



# PEDS NEWS

January 2013  
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Happy 2013! I hope that everyone had a restful holiday with time to rejuvenate. A new year and many exciting opportunities await us. This time of the year in Tampa Bay, there is no rest from celebration and tradition; we go from the holiday season right into pirates and football. I was disappointed in my Irish this past week and the trouncing they took from Alabama, but very proud of how far they came this season. During their otherwise successful season they showed **determination, teamwork, and passion**. Qualities we need in medicine as well.

I would like to ask for your participation in revising our webpages and improving communication both within our department and to our patients and families. We have made a number of improvements to our website and will continue to revise and add content with your help. I will be soliciting faculty to develop marketing materials and web-based frequently asked questions (FAQs) in the areas you specialize in. We have assigned website administrators for each division and ask that they help keep content up-to-date and assist faculty with expanding their profiles. It takes a team to keep this going! This month we are starting a new section to our newsletter, highlighting on-going faculty research – Dr Maria Gieron is part of a fascinating phase 1 study evaluating minocycline for Angelman syndrome. I hope this feature will encourage collaboration and also serve to recognize many of our outstanding faculty.

As usual, there is a host of honors and activities highlighted in this month's newsletter; the passion for child health and education is evident. But in such a noisy fast-paced world it takes determination to advance that passion. We can get caught up in our day to day, especially challenges of patient care. So let's add to our New Year's resolutions. Resolve to participate in a few more resident conferences, participate in an organized medicine meeting, attend grand rounds more frequently or write some content for our newsletter, webpages or brochures. Let's show Tampa Bay who we are and what we do. And put some skin in the game!

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

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# Peds News | *New & Noteworthy*

## Kudos



**John Curran, MD**, founding neonatologist for USF and TGH, was presented USF's Distinguished Service Award – one of the University's highest honors given in recognition of many years of outstanding service. The award is given to faculty who have contributed significantly to the welfare of their profession, USF or the community. Dr. Curran has worked tirelessly for many years as an advocate for children at the local, regional and national levels. In her nomination letter, **Dr. Emmanuel** cited as two of his most enduring legacies Dr. Curran's work on behalf of the un- and underinsured in the Tampa Bay region. He was instrumental in implementing the Hillsborough County half-cents sales tax and in developing the County Health Care Board which provides care to thousands of working poor each year.

Dr. Curran has been recognized with numerous awards at the national, state and local levels and is currently Medical Director for Children's Medical Services, Chair of the District X American Academy of Pediatrics, and Associate VP and Senior Executive Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs at USF Health.

## Spotlight on Research

Each month we will feature Pediatrics investigators and their research. Please submit ideas to [pedicom@health.usf.edu](mailto:pedicom@health.usf.edu)

**Dr. Maria Gieron**, along with Ed Weeber, PhD, and Joseph Grieco from the Byrd Research Institute, are co-principal investigators for a study on the treatment of children with Angelman Syndrome (AS). People with this rare genetic disorder have neurodevelopmental delays, behavioral problems, seizures and motor disturbances. Currently, the only treatment available for AS patients is supportive care, seizure control and behavioral therapy. Dr. Weeber's laboratory recently discovered that treatment with the drug minocycline improves symptoms in an animal model of AS. Minocycline has been used to treat children with other neurologic disorders, but not for AS. This important, ground-breaking pilot or proof of concept study offers hope to families affected by AS. So far, the investigators have enrolled 24 children, ages 4 to 12 years. Dr Gieron is providing clinical assessments and EEG interpretation. While the data have not been analyzed, the investigators note that some of the patients have improvements in communication and behavior.



## Kudos cont'd

A December 28 video and article by the Wall Street Journal featured **Dr. Terri Ashmeade**, Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Chief of Pediatrics at TGH. Dr. Ashmeade described the increasing problem of infants delivered to mothers who are dependent on prescription pain pills such as oxycodone. The problem is particularly acute in the Tampa Bay area, with as many as 30% of babies in TGH's NICU suffering from withdrawal symptoms, which are often severe. Although the optimal treatment for affected babies remains unclear, TGH has established a standardized approach. The article and video can be viewed by going to "online.wsj.com" and typing the name of the article in the search box: "Pain Pills' Littlest Victims". **Dr. Maya Balakrishnan** will give a Grand Rounds presentation on this important topic on January 17.

USF Pediatrics was awarded a plaque to recognize its quality improvement project at the Florida Medical Home Project meeting held in Orlando on December 7. The team thanks the Pediatrics faculty and staff for their help with this project, and would like to share with them this recognition. The next step is to apply to the National Committee for Quality Assurance to gain national recognition as a Patient Centered Medical Home.



Pictured are **Cathryn Hinton, RN**, **Masmina Sirleaf, MHA**, and **Cristina Pelaez-Velez, MD**, who is the Medical Home Director. Not pictured: **Carol Lilly, MD**.

**Panida Sriaroon, MD** has been appointed Assistant Program Director of the Pediatric Allergy/Immunology Division's fellowship training program.

**Jennifer Takagishi, MD** and **Isabel Gross, MD** (PGY-1) were awarded a Very Good Care certificate and \$25 gift card by Tampa General Hospital in December, and **Anthony Sochet, MD** (PGY-3) was awarded a certificate last fall. The certificates are awarded to caregivers when patients mention their good care in a Press-Ganey survey.

Congratulations to the Pediatrics STC clinic staff. A competition was held for best Christmas decorations for the patient reception areas on the second through fourth floors of the STC and Pediatrics won!



USF Pediatrics residents and faculty donated two large boxes of toys to Champions for Children – thanks to all of you for your generosity and in helping make a child's holiday brighter!

## Presentations

**John Sleasman, MD** gave a talk entitled *Current Controversies in Preventing HIV Maternal-to-Child Transmission* at Hot Topics in Neonatology held in Washington, DC in December.

**John Sleasman, MD** gave a talk entitled *Pediatric Immune Dysfunctions and Rhinosinusitis* at the Advanced Techniques in Endoscopic Management of Sinonasal Disorders conference held at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club in St. Petersburg in November.

## Publications

**Lewin AB**, Peris TS, De Nadai AS, McCracken, J, & Piacentini J. *Agreement between therapists, parents, patients, and independent evaluators on clinical improvement in pediatric obsessive compulsive disorder.* Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 80(6), 1102-1107, 2012.

Younger ME, Aro L, Blouin W, **Duff C**, Epland KB, Murphy E, Sedlak D. *Nursing guidelines for administration of immunoglobulin replacement therapy.* Nurse Advisory Committee Immune Deficiency Foundation. J Infus Nurs. Jan;36(1):58-68, 2013.

## New Faculty



**Dr. Juan Felipe Rico, M.D.**, joins the Department of Pediatrics Division of Hematology-Oncology after having recently completed his Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship at New York Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. In 2009 he completed his pediatric residency at the Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, FL.

During his fellowship, Dr. Rico's research was in heat shock protein inhibition in leukemia stem cells. He is a member of the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Rico will be seeing patients at the South Tampa Center, Tampa General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital.

## Resident's Corner

Three USF residents were appointed to All Children's Hospital Committees:

Medical Quality Oversight Committee - Dr. Krista Kohout, PL2

Family Advisory Committee - Dr. Mariah Gillispie, PL1

Ethics Committee - Dr. Erin Wright, PL1

## Grand Rounds

- Feb 7 Endocrine Progenitor Cells in the Adult Human Pancreas: An Approach to a Cell-Based Therapy for Type 1 Diabetes**  
Michael Shablott, PhD  
USF Pediatrics
- Feb 14 Risk Management (2 Hours)**  
Sandra Strickland, RN, MSN  
First Professional Insurance Company
- Feb 21 STOP Sports Injuries**  
William Quillen, PT, PhD  
Professor and Director  
USF School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Feb 28 Nutritional Assessment of the Pediatric Patient**  
Lauri Wright, PhD  
USF College of Public Health

*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](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/grand_rounds.htm)

## Other Upcoming Events



The Children's Gasparilla Parade,  
January 19, 2013



The NFL Super Bowl 2013, Sunday,  
February 3

USF Health Research Day, February 22,  
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

**PEDS GROWING FAMILY**

**Christine Booth MD,**  
delivered James  
Howard Booth II on  
December 19



### **NEW HIRES:**

Delsa McNeil: Community Caseworker,  
Child Development  
Erica Johnson: Community Caseworker,  
Child Development  
Jessica Dillon: Fiscal and Business  
Specialist, Administration

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**Please email submissions for next  
month's issue by February 1st**