FROM THE CHAIR

It happened again- the images are all too familiar. The pictures and stories of high school students and teachers gunned down. But this time does feel different and there has been movement – perhaps slow and inadequate – but at least some movement. The event high-jacked the Florida legislative session. At the time, we were monitoring bills regarding funding for a number of important pediatric programs including CMS, Healthy Start, and the low income pool (LIP) for safety net hospitals like TGH. However, the issue of gun control and safety in our schools became the sentinel issue.

If you ever doubted the millennials, the events of the last few weeks likely changed your mind: they have found their voice. Remarkably, their personal stories and passion stirred a Republican-run state government to pass gun control legislation. You may not agree with all of the pieces of the bill, but its passage continued the momentum started by these students and has stood up to special interest groups who just wanted this issue to fade away like it has so many other times.

At the Association of Medical School Chairs this month I heard an inspiring talk about the power of data, given by Atul Butte, a pediatric endocrinologist turned informatics entrepreneur at UCSF. One of his points was that, as physicians grounded in evidence-based decision making.

KUDOS

Dr. Nathan Brinn was the top performer in the Press Ganey scores for USF Health in the fourth quarter of 2017. His patient satisfaction score was in the 99th percentile. Congratulations!

Suncoast Credit Union Foundation has funded the Pediatric Outreach Services Program again this year. This grant allows Jeannette Fleischer, ARNP, to provide medical services to children in the Pasco County school system. She visits 9 Pasco County schools and provides care to over 145 children each year. We are thankful for their continued support and for Jeannette’s dedication to this program.

Bernard Washington, an Outreach and Linkage Coordinator with Youth Education Services, was one of 8 people selected to participate in the Digital Storytelling Workshop sponsored by What Works in Youth HIV last summer in Baltimore. During the workshop Bernard completed a digital story, which can be viewed at: https://whatworksinyouthhiv.org/story/digital-story-i-am

Dr. Antoinette Spoto-Cannons was honored for her term as president of the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society during the January 18th meeting.

Dr. Diane Straub was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine.

Michelle McKinney, the Ybor Youth Clinic Linkage to Care Coordinator, was invited to attend a Black Women Consultation meeting held February 15-16 in Ft. Lauderdale. The meeting, sponsored by the Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles, included 21 women who advise Florida on HIV-related topics for women including pre-exposure prophylaxis, marketing, community engagement, and the 2018 Strategic Plan. The women will meet every 6 months to ensure their recommendations are implemented.
making, we need to train more people to analyze and study the trillions of data points at our fingertips. And we need to actively promote the facts: real facts, real evidence, and not fake news.

The CDC receives no funding for gun violence prevention, thus has limited capacity to provide and analyze the much-needed evidence. We need more research in prevention, and we need to fund the CDC to do high quality research in this area and give us evidenced-based, common sense information that can be used to inform policy makers. As health professionals we need to take a stand and promote the evidence. Florida pediatricians should be so proud that they fought and won a law suit that gives us the right to ask about guns in the home, but how many of us actually have that conversation with our patients and their families? We need to ensure that the passage of the new gun law translates into positive action in our communities.

We are the logical group to partner with parents and adolescents in this national discourse on guns, mental health and school resources. This past month’s events have energized my goal to have USF Pediatrics be a leader in promoting advocacy for our community. I encourage all of you to get involved and to support your patients and their families in this initiative.

Yes, we need more resources and better schools, and yes we need more money for mental health, Healthy Start and early childhood services. We clearly know the evidence: adverse childhood events are associated with later physical and mental morbidities. As we accumulate more data about gun violence, let’s rise to the occasion and strengthen our efforts to serve as advocates for the families that we serve.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Patricia Emmanuel is an author on *Isoniazid for the prevention of tuberculosis in HIV-infected children: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. Pediatr Infect Dis J Dec 26, 2017; Epub ahead of print.

Dr. Lynn Ringenberg is an author on *Lead levels in drinking water in elementary schools in Tallahassee Florida; Recommendations for lead exposure reduction; Pediatricians’ role*, The Florida Pediatrician; 37(1), 6-13, 2018.


CLINICAL TEAM MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Lucia Barajas, RN is January’s Clinical Team Member of the Month. Lucia is a nurse at the All Children’s Hospital Outpatient Care Center. Nominators noted that Lucia is always looking for ways to make the clinical practice the best it can be, and is always willing to go above and beyond to help her team. She is a shining example of the mission and values of USF Health, and has an outstanding attitude. Lucia is professional, collaborates well with her team, and is efficient, dependable and reliable.

Brittany Theodore, CMA is February’s Clinical Team Member of the Month. Brittany, a Certified Medical Assistant at the 17 Davis Clinic, was described as being a very hard worker, and always willing to do anything to help out her team. She is positive and friendly and receives many compliments from patients and families. Nominators noted that Brittany enjoys learning, is organized and efficient, takes on extra duties as needed, and puts patient care and customer service first.
WELCOME DR. COLÓN-CORTÉS

Dr. Yanerys Colón-Cortés joined the Division of Pulmonology starting Jan 1 as an Assistant Professor. Colón-Cortés received her medical degree from Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara, and completed a Fifth Pathway Program at Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico. She completed her pediatric residency at St. Lukes Episcopal Hospital/Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico, where she served as chief resident, and then completed a fellowship in pediatric pulmonary at the University of Florida. Her practice includes patients with asthma, chronic cough, cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease of prematurity, children with musculoskeletal disorders, technology dependence, pediatric interstitial lung diseases among other airway and lung diseases. She also performs diagnostic testing of for various lung and airway diseases, and is proficient in performing flexible bronchoscopy.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. ARMSTRONG

Dr. Kathleen Armstrong was honored at her retirement reception held on February 28 at the USF Health Rotunda. Dr. Armstrong joined the USF Peds faculty in 1985, and served as Director of Pediatric Psychology in the Division of Neurobehavioral Health starting in 2009. She was recently awarded Professor Emeritus status. During Dr. Armstrong’s highly productive career she worked to promote the well-being of children and families and is widely recognized for her clinical expertise. She established an integrated behavioral health practice within USF Peds, and parent training programs that offer community-based interventions that have improved children’s outcomes, most notably Helping Our Toddlers, Developing Our Children’s Skills (HOT DOCS). She earned over $1.5 million in grants and contracts, is an author on 29 peer-reviewed publications, 19 book chapters and technical reports, and is first author of a book published in 2015. She also taught a wide range of students, and was selected for the 2017 Kosove Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award. One of her final contributions to USF Pediatrics was the establishment of a pediatric psychology internship, recognized by the American Psychological Association. Throughout her career Dr. Armstrong’s was also very active in service to the USF, local and professional communities.
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. Jennifer Leiding was featured in a story on ABC Action News story posted Jan 29, titled Florida Doctor Unravels 12-year-old Boy’s Medical Mystery, and she was interviewed for a CNN story, titled 4 Year Old Donating Bone Marrow to Help His Twin Brothers; the story was posted on March 2.

Dr. Lynn Ringenberg was interviewed by Channel 10 News on March 9 for a piece titled Why Your Doctor Might Soon Talk to You About Climate Change, and she was interviewed by Rolling Stone Magazine for a piece titled The Harms of Fracking: New Report Details Increased Risks of Asthma, Birth Defects and Cancer, which was posted on March 13.

BERNARD POLLARA LECTURE

The fourth annual Bernard Pollara, MD, PhD Lecture was held on February 15. The speaker was Neil Goldenberg, MD, PhD, who was a member of the first MedPeds residency class at USF. Dr. Goldenberg is currently Director of Research at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. During his lecture, titled Lessons Learned from the Design, Implementation, and Oversight of Multicenter Clinical Trials in Pediatric “Rare” Disease, he presented an overview of the regulatory and infrastructure challenges associated with running a multicenter trial for thrombotic events in children. His passion for research is evident and aligns so well with the interest Dr. Pollara had in this area.

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

Investigators are reminded that all investigator-initiated protocols must be submitted for scientific review by the department’s Scholarly Oversight Committee before they are submitted to the IRB. This requirement does not apply to industry and federally funded studies, or to studies submitted by endowed chairs or their trainees (unless review is specifically requested by the PI or mentor). The goal of this review is to provide educational opportunities for study design and to facilitate the IRB approval process. Protocols should be submitted to Dr. Elizabeth Enriquez-Bruce.(enriquezbruce@health.usf.edu)

TEACHING PEDIATRICS TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS

USF Peds organized and taught the inaugural USF physician assistant class’s three week Pediatric Didactic course at the end of January. The course, directed by Drs. Kiluk and Plant, with other faculty and residents participating, gave the students an excellent crash-course in pediatrics. Lectures were given by Drs. Emmanuel, Kiluk, Peredy and Mauriello. Chief residents Dr. Plant and Nereim each gave several lectures. Many residents lectured and helped with small group sessions including Drs. Cristoforo, Root, Cullinane, Ryan, Maier, Greenup and Dressing. At the end of the course, the students rated the pediatric course as their favorite of the year!

FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENTS

Our residents matched with some terrific fellowship programs this year!

Cameron Nereim, MD; Adolescent Medicine, Boston Children’s Hospital
Lauren Swanson, DO; Neonatology, Baylor College of Medicine
Erin Greenup, DO; Endocrinology; University of Alabama, Birmingham
Christa Root, DO; Emergency Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Georgia
Thomas Cristoforo, DO; Emergency Medicine, Arnold Palmer Hospital
Michael Dressing, MD; Sports Medicine, Arnold Palmer Hospital

NEW EMPLOYEES

Kristin Austin
Genetic Counselor
Carie McGugin
Medical Education
Lisa McPherson
Insurance Specialist/Early Steps
SUPPORT FOR MANUSCRIPT AND PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

Faculty and trainees are reminded of the excellent resources that are available for developing manuscripts and research proposals:

- The USF Health Research Methodology and Biostatistics Core offers help with the development of research methods and biostatistics. Services include study design and implementation, biostatistics and data management, clinical data extraction, research dissemination, grant and manuscript writing assistance.

  Go to: [http://health.usf.edu/research/rmbc](http://health.usf.edu/research/rmbc) This service is being offered free-of-charge for a limited time, and will be continued based on level of usage. We encourage you to use this service!

- MCOM Writing and Editing Services: Documents are edited by an external professional team of consultants. Contact Christine Tam at ctam@health.usf.edu

- USF Health Impact: provides intramural review of manuscripts and protocols. Go to [http://health.usf.edu/medicine/internalmedicine/im-impact](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/internalmedicine/im-impact) or contact Jennifer Newcomb, MS at jnewcomb@health.usf.edu

- EndNote reference management software. Free downloads are available at [http://software.usf.edu](http://software.usf.edu) and training available is at Shimberg Library (Ardis Hanson, PhD; hansona@health.usf.edu)

REACH OUT AND READ

On March 2 (Dr. Seuss’s birthday!) a Reach Out and Read event was held at Healthpark, sponsored by the College of Public Health and organized by Ellen Kent, with Drs. Maldonado, Bhatt, Ryan, Piedrahita-Llano and Takagishi participating, along with volunteers Esme and Gianna. Drs. Shah, Milette, Dressing and Farooqui went to Primrose School where they read to students and donated additional books. Another event will be held at 17 Davis in April, so please continue to donate books at Healthpark and 17 Davis!
RESIDENCY NEWS

Drs. Michelle Blanco, Monica Shah, Jillian Hagerman and Elissa Engel attended Children’s Week in Tallahassee in January. They met with a variety of legislators and had substantive discussions about children’s issues in Florida. This program, sponsored by the FCAAP, includes residents from around the state.

Residents held a holiday party for underserved patients and their families at Healthpark in December. The party was hosted by Taylor Alberdi and Meredith Plant with help from Alison Cullinane and medical student Alicia Lew. Residents, nurses and office staff contributed gifts for 15 children who otherwise may not have had any presents during the holiday season. Live music was provided by Michelle Blanco’s sister Kathleen, and activities included cookie decorating, gingerbread house constructing, and face painting. The event was lots of fun and we hope to continue it this year!

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Jennifer Leiding was lead author for a talk titled Resolution of CGD related colitis after allogeneic HCT in patients with chronic granulomatous disease – early results from the 6903 study of the Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium (PIDTC), given at the American Society of Bone Marrow Transplantation meeting held in Salt Lake City from Feb 21-25.

The Division of Allergy and Immunology made a great showing at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology’s meeting held in Orlando, March 2-5!

Invited Lecture: Jennifer Leiding and MD Keller: Beyond the Basics: Advanced Testing for Primary Immunodeficiency Disorders

Moderator: Jennifer Leiding and A Cianferoni: The Role of Lymphocytes in Allergic and Immunologic Disease

Platform: Jithpratuck W, Samuel VO, Sriaaroon P. Thick Cast Sputum Production and Eosinophilia in an Adult Presenting with Respiratory Distress
PRESENTATIONS

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Posters:


Lindsay D, Cunningham-Rundles C, Fuleihan RL, Ballow M, Leiding JW. Incidence of Reactivated Herpes Zoster (shingles) in Patients with Primary Immune Deficiency

Khan F. Recurrent Disseminated MAC in Patient with Antibodies Targeting Interferon Gamma (IFN-g)

Jithpratuck W, Samuel VO, Sriaroon P. Successful Use of Mepolizumab in a Patient with Chronic Eosinophilic Pneumonia

Saco T, Lockey RF, Leiding J. Identifying the Root of the Problem: A Case of Recurrent Sinusitis due to Oroantral Communication

Bulkhi A, Lindsay D, Joychan S, Sriaroon P, Oshrine BR, Leiding JW, Walter JE. Hyper IgM Syndrome: To Transplant or Not to Transplant.

Farmer J. Gastrointestinal (GI) Manifestations in Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID)

McCrary K, Leiding JW, Duff C. High Flow Hizentra in Patient with Primary Immunodeficiency Disease

Peterson E, Santiago L, Ayala I, Leiding JW. Diagnosis and Treatment of a Patient with CTLA-4 Haploinsufficiency

Stowell M, Walter JE, Pennix T, Ujhazi B et al. Naïve B Cells are Prone to Develop into Polyreactive Autoantibody Secreting Cells from Adult RAG2-deficient Patient with Combined Immunodeficiency

RESEARCH DAY

USF Peds made a great showing at Research Day! **Dr. Kelsey Ryan** and colleagues won the Outstanding Resident Trainee Poster Award; **Dr. Sonia Joychan** and colleagues won the Best Fellow Poster Presentation: Case Studies; **Dr. Armstrong**’s student was lead author on the Best Poster Presentation from the College of Nursing. Way to go!

Kelsey Ryan, Scott McKinley, Jennifer Bartlett, Sorany Son, Michael Wisey, Thomas Nakagawa, Anthony Sochet. *The Utility of Pediatric Asthma Severity Scores in Disposition Decisions for Status Asthmaticus.* #1!!

Sonia Joychan, Bhumika Patel, Jennifer Mayer, Panida Sriaroon. *A Case of Anaphylaxis to Methotrexate and Successful Desensitization #1!!*

Samia Dutra, Maureen Groer, Ming Ji, Larry Dishaw, Elizabeth Miller, Allyson Duffy, Kathleen Armstrong, Alyson Yee. *Correlations Among Toddler Gut Microbiome and Later Health Status Variables.* #1!!

Erica Peterson, Daniel Mauriello. *Post-Patent Ductus Arteriosus Ligation Syndrome with Hypertension and Masking of Renal Artery Stenosis in an Infant.*

Shubika D’Souza, Vineet Lamba, CL Bassel, Mavel Gutierrez, Karen Fugate, Maya Balakrishnan. *NICU Antibiotic Stewardship: Developing a Multidisciplinary Team to Reduce Antimicrobial Utilization.*

Moath Alhamad, Aimen Ben Ayad, Maya Balakrishnan, Kaitlin Sapp, Karen Fugate. *Improving Growth Velocity in Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW) Infants: A Quality Improvement (QI) Project*

Amy Mickelsen, Kelly Driver, Rahul Mhaskar, Maya Balakrishnan. *Increasing the Utilization of Transcutaneous Bilirubin Measurements in Preterm Infants: A Quality Improvement Initiative*

Brittany Cozart, Meari Taguchi, Sadaf Aslam, Michel Murr, John Paul Gonzalvo, Amy Weiss. *An Interprofessional Team Approach to Identifying Co-morbidities in Teens Eligible for Bariatric Surgery*

David Lindsay, Charlotte Cunningham-Rundles, Ramsay L. Fuleihan, Mark Ballow, Jennifer W. Leiding. *Incidence of Reactivated Herpes Zoster (shingles) in Patients with Primary Immune Deficiency*

Kristin Edwards, Kayla LaRosa, Kathleen Armstrong. *Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Pica: A Case Study*

Vanessa Bray, Vinita Kiluk. *Medical Humanities in Medical Education, Particularly Pediatrics*

Stanford Chun, Jessica Block, Volkan Vural, Yannis Katsis, Daniel Crawl, Ilkay Altintas, Amy Weiss, Jeannie S. Huang. *Environmental Exposures and Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Childhood*
RESEARCH DAY

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Kalie Pham, Erin Brennan, Danyelle Guido, Tahnin Bluangtook. An Examination of Treatment Preference in Pediatric Tourette’s and Tic Disorder Population

Vanessa Bray, Vinita Kiluk. Medical Humanities in Medical Education, Particularly Pediatrics

Stanford Chun, Jessica Block, Volkan Vural, Yannis Katsis, Daniel Crawl, Ilkay Altintas, Amy Weiss, Jeannie S. Huang. Environmental Exposures and Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Childhood

Alicia Lew, Vinita Kiluk, Amy Weiss. The Significance and Efficacy of Teaching About Health Disparities in Pediatrics Residency

Warit Jithpratuck, Vinny Samuel, Panida Sriaaroon MD. Thick Cast Sputum Production and Eosinophilia in an Adult Presenting with Respiratory Distress

R Cruz, C Duff, D Krasnopero, S Joychan, D Lindsay, D Nieves, M Ellison, Z Long, P Sriaaroon, A Asante-Korang, JE Walter. Treatment Options for Chronic Parvovirus Viremia in Pediatric Heart Transplant Patients in a Tertiary Care Center


Cristina Meehan, Anna Meyer, Bhumika Paatel, Amre Devandre, Panida Sriaaroon, Jennifer Leiding, Jolan Walter. Clinical Features and Treatment Responses of Autoimmune Cytopenias with Primary Immunodeficiency at a Tertiary Pediatric Care Facility

Thomas Pennix, Matthew Stowell, Boglarka Ujhazi.....Krisztian Csomos, Jolan Walter. Alterations in Immunophenotype of Autoimmune-prone hypomorphic RAG-Deficient Patients with CID-G/AI Phenotype