FROM THE CHAIR

Advocacy, or the act or process of supporting a cause, is an integral part of being in the pediatric workforce. Improving children’s health involves more than clinical care – so much of what impacts the health of our children are societal issues including poverty, health disparity, substance abuse, mental illness and violence. Early in the development of pediatrics as a specialty, physicians realized they were obligated to be fierce advocates for their vulnerable patients.

Although a relatively small number of bills passed during the 2014 legislative season there was at least one big win for children’s health. For several years, the Florida Chapter of the AAP has tried to pass a booster seat law which would expand the age requirement for separate child restraint devices. Although they did not get everything they wanted, this year HB 225 passed which requires that children ages 4-5 use a separate car seat, not just a seat belt. Motor vehicle accidents are a major cause of death in

DEPARTMENT KUDOS

We are very proud of Drs. Mudra Kumar and Vinita Kiluk who were among nine USF College of Medicine faculty who received the Dean’s Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award on April 23. The inter-professional committee commended them for exceptional contributions to the field of education.

Medical assistants Ruben Acero and Sharon Funches passed their certification exams, continuing the 100% pass rate for USF Pediatrics!

Jake Bourgeois, a graduate student in the College of Public Health working in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Fant, presented his research at the 6th Annual USF Graduate Student and Postdoctorate Research Symposium in March. The title of his poster was Characterization of the Neuropathological Consequences of Plac1 Ablation in the Developing Mouse Embryo. USF Peds co-authors included Xiaoyuan Kong, Juan Fuentes, and Michael Fant. Based on the quality of his research and his ability to articulate its importance he was selected as a winner of the SHARP Award (Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice), which provided $500 to support the cost of his traveling to Phoenix, Arizona where he presented his work at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.

Cady Welch’s project titled Management of a Heart Murmur in an Asymptomatic Neonate Using a Standardized Approach was selected for the American Heart Association’s 2014 Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship Award. The project is an extension of Dr. Rebecca Levine’s fellowship project; Dr. Maya Balakrishnan is Cady’s mentor.

Dr. Kathleen Armstrong was a finalist for the Greater Temple Terrace Medical Hero Award, given April 29, 2014 at the Pepin Hospitality Center. This award recognizes her work with children and families, and training that she provides to graduate and medical students.
children and the use of booster seats in this age group can cut fatalities in half. Much of the credit for pursuing this legalization in the face of heavy opposition by the tourist industry goes to Drs. Nancy Silva and Jose Jimenez, private pediatricians in Tampa and graduates of the USF Pediatrics residency. They have been very involved in pediatric organizations; this legislation has been a passion of theirs. Finding your passion to help advance child health is something we try to impart in our residents through their advocacy rotation. Many faculty are very involved in advocacy including immunization champions David Berman (who recently was acknowledged by the CDC for his efforts) and Jorge Lujan-Zilbermann; advocates of specialty care such as Sharon Perlman who promotes services for children with chronic kidney disease in her role with the American Society for Pediatric Nephrology; and Diane Straub advancing adolescent health through Connect to Protect®. They all serve as excellent role models for our students and residents in addition to doing good work advancing important issues.

We will all need to be advocates over the coming months as many of our patients transition from traditional Medicaid to Managed Medicaid (MMA). This statewide

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Jake Bourgeois** presented a poster titled *Characterization of the Neuropathological Consequences of Plac1 Knockout in the Developing Mouse Embryo* at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society of Toxicology held in Phoenix, Arizona in March. Other authors included X Kong, J Fuentes, R Harbison, G Johnson and M Fant.

The following posters were presented at the Association of Pediatric Program Directors meeting held in Chicago in April:

- **Lana Soylu, MD**: *iPads.....Are They the Future of Clinical Education?* Dr. Mudra Kumar was co-author.
- **Ronald Sutsko, MD**: *Resident-Driven Curriculum Design Within a Pediatric Residency’s Subspecialty Tracks*. Co-authors included Sharon Dabrow, Mindy Murphy, Erika Pascuita, Kelly Paulina and Meaghan Reyes.

**Carla Duff, CPNP-PC MSN CCRP**, presented *Immune Globulin & Replacement Therapy: Individualizing a Regimen* at the Clinical Immunology Society’s 2014 Annual Meeting held in Baltimore in April and **Dr. Hana Niebur** presented a poster titled *Lymphocytic Cerebritis as First Manifestation in a Patient with Common Variable Immune Deficiency*. Other authors included **Drs. Nathan Tang and Jennifer Leiding**.

**Dr. Hana Niebur** presented a poster titled *The Rebuck Skin Window: An Old Technique Applied to Post-transplant Monitoring in Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency* at the Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium Fourth Annual Scientific Workshop held in Seattle in May. Other authors included **Drs. Leiding, Petrovic and Chamizo**.

**Drs. Adam Lewin and Eric Storch** were authors on a poster titled *Distinctive Neuropsychological Performance Across Symptom Dimensions in Youth with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder*. The poster was presented by student **Joseph McGuire** at the Annual Meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America held in Chicago.

**Dr. Cristina Pelaez** participated as an expert for implementation of the Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Act’s (CHIPRA) Florida Pediatric Medical Home Demonstration Project held in Orlando in April.
Letter continued from page 2

transition will occur June 1st, however, patients who are enrolled in Children’s Medical Services will enroll into the CMS managed care program on August 1st. Many of our patients have already been transitioned. There are 7 plans in Hillsborough County and USF has contracted with each of them. There are also several disease-specific specialty plans. More information on the roll out of MMA is available at www.flmedicaidreform.com/. CMS and our statewide pediatric advocates are closely following the roll-out of MMA for CMS patients. There is still some confusion. Most importantly, existing patients can continue to receive services during this transition. USF Pediatrics healthcare providers should not turn away any patients, as payments will be made for services delivered in the first three months. As always, staying informed is a cornerstone of advocacy.

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

NEW EMPLOYEES

Jim Wooters
Asst. Director, Fiscal & Business Administration; Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Callie Lecakes
Medical Assistant; Med Peds

Erica Amerson
Speech Therapist; Early Steps

Alice Chadwell
Occupational Therapist; Early Steps

Mary Star Swanson
Physical Therapist; Early Steps

Helen Peffers
Fiscal & Business Analyst; Administration

RESIDENCY NEWS

MedPeds residents Drs. Michelle Tang and Devi Yalamanchili participated in a USF medical mission to Dilaire, Haiti, where they were part of a team of 9 that treated nearly 2300 patients over a period of 4 days. They were commended for providing high quality care in austere settings, and for helping to prepare hypertension protocols and developing education programs for patients.

SAVE THE DATE

June 12
Skit night

June 15
Graduation party at Rusty Pelican

June 27
Resident welcome party
Best of Luck Dr. Haubner!

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that Laura Haubner will be leaving USF Pediatrics in a few weeks to join TGH as the Chief Quality Officer. Dr. Haubner first joined our Department in 1997 as a fellow in the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship program; she has been with the faculty since 2000 and has significantly contributed to the growth and reputation of the NICU and our fellowship. She has served as Associate Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program, Director of the TEAMS Center and most recently as Medical Director of the Virtual Patient Care Center at CAMLS. We are very proud that Laura will be continuing her work in the quality area but expanding her scope to include big people.

We are grateful for the years Dr. Haubner spent with USF Pediatrics and look forward to working with her in her new role at TGH. She will also continue to assist in coverage of the NICU. We congratulate Laura and wish her all the best in her new position.

Residency News continued from page 3

Four residents presented their quality improvement research projects at the April 24 Grand Rounds: Dr. Shaila Siraj, Improving the Identification of Bullying in School-Aged Children; Dr. Alisha Pineiro, Asthma Control Test Documentation in Asthma Patients; Dr. Miriah Gillespie, Rates of Remission in Polyarticular JIA; Dr. Jacqueline Nguyen, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Management: A Quality Improvement Initiative to Educate Parents and Providers in the Outpatient Setting.

The resident versus attending kickball game last month was well attended, with attendings winning 7 to 5!

Drs. Vinita Kiluk and Sharon Dabrow organized medical students and residents to participate in Davis Islands’ own Islands Fest on April 26. Residents and students held a Teddy Bear Clinic, where the kids became the doctors to their teddy bear patients. Special thanks to Drs. Knox, Kiluk, Dabrow, Burton, Gillespie, Siraj, Suarez, Luna, Chau and the medical students from the Pediatric Interest Group for participating!

Best of Luck Dr. Haubner!
GRAND ROUNDS

June 5
Electronics in Healthcare: Benefits and Risks of EMRs and E-Communications
Sandra Strickland, RN, MSN, LHRM, CPHRM

June 12
Medical Education in the 21st Century
Mudra Kumar, MD

June 19
Human Milk: A Microbial Inoculum for Gut Microbiome Health
Maureen Groer, PhD

June 26
The Psychosocial Impact of HPV: Implications for Vaccine Uptake
Ellen Daley, PhD

Lectures are from 8:00 to 9:00 AM in 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

HAPPENINGS

The Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County celebrated 125 years of public health in Florida on February 20. DOH sites throughout the county raised their glasses in a toast at 1:25 PM. Distinguished guests at the event, held at the Tuberculosis Center, included Dr. Carina Rodriguez.

After over a decade of intensive efforts on the part of advocates, the Florida Senate passed House Bill 225 on April 29. Starting on January 1, 2015 all children ages 4 through 5 must ride in a child seat. Special thanks to Drs. Jose Jimenez and Nancy Silva for their hard work in helping to get this important bill passed! Jose and Nancy are graduates of the USF pediatric residency program and have been extremely active in advocacy issues. Dr. Jimenez is the current president if the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society, representative of the Florida Medical Society, and is on the Executive Committee of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

WUSF’s University Beat on April 16 featured Drs. Fateema Turay and Stephanie Smith, USF residents who participated in the Girls Career Day at Ferrell Middle School. Link to the story: http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/usf-health-puts-medical-careers-focus-tampa-students

Faculty, students and staff from the Rothman Center participated in the Autism Speaks walk held on April 26.

Drs. Jorge Lujan-Zilbermann and Sara Saporta were Q & A panelists for an event sponsored by the Pinellas Immunization Team for Community Health (PITCH) in St. Petersburg in March. The event included screenings of the film Invisible Threat, which explores the science of disease and the risks facing under-vaccinated societies.

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