FOND FAREWELL

Jim E. Cutler, PhD will retire on July 1, 2013. Dr. Cutler is recognized for both his dedication to teaching and for his more than 40 years of research on Candida-host interactions. This research led to the development of vaccines that enhance antibody-mediated resistance to the life-threatening disseminated candidiasis. As a teacher, he mentored eight postdoctoral students and eleven graduate students. Furthermore, he provided guidance and research experience to over 70 undergraduate students as well as several high school students. Prior to coming to LSUHSC, Dr. Cutler was a faculty member for almost 28 years at Montana State University. There he was the recipient of numerous NIH RO1 grants, he served on NIH study sections, he was on the editorial board of ASM journals, received teaching and research awards, was Lecturer for Division F of the ASM, and he was elected Fellow of the American Academy for Microbiology. More recently, he became an AAAS Fellow in recognition for his research accomplishments. Upon leaving Montana State, Dr. Cutler was awarded Emeritus status at that institution. Dr. Cutler was recruited to the Research Institute for Children and LSU in New Orleans in 2002. While here at LSUHSC and at the RIC, Dr. Cutler was instrumental in bringing together scientists from multiple institutions in New Orleans who have an interest in medical mycology research. He continued to develop his research of the identification of new candida antigens that elicit protective antibodies and he developed an effective experimental monoclonal antibody against candida. His work will now be continued by his associate Hong Xin, MD, PhD who is applying the experimental findings achieved by Dr. Cutler to human immunology.

The research and clinical faculty of the Department of Pediatrics appreciates his efforts and will surely miss him. We give Dr. Jim Cutler our heartiest congratulations for his successful life as a researcher and offer our best wishes for his retirement.

GRANTS

Congratulations to Janet Rossi, MD who was awarded a $50,000 grant from the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Phase III Neuroscience Research Pilot Project Program. Her project is titled “ISG15 A Potential Early Stimulator of Barrier Disruption Following Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Congratulations to Rachel Dawkins, MD who has been awarded a 2013 CATCH Planning grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics for her project titled “Geaux Get Fit NOLA”. Dr. Dawkins’ application was one of 15 accepted out of 108 total applications.

KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to Julie Gallois, MD, first-year Pediatrics Resident, who was elected Favorite Intern by the class of 2014. Each year, the Aesculapian Society asks medical students to select their favorite professors, residents and interns. Nominees and winners are chosen for their leadership, quality of instruction, approachability, and overall excellence in teaching. Several members of the department were nominated for awards:

Bonnie Desselle, MD
Robin English, MD
Melissa Roy, MD
Alfonso Vargas, MD
Maria Velez, MD

Jason Turner, MD
Brittany Andry, MD
Leslie Kern, MD
Sarah Syed, MD
Sarah Black, MD
Paul Hyman, MD, Division Head of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, is pleased to report that all five of his division’s submissions to Digestive Disease Week 2013’s scientific meeting were accepted as posters. This scientific output marks the maturation of the division of GI’s clinical research. DDW is the most important GI meeting of the year, attended by 30,000 gastroenterologists and industry professionals. The division saves its best work for DDW, and abstract acceptance is usually around 50%. Dr. Hyman considers this year’s rate phenomenal and says this is only the second time since his first DDW meeting in 1974 that his division has had 5 abstracts in the program. Congratulations to Javier Monagas, MD, Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD, Audra Rouster, MD and Adam Noel, MD who had two abstracts accepted.

In other news from the GI division, Javier Monagas, MD was awarded the Young Investigator’s Award at SSPR for his abstract titled “Rumination Syndrome and Dental Erosions in Children”.

Other SSPR presenters from the department included: Dhiraj Singh, Janice Crespo, Audra Rouster, Matthew Fletcher, Chittal Raulji, Jessica Patrick, Christy Mumphrey, Amy Zeringue Evan Atkins, Simone Lawson, Jimisha Patel, and Michelle Korah-Sedgwick

Kudos to Robin English, MD who participated as faculty in the End-of-Life Care Elective offered this past spring to the L2 class. Course directors Dr. Zee Ali and Dr. Melissa McKay spoke highly of Dr. English and the other participating faculty who donated their time after hours to host small group meetings and share their professional insights with young students.

Christian Lilje, MD is proud to announce that a medical student working with him last summer was the winner of Medical Student Research Day at the National Student Research Forum in Galveston. J. Cardinale, PhD was the first prize winner for the Pediatric Research section.

Congratulations to third-year Pediatrics resident and 2013-2014’s Chief Resident Emily Harrison, MD who was elected to the LSU Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Alfonso Vargas, MD traveled to Washington, D.C. back in April to take part in the Meeting of International Relations Council of the Pediatric Endocrine Society. He gave the council an update on the International Scholars’ Program. Dr. Vargas was also recently invited to the Global Pediatric Education Consortium 5th Summit Meeting at the American Board of Pediatrics’ headquarters in Chapel Hill, NC.

Sarah Stender, MD, along with Professor Rodney J. Hoxsey, MD of the LSU Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, published a chapter titled “A Hairy Situation” in an issue of Adolescent Medicine: State of the Art Reviews titled “Case Studies”. Dr. Stender’s chapter focused on an adolescent with hyperadrogenism and a steroid cell-producing tumor. The chapter was published in August 2012.


RESEARCH DAY 2013

The Children's Hospital Auditorium was a scene of lively scientific activity on Research Day, May 10. Moderators included Natasha Haynes, MBA, CRA, Assistant Vice President of Hospital Operations at Children's Hospital and Emily Moran, MBA, Director of Operations for the Research Institute. Chairman Ricardo Sorensen presented awards for the Best Research Day Presentation in four categories. The winning researchers were:

Anthony Kondracki
Results from Louisiana 2006-2008 Birth Defects Surveillance System Division of Public Health
Best Presentation by a Student

Shreepal Shah, MD
Skin Advanced Glycation Endproducts (AGEs) are Increased at Onset in Children with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Pediatrics Resident
Best Presentation by a Resident

Mahmoud Kallash, MD
Low Birth Weight and Chronic Kidney Disease Division of Nephrology
Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc
Thank you to our 2013 judges:

Jim Hempe, PhD
Paul Hyman, MD
Lily Leiva, PhD
Christian Lilje, MD
Michael Marble, MD
Lorna Seybolt, MD, MPH
Joy Sturtevant, PhD
Alfonso Vargas, MD

Thank you to all who participated and especially to Abbott and Mead Johnson Nutrition for providing refreshments for the event.

GOOD-BYE TO GRADUATING FELLOWS...

Pavane Beerelli, MD, Allergy/Immunology
Luke Wall, MD, Allergy/Immunology
Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD, GI/Nutrition
Jennifer Mullinax, MD, Hematology/Oncology
Kristine Chimento, MD, Neonatology
Amy Zeringue, MD, Neonatology
Mahmoud Kallash, MD, Nephrology
Jason Turner, MD, Cardiology

...HELLO TO NEW FELLOWS...

Adrianne Netterville, MD, Allergy/Immunology
Nisha Shah, MD, Allergy/Immunology
Siddharth Patel, MD, Cardiology
Nam Nguyen, MD, GI/Nutrition
Zeromeh Gerber, MD, Neonatology

**GRADUATING RESIDENTS**

**Pediatrics**
Chief Residents: Nicole McMahon and Chelsey Sandlin

Michael Blancaneaux
Catherine Durst
Amy Eagan
Emily Harrison
Jacky Heredia
Marcella Houser
Leslie Kern
Anupa Kudva
Simone Lawson
Eric Price
Jessica Steinkampf
Sarah Syed

**NEW PEDIATRIC INTERNS**

Leslie Carter
LSU - Shreveport
Jonna Clark
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Veronica Fabrizio
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine
Justin Farge
LSU - New Orleans
Kyle Fulton
University of Arkansas
Amanda Garnett
Florida State University
Lauren Green
Meharry Medical College

Maya Hills
Meharry Medical College
Richard Kelt
LSU - New Orleans
Eilian Levkowtz
Kansas City University
Brooke Miner
LSU – New Orleans
Michelle Mullin
LSU – New Orleans
Pamela Musacchia
LSU – New Orleans
Ashley Stevens
LSU – New Orleans
Emily Villar
LSU – Shreveport

**NEW MED/PEDS INTERNS**

Teresa Backes
University of Missouri - Columbia
Sarah Beck
University of Missouri – Kansas City
Ellen Chang
University of Illinois

Phuong Dinh
University of Virginia
Kristin Lynch
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Tom Tarro
Ross University

**Hello/Good-Bye**
June 14, 2013 at 4:00pm
Children’s Hospital Auditorium
RESEARCH DAY 2013

Valarie McMurty and Janice Crespo-Salgado, MD

Victoria Akerstrom, BS and Tyrus Stewart, BS

Matthew Fletcher, MD

Lily Leiva, PhD and Heena Shah, MD

Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD and Alfonso Vargas, MD

Anthony Kondracki, Best Presentation by a Student

Shreepal Shah, MD, Best Presentation by a Resident

Valarie McMurty, Best Oral Presentation