It is a scary world out there—and not just because the Halloween goblins are out and about. We face a constant barrage of cyclones, hurricanes, terrorist plots and mass shootings. The 24 hour news cycle and continued access to social media make rare events that occur far away seem imminent.

There has always been fear of medical treatments, especially vaccines. But the expansion of the internet, “fake news” and the celebrity culture have exacerbated parents’ fear of vaccines. We have seen an increase in vaccine refusals in the Bay area. This impacts our physicians and staff as we struggle between providing care to all children versus putting our special needs patients at risk due to unvaccinated patients.

This summer we saw 7 cases of measles in Pinellas County and continue to see only 40-50% flu vaccine uptake despite over 150 pediatric deaths in the US last year from flu.

What causes vaccine hesitancy? About 3% of all parent’s refuse vaccines and up to 19% of parents refuse a single vaccine. The WHO breaks vaccine hesitancy down into three components – confidence, complacency and convenience. A lack of confidence in medical care, vaccine manufacturers and vaccines; complacency due to parents’ perception that the diseases are rare and will not impact their child; and convenience, referring to limited ability to access healthcare providers.

In an excellent clinical report titled “Countering Vaccine Hesitancy”, Kathryn Edwards and the AAP Committee on Infectious Disease describe the history of fear of vaccines. A recent survey revealed that 87% of pediatricians have had parents refuse one or more vaccines, but they were able to convince 30% to have their child vaccinated. Another study reported that continued engagement can increase this acceptance to 50%. So we need not give up.

This report also reviews the process of vaccine development and post-licensure safety monitoring, and offers effective communication strategies for providers to use. I encourage you to read this report, regardless of your specialty or position; every member of the department should be an ambassador for vaccines. We need to be vocal and promote evidence-based information to our patients, friends and families. Even sitting around Thanksgiving table we can help by informing others that “no, you do not get the flu from the flu vaccine.” We also need to work with our politicians to address public policy around vaccine refusal – an approach that has had a major impact in some states.

There are many things we cannot control in our world, but preventing vaccine-preventable diseases and perhaps ultimately eradicating them is something we can tackle by being patient and providing accurate information.

So go get your FLU shot and tell the world!
KUDOS

The USF Quality Retreat was held on Sept 15 at Armature Works. Residents and faculty received the following awards:

Faculty in the News

Dr. Maya Balakrishnan was featured in a Tampa Bay Times video spotlight in September about TGH’s Beats of Love program which provides families with an audio keepsake of their child’s last heartbeats set to music.

Dr. Jolan Walter was interviewed by MarketWatch for an article titled: X4 Pharmaceuticals and Collaborators Present Data that WHIM Syndrome is Underdiagnosed and Patients are Impacted by Broad Spectrum of Medications.

Dr. Omar Rahman served on a Panel of OCD Experts in Jupiter, FL on Oct 14 to answer questions and address concerns from patients and other community members as part of OCD Awareness Week 2018. Dr. Marni Jacobs, a former USF Psychology Fellow, hosted the weekend event.
Clinical Team Member of the Month

Deeana Arroyo, August’s Clinical Team Member of the Month, is an LPN at 17 Davis. Nominators noted her pro-activeness and efficiency. Deeanna received many compliments from co-workers; she has a heart of gold and is amazing working with patients with chronic and complex medical issues.

Maribel Stewart, September’s Clinical Team Member of the Month, is an LPN at the ACH OCC Clinic. Nominators commented that she has an amazing work ethic, and is willing to go above and beyond for her team. Maribel is very dedicated, reliable, and has a positive attitude.

Avery Harvey, October’s Clinical Team Member of the Month, is an RN at 17 Davis. Nominators commented that being a nurse to her is more than just a job. They noted her exemplary performance and dedication to the department.

New Faculty

Dr. Nicole Mulheron is our new pediatric hospitalist at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Dr. Mulheron attended medical school at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine.

New Employees

Michelle Ascanio, MHA
Michelle has joined the Peds administrative team as a Project Manager. Michelle completed her Masters in Health Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and will be working in various areas within the department including marketing, newsletter development, website management, clinical support and the Zika Referral Center.

Arlene Suarez, BA
Arlene has joined the Department of Pediatrics as a Clinical Coordinator, after years of service working with the Division of Adolescent Medicine. In her new role, Arlene will be working with the clinical leadership team on Press Ganey, patient centered medical home, quality and project management.
**HAPPENINGS**

**HALLOWEEN**

Be sure to participate in the Third Annual Pediatrics Halloween Costume Contest! The clinical supervisors and/or medical directors will submit pictures to Cim Lagor. Our Peds Clinical Education team of Kelly Paulina and the Chief Residents will pick the winning locations and best costume. STC is not able to participate in the contest, however, Dr. Terri Ashmeade is providing a luncheon at the STC location.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Nov 7**—Scientific Writing Mini-Course at CAMLS (8AM-3PM)

**Nov 14**—Scientific Writing Mini-Course at N. Campus (8AM-3PM)

**Nov 29**—Curran Lecture: Dr. Richard Schanler

**Dec 7**—Deadline for USF Health Research Day submissions

**Feb 7**—Pollara Lecture: Dr. Isabel Gross

**April 18**—Barness Lecture: Dr. Jordan Orange

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**GRAND ROUNDS**

**Nov 1**
*Leveraging Heterogeneity of Type 1 Diabetes to Build Pseudo-Temporal Models of Beta Cell Dysfunction and Death*
Clayton E. Matthews, PhD

**Nov 8**
*Cardiogenetics at USF*
Thomas V. McDonald, MD

**Nov 15**
*Organ Donation Process*
Charles E. Wright, MD

**Nov 22**
NO GRAND ROUNDS — Happy Thanksgiving!

**Nov 29**
2018 John S. Curran Neonatal Fellow Lecture: *Optimize Nutrition for Preemies: Use HMF*
Richard J. Schanler, MD

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**Faculty Development Resources**

- The USF Health Research Methodology and Biostatistics Core provides support for study design and implementation, biostats 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) or contact Ambuj Kumar at akumar1@health.usf.edu

- USF Health Impact: An Intramural Review to Support Research and Scientific Publication, provides writing resources and assistance in writing manuscripts. 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

- USF Health Grant and Manuscript Consulting. MCOM uses the services of Still Point Coaching & Consulting to help faculty with manuscript / grant application development and submission. Go to: [http://health.usf.edu/medicine/research/grant_manuscript_consulting](http://health.usf.edu/medicine/research/grant_manuscript_consulting) or contact Christine Tam at cttam@health.usf.edu

- Jane Carver provides medical writing support for USF Peds faculty and trainees. She also provides a one-day scientific writing course twice each year. There is space available for the trainee course being given on Nov 14. Contact Jane at jcarver@health.usf.edu
Interviews for 4th year medical students for Peds begin on Oct 22, and for Med-Peds on Oct 26, and continue through January. USF Peds has received over 930 applications, 130 students will be interviewed, and 12 will be selected. Med-Peds has received over 180 applications, 45 students will be interviewed, and 5 will be selected. Applicants come from medical schools nationwide, including USF. Several of our faculty will be participating in interviews. Our current residents will meet the applicants during conferences, tours, and will have lunch/dinner with them. We look forward to matching with wonderful students who will join our USF family! If you happen to see them around campus, please give them a warm welcome.

Med-Peds and Peds residents got together to experience the USA vs Colombia soccer match at the Raymond James Stadium on Oct 11. Final score: USA 2—Colombia 4

USF Peds residents won 1st place at the Annual Brain Bowl held Labor Day weekend in Orlando during the meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Team members included Drs. Matthew Gates, Alexandra Howard, Mahad Mohammed, and Carissa Simone. Congratulations!

Residents! You must have your flu shots by Dec 1. The last day to obtain at STC is Oct 30. Good luck to all of our Peds and Med-Peds graduates who are taking their board exams! To sign up for the Medical Writing Course for Trainees, please email Jane Carver at jcarver@health.usf.edu

Save the Date
Oct 19 Residency Kick-off @ Hula Bay 5-7:30pm
Oct 25 Academic Half Day
Oct 31 Deadline for Peds & Med-Peds self study committee submissions
Nov 14 Medical Writing Course for Trainees

Peds Interview Dinner Dates
Oct 21 Hosted by resident
Oct 23 Anise Global Gastrobar
Oct 25 Bavaro’s
Oct 28 Hosted by resident
Oct 30 Anise Global Gastrobar

Med-Peds Interview Dinner Dates
Oct 25 Anise Global Gastrobar

Trivia Night: Looking for more Peds and Med-Peds residents to join the fun! Wednesday nights at 8pm at 81 Bay Brewing Co.

October Wellness Dinner
Hosted by Tanner Gregory Wright on 10/8

October Resident Birthdays
- Michelle Hojniki 10/4
- Seif Shahidain 10/14
- Carlos Sanchez 10/18
- Sara Garcia 10/19
- Michelle Blanco 10/25
Publications


Dr. Jennifer Leiding is senior author on: Jakinibs for the Treatment of Immune Dysregulation in Patients with Gain-of-function Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription 1 (STAT 1) or STAT 3 Mutations. Journal of Allergy Clinical Immunology, Aug 6, 2018; Epub ahead of print.

Dr. Panida Sriaroon is second author on: Chronic Norovirus Infection in Primary Immune Deficiency Disorders: An International Case Series. Diagnostic Microbiology Infectious Disease, Aug 12, 2018; Epub ahead of print.


Presentations

Dr. Adam Lewin conducted a workshop titled: Comprehensive Behavioral Intervention for TICS for therapists and physicians in Garden City, Long Island on Oct 7. The event was sponsored by the Tourette Association of America, and attendees included professionals from the U.S., Canada, and South Korea.


Dr. Mark Ballow was an invited speaker for the University of Buffalo Dept. of Medicine Grand Rounds on Oct 11. He presented 43-Year-Old Woman with History of Asthma, Bronchitis and Recurrent Sinusitis. He was also a featured presenter at the inaugural Robert Reisman, MD’56 Memorial Lecture at the University of Buffalo. He presented “Constructing Individualized Treatments for Patients with Immune Dysregulatory Diseases”.

Please submit all newsletter entries to: pedicom@health.usf.edu