

Cub Corner

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

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MOULTON'S MESSAGE

Dedrick Moulton, MD
Pediatrics Department Chair



“

Have you ever considered the impact of the First Hello to a new patient? I believe the first hello is the entry point to the gateway to eliminate health disparities. It is a moment that you either connect and begin a favorable physician-patient relationship or the time that you lay the groundwork for health gaps that may stem from patient mistrust. If you connect and gain your patient's trust, the door is open for a successful patient-physician relationship and the potential for the patient to achieve optimal health. Failure to connect may close the door and doom us to health disparities. So, the next time you meet a patient for the first time, make your First Hello count.

”

UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

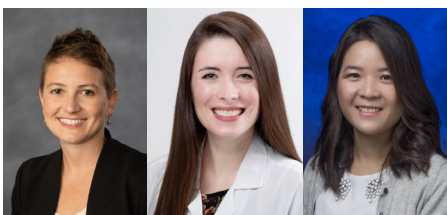
Wednesdays at 12:00
Grand Rounds
Large Conference
Room, CH

September 2023
Women in Medicine
Month at LSUHSC
Pediatrics

September 2023
Sickle Cell Awareness
Month

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS AND FACULTY!

Welcome new residents and faculty! We are so happy to have you here and hope you enjoy your time with LSUHSC Pediatrics!



Dr. Molly Sonenklar
Assistant Professor
of Clinical
Pediatrics
Hematology/

Dr. Mandy
Nasworthy
Assistant Professor
of Clinical Pediatrics
Cardiology

Dr. Thu Pham
Assistant Professor
of Clinical
Pediatrics
Gastroenterology



Chief Residents Set Goals For Resident Education



New Chief residents, Joey Sansone, MD and Paige Prevot, MD, are excited for residents and anticipate success in this year’s educational initiatives. As each new academic year brings with it a fresh start, Dr.’s Sansone and Prevot have reevaluated and refocused their priority on five key elements:

1. Fostering a Supportive Learning Environment
2. Emphasizing Continuous Professional Development
3. Cultivating a Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environment
4. Promoting Work-life Balance
5. Nurturing Leadership and Advocacy Skills



Paige Prevot, MD

Joey Sansone, MD

Fostering a Supportive Learning Environment

A concentration will be placed on creating a culture of support and open communication where residents feel comfortable seeking guidance and asking questions. Encourage peer-to-peer learning and provide opportunities for residents to share their experiences, knowledge, and challenges with one another.

This year, residents are working far more collectively with each other and with faculty as Chief Residents utilize a new structure in didactic sessions that are case-based and interactive for all learners to participate and share their experiences.

“We want their education to be more collaborative where they are able to work in groups, learn from each other, and have fun doing it” Sansone explains.

Accessibility to academic support has also been improved and strengthened through encouraged peer-mentorship and regular feedback sessions for residents with faculty and administration.

Emphasizing Continuous Professional Development

Prioritize the importance of ongoing learning and professional growth. Encourage residents to attend conferences, workshops, and relevant educational events. Promote engagement in research and scholarly activities to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Drs. Sansone and Prevot recognize the importance

of professional development and its potential to open opportunities for career advancement and networking opportunities. As such, they are increasing their efforts to provide funding support for and encourage residents to present and attend national conferences as well as publish in peer-reviewed journals.

Cultivating a Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environment

Strive to create a residence program that embraces diversity and promotes inclusivity. Ensure that residents from various backgrounds and identities feel welcomed and valued, and that their unique perspectives are celebrated. Implement DEI training and workshops to foster cultural competency among residents and faculty, enabling them to provide equitable and sensitive care to a diverse patient population. Encourage participation in DEI initiatives and community outreach programs to address healthcare disparities and promote health equity.

In addition to monthly DEI activities hosted by the DEI committee, Dr. Sansone and Dr. Prevot have plans to also “conduct diversity and inclusion trainings for faculty, residents, and staff to promote cultural competence and sensitivity.” They will continue to encourage resident involvement with community outreach programs that focus on healthcare disparities such as THCOUP, and they plan to host diverse guest speakers to share their

perspectives and experiences.

Promoting Work-life Balance

Recognize the demanding nature of residency training and advocate for work-life balance. Encourage residents to take care of their physical and mental well-being, while also fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among the residents.

LSUHSC's Pediatric Wellness committee has been a great resource in years past for ensuring the well-being of those within the department. Residents have participated in activities such as yoga, Pediatrics Picnics and Pet Assisted Wellness visits. Dr. Sansone and Dr. Prevot plan to utilize

the wellness program more fully to focus on physical wellness, mindfulness, and stress reduction among the residents while also setting guidelines for reasonable workload to prevent burnout. Social events and team-building activities will also occur on a more regular basis.

Nurturing Leadership and Advocacy Skills

Provide opportunities for residents to develop leadership qualities and advocacy skills. Encourage involvement in hospital committees, community outreach programs, and initiatives related to child health and advocacy.

In previous years, residents have served with a variety of organizations such as the New Orleans Mission, Tools for Schools, Second Harvest Food Bank, Project Prom, and Continuity Clinic Book Drive. Drs. Sansone and Prevot plan to increase awareness of community outreach programs as well as leadership workshops to help residents develop essential leadership and advocacy skills.

“We are making sure that our residents know of the opportunities they have to be involved and make the most of their time here”, says Dr. Sansone, “They seem to be renewed with an eagerness and readiness to start, get involved and work together to do their best”.

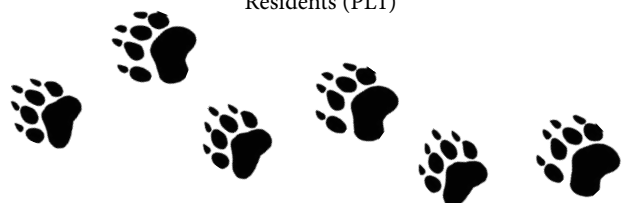
The department is very excited and lucky to have Dr. Sansone and Dr. Prevot in place as Chief Residents, carrying out what sounds to be a very promising and successful resident program this year. We wish them and all our residents the best of luck!

Top Five Goals for Resident Education Success

- 1 Fostering a Supportive Learning Environment
- 2 Emphasizing Continuous Professional Development
- 3 Cultivating a Diverse and Inclusive Learning Environment
- 4 Promoting Work-life Balance
- 5 Nurturing Leadership and Advocacy Skills



Residents (PL1)





WHO DAT?



Diego Aviles

MASTER PEDIATRICIAN
2023



The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, LA AAP, honors Dr. Diego Aviles as a “Master Pediatrician”. The LA AAP defines “Master Pediatrician” as a superb clinician who has contributed to the health and welfare of children in

Louisiana for at least 30 years through direct patient care and child advocacy. Pediatricians who receive this award are also recognized as having served as an educator and outstanding role model to students and young physicians.

Throughout most of his 39 years as a pediatrician, Dr. Aviles has served on the faculty of the LSU School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics, now as Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Section Head of Pediatric Nephrology.

From his unrelenting efforts in child advocacy to starting the first pediatric nephrology fellow training program, nationally ranked by US News and World Report, Dr. Aviles surely is the prototype of a “Master Pediatrician”. Congratulations, Dr. Aviles, on this honorable recognition.

Jessica Patrick

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF CLINICAL SCIENCES
CURRICULUM



Dr. Jessica Patrick recently has received reassignment to the position of Assistant Director of Clinical Sciences Curriculum in the LSUHSC Dean’s Office.

In this position, Dr. Patrick will take on new responsibilities relating to the development of curricular initiatives focused on early clinical training integration for medical school curriculum.

Dr. Patrick will retain her appointment as a full-time Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology. Congratulations, Dr. Patrick, on your new position!

Bonnie Desselle

VICE CHAIR OF CLINICAL
OPERATIONS AND
MEDICAL EDUCATION



Dr. Bonnie Desselle has served as the Vice Chair of Medical Education in the Department of Pediatrics for seven years. In addition to this role and many other roles she currently holds, Dr. Desselle has received reassignment to the position of Vice Chair of Clinical Operations and Medical Education.

In this new position, Dr. Desselle will provide strategic and innovative leadership as she oversees the Department’s Women in Medicine Education programs, assists the Department Head in evaluation of fellowship research programs, develops a Visiting Professorship program to enhance academic culture, assists in maintaining standards for academic participation in the Department, and more. Congratulations, Dr. Desselle, on your new position!

New Pipeline Leaders

Dr. Amanda Messer
Dr. Colleen LeBlanc
Dr. Kelly Gajewski
(pictured left to right)



Dr. Amanda Messer has been appointed as the Lead Fellowship Director for a two-year term. In this role, she will be responsible for organizing our monthly meetings and ensuring that we are informed about the requirements related to Graduate Medical Education. Assisting Amanda in her duties, we have Dr. Colleen LeBlanc serving as the Associate Lead Director and Dr. Kelly Gajewski as the Ex-officio Lead. Together, they will provide valuable support to Amanda in fulfilling the various responsibilities with this position.

Newly appointed Associate Fellowship Directors:

Dr. Andrew Abreo, Allergy-Immunology
Dr. Zach Leblanc, Hematology-oncology
Dr. Dania Felipe, Endocrine



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION TCHOUP
The Careers in Healthcare Opportunities for Underrepresented Students in Pediatrics

“The Mission of TCHOUP is to encourage students who are underrepresented in medicine to explore various career opportunities within pediatrics. Participants will gain valuable knowledge about pediatrics through interactive workshops and meaningful interactions with pediatricians, pediatric specialists, medical students, and hospital staff, who are also underrepresented in medicine, allowing student to visualize a path into medicine and form a professional identity.”
 -TCHOUP Program Mission

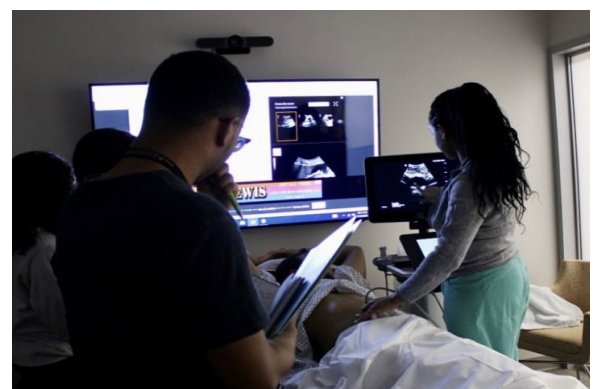
This past July, TCHOUP hosted their third program session since its start in July of 2022 in which 12 undergraduate students were able to experience a day full of hands-on skill training and interaction with medical professionals at Children’s Hospital New Orleans.

Program participants this year were met by LSUHSC medical students, pediatric faculty and resident volunteers who exposed them to the pediatrician career by engaging in meaningful conversations and guiding them through the hospital to perform hands-on skills stations such as CPR, ultrasounds, operating room scrub-ins, and even handling human organs from the Pathology division (a favorite among participants). In the second portion of the day, physicians participated in a panel where they answered participant questions pertaining to the pediatric career. A Q&A session was also made available for participants who had further questions or wanted an opportunity to talk more with panelists, program volunteers, college advisors, and others present.

To close, a ceremony is held where participants are awarded their certificate of completion. They also are paired with a medical student mentor who has committed to being an informational and guiding touchpoint for at least a year, cultivating the greater longevity of the program’s impact on each individual participant.

LSUHSC Pediatric Associate Professor and Diversity and Inclusion Officer in the Office of Medical Education, Maya Jones, MD,MPH, is the director of TCHOUP, and as such oversees the program’s direction and execution. “It’s clear that there is a need for more of this: more exposure, more mentorship, more everything,” Jones enthusiastically declared, “Everyone finds it so fulfilling. I think everyone sees the value; they enjoy and are inspired by just participating”.

Program participants have responded with great enthusiasm to the program after each session:



“This program is amazing and very informational. I learned about things that I didn’t even consider. I met amazing people that I feel will be in my life for a long, long time”, one participant shares.

“This program allowed me to gain a deeper understanding and insight as to what/how being a doctor will look and feel like”, another explains.

This year, Jones and her team received an overwhelming number of applications which led to their consideration of expanding the program. “Going forward, we have discussed making more sessions available” Jones explains, “We just have to make sure we have the resources to be able to expand”.

The next TCHOUP session will likely be held in the Spring of 2024 for students grade 7-12. Applications for program participants and volunteers are found on [TCHOUP's website](#).

COMMUNITY Tools for Schools



On Saturday, July 22nd, LSUHSC faculty, residents, and medical students were able to support the community at the Tools for Schools event, hosted by the Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale and the New Orleans Recreation Department.

At this event, free vaccinations, sports exams, health screenings, and testing were available to the community. Our team of pediatric and internal medicine faculty and residents, alongside medical student group, CORE (Community Outreach Rebuilding Education), provided physicals for approximately 40 patients and screened another 30, providing care for around 70 patients in the span of five hours.

The Department’s Pediatric Community Health and



WELLNESS

Physician wellness and burnout have been recognized as a key risk factor for a variety of negative consequences including poor patient satisfaction, increased medical errors, poor physician quality of life, high rates of physician depression and suicide and high turnover of highly trained physicians in academic health centers.

LSU Pediatrics, since 2016, has been committed to spreading awareness and creating community and wellness options/ events. The umbrella of our wellness program includes all pediatric faculty including working mothers and residents, whom, according to data, are at highest risk of burnout.

The Pebble in your Shoe

We can relate small issues that are irksome to having pebbles in our shoes. When we identify and address these small issues, we can empower and validate those in healthcare, confirming that issues can be manageable. This, in turn, has a powerful, positive ripple effect on the community. Although there are concerns or issues that are seen as “boulders” in nature, we can start with addressing the “pebbles” first.

-Dr. Jerrussa Aita-Levy, Chief Wellness Officer

CHALLENGE

What are your top three “Pebbles” in your work environment?

Let us hear your voice and see how our department can start removing those pebbles!

[Share here with Microsoft Forms](#)

Advocacy Group, Vice Chaired by Dr. Ryan Pasternak, organized and gathered 13 volunteers including Dean, Hamilton Farris, Dr. Joey Sansone, Dr. Lee Engel, Dr. Zaria Williams, Dr. Hanah Nguyen, Dr. Leah Smith, Dr. Sara H. Anderson, Jenny Quach, Aysha Gibson, Jason Kim, Mason Calico, Reed Smith, and Emmanuel Perez.

Leah Smith, Dr. Sara H. Anderson, Jenny Quach, Aysha Gibson, Jason Kim, Mason Calico, Reed Smith, and Emmanuel Perez.

“As a new resident in the city of New Orleans, I was hopeful I would be able to immerse myself in the community by assisting with events just like this one,” shared Dr. Leah Smith, PGY-1, “It was also a great opportunity to work alongside other residents and medical students!”

Dr. Hannah Nguyen also commented, “Being able to work with a group of hardworking medical students and other residents to provide health screenings to our community was an amazing experience. It was remarkable to see the involvement from different organizations to help put on this event and the turnout was larger than we all expected! It was rewarding and fun all at the same time!

The Pediatrics department looks forward to participating in this event in the coming years, as it provides a great opportunity to become familiar with and give back to the community. Thank you all who participated this year, and we look forward to having you again next July!



Acknowledgements

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What do you want to see next time?

[Submit content suggestions](#) or contact Sarah Brooks at sbroo9@lsuhsc.edu