FROM THE CHAIR

Another academic year has begun! Summer is winding down, school is back in session and there is just one more week till Labor Day. We welcome the class of 2022, who have their White Coat Ceremony this month. Many of us are writing letters and assisting our fourth year students decide their plans for residency. Again, we are reminded how quickly time passes.

This newsletter celebrates our graduating residents and fellows, and introduces our new house staff and faculty. The list of graduates serves as a reminder that our learners are here for a relatively brief, intense time, and faculty and staff alike have a wonderful opportunity and obligation to help them maximize their learning while they are part of the USF Peds family.

Congratulations to all the graduating residents and fellows and a special thank you to the faculty who received teaching awards at the graduation. We are very proud of our outstanding faculty!

Besides the day-to-day work that helps time pass quickly, there are wonderful collaborative projects happening throughout our department that are improving patient care. Our primary care clinics are working on resubmission of a Patient-Centered

KUDOS

Dr. Amy Weiss has been selected for induction into the Barness Behnke Chapter of the Gold Humanism Society. She was nominated by third and fourth year students and selected for induction by faculty and student members. The society recognizes students, residents and faculty who are exemplars of compassionate patient care and who serve as role models, mentors and leaders in medicine.

Congratulations!

Dr. Heather Agazzi was appointed by President Judy Genshaft as a faculty representative to the Athletics Council. This Presidential Advisory Committee advises President Genshaft and the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on policies and procedures affecting intercollegiate athletics at USF.

U.S. News & World Report announced the 2018-19 Best Children’s Hospitals in June, with Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital ranking in five specialty areas: Neonatology, Orthopedics, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Cardiology and Heart Surgery and Nephrology, which is a USF Pediatrics program. Congratulations!

On June 14, AHEC (Area Health Education Center) presented USF Pediatrics with the 2018 Provider Recognition Award for the Tobacco Free Florida AHEC Cessation Program. Since 2007, this program has achieved a quit rate up to 38% for Floridians using its services. USF Pediatric healthcare providers make many referrals to the program.

Patricia Emmanuel elected as Delegate for the Pediatric Department Chairs of Florida Medical Schools, while Dr. Florence Desrosiers serves as Representative for District 5 of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and participates in FCAAP.
Medical Home designation as well as collaborating with Pediatric Health Care Alliance on a clinically-integrated network. Our inpatient team is working on a sepsis quality improvement project, and neonatology continues to collaborate on multiple projects including those related to neonatal abstinence syndrome. Cim Horton is leading CARES training for staff throughout the practice. This “extra” work beyond patient visits will help to improve care delivery and distinguish us as a practice.

Finally, we have fully started our practice at the Healthplex in Brandon. Dr. Eliana Piedrahita and Irma Alvarado provide full-service pediatric primary care four days a week, and will expand to five days later this fall.

Don’t forget that grand rounds re-starts on September 6th. We have a great lineup of talks for the fall. Thanks to Judy Zaritt, Lora Ploucher, Jen Takagishi and John McCormick who work together to organize all of the pieces of this lecture series.

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

SCIENTIFIC WRITING COURSE

Dr. Jane Carver will offer her Scientific Writing Mini-Course on two dates this fall. Email Jane for a copy of the schedule (jcarver@health.usf.edu)

The Nov. 7 course, being given at CAMLS, is sponsored by the Office of Faculty Development, and is for faculty only. You can enroll by emailing Leslie Lowe (llowe1@health.usf.edu).

The Nov. 14 course, being given on the MCOM campus, is sponsored by USF Peds, and will include trainees from various USF Health departments. You can enroll by emailing Jane.

CLINICAL TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Darcy Gootson, July’s Clinical Team Member of the Month, is an LPN on the float team. Nominators noted her great attitude, efficiency and thoroughness. Darcy receives many compliments from patients and families, she goes above and beyond to make sure everything is taken care of, and is caring, kind dependable and reliable.

Raquel Langlois, June’s Clinical Team Member of the Month, is an LPN at the CMS location. Nominators commented that she is exceptional at multi-tasking and teamwork. She is always willing to help others, is positive and enthusiastic. Raquel has excellent clinical and critical thinking skills and frequently receives compliments from families.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Dr. Meredith Plant was raised outside of Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her BS in genetics from the University of Georgia and her MD from the Medical College of Georgia. She completed her pediatric residency at USF in 2017, and served as Chief Resident before joining the USF Health faculty in July. She has been appointed as the new Associate Program Director for the USF Pediatric Residency Program, she recently received a Women’s Leadership Grant, and she serves as the USF Peds coordinator for the Physician Assistant Program. Dr. Plant’s clinical practice interests include general pediatrics, with particular interest in behavioral management, advocacy and community outreach. She will be seeing patients at 17 Davis Clinic on Davis Island and at HealthPark.

Dr. Keyur Donda completed medical school at BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad, India. After working in research at several hospitals, he completed pediatric residency training at Maimonides Children’s Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. In June, 2018 Dr. Donda completed his fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he served as academic and clinical chief fellow. Dr. Donda has received several awards for his research, which focuses on lung injury and pulmonary hypertension. He is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.
PUBLICATIONS


Dr. Jennifer Leiding had three chapters published in the Encyclopedia of Medical Immunology, MacKay I, Rose N (eds), Springer, NY, NY: Evaluation of Suspected Immunodeficiency, Genetic Testing; Innate Immune Defects, Clinical Presentation; Evaluation of Suspected Immunodeficiency, Flow Cytometry

HAPPENINGS

The Ybor Youth Clinic team enjoyed Drag Queen Bingo at Hamburger Mary’s in Ybor City last month. The clinic raised $1132 from bingo and raffle proceeds, which will help the clinic team participate in the SMARTRIDE in November. Join us on September 19th for the next Bingo – there will be prizes and lots of fun!

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

PRESENTATIONS

At the International AIDS Conference, held in Amsterdam in July, Dr. Carina Rodriguez was an author on the platform presentation titled Pharmacokinetics, Safety, and Efficacy of Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide (B/F/TAF) Single-tablet Regimen in HIV-1-infected Children (6 to <12 years), and was senior author on a poster with co-authors C Lynn, K Bradley-Klug, T Chenneville, A St. John Walsh and R Dedrick: Health Literacy as a Predictor of Biological Markers of Immune Functioning in Youth and Young Adults with HIV.

Gaudet BA, Washington B, Rodriguez CA presented Assessing the Attitude of Tampa Bay Youth Toward HIV Self-Testing Kits at the USF Select Conference held in Tampa, July 2018.

In July, Dr. Jennifer Leiding gave a visiting professor lecture titled Precision Therapy for the Treatment of Primary Immunodeficiencies at St. Jude Children’s Hospital. At the Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium Leadership Conference held in Bethesda she presented the aims and focus of a new PIDTC grant titled Prospective Analysis of Auto-Inflammation in Chronic Granulomatous Disease Patients Undergoing Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation; she serves as the lead investigator for this upcoming trial.

At the Florida Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society Meeting held in Lake Buena Vista in July, members of the Allergy/Immunology Division made the following presentations:

Jithpratuck W, Samuel VO, Sariroon P. Thick Cast Sputum Production and Eosinophilia in an Adult Presenting with Respiratory Distress. This oral presentation received the most votes from the conference attendees for overall best presentation!


LEWIS A. BARNES, MD
LACTATION ROOM

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Lewis A. Barness Lactation Room at Tampa General Hospital was held on June 20. A group of donors united to name the lactation room in honor of Dr. Barness, founding chair of USF Pediatrics. Dr. Barness made a significant impact on the field of infant nutrition and metabolism, using science to advocate the benefits of breast milk for infants.

SAVE THE DATE

Aug 31
White Coat Ceremony

Sept 1
FCAAP meeting, Orlando

Sept 7
First grand rounds lecture of the 2018/19 academic year

Nov 2-6
AAP National Conference & Exhibition, Orlando

Nov 7
Scientific Writing Course for faculty

Nov 14
Scientific Writing Course for trainees

Nov 29
John Curran Lecture

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

YBOR YOUTH CLINIC

The Ybor Youth Clinic has been selected as a 2018 recipient of an Enabling Grant by the Junior League of Tampa. Last year, the League awarded over $30,000 to 17 area nonprofit organizations. The YYC will use the funds to assist in efforts to turn its walk-in STI/HIV testing services into “More Than Just a Walk-In.” This initiative will allow the clinic to provide patients with more information about reducing risky health behaviors and assess for additional needs patients may have beyond testing services.

Gear Up, Ybor Youth Clinic's SMART Ride (Southern Most AIDS/HIV Ride) bicycle team, is in the middle of fundraising efforts for this year's race. In appreciation for being named a $10,000 Lifeline Award recipient by SMART Ride, the YYC is returning the favor by raising funds and sponsoring a team to participate in the race. 100% of funds raised by SMART Ride are donated back to the fight against HIV/AIDS. Click the link to donate to Gear Up or contact Dr. Lisa Sanders (lisasanders@health.usf.edu) for more information.


EARLY STEPS

Visit the Early Steps website to view the most recent newsletter, and for information about their next Caregiver Workshop, which will be given on August 24. http://health.usf.edu/medicine/pediatrics/early-steps

CLINICAL TRIALS

Investigator: Tanya Murphy, MD Title: An Open-Label, Long-Term Safety Study Including a Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Withdrawal Period of TEV-50717 (deutetrabenazine) for the Treatment of Tourette Syndrome in Children and Adolescents. Sponsor: Nuvelution

Investigator: Jennifer Leiding, MD Title: A Prospective, Open-Label, Multicenter Study of the Efficacy, Safety, Tolerability, and Pharmacokinetics of Therapure PlasmaCap IG in Adults and Children with Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases. Sponsor: Therapure

Investigator: Juan Rico, MD Title: A Phase 2, Multicenter, Open-Label Study to Assess PK/PD of SEG101 (crizanlizumab), with or without Hydroxyurea/Hydroxycarbamide, in Adult Sickle Cell Patients with Vaso-Occlusive Crisis. Sponsor: Novartis

Investigator: Jolan Walter, MD Title: A Study of EZN-2279 (Polyethylene Glycol Recombinant Adenosine Deaminase [PEG-rADA]) Administered as a Weekly Intramuscular Injection in Patients With Adenosine Deaminase (ADA)-Deficient Combined Immunodeficiency. Sponsor: Leadiant Biosciences
RESIDENT DESTINATIONS

Dr. Alison Burt: Palliative Care Fellowship, TGH  
Dr. Thomas Cristoforo: Emergency Medicine Fellowship, Orlando  
Dr. Michael Dressing: Sports Medicine Fellowship, Orlando  
Dr. Sonia Farooqi: Private practice, North Pinellas Children’s Medical Center  
Dr. Erin Greenup: Endocrinology Fellowship, University of Alabama  
Dr. Ashley Ketchum: Urgent Care, Birmingham, Alabama  
Dr. Holly Martin: Hospitalist, New Orleans  
Dr. Drew Meriweather: Hospitalist, TGH  
Dr. Kinjal Millette: Community Pediatrics, Community Health of Pinellas  
Dr. Chris Richardson: Hospital practice, Burns, Oregon  
Dr. Christa Root: Emergency Medicine Fellowship, Medical College of Georgia  
Dr. Bryce Somer: Hospitalist, Sarasota  
Dr. Lauren Swanson: Neonatology Fellowship, Baylor University  
Dr. Jasmine Young: Hospitalist, TGH

FELLOW DESTINATIONS

Dr. Sonia Joychan: Dearborn Allergy & Asthma, P.C., Dearborn, MI  
Dr. David Lindsay: University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX  
Dr. Kelly Driver: Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, Brandon  
Dr. Vidya Pai: Locum tenens, Nashville, TN

The Division of Neonatology held a luncheon to celebrate their graduating fellows!

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

CHIEF RESIDENTS

Chief residents for 2018/19 will be Drs. Michelle Blanco and Jillian Hagerman. Dr. Blanco majored in public health and biomedical physics at USF, graduating magna cum laude. Her scholarly concentration during residency was health disparities, and she was the recipient of the Lewis A. Barness Award in 2015. Her leadership roles have included serving as a representative of the Hillsborough County Pediatric Society Executive Committee, director of the Bridge Clinic, American Medical Women’s Association president, and service chair of the Medical School Student Government Service. A true Florida girl, I was born and raised in Miami and then traveled far north to Tampa for undergrad, medical school and residency at USF - Go Bulls!! I met my wonderful husband, Travis, during medical school and we have been lucky enough to share this journey in medicine. I love USF so much I decided to stick around for a Chief Year before pursuing a career in general pediatrics. Michelle Blanco

Dr. Hagerman majored in neuroscience at Bowling Green State University, graduating cum laude, and attended Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her leadership roles have including serving as co-chair of the Florida Chapter of the AAP’s Section for Pediatric Trainees, Senior Leader of the USF Pediatric Resident Wellness Committee, and co-creator of the USF Pediatric Resident Advocacy Committee. I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and after years of shoveling snow, I moved to sunny Florida to attend medical school. I am passionate about preventive medicine and health education which naturally led me to pediatrics. My residency experience at USF has not only given me the clinical knowledge and progressive autonomy to practice evidence-based medicine confidently but also taught me the “life-balance” skills necessary to encourage my own wellness. The faculty are dedicated to educating residents and have really fostered my growth as a young leader and advocate while providing care to the underserved children of Tampa Bay. After serving as chief, I plan to pursue a career in adolescent medicine with a special focus on promoting resilience in youth. Jillian Hagerman

HEALTH FAIRS

USF Peds participated in two Health Fairs this summer: The Plant City Health Fair, held on July 22, included Drs. Molly Kidder, Kaley McCray, Ash Bhatt, Tory Saunders and Sharon Dabrow, along with Jeannette Fleischer, ARNP. The Bowers Whitley Health Fair, held July 28, included Drs. Summer Rye-Buckingham, Yvette Gonzalez, Brittany Russell, Brandy Compton, Sara Garcia, Jennifer Takagishi and Meredith Plant, along with Jeannette Fleischer. The children received shots, shot records, book bags and school supplies.
RESIDENT NEWS

Skit Night, held at Dr. Dabrow’s house in June, was a fun time for all!

USF and Johns Hopkins Medicine interns shared a breakfast during orientation on June 27.

A terrific welcome party for the new pediatric and med/peds residents, along with the neonatology and allergy/immunology fellows, was held at Dr. Emmanuel’s home on July 23.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

Pediatrics

Vanessa Bray, USF
Markus Buchfellner, Northeast Ohio Medical University
Brandy Compton, Florida International University
Yvette Gonzalez, Rowan University
Michelle Hojnicki, Nova Southeastern University
Molly Kidder, Florida International University
Alicia Lew, USF
Katelyn Mayba, St. George’s University
Brittney Russell, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Brett Russi, Florida State University
Alicia Suarez-Solar, St. George’s University
Shannon Sullivan, St. George’s University

Med-Peds

Nikhil Bhatia, USF
Anthony Chen, Rowan University
Benjamin Cloyd, University of Kentucky
Carlos Sanchez Parra, Medical University of South Carolina
Tory Saunders, University of South Alabama

RESIDENT GRADUATION

Resident and fellow graduation, held at The Rusty Pelican on June 10, was a wonderful celebration and send-off for the Class of 2018. We will miss you and wish you the very best of luck! Awards presented:

JHM-ACH Cardiology: Kelsey Ryan and Jasmine Young
JHM-ACH Gastroenterology: Ashley Ketchum
NICU-TGH Intern of the Year: Sara Garcia
JHM-ACH Emergency Room: Christa Root
Allen Root Award: Kelsey Ryan
Intern of the Year: Mary Beth Melvin
JHM-ACH Hospitalist: Mahad Mohammed
Doctor’s Doctor Award: Bryce Somer
Sharon A. Perlman Award of Excellence: Kelsey Ryan
Attending of the Year, Generalist: Melinda Murphy and Ralph Martello
Attending of the Year, Specialist: Valerie Panzarino and Fran Ayestaran Cassini