



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

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## KUDOS CORNER

**Dr. Rachel Dawkins**, a current third year Pediatric Resident, participated in the American Board of Pediatrics and the Association of Pediatric Program Directors 2007 Consensus Conference on Professionalism held last month in Chapel Hill, NC. As a Delegate Coordinator for the AAP, Rachel impressed the leaders of the field of pediatric education with her expertise in residency training and will share these innovative ideas for implementation into our program.

**Dr. Edwardo Davila** was recently awarded a Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium (LCRC) Seed grant for the collaborative project "Role of Toll-Like Receptor Stimulation in Enhancing DNA Repair Activity in T Lymphocytes," which he is conducting with **Dr. Tadahide Izumi**. First year funding for the research was approved for \$96,000. Congratulations, Drs. Davila and Izumi!

Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Howes**, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at UMC, who passed the certification exam for Developmental and Behavioral subspecialty in Pediatrics. Dr. Howes plans to further these services in the Lafayette community, and hopes to hire a clinical psychologist and LCSW within the year to assist with his effort to provide this important service.

## ***New Publication and Website***

**Dr. Lily Leiva**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, recently published the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of the Latin American Group for Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (LAGID) in the *Journal of Clinical Immunology* (2006) and established a website for the organization here at LSU, available online at: <http://www.lagid.lsuhs.edu/> Check it out!



## RESEARCH DAY 2007

This year LSUHSC will be having its annual Research Day at Children's Hospital on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, making it very convenient for our Pediatrics medical students, residents, and fellows to submit abstracts and participate in the event. Please contact [jhiines@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jhiines@lsuhsc.edu) for abstract form and instructions if have not received them through e-mail.



## NEW HIRES

Welcome to **Ms. Jonna Ellis**, Coordinator of Grants and Development, who joins us from the frozen wilds of Alaska! Ms. Ellis is a Certified Grants Specialist, and will replace Liz Gordon, who recently resigned her position.

Welcome back! To **Ricardo Gomez, M.D.**, whom we all fondly remember as a resident and fellow in our department a few years ago. Dr. Gomez rejoins us now as a faculty member in the Endocrinology Division.

## FULBRIGHT GRANTS FOR '08-'09

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars has opened competition for grants for 2008-2009. The application deadline is August 1, 2007; You can find details and apply online at [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org). Good luck!

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The February 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop here at Children's Hospital on *Health and Safety for Children: International Academic Approaches*, coordinated by **Dr. John Estrada** brought together concerned professionals from many diverse groups with the common aim of providing health care to children in times of crisis. Participants in the all-day symposium learned of the European model of healthcare delivery from **Dr. Alfred Tenore**, Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Udine, Italy, and the President of the European Board of Pediatrics.

A Latin American model was presented by **Paulina Rojas, MD**, from the University of Chile, and an American model was discussed by **Susan Berry, MD, MPH**. The keynote speaker was **Andrew Garrett, MD, MPH**, Director of Planning and Response, National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University.

The problem of caring for at-risk children during such disasters as Hurricane Katrina was covered by panelist presentations throughout the afternoon, including one by **Dr. Brian Barkemeyer**, Head of our Neonatology Division, who experienced first-hand the challenges of such an ordeal at University Hospital. The presentations were followed by lively and illuminating discussion of public health care policies from many diverse perspectives. The meeting was sponsored by the LSU Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, B'Nai B'rith International, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and Dillard University.

## BIOETHICS MEETING

**Drs. Alfonso Vargas and John Estrada** also coordinated a meeting at Children's Hospital on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, dedicated to the possibility of establishing a master's degree program in International Bioethics at LSU in conjunction with a similar program at the University of Udine funded by the European Community for International Collaborations.

**Dr. Stuart Chalew** would like to thank all of you who have extended such kind condolences to him on the recent deaths in his family.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Judith Rodriguez **NO LATER THAN** Friday, April 20th. You can reach Judith by telephone (896-9263), FAX (896-2720), or e-mail ([jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu)). All information is subject to Dr. Sorensen's approval.

## PRESS CONFERENCE COVERAGE

A press conferences at the October meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) in New Orleans included an interview of **Dr. Yves Lacassie**, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Clinical Genetics, LSU Health Sciences Center, and **Dr. Michael Marble**, Chair, Committee for Newborn Screening in Louisiana and clinical geneticist at Children's Hospital New Orleans. These geneticists played an important role in ensuring that care was continued for their patients and others despite the disruption and devastation caused by Katrina and subsequent floods. In the press conference, they gave a first hand glimpse into their work as pre-Katrina geneticists, then scrambling to ensure their patients were taken care of and continuing care into the present.

Each of these physicians was affected by the hurricane personally as well as professionally. Their slide show was a unique opportunity to see first hand how these individuals put the needs of their patients above all else, used whatever resources were available and literally contacted and followed up with each patient in their charge.

The physicians moved their offices to satellite sites, used public information and the media to communicate these changes, telephoned patients by cell phones in the new locations, and with just a brief lapse of a day or two, provided care to former and to new patients in need. The physicians put aside destruction of personal property, quickly identified temporary quarters and almost immediately "set up shop" wherever possible in surrounding locations.

The subsequent practices of these geneticists have changed to reflect the changes in the city. Children's Hospital has reopened, other facilities have not. While the population of the city is only half of what it was pre-Katrina, patient levels in the genetics practices have exceeded pre-Katrina levels, indicating significant growth overall. With daily life still heavily impacted by the storm, the geneticists now performing tasks far beyond their job descriptions.

We salute these geneticists who demonstrated in their heroic efforts during and after Katrina, the underlying commitment to public service of genetics and geneticists, whether working in research, clinical care or counseling.

**- ASHG online Newsletter**

