



Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

KUDOS CORNER

Diego Aviles, MD, program director for the Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Program, received great news on Oct. 28th. On that date, the RRC for Pediatrics awarded the program accredited status, effective July 1, 2009. The program has been approved for three years for a maximum of three fellows. Congratulations!

Bravo to **Bonnie Dickinson, PhD**, who was recently elected as a full member of the LSU graduate faculty. Dr. Dickinson is assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics and The Research Institute for Children (RIC).

NEW ACADEMY MEMBERS



Constantine Dimitriadis, MD, and Staci Olistier, MD



Dana Rivera, MD (left) and Maria Velez, MD

Congratulations on the acceptance of four of our pediatricians as new members of the Academy for the Advancement of Educational Scholarship. **Drs. Constantine Dimitriadis, Staci Olistier, and Dana Rivera** have been accepted as Fellows, and Dr. **Maria Velez** as a Master Teacher in the Academy. Thanks to all for your leadership, support, and commitment to excellence and scholarship in teaching and education! The Induction Ceremony and Reception was held Oct. 10th.

CLINICAL DELEGATES

Dr. Constantine Dimitriadis received yet another honor. He and **George "Jay" Hescocock, MD**, were among six physicians who were elected new clinical delegates to the School of Medicine General Faculty Assembly.

SAYING GOODBYE . . .



Gary Duhon, MD

As many of you may know, **Gary Duhon, MD**, left LSU and started at Georgetown University in November as associate professor, with a joint appointment to the Pediatric Critical Care Division and the Georgetown Center for Bioethics. He will continue practicing in the field of Pediatric Critical Care and will also be doing academic work with the Center for Bioethics, the Kennedy Institute, and the Philosophy Department at Georgetown. He will be able to work with some of the world's leading scholars in the field of Bioethics. Our very best wishes for you, Dr. Duhon!

PUBLICATIONS

On Nov. 14th **Yves Lacassie, MD**, Professor of Pediatrics and Head of the Division of Genetics, presented two papers in the 2008 Annual Meeting of The American Society of Human Genetics, held in Philadelphia: (1) **Lacassie Y, Sampath S, Peltier HM, Bale S, Rauen KA**. Cardio-facio-cutaneous syndrome (CFCS) due to a novel MEK2 mutation involving four generations; and (2) **Rauen KA, Estep AL, Bale SJ, Tidyman WE, Lacassie Y**. Molecular and functional analysis of a novel MEK2 mutation in cardio-facio-cutaneous syndrome: Transmission through four generations.

These can be seen at <http://www.ashg.org/genetics/ashg08s/index.shtml>

Tri Tran, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics-Research, has one recent publication: **Tran T, Badakhsh R, Hsueh MK, Longfellow L.** Whose infants are more likely to be delivered by primary Cesarean? Louisiana, 2005. LA Morbidity Report 19(3) 2008.

MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM HONORS DR. EBERHARD SCHMIDT-SOMMERFELD



From far left: Robert Suskind, MD; John Udall, Jr., MD, PhD; Eduardo Hebel, MD; Emanuel Lebenthal, MD; Uma Pisharody, MD; and Zili Zhang, MD

John Udall, MD, PhD, former head of LSUHSC Pediatric Gastroenterology and current Chair of Pediatrics at West Virginia School of Medicine gave a warm, often funny tribute to his LSU successor, the late **Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld, MD**, at a symposium in his honor Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the Astor Crown Plaza Hotel in New Orleans. Some 120 registrants heard world-class presentations given by 19 former mentors, fellows, colleagues and friends of Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld, who died in November 2007. Speakers came from as far away at Jerusalem, Israel (**Emanuel Lebenthal, MD**, Director of the International Institute for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center); Temuco, Chile (**Eduardo Hebel, MD**, Dean of the University de La Frontera); and Munich, Germany (**Sybill Koletzko, MD** (Dr. v. Haunersches Kinderspital of Ludwig Maximilians University). And, of course, our own faculty paid tribute: **Ricardo Sorensen, MD**; **Randall Craver, MD**; **Bonny Dickinson, PhD**; **Paul Hyman, MD**; and **Uma Pisharody, MD**.

JEFFREY MODELL CME COURSE A SUCCESS! **Alan Knutsen, MD**, and **John Routes, MD**, were among the out-of-town speakers at the Third Annual Jeffrey Modell CME Course for the

General Practitioner, held November 21st at the Astor to explore the pulmonary manifestations of primary immunodeficiency diseases in children and adults. Dr. Knutsen is Professor and Director of Pediatric Allergy & Immunology at Saint Louis University, and Dr. Routes is Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and Medical College of Wisconsin. The meeting brought together **Steve Nelson, MD**, Dean of the LSUHSC School of Medicine (who gave the introductory talk about lung immunity mechanisms), and **Vicki and Fred Modell**, co-founders of the Jeffrey Modell Foundation. LSU and the Modell Foundation will work together to increase primary immunodeficiency-related activities, to include research and diagnostic capabilities, in New Orleans and in Louisiana. Because of the success of the Course, a fourth meeting will be held in November 2009, dedicated to exploring the gastrointestinal manifestations of primary immunodeficiency diseases, said **Ricardo Sorensen, MD**, Chairman of the LSUHSC Department of Pediatrics.

ROCKIN' AT THE ROCK 'N' BOWL



JMF Kids' Day Coordinator **Kenneth Paris, MD**, with smiling participant.

About 90 parents, friends, and kids, many of them with primary immunodeficiency diseases, danced, bowled, and had their faces painted at the Third Annual Jeffrey Modell Foundation Kids' Day on Saturday, November 22nd at the Rock 'N' Bowl in New Orleans. Partying along with them were **Dr. Sorensen**; Allergy/Immunology Fellows **Drs. Sandhya Mani, Victoria Dimitriades, Gital Karamchandani**, and **Annette Fiorillo**; **Lily Leiva, PhD**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Immunology Research Lab; and Kids' Day Coordinator **Dr. Paris**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.