **Dr. Tony Sochet** at Children’s National Hospital. Congratulations!! And thanks to the faculty who mentored them through this process.

**Drs. Braley, Sochet and Perez** presented their research on cardiovascular disease at Pediatric Grand Rounds held on Thursday, Dec 6. Each gave a summary of their projects, which are most impressive and should motivate more residents to participate in research.

USF Pediatrics faculty and residents participated in an event held by the USF Chapter of the Asian-Pacific American Medical Student Association last month at Thai Temple. **Dr. Brian Knox and Med-Peds residents Drs. Jonathan Chan and Katie Knupp** provided free health screenings, and **Dr. Laura Weathers** gave a workshop on acupuncture. The event was sponsored in part by TGH Community Relations.

**Congratulations to the November 2012 TGH Resident of the Month**

**Dr. Jonathan Chan**
**Grand Rounds**

**Jan 10**  **Sudden Unexpected Death in Florida: Is It Really Unexpected?**  
William Sappenfield, MD, MPH  
Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center  
Department of Community and Family Health  
USF College of Public Health

**Jan 17**  **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome**  
Maya Balakrishnan, MD  
USF Department of Pediatrics

**Jan 24**  **Clinical Pathology Conference**  
Enid Gilbert-Barness, MD  
Amarilis Sanchez Valle, MD  
Dennis Johnson, MD, PhD  
USF Departments of Pediatrics and Pathology

**Jan 31**  **Behavioral Therapy for Anxiety in Autism**  
Eric Storch, PhD  
Rothman Center for Neuropsychiatry  
USF Department of Pediatrics

*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**

- The Tampa General Hospital Foundation’s “Night at the Circus”, January 3, 2013
- The Children’s Gasparilla Parade, January 19, 2013
- The Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative Second Annual Conference, March 21-22, 2013 at CAMLS
- The Lewis Barness Lecture and Fellows Forum, April 4, 2013

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