



Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

FUNERAL TODAY FOR DR. STEWART

A funeral service for **Dr. William H. Stewart**, Emeritus Chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center, will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 29th at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1329 Jackson Avenue. Visitation will begin at 11:30 a.m. Called by **Dr.**

Ricardo Sorensen "friendly, completely unselfish, and one of the great representatives of our profession," Dr. Stewart was also Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, former Surgeon General of the United States, former Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for Louisiana, and former Chair of the Department of Preventative Medicine at the School of Medicine. He died Wednesday, April 23rd of complications from kidney failure. He was 86. Burial will be private. Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD NEWS

Dr. Alfonso Vargas is delighted to report that **Dr. Ricardo Sorensen** is doing well after undergoing surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Sorensen had cardiac catheterization on April 17th, an aortic valve replacement on April 18th, and another short procedure to stop the bleeding on the 19th. The good news is that he is now walking, talking and behaving like his old, irascible self again.

While recovering, Dr. Sorensen can smile while recalling an accolade he just received from the editors of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. Each year, following the AAAAI Annual Meeting, the editors identify the best presentations they saw at the meeting. They then invite those speakers to submit review articles based on the topics of their presentations. This year, the editors were "very impressed" by Dr. Sorensen's pro/con debate (with Dr. Luigi Notarangelo) on "is it necessary to identify molecular defects in primary immunodeficiency disease?" and they invited both doctors to co-author a review for their Current Perspectives series on that topic. The review article will be part of a theme issue on "New insights, discoveries, and controversies in primary immunodeficiency." Dr. Notarangelo is a Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Drs. Jay Hescocock, Simone Fogarasi, and Amy Zeringue celebrated special honors April 15th at the Aesculapian Society's banquet at Andrea's Restaurant. The two hospitalists were winners of the Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Hescocock won Outstanding Teacher as voted on by the medical school Class of 2008, and Dr. Fogarasi won Outstanding Teacher as voted on by the Class of 2009. And Dr. Zeringue was selected Outstanding Intern by the current third-year medical student class for her exceptional teaching, excellent example, and concern for student welfare. Says **Chief Resident Caroline Straatmann**: "Amy was selected amongst all of the interns at LSUHSC—a huge honor for her and the Pediatrics Department." Congratulations to all!

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



Brian M. Barkemeyer, MD

Kudos to **Dr. Brian Barkemeyer**, who received the Senator Allen J. Ellender Award as the 2008 Alumnus of the Year for Brother Martin High School. Dr. Barkemeyer is a 1979 graduate of the Catholic high school that has educated young men in New Orleans since 1869. He remains active at the school, serving as past-president of the alumni association and as a member of several boards. "I recognize the importance of Brother Martin in my own development," he says, "and am happy to support the school in the education of current and future students." Dr. Barkemeyer and his wife, Michelle, are the parents of five children.

NEW HIRES

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to these two new members of our Department:

Jaime Morales, MD began his duties March 3rd as Assistant Professor in the Div. of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. He was an attending physician in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Driscoll Children's Hospital in McAllen, Texas, and he was an adjunct assistant professor of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Paul Hyman, MD is Professor of Pediatrics and the new Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology. Dr. Hyman completed his pediatric residency at New York University Bellevue Hospital Medical Center and his fellowship at University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining our department, he was Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center.



Jaime Morales, MD



Paul Hyman, MD

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Liqin Zheng, Nicole Asprodites, Angela Keene, Paulo Rodriguez, Kevin Brown, and Eduardo Davila: TLR9 engagement on CD4 T lymphocytes represses gamma-radiation-induced apoptosis through activation of checkpoint kinase response elements. *Blood*, 2008 March issue.

Nicole Asprodites, Liqin Zheng, Degui Geng, Cruz Velasco-Gonzalez, Luis Sanchez-Perez, Eduardo Davila: Engagement of Toll-like receptor-2 on cytotoxic T-lymphocytes occurs *in vivo* and augments anti-tumor activity. In press in *FASEB*, 2008.

IMPROVING LIFE IN THE PARISH

Allergist-Immunologist Dr. Ken Paris, a participant in the "CARE for St. Bernard" project, addressed a public meeting of St. Bernard Parish to talk about causes, treatment and prevention of allergy and asthma problems in the Parish. Funded by an EPA CARE grant, it was one of five public meetings focusing on water and air quality and parish recovery.

OUTSTANDING CARE TO CHILDREN WITH NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Congratulations to **Geneticist Dr. Yves Lacassie**, who received a plaque recognizing his "Affiliate Clinic" status in the Children's Tumor Foundation Neurofibromatosis Clinic Network (CTF-NFCN).

WELCOME TO NEW LSU PEDIATRIC AND MED/PEDS INTERNS FOR 2008-2009

We are happy to greet our new Pediatric and Med/Peds Interns now joining our Department. We wish the very best to:

| Pediatrics Interns | Medical School |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Brooke Bock | St. George's University |
| Jane Chung | St. George's University |
| Amar Dave | Ross University |
| Jessie Dieguez | St. George's University |
| Penny Dupre | LSU-Shreveport |
| Kelly Kennett | Virginia Commonwealth |
| Gabrielle Lambert | LSU-New Orleans |
| Sarah Latiolais | LSU-New Orleans |
| Rebecca Levine | U. of New England |
| | College of Osteopathic Medicine |
| Angela Meredith | LSU-New Orleans |
| Paige Oliver | LSU-New Orleans |
| Thara Raghuthaman | St. George's University |
| Dhiraj Singh | Shaym Shah Medical C. |
| Laura Snow | LSU-Shreveport |
| Jeremy Toler | West Virginia University |
| Joyce Varghese | Nova Southeastern C. of |
| | Osteopathic Medicine |
| Med/Peds Interns | Medical School |
| Courtney Austin | LSU-New Orleans |
| Amanda England | U. of South Alabama |
| Kishore Gandla | Andhra Medical College |
| Michele Salassi | LSU-New Orleans |
| Appalanaidu Sasapu | Andhra Medical College |
| Gisella Tay Yong | U. San Martin de Porres |



BABY NEWS

Pediatric Cardiologist **Dr. Steffan Sernich** and his wife, Jodi, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Luca Ryan, born March 9th. Luca weighed in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Vicki Salloum-Holley no later than Friday, May 30th. You can reach Vicki by telephone (896-9800) or via e-mail at vsallo@lsuhsc.edu.