



Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSU-MC New Orleans



Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld, M.D.
5/01/45 – 11/11/07

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathies go out to Dr. Duna Penn and Theo, the wife and son of **Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld**, who died November 11th after a brief illness. Born in Goslar, Germany and a resident of New Orleans since 1993, Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld was director of the Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship Program and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. He also was T.G. & Doris Solomon Family Chair for the Study of Crohn's Disease. He was known for his kindness, compassion, and bright smile and will be very much missed by his colleagues, fellows, family and friends. Here are a few remembrances of him:

Dr. Uma Pisharody:

As Christmas rolls around this year, I remember the pediatric gastroenterology division's Christmas party held last year at Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld's home. Never would I have imagined that he would not be with us just one year later. In fact, it still seems so hard to believe that this great teacher and mentor is no more. It will always be my privilege to have been one of the fellows he trained.

"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher." (Japanese proverb)
The best part of being a fellow working with Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld was learning medicine from him. It was a joy watching him do an abdominal exam, interpret labs, or convey results to a parent.

His deep understanding of pathophysiology and biochemistry made daily rounds come alive. There wasn't a day I came to work and left without learning something useful from him. I will miss this a lot.

For his fellows, Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld's first and foremost concern was always their education and training; he never used us to simply "cover the service" or "see patients". Whether it meant mentoring us in our research activities, teaching at the bedside, or giving intense lectures, Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld always made sure his fellows were getting the best education possible. For example, when it came to important national meetings and conferences, he would do whatever it took to make sure that his fellows got to attend even if it meant staying behind and covering clinical duties himself!

During Hurricane Katrina he made sure his fellows were out of harm's way, personally covering the clinical service at Children's Hospital during "Code Grey." (Later, during the hospital evacuation, he even drove patients to the airport in his own car!) I also remember the first e-mail I received from him after the storm. He wanted to ensure that I was safe, but also promised that although our weekly "fellow conferences" were temporarily postponed, he was working on getting them back in swing as soon as possible! Even in the midst of one of the worst storms this nation has ever seen, never was his fellows' education far from Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld's mind!

The recent passing of Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld is certainly an enormous loss to the Department of Pediatrics. Some will miss him as an esteemed colleague, some will mourn the loss of a friend, and others will feel the loss of one of the finest pediatric gastroenterologists in the country. But to his past, present, and future fellows, the loss is much more than all of this. To us, it is the loss of a great teacher and mentor.



Dr. Patrice Tyson:

Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld was the best program director hands down!! Looking back on my fellowship and from a staff position, I am grateful for the instruction and direction he provided me. I cherish the opportunities he made sure that each of the fellows had access to, from research to poster presentations to attending major GI conferences. He was an asset that will truly be missed.

Dr. Ricardo Sorensen:

When remembering Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld, there are so many good memories that come to mind it is hard to choose the ones to share today. However, two aspects stand out. One is Eberhard, the knowledgeable, caring physician who would never disappoint you when you were asked to recommend the best gastroenterologist in town to a colleague or even to a university president looking for somebody to take care of a young relative. Eberhard would never fail to impress through his knowledge and humanism.

And then there is the somewhat unexpected, great sense of humor that this serious-looking German displayed with such grace. I think Eberhard stunned all of us when he combined historical knowledge with sophisticated humor in his goodbye speech for Dr. John Udall, who was leaving to become Chair of Pediatrics at West Virginia University—Charleston. After that, many of us learned to look for that twinkle in his eyes which revealed his true personality whenever we interacted with him.

The Department of Pediatrics has made sure that Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld's impact on the quality of Gastroenterology in our Department will never be forgotten by establishing the Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld Professorship in Pediatric Gastroenterology, the proceeds of which will support one of his favorite passions—the education of fellows in his subspecialty.

**

Those who wish to honor Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld can contribute to the Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship Fund. Your check should be made payable to LSUHSC Foundation and mailed to the attention of Debbie Hoppe or Hyang Lee, c/o Children's Hospital, LSUHSC-Peds, 200 Henry Clay Ave. RIC Bldg – Room 4229, New Orleans, LA. 70118. (Please note on the check that it is a memorial for Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld.)

KUDOS CORNER



CONGRATULATIONS, DR. OCHOA

Dr. Augusto Ochoa, who served as Interim Director of the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center since 2006, has officially accepted the position of Center Director. In announcing the appointment, Dr. Steve Nelson expressed confidence that he will be an “outstanding” leader of the Cancer Center. His responsibilities will include research, teaching and administration of the Cancer Center as well as shepherding the clinical and translational research opportunities that arise in conjunction with the Section of Hematology/Oncology in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics, as well as other departments. We wish you great success, Dr. Ochoa!

THANK YOU, DR. BROWN . . .

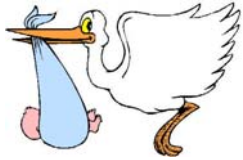
Following are words of appreciation for **Dr. Raynorda Brown** from Dr. Sorensen: Dear Ray, I would like to thank you for keeping the Division of Gastroenterology and its Fellowship Program together in such a committed and effective way. I would like to recognize your dedication to your Division and our Department by officially naming you interim division head and training program director. Thank you and congratulations.

INDUCTION

Special kudos to **Dr. Susan Berry**, who was inducted Nov. 16th into Delta Omega, the national public health honor society, as an honorary member of the Eta chapter, which is the Tulane chapter.

WELCOME...

The Ambulatory Division wishes to welcome **Dr. Diana McDermott**, who will help to staff the Student Health Service at the University of New Orleans.



BABY SIGHTING...

Katie Anh Thu Tran, the beautiful daughter of **Tri Tran, M.D.** and his wife, Anh Nguyen, was born at 10:58 p.m. November 8th at Westbank Oschner Hospital. Katie, who weighed in at 6 lbs, 11 oz., is the couple's third child and a wonderful gift for the New Year!

RESIDENCY NEWS

Congratulations to the following house officers, who have been selected by the Greater New Orleans Medical Foundation to receive scholarships:

\$2,500 Scholarship Recipients:

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Stephen Lim

OB/GYN

Ghazala Azam

Stacey Holman

Diego Lopez Osa

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Yuri McKee

Eric Reish

ORTHOPEDICS

Aaron Omotola

PEDIATRICS

Rachel Dawkins* (Joint research project, award \$1,250)

Caroline Straatman* (Joint research project, award \$1,250)

PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

Brett Rothaermel

PSYCHIATRY

Jessica Hof

\$1,000 Scholarship Recipients

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Richard Vinroot

PATHOLOGY

Erin Stein

The recipients were chosen based on competitive application of a proposed research project or a worthwhile educational meeting they wanted to attend. Their awards will be presented at an upcoming grand rounds.



WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, RACHEL

Dr. Rachel Dawkins received a tremendous honor at the AAP conference in San Francisco. Our very own 2007 Pediatrics Chief Resident was elected District VII coordinator for the Resident Section of the AAP. District VII encompasses all of the pediatric residents from the five-state area of Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas. Way to go, Rachel!

In other residency news, the program had a very successful PICU fellowship match. **Emily Martin** matched at Emory University and **Viyeka Sethi** matched at the University of California, San Francisco—both of their first choices.

Star Desmond, deemed one of the program's "fantastic" interns, started a recycling program in the residents' lounge. Noticing that all of the

recyclable products were being thrown away daily at the hospital, Star set up a bin where residents can dispose of items. She then takes the items to a local recycling facility.

In addition, **Chief Resident Caroline Straatmann** and **Hospitalist Simone Fogarasi** started a book club for interested residents and faculty. So far, the book club has met twice, discussing *The House of God* and *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Anyone interested in participating should contact Caroline Straatmann at 896-9329 or via e-mail, cstraa@lsuhsc.edu.

In residency program baby news, **Kristine Falcon** and her husband, David Chimento, welcomed a son, David Jr.; **Amy Zeringue** and her husband, Ralph, welcomed a daughter, Grace; **Melissa Roy** and her husband, Scott, welcomed a son, Michael.

Turning to the Medicine/Pediatrics residency program, LSU Med/Peds residents have been volunteering at the Mount Zion United Methodist Church Clinic, 2700 Louisiana Avenue, on Tuesday evenings from 6 pm until 8 pm through **Dr. Susan Berry**, the clinic's medical director. The volunteer clinic, staffed by Med/Peds residents/staff, welcomes adults and children of all ages who may need prescription refills before their next appointments, referral to clinic if they are insured or uninsured, and management of acute problems such as colds, rashes, sore throats and hypertension. They do their best to help refer patients to the appropriate clinic/physician based upon income/insurance status. They also have over-the-counter samples of such medication as Tylenol and cough suppressants, and community resources are available if patients need them.

PHOTO ALBUM



Residency Program Director Dr. Bonnie Desselle, Pediatrics residents and former residents at a recent party to welcome back the St. Charles streetcars.



CEREMONIAL HONORS

Faculty members who were accepted into the LSUHSC Academy for the Advancement of Educational Scholarship enjoyed the induction ceremony and reception held for them on Friday, Oct. 12th. Honorees from left: **George "Jay" Hescocock**, **Rudolfo Begue**, **Maria Weimer**, **Mark Dal Corso**, **Robin English**, **Gary Duhon**, **Bonnie Desselle**, **Suzanne LeFevre**, **Tamuella Singleton**, and **Brian Barkemeyer**, with Pediatrics Dept. Chairman **Ricardo Sorensen**, far right. Not pictured: **Simone Fogarasi**.

A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

Another reason to be proud of our LSUHSC pediatricians is the Baton Rouge Children's Health Project (BRCHP), launched in October 2006 to provide high quality medical and mental health services to low-income children who have been impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and who reside in Baton Rouge.

The BRCHP, a permanent organization housed within the Pediatric Department at Earl K. Long Medical Center, uses two mobile medical units to bring services directly to schools, FEMA trailer parks, and other community sites where access to health care is limited. Called "doctors' offices on wheels," it offers primary and chronic care services, immunizations, mental health counseling, case management, asthma treatment, subspecialty referrals, and well and sick child visits. The BRCHP is under the direction of **Stewart Gordon, MD**, Chief of Pediatrics at Earl K. Long Medical Center. The Medical Director is **Heidi Sinclair, MD**, and the Mental Health Director is **Toni Bankston, LCSW**.

