FROM THE CHAIR

The USF Pediatrics family is very saddened by the passing of Dr. Bernard Pollara on May 10. He was a vital member of our faculty for over 20 years and was a dear friend and mentor to so many of us. We are very pleased that Ben was able to participate in the events surrounding the inaugural Bernard Pollara Resident lectureship in April, which included opportunities to visit with former trainees. We hope that this annual event will allow us to continue his legacy and will remind us of his passion for education and USF Pediatrics.

Ben maintained his good humor and keen interest in the department, its faculty, staff and trainees during his illness. I loved getting together with him—often over good food and wine—to discuss our challenges and triumphs. One characteristic that comes to mind when I think of Ben is wisdom. He continued to grow as a person over the years that I knew him and often shared his insights and perspective. He drew upon his 60-plus years of experience as an academic physician, mentor and colleague. He kept his priorities straight—always making time for family and friends and forever fostering

KUDOS

Drs. Larry Dishaw and Mya Breitbart have been awarded $440,300 by the National Science Foundation for their grant titled Phages in Structuring Bacterial Communities: Ciona Intestinalis as a Model Organism. They will investigate the role of bacteriophages (viruses that infect bacteria) in shaping the gut bacterial community structure in the gut.

Dr. Miriah Gillispie was chosen to receive the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award by the USF Health COM Class of 2017. The award, which is given to 5 residents for their work with third year medical students, recognizes residents who demonstrate compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients and who serve as approachable and accessible role models and teachers to students and colleagues. Recipients were honored at the Class of 2017 Student Clinician Ceremony on May 8.

Dr. Amarilis Sanchez-Valle was accepted to participate in the AAMC’s 2015 Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar which will be held July 11-14 in Englewood, Colorado. Dr. Sanchez-Valle is also one of two USF Health nominees to be awarded $2500 in travel expenses by the USF Reach Office of Faculty Development to attend the seminar.

Daniela Marin, LPN, became a US citizen in May!

Dr. Carly Johnco, postdoctoral fellow at the USF Rothman Center, received the Australian Psychological Society College of Clinical Psychologists Student Prize.

FACULTY & STAFF CAMPAIGN

The Genetics, Pulmonary and Adolescent Medicine divisions have reached 100% participation in this year’s Faculty & Staff Campaign. Congratulations!
Letter continued from page 1

relationships. He loved to attend our annual resident events and found joy in spending time with students. Ben also had a strong commitment to the underserved children and families of Tampa Bay and advocated for them in many ways. He taught me so much, not only as a physician but as a person, and I am a better person for having known him. I know our department is also much better because of his presence.

We will surely miss Ben and are comforted in knowing that his legacy lives on in the many lives he has touched in our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

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

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### PRESENTATIONS

**Drs. Maya Balakrishnan, Terri Ashmeade and Teresa Mahan** taught a TeamSTEPPS master training course, sponsored by FPQC, in Hollywood, Florida in March.

A poster presentation by **Laura Weathers, Kelly Driver, Judy Zaritt, Richelle Reinhart, Shari Roberts, Branko Miladinovic** and **Maya Balakrishnan** titled *Safety and Feasibility of Auricular Acupuncture in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome* won 2nd place at the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture conference held in St. Louis in April.

A poster presentation by **Richelle Reinhart, Karen Fugate, Branko Miladinovic, Terri Ashmeade** and **Maya Balakrishnan** titled *A Multidisciplinary Approach to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Management to Decrease Length of Hospital Stay* won honorable mention at the annual FPQC meeting held in Tampa in April.

**Dr. Maya Balakrishnan** presented results from her group’s collaborative project and served as a panelist on the *Golden Hour Initiative Panel* at the annual FPQC meeting held in Tampa in April.

**USF Pediatrics** made a great showing at this year’s PAS meeting held in San Diego April 25-28:

**Poster Presentations:**

**Angel A. Luciano, Krishnan MohanKumar, Alejandro Diego, Akhil Maheshwari.** *Intestinal Macrophages Are the Main Source of Fecal Calprotectin in Premature Infants With Necrotizing Enterocolitis*

**Alejandro M. Diego, Michael H. Malloy, Rakesh Rao, Akhil Maheshwari.** *Predictors of Red Cell Transfusion-Associated Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Premature Infants*

**Thais O. Queliz-Pena, Krishnan MohanKumar, Akhil Maheshwari, Angel A. Luciano.** *Prematurity and Chorioamnionitis Are Associated with Aberrant Splicing of the T-Cell Inhibitor PD1*

**Graciela M. Rabri, Krishnan MohanKumar, Angel A. Luciano, Maureen Groer, Akhil Maheshwari, Terri L. Ashmeade.** *Maturational Changes in Neuraminidase and TGF- Bioactivity in Preterm Human Milk*

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### GRAND ROUNDS

**June 4**
Elias Dakwar, MD
*Pediatric Scoliosis*

**June 11**
David Berman, DO
*Discussing Immunizations with the Public*

**June 18**
Gary Litman, PhD
*Antibody Diversity: Not as Hard to Understand as You Think*

**June 25**
Juan Felipe Rico, MD
*Pediatric Sickle Cell Disease: Evidence For Therapies in the Guidelines; Evidence for Therapies Not In the Guidelines*
SAVE THE DATE

June 10
All Peds Faculty Meeting
Skit Night

June 16
Resident Graduation at Rusty Pelican

June 20
Resident Welcome Party

HAPPENINGS

Medical students in the Pediatric Interest Group and pediatric residents held a Teddy Bear Clinic for kids and their families at both the Mary Lee’s House event on April 12th and Healthy Kids Day on April 25th! Both were great events that helped spread the word about USF Pediatrics. Many thanks to med students, Nick Plimpton and Jay Petosa, for coordinating!

PUBLICATIONS


NEW ADDITIONS

Dr. Catherine Kubiak gave birth to Caroline Mae Kubiak on April 2.

Dr. Eric Storch and his wife welcomed Ellie Martha on May 2.

Congratulations!
FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Dr. Amy Weiss was invited to the WEDU studios, representing USF and TGH, to be filmed for 2 promotional commercials that encouraged viewers to watch Florida’s Kids and Alcohol, a town hall meeting. The pieces aired on WEDU in the weeks leading up to the special, which aired on April 23.

PEDS RESEARCH NEWS

Investigator: Larry Dishaw, PhD
Title: The Microbiome and Metatranscriptome in Chronic Rhinosinusitis. Sponsor: All Children’s Research Institute, Inc.

Investigator: Michael Shamblott, PhD Title: The Islet Genesis Project. Sponsor: University of Chicago

Investigator: Valerie Panzarino, MD Title: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Efficacy and Safety Study of AR 14 (AZILSARTAN MEDOXOMIL) Treatment and Withdrawal, Followed by an Open-Label Extension, in Children 6 to Less Than 18 Years of Age With Hypertension. Sponsor: Arbor Pharmaceuticals

USF PEDS ALUMNI

Dr. Jonni Klapper was given a certificate to honor her resident teaching. She has worked with residents in the Hillsborough County Schools since the early 1990s!

USF Peds Alumnus Installed as President of the Hillsborough County Medical Association!

Dr. Jose D. Jimenez, who has lived in the Tampa Bay area for 20 years, completed his medical school and pediatric residency training at USF, graduating in 2000. Jose started his own practice, Small World Pediatrics, in Wesley Chapel in 2003.

Jose has a passion for both his patients and his profession. It is this passion that has led him to get involved in advocacy on behalf of children, pediatrics, and medicine.

Jose is also a staunch advocate for his patients, for pediatrics, and for the medical profession through his involvement in organized medicine. He believes that by his involvement he can make a difference. He serves on the Board of the Florida Medical Association (2012-present), the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (2010-present), the Hillsborough County Medical Association (2011-present), and the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society (2007-present). He currently serves as President of the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society (2014-2015) and was installed May 5 as the President of the Hillsborough County Medical Association. Dr. Jimenez has also served the State of Florida with his tenure on the Florida Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee (2008-2011), appointed by Governor Charlie Crist.

Many of Jose’s former faculty teachers, and resident colleagues joined him for this special night. We are all very proud of his accomplishments which reflect in a positive manner on the USF Pediatric Residency Training Program.

Jose and his wife Nancy (a 2000 USF Pediatrics graduate) have two children. They are involved as Cub Scouts Leaders and are parishioners of St. Mark’s Catholic Church.