FROM THE CHAIR

In a national poll on children’s health reported in US News and World reports health news, the top ten concerns of parents included many societal and risk-related issues such as internet use, bullying, sexting, depression, drug abuse, and teen pregnancy. What was absent? Concerns about their children dying of pneumonia, meningitis, getting polio or pertussis. There was not a single infectious disease concern listed in the top ten – because of the incredible success of immunizations. I was astounded by reports of this week’s comments by candidates at the republican presidential debate. I do not pretend to give qualified statements on the Federal Reserve’s plans for interest rates so I do not understand why the likes of Donald Trump think they can comment on immunizations. Vaccines are not political! They are one of the greatest achievements of the 21st century. The Institute of Medicine’s extensive report on the safety of vaccines concludes that there is no correlation between vaccines and autism. When politicians bring up anecdotal cases of children potentially harmed by

HAPPENINGS

An August training session held at the Mary Lee House for the Child Protection Team formalized a link between the CPT and Healthy Start Coalition. The session, conducted by Lisa Colen, HSC’s Director of Community Outreach and Communication, included ways to evaluate young children and refer parents to Healthy Start services. The training provides the CPT staff with another tool that will allow them to educate new parents on critical issues such as safe sleeping, picking a safe caretaker and preventing shaken baby syndrome.

Brittany Leigh, a graduate student working with Dr. Larry Dishaw, completed a 3-week workshop in August at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, MA for the 2015 Frontiers in Host-Microbe Interactions. Her expenses were fully covered by a scholarship from MBL and by her NSF graduate student fellowship.

Many residents and faculty participated in the Healthpark Health Fair which was held on July 25th. Thanks to all who participated.

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

Drs. Ronald Sutsko and Kathleen Armstrong have served on the Faculty Council for 2 years, with terms expiring this month. We are very grateful to them for their service. Drs. Marisa Couluris and Melinda Murphy continue to serve, with terms expiring in 2016. We encourage faculty to participate as members of the Faculty Council.
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vaccines—whether it is Michelle Bachman about HPV or Donald Trump about autism—they do a disservice to our country and all children. I thought we had scored a few points last spring when there was a measles outbreak that started in Disneyland in California, which prompted outrage about children getting exemptions from required vaccines. In fact, in June California changed state law to eliminate religious and philosophical exemptions for vaccines. USF clinical faculty member, Associate Professor David Berman D.O., has been leading the charge in Florida as part of the FCAAP task force on immunizations to try and change the exemption law in Florida. But as soon as we take two steps forward, another politician uses hyperbole and scare tactics to get noticed in a debate and sets child health back. As health care providers we need to send a clear message that we do not want our politicians interfering with science and health decisions. They have empowered the CDC, IOM, NIH and other experts to study best evidence, and they need to allow these folks to do their job. We spend a lot of time teaching our students and residents to analyze the evidence and critically evaluate research. It is sad when we cannot expect the same evidence-based information from people who want to be President of the United States. We should demand better, and tell our patients and their families to demand the same.

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

KUDOS

Dr. Kathleen Armstrong will be awarded seed funding to develop the first Child American Psychological Association internship in central Florida. Her group’s multidisciplinary group includes psychologists, educators, physicians and administrators, who will help to prepare the next generation of pediatric school and clinical psychologists. The internship will be housed in the USF Pediatrics section of Child Development.

Many peds faculty in the areas of Pediatric Neurology, General Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrinology, Pediatric Pulmonology and Pediatric Cardiology present to Hillsborough County School Health Services nursing and medical staff every year. They received an award from the school district on September 1st.

Drs. Tanya Murphy and Adam Lewin received a one year, $155,000 contract from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop parent and self-report tic screening tools for youth.

Dr. J. Felipe Rico has been chosen to serve as a member of the editorial board of the Florida Pediatrician, the journal for the Florida Chapter of the AAP.

Dr. Eric Storch was awarded $80,207 from the All Children’s Research Institute for his proposal titled Preventing the Return of Fear in Pediatric Anxiety Disorders Using Reconsolidation Update Mechanisms.

Dr. Isabel Gross was awarded the Florida Board of Medicine Chairman’s Recognition Award on August 7. The award honors a resident who exemplifies the professionalism, moral character, compassion, and intellect essential to future leaders of the medical profession, and who shows outstanding leadership and services in the medical community.

WRITING COURSE

Dr. Jane Carver will teach her scientific writing course on November 10th at STC from 8:30 to 4:00 PM. Topics include strategies to enhance your success as a published author, ethical issues related to writing, authorship, helpful resources, using standardized formats for scientific manuscripts, effective tables and figures, clear and concise sentence structure, and poster and slide presentations. Contact Jane at jcarver@health.usf.edu for a schedule and to reserve a space.
PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Isabel Gross presented a poster titled *Emphysematous Pyelonephritis in a Pediatric Patient with Renal Stones* at the Florida Medical Association’s meeting held in Orlando in August.

Dr. Brian Knox made two presentations at the Crescent City Potpourri – a meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the AAP – which was held in New Orleans in August: *Current Trends, Screening Practices, and Comorbidity Identification for Overweight and Obese Pediatric Patients*; and *Primary Care Interventions for Overweight and Obesity, and Related Comorbidities in the Pediatric Population*.

Dr. Janet Hess attended the 2015 National Juvenile Arthritis Conference in Orlando in July, hosted by the Arthritis Foundation, where she presented at three sessions and workshops for adolescents, young adults and parents/caregivers: *The Road to Adulthood: Creating Your Own Medical Portfolio*; *Times are Changing: Transitioning*; and *Critical Pathways to Adulthood: Health Literacy, Communication and Self-Management*.

Dr. Eric Storch recently returned from a trip to Shanghai China where he was invited by faculty of Ruijin Hospital to provide training in cognitive-behavioral therapy for obsessive-compulsive disorder.

At the American Psychological Association Conference held in Toronto in August Drs. Kathleen Armstrong, Heather Agazzi and Sim Yin Tan chaired a symposium titled *Parent Child Interaction Therapy with Specialized Populations*. Dr. Adam Lewin, an executive board member of APA’s Division 53 (Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology), led sessions related to division programming.

Dr. Kathleen Armstrong was the moderator for the *Pediatric Track* at the 16th Annual Current Concepts in Sleep meeting, which was held at the Tradewinds Resort in St. Petersburg in Sept. The meeting, hosted by several local hospitals, aims to advance interdisciplinary understanding of sleep-related disorders.

Drs. Adam Lewin, Eric Storch, and Monica Wu presented research updates on childhood obsessive compulsive disorder at the International OCD Foundation annual meeting held in Boston in August. Drs. Lewin, Storch and Murphy also represented USF’s OCD Program on the Scientific and Clinical Advisory Board for the International OCD Foundation.
NEW EMPLOYEES

Janette Schebel, ARNP; General Pediatrics
Jill Barrera, RN; Nursing Supervisor – Patient Care, STC
Melisa Racobaldo, MS; Genetic Counselor
Julie Brown, LPN; ACH
Lucia Barajas, MA; ACH

NEW ADDITIONS

Dr. Maria Garay
delivered baby Alejandro on September 5.

RESEARCH NEWS

Investigator: Carina Rodriguez, MD. Title: Solithromycin Pediatric Development Program. Sponsor: Duke University

EDITORS:
Jane Carver & Caroline Murphy
Email: pedicom@health.usf.edu
Please email submissions for next month’s issue by October 1st

RESIDENCY NEWS

The first annual Resident Brain Bowl was held at the conclusion of the Florida AAP meeting held in Orlando in Sept. All 9 residency programs in Florida were represented. The USF team included Drs. Baldwin, Delsania, Mason and Rietsma. A fun time was had by all!

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Laura Weathers and Emma Gonzalez are authors on a manuscript titled The talking card: Randomized controlled trial of a novel audio-recording tool for asthma control. Allergy Asthma Proc. 36(5):86-91, 2015.


Dr. Adam Lewin is an author on manuscript titled Children's Obsessive Compulsive Symptoms and Fear-Potentiated Startle Responses. Journal of Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders. 6, 101-107, 2015.
