FROM THE CHAIR

The season of giving is also a time of reflection—a time to look back on the successes and failures of the year. It is easy to get bogged down in the daily notes, schedules, and student evaluations, easy to get frustrated by the big wheels of USF that can turn ever so slowly. Perhaps we feel like Bob Cratchit, working tirelessly in a thankless environment, trying to finish tasks and make ends meet.

But I would like to remind everyone that on an individual level, every day we make a difference. We promote the issues of children—every day. And what more noble effort could we aspire to? Every day we have the opportunity to make a difference in a child’s or family’s life, to influence a learner’s life, or to support a program and each other. No one demonstrated this more than Dr. Sharon Perlman, who lost her battle to cancer last week.

Sharon lived life to the fullest and made a difference in many people’s lives—as a physician, a teacher, an advocate, a friend and a partner. She directed the ACH nephrology program for 15 years, led the dialysis program, participated in many

IN MEMORIAM, DR. SHARON PERLMAN

The USF Peds family is saddened by the passing of Dr. Sharon Perlman, who lost her long battle with cancer on Dec 11. Dr. Perlman joined USF in 2001, and was an exceptional physician, colleague, teacher and patient advocate who will be keenly missed. Her dedication to teaching is exemplified by the 2015 establishment of the Sharon Perlman Award of Excellence, given to a resident who demonstrates excellence in patient care, strength of character and outstanding leadership. Dr. Perlman was dedicated to her profession, and she held many key positions at All Children’s Hospital, including Chief of Staff. Her contributions at the national level were recognized by her being named a 2017 recipient of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology’s Founders’ Award, which recognizes individuals who have made a unique and lasting contribution to the field of pediatric nephrology. Perhaps her most remarkable legacy is her outstanding advocacy for the special needs of children with renal disease in the Tampa Bay region and nationwide. In recognition of her efforts she was awarded the prestigious JHM/ACH Councill C. Rudolph Award in May 2016, which honors physicians who have demonstrated excellence and compassion in caring for children in the community and region. Additional information about our remarkable colleague and friend can be found at: https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2016/12/12/memoriam-sharon-perlman-md/

Services will be on Monday, December 19th.

INTRAMURAL GRANT PROGRAM

Faculty and trainees are encouraged to submit proposals for one of the USF Health funded intramural grants. Deadlines for several of the grants are fast approaching. For a listing go to: http://health.usf.edu/medicine/research/internal-funding-opportunities.htm
committees and eventually became chief of staff at ACH. She cared very much about her patients, her students, her hospital, her department and her profession. She was a stickler for details as many a resident can attest to—but they learned a ton. Sharon was very involved in the national organization of pediatric nephrologists and lobbied on Capitol Hill many times for comprehensive kidney care. She has been recognized for her contributions both locally and nationally. To me, Sharon embodied the faculty member who makes a difference—she always gave a little extra. She showed up at the softball games and welcome parties, chimed in when she was unhappy with the bureaucracy—and she made USF Peds and everyone around her better.

As a department, we may be scattered across the Bay area and working in labs, clinics, classrooms and offices, but we all have a common goal—to promote the health and well-being of children. It is fitting that Charles Dickens chose a poor crippled child to show Ebenezer Scrooge the meaning of Christmas. Children are our “canaries in the coal mine.” Their health and well-being directly reflect the health of our nation and our world. We have the ability to make a difference. Every month, as I look at the variety of things folks participate in, I know that Tampa Bay is a better place because of USF Peds and folks like Sharon. We should strive to avoid becoming jaded like Scrooge, and open our hearts and minds to aiming to make a difference every day. All the tools are here at USF Peds, and Sharon Perlman showed us the way. We were privileged to work with her in a place where we can make a difference. Our

CLINICAL TEAM MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

Arlene Suarez, CMA, is November’s Pediatrics Clinical Team Member of the Month! Arlene, who works at the 17 Davis Clinic, was commended for being very proactive, always thinking ahead to anticipate what patients and providers need, and willing to go above and beyond to look out for the team. She takes the initiative to make sure things run smoothly and that patients get the absolute best care, and she remembers details that make the difference. Everyone speaks very highly of Arlene, and one nominator commented that she is “the best medical assistant I have ever worked with”!

Sandra Leck, RN, is December’s Pediatrics Clinical Team Member of the Month! Sandra is a Clinical Supervisor for USF Peds, and is also Regional Clinical Supervisor for CMS. Nominators commended her for superior leadership skills, and noted that she leads by example as she challenges her staff to go above and beyond. Sandra recognizes the individual abilities of staff members, and teaches and guides them to help them meet their professional and personal goals. She is always willing and available to assist her staff and make them feel valued and appreciated, and she balances complex duties and responsibilities. Sandra is an invaluable resource who is dedicated to her position and profession!

HAPPY RETIREMENT, DR. SCHNAPF

Last month staff and faculty gathered to wish Dr. Bruce Schnapf well in his retirement. Dr. Schnapf joined USF Peds in 1990 as the Division Chief for Pediatric Pulmonology—a position he held until his retirement. During his career Dr. Schnapf distinguished himself in many arenas. He was instrumental in establishing and expanding the pediatric pulmonology program, and held several key leadership positions at USF including Medical Director of the Cystic Fibrosis Affiliate Center and Medical Director of Newborn Screening for the Cystic Fibrosis Program. He has also been very active at the national level, serving on important committees and workgroups, with several focusing on quality improvement. Dr. Schnapf has been an outstanding teacher, being the recipient of the Pediatric Attending of the Year Award for 4 years, and he has held many important educational leadership positions at USF. Dr. Schnapf has never hesitated to volunteer his time and expertise to USF, his profession and his community at the local, regional and national levels. We are very grateful for his dedication to the children of our region, to our many trainees and to his profession.
NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Letter continued from page 2

thoughts and prayers go out to Sharon’s family, especially her husband Ron Frankel.

I hope that you have a happy, healthy and restful holiday season.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Adam Lewin and former USF student Dr. Joseph McGuire, PhD, presented their research on tic disorders at the symposium titled Tic Talk: Research Updates in the Phenomenology Treatment of Tic Disorders, held in New York City at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of clinical child and adolescent psychiatry.

Drs. Adam Lewin and Eric Storch presented Research Updates for Pediatric OCD at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapy held in New York City in October. Dr. Lewin is pictured with current or former doctoral students.

Drs. Justyna Wojas, Tanya Murphy and Sagarika Nallu attended the Florida Medicaid Drug Management Program for Behavioral Health’s Expert Panel Update of Psychotherapeutic Medications for Children and Adolescents held in Tampa in October. Dr. Murphy presented Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Tic Disorders in Children and Adolescents and Dr. Wojas presented Aggression in Children and Adolescents.

GRAND ROUNDS

There will be no Grand Rounds Dec 22, Dec 29 or Jan 5. Happy Holidays!

January 12
Trauma Informed Behavioral Parenting
Heather Agazzi, PhD

January 19
Clinical Utility of Neuropsychological Evaluations in Pediatric Populations
Sakina Butt, PsyD

January 26
Clostridium Difficile in Pediatrics
Mavel Gutierrez-Jaramillo, MD

HAPPENINGS

Peds Admin volunteered at Metropolitan Ministries on November 30.

On December 1 the infectious diseases team was busy on both sides of the bay hosting events commemorating World’s AIDS Day, including educational activities, HIV testing and remembrance events. The day culminated in a remembrance event at the Ybor Youth Clinic coordinated by Outreach Staff Michelle McKinney and Bernard Washington. Friends and families remembered those who have lost their lives to AIDS.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Cara Hostetler, RN Referral Center
Nancy Ramirez, Medical Education Specialist
Vanessa Vasquez, Physical Therapist; Early Steps
Dayhanara Pena, ARNP; Med Peds
SAVE THE DATE

January 4
Abstract submission deadline for PAS

January 20
First Annual Ybor Invasion Party

February 24
USF Health Research Day

February 16
Bernard Pollara Lecture

April 27
Lewis A. Barness Lecture and Fellows’ Forum

RESIDENCY NEWS

Drs. Sean Butler and Elissa Engel shared a booth with JHMC faculty and residents at the St. Petersburg Farmer’s market, where they educated the public about Get Smart – Antibiotics Week.

USF Peds residents generously donated toys to the Champions for Children at Baby Bungalow!

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN

USF Peds was very active in this year’s activities! Drs. Dennrik Abrahan, Manuel Penton, Christa Root, Ami Dalsania and Tanner Wright visited Dunbar Elementary School, while Janette Schebel, ARNP, and two nurse practitioner students visited Alexander Elementary and Crestwood Elementary schools where they presented on the nurse practitioner role, and taught students about proper handwashing using a simulated germ lotion.

FACULTY STAFF CAMPAIGN

We are midway through our academic year and USF Peds is at 11% participation for the Faculty Staff Campaign. It is our goal to get to achieve at least 50% participation this year. Why is this campaign important? Participating in the campaign demonstrates to our external donors that members of the USF team support the mission and vision of USF Health. It shows that we are engaged and we care about each other. There are numerous funds to choose from—scholarships, research funds, operating funds that support travel and academic expenses and funds such as Pediatric Outreach or YYC that support direct clinical services to the underserved. In this season of giving please consider giving to the USF Faculty Staff Campaign. We will email the link to donate, a list of funds and an update each month. Please help us reach our goal and show the University that USF Peds is Number One!!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!