



Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans



Joy D. Osofsky, PhD

BRAVO, DR. OSOFSKY!

Congratulations to **Joy Osofsky, PhD**, professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, for receiving triple honors in recent months. Dr. Osofsky was recognized by Family Service of Greater New Orleans last October for outstanding service to the community. In November, she received a proclamation from the St. Bernard Parish School Board for outstanding and continuing service to students and faculty of St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. That same month, she picked up the Sarah Haley Award for Clinical Excellence for work with trauma from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

KUDOS, DR. GEDALIA!

Abraham Gedalia, MD, was elected president of the Louisiana Rheumatism Association for the Year 2007-2008.

AUTISM: ADVOCATES FOR EARLY DETECTION

Pediatricians **Drs. Indra Jayasinghe** and **Charmaine Venters** and Pediatric Neurologist **Dr. Barbara Golden** were appointed to the Professional Autism Council of Baton Rouge. The council was formed by the Junior League to enhance earlier detection of autism spectrum disorders and provide better access to resources available to parents of affected children. The group is compiling a guide book that provides names and phone numbers of agencies specifically qualified to diagnose and treat these disorders.

COLLABORATION ACROSS THE OCEAN

An article by **Geneticist Dr. Yves Lacassie**, co-authored with **Dr. Robin R. McGoey**, has led to a collaborative effort with European researchers. The article, which focuses on an autosomal recessive family from Mississippi with Adams-Oliver Syndrome (AOS) and neurological involvement, prompted a fellow at Guys Hospital in London to contact Dr. Lacassie to ask if he could include his Mississippi family in the European group's study of the molecular genetics of AOS. Dr. Lacassie agreed. He collected blood samples from the family members and mailed the extracted DNA to his European collaborators so that homozygosity mapping could be performed. The collaborators thanked Dr. Lacassie for his participation in their study. The article appeared in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics* in January.

PUBLICATIONS

Michael Marble, MD, co-authored "Pelizaeus-Merzbacher Syndrome: Neurocognitive Function in a Family with Carrier Manifestations," published in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics* in 2007. And another paper he co-authored, "Neonatal Vitamin B12 Deficiency Secondary to Maternal Subclinical Pernicious Anemia: Identification by Expanded Newborn Screening," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Pediatrics*.

OUTSTANDING WORK BY MED STUDENTS



Erika von Sneidern

Dr. Lacassie congratulated **Erika von Sneidern** for "an outstanding job" during her elective rotation in the Genetics Division in December

and January. Erika, a med student at the Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia, participated in the writing of a paper, "Trisomy 14 Mosaic: A Questionable Clinically Recognizable Syndrome—Case Report and Review," which was recently accepted for inclusion in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. Dr. Lacassie said that he, the residents, and faculty look forward to welcoming Erika as a resident here in the near future.

Dr. Lacassie noted that **Amy Collinsworth**, a senior at LSU School of Medicine, co-authored a paper with him in October while doing her elective rotation in Genetics. The paper, "An Unusual Presentation of Trisomy 13" is currently in press in the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*.



BABY NEWS

Ella Christina, daughter of **Dr. Regina Zambrano**, was born February 19th at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Dr. Zambrano completed her residency at LSU last July and is now a fellow in Medical Genetics at Johns Hopkins.

DR. VARGAS TO RECEIVE AWARD

On April 19th, **Dr. Alfonso Vargas** will receive the Hispanic Health Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership role and impact on the health of Hispanics and other underserved populations in New Orleans. The award will be given out at the 12th annual conference of the National Hispanic Medical Association's Council of Medical Societies Meeting in Washington, D.C. The NHMA is an association representing Hispanic physicians in the U.S.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN HEALTH CARE WORKSHOP—MARCH 15TH

Anyone interested in earning six CME credits and delving into such timely issues as care for the uninsured in Post Katrina New Orleans; nursing home visiting; preventing maternal depression and partner violence; ways to improve migrant families' health; and theories of justice and the right to health care should make it a point to attend a free workshop, "Access and Equity in Health Care," in the Auditorium of Children's Hospital on March 15th. Among the moderators will be local faculty **Alfonso Vargas, MD**; **Gary Duhon, MD**; and

John Estrada, MD. Other speakers will include **Nancy Berlinger, PhD**, Deputy Director and Research Associate, The Hastings Center; **Sarah Horton, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Montana; **Alfred Tenore, MD**, President, European Board of Pediatrics; **Jitka Patockova, MD**, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Charles University, Prague, The Czech Republic; **Paula Zeanah, PhD**, Associate Professor, Clinical Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Tulane University Health Sciences Center; **Clayton Williams, MPH**, Director, Div. of Health Systems Development, Louisiana Public Health Institute; and **Rosa Bustamante-Forest, RN**, Program Director, Mom and Baby Mobile Health Care, Daughters of Charity Services. For more information, contact **Judith Rodriguez** at 896-9263.



Rajasekharan Warriar, MD

GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU, MY FRIEND

Dr. Rajasekharan Warriar sends his best regards to everyone! He wants all to know that he misses LSU and Children's Hospital but is learning a tremendous amount and working hard at Manipal University. After 24 years with LSU Pediatrics and Children's, Dr. Warriar left last May to become Vice Chancellor of the university located in Manipal, India. He goes on to say that Manipal University now has 24 constituent colleges in six countries and over 103,000 students, as well as six medical schools, three dental colleges and three nursing schools. Students from 53 countries attend Manipal, including 3,600 from the U.S. Like a proud papa, he says the health care system in India has 14 private hospitals and also manages three "charity" type hospitals and nine rural clinics with inpatients of more than 8,000. He is exploring the possibility of combining programs with LSUHSC in research and resident rotation. And he also likes the idea of possibly running a board review or international CME. He is planning to be in New Orleans in March and hopes to have the opportunity to meet with his former colleagues.