FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to a new academic year! It is back to school time across the region. Our new medical students have started their first year, a very talented group of students with average MCATs in the 90th percentile nationally. Our interns and residents have settled in and are already working on their second rotation. We welcome several new faculty who are highlighted in this newsletter. Several new initiatives are in the works this academic year – we are rolling out new promotion guidelines, medical education is involved in curricular mapping, and the practice plan has been working on a new compensation plan. The department continues to grow and evolve – changing every day.

The national events over the past several weeks have been unsettling; they make me appreciate my workplace and the fact that I work in an environment designed to encourage diverse people and ideas. Universities are meant to bring together people with varied ideas, from different cultures and experiences. This diversity is celebrated and makes us strong. We all need to foster open and honest communication among our colleagues and trainees. We teach tolerance and foster peace by the examples we demonstrate every day: how we treat our students, our colleagues and our patients. These characteristics are exemplified by people like Mary Mitchell.

HAPPENINGS

The CMS Building was officially re-named the John S. Curran, MD, Children’s Health Center during a ceremony held on June 29. The event to honor Dr. John Curran and to celebrate his remarkable legacy was attended by faculty, students, staff, and local and state leaders and dignitaries. During his career Dr. Curran served as an outstanding child health advocate who advanced public policies which have benefited many of Florida’s most vulnerable patients. One of his most recognized achievements is his work on developing the Hillsborough County Health Care Plan over 20 years ago. The Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County has recognized Dr. Curran’s career by declaring June 29 as Dr. John S. Curran Day. The naming of the building coincided with Dr. Curran’s retirement after 45 years of service at USF.

In July we said farewell to Barbara Cockream after 25 years of service at USF Health. Following time working in the Dept. of Anesthesiology Barbara served as the Senior Administrative Assistant to Drs. Robert Nelson and Patricia Emmanuel. During a farewell luncheon Barbara expressed her appreciation to her friends and colleagues.

The June 29 grand rounds lecture titled Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia 50 Years After its Initial Description was given by Eduardo Bancalari, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and Chief of the Newborn Service at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Bancalari honored Dr. John Curran during the lecture, pictured here with the many fellows he trained at USF during his distinguished career.
and the entire Med-Peds team who were recognized this month for their outstanding Press–Ganey scores that reflect teamwork, respect and trust. These attributes are essential for a high functioning team, and are values that we should always aspire to at work and home. I hope that you enjoy this month’s news and congratulate all the wonderful things people are doing to advance pediatrics.

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

**NEW FACULTY**

**Dr. Eliana Piedrahita-Llano** joins the Division of General Pediatrics as an assistant professor. She attended medical school in her home-country of Colombia and completed her pediatric residency at Lehigh Valley in 2015, where she served as Administrative Chief Resident. She was the recipient of numerous awards during residency, including Outstanding Resident Award, Outstanding Resident Teaching Award, and Medical Student Resident Teacher of the Year Award. Her interests include nutrition, breast feeding, development and anticipatory guidance. She is board certified in pediatrics.

**Dr. Steven Ford** joins the Division of Neonatology as an assistant professor. He attended Western Kentucky for his undergraduate studies, and attended medical school and completed his pediatric residency at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and completed his Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in 2017. Dr. Ford was the recipient of numerous awards during his training, including Resident of the Year in Neonatology, Outstanding Achievement in Resident Research, and the Fellows’ Clinical Research Award given by the Society for Pediatric Research at the 2017 PAS meeting.

Dr. Ford’s primary interests relate to the nutritional management of very low and extremely low birth weight infants, as well as how nutrition affects intestinal microbiome development. Dr. Ford is board-certified in pediatrics and board-eligible in neonatology.

**Dr. Karen Wickline** joins the Division of Neonatology as a professor. She attended the University of Maryland-Munich Campus and University of Hawaii-Manoa for her undergraduate studies, earned her MD from St. Louis University School of Medicine, and completed her residency at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. In 1992 she completed her fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, where she joined the faculty. During her time at Washington University she served as Director of the Newborn Medicine Follow-Up Clinic, Associate Program Director for the Pediatric Residency Program, and Director of the COPE (Community Outpatient Practice Experience) Program. She also participated in the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Follow-Up Clinic with cardiologists, neurologists, psychologists, and therapists. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2003, and was promoted to Professor upon her appointment to USF.

Dr. Wickline’s primary interest relates to long term neonatal outcomes and medical education. She is board certified in General Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

**CLINICAL TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

July’s Clinical Team Member of the Month is **Sheryle Sims, CMA**. Nominators noted her positive attitude and ready willingness to help others. Sheryle does an excellent job of handling the clinical workflow in a complicated pediatric specialty clinic, and is great at communicating with providers and patients. She is always well prepared, and goes above and beyond to work as part of a team. Congratulations, Sheryle!

**PEDS RESEARCH NEWS**

An article published by **Dr. Jennifer Leiding** and colleagues was the focus of a press release in Japan, and is featured on the Johns Hopkins/ACH website under “Newsroom”. The piece describes a patient who had recurrent infections since birth, but no definitive diagnosis was made until he became a patient of Dr. Leiding, who worked with investigators from across the globe to identify the child’s specific genetic mutation. Their diligence led to effective treatment, and an important manuscript that will facilitate the diagnosis and treatment of other affected patients.
KUDOS

Dr. Akhil Maheshwari was awarded $1.8 million for his 5 year study titled Effect of Platelet Transfusions on Neonatal Intestinal Injury, which will investigate the mechanisms and effects of reduced platelet counts in patients with necrotizing enterocolitis, and the effects of platelet transfusions.

Dr. Sharon Dabrow was awarded a plaque for her service on the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Early Career Physicians.

Dr. Jolan Walter was inducted as an inaugural member into the Robert A. Good Honor Society. The Society recognizes students, faculty and alumni who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to improve health outcomes through research, innovation and scholarly endeavors.

Dr. Jennifer Leiding was named Associate Editor of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, and was nominated to the USF Research Council.

For the last 3 quarters, Press Ganey physician communication scores for the Division of Med-Peds have been in the 90th percentile for all ambulatory centers. Congratulations!

Dr. Jaime Flores-Torres’s nomination to attend the AAMC Minority Faculty Leadership Seminar in September was selected by the Office of Faculty Development for financial sponsorship.

Dr. Kathleen Armstrong was awarded $15,288 from the University of Nebraska via the Health Resources and Services Administration for her grant titled Psychology Training in Underserved Areas.

Dr. Akhil Maheshwari was awarded $6179 from Empire Biotechnologies, Inc., for his proposal titled NEC Mouse Model.

Dr. Mudra Kumar recently completed the International Association of Medical Science Educator’s Medical Educator Fellowship Program.

Mary Mitchell, ARNP, was awarded USF Health’s Patient Experience ARNP/PA Quarterly Provider Award for the second quarter of 2017. The award is given to the provider who received the highest ratings on the Press Ganey surveys that are sent to patients, making her the top ARNP/PA provider in all of the USF Health!

INTRAMURAL GRANTS

Deadlines for two of USF’s intramural grant programs are Oct 1. The BOOST grant provides funds for NIH-funded investigators to generate preliminary data for submission of a new NIH grant. The Interdisciplinary Seed Grant brings together funded investigators from different fields to generate preliminary data for submission of an NIH R01 or R21 grant. See the Office of Research website to view the full list of available funding opportunities.

GRAND ROUNDS

September 7
Patricia Emmanuel, MD  
Molecular Diagnostics

September 14
Verena Jorgensen, MD  
Research Ethics

September 21
Thomas Casale, MD  
Biologics and Precision Therapy for Chronic Persistent Asthma

September 28
Dr. Mark Moseley & Atty. Phillip Cox  
Patient Experience Improvement and How it Links to Risk Management

PEDS RESEARCH NEWS

Investigator: Juan Rico, MD  
Title: A randomized, open-label, multicenter, two arm, phase II study to evaluate treatment compliance, efficacy and safety of an improved deferasirox formulation (granules) in pediatric patients with iron overload  
Sponsor: Novartis

Investigator: Jaime Flores-Torres, MD  
Title: Comparison of Aerosol Delivery of Infasurf to Usual Care in Spontaneously Breathing RDS Patients  
Sponsor: ONY, Inc
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

RESIDENT CORNER

Drs. Dabrow, Plant, Gates, Melvin, Brasher, Swanson and Rye-Buckingham participated in the Health Fair in Plant City on July 22.

USF Peds residents and faculty participated in four Back-2-School Health Fairs this summer, held in Plant City, North Tampa and West Tampa. Jeanette Fleischer, ARNP was the primary liaison and coordinator for two of the fairs. This important community outreach effort improves access to basic community resources. Children attending this year’s fairs were from families who had immigrated from at least 8 different countries from across the globe.

Dr. Emmanuel hosted the annual resident welcome party on June 24. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the trainees and their families before they start their residency and fellowship programs!

PRESENTATIONS

In June, Dr. Jennifer Leiding made the following presentations: Non-Infectious Presentations and Complications of Immunodeficiency: A New Era of Immune Defects and Monoclonal Antibody Therapies: A Review of What’s New Up and Coming at the Pennsylvania Allergy and Immunology Association Annual Meeting in Hersey, PA; Primary Immunodeficiencies and Burden of Disease at the Eastern Allergy Conference Annual Meeting in Palm Beach, Florida.

Dr. Jennifer Leiding served as co-chair of the Symposium on Chronic Granulomatous Disease at the Annual National Immune Deficiency Foundation Meeting held in Anaheim, CA in June. She gave two talks for the symposium: Definition, Diagnosis including Genetics, General Care including General Measures for Preventing Infection in Chronic Granulomatous Disease and Understanding the Use of Antibiotics and Interferon gamma in Chronic Granulomatous Disease.

Dr. Philip Sosa was lead author on a poster titled Increasing Efficacy of Asthma Education: Characterizing Caregiver Self-identified Barriers and Informational Needs at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting held in May. Co-authors included Drs. Cristoforo, Couluris, Takagishi and Burton.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Eric Storch and colleagues Drs. Jon Abramowitz and Dean McKay are editors of a two-volume series titled The Wiley Handbook of Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, published by Wiley Blackwell. The international group of authors includes:

Storch EA, Arnold EA, Selles RR. Contamination Concerns in Children and Adolescents

Storch EA, Johnco C. Unacceptable Obsessional Thoughts in Children and Adolescents

Wu M, Lewin AB. Insight in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Thienemann M, Murphy TK. Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

McGuire JF, Brennan EM, Storch EA. Diagnostic Severity Measures for Children and Adolescents with Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders

Dr. Jolan Walter is an author on Reduced numbers of circulating group 2 innate lymphoid cells in patients with common variable immunodeficiency. Eur J Immunol July 18, 2017, Epub ahead of print.

Dr. Jennifer Leiding is an author on Low IgE is insufficiently sensitive to guide genetic testing of STAT3 gain of functions mutations. Clin Chem, June 30, 2017, Epub ahead of print.

Dr. Tanya Murphy is a guest editor on a special edition of the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology (vol 27, Feb 2017). The panel of leading investigators developed recommendations to guide the management of children with pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and PAN disorder associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS).

SAVE THE DATE

August 24
Faculty Meeting

September 1-3
Florida Chapter, AAP Annual Conference, Orlando

September 14
Clinical research training for PIs and staff

November 2
2017 John Curran Lecture