



Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Franca Iorember-Acka, MD

The Nephrology Division welcomed **Franca Iorember-Acka, MD** as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in April. She came from Tulane University where she served as Assistant Professor in Pediatric Nephrology and Director of Pediatric Dialysis. She completed her fellowship at Ohio State University in 2008 and her residency at Morehouse School of Medicine in 2005. Dr. Iorember-Acka was born and raised in Nigeria where she served as a medical officer for many years prior to coming to the United States as a graduate student at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Her research interest is in chronic kidney disease in children. Welcome aboard!

KUDOS CORNER

Pinar Gumus, MD, Endocrine Fellow, was awarded the *Marilyn Fishman Grant for Diabetes Research* from the Endocrine Fellows Foundation for her research project titled, *Is Cortisol Metabolism Altered in Obese Children with Type 2 Diabetes?* The \$15,000 award was given to her in May.

Residents **Katie Bruno, MD**, **Brooke Bock, MD** and **Stephen Sanches, MD** were awarded a Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant

for their project entitled *Shape Up NOLA Kids*. The \$3,000 grant will allow for planning and implementation of a multidisciplinary weight management program at Children's Hospital. **Rachel Dawkins, MD**, Associate Residency Program Director, said the application process for a CATCH grant is very challenging. The organization's vision is for every child to have a medical home and other needed services to reach optimal health and well-being.

Nancy Ross-Ascutto, MD, program director for the Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program, received great news last month. Effective July 1, 2010, the ACGME accredited the program for a length of 3 years and up to 6 residents. Congratulations Cardiology!

Congratulations to the following faculty members who were recently promoted:

Mary Breslin, PhD, promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

Stewart Gordon, MD, promoted to Professor

Michael Marble, MD, promoted to Professor

Diana McDermott, MD, promoted to Assistant Professor

Staci Ollister, MD, promoted to Associate Professor

The Aesculapian Society has nominated several professors, residents and interns from the Department of Pediatrics for the group's annual "Excellence in Teaching Award". These include:

Faculty: **Brian Barkemeyer, MD**, **Robin English, MD**, **Andrea Hauser, MD**, **Jessica Mouledoux, MD**, **Kenneth Paris, MD**

Residents: **Star Gianelloni, MD**, **Salomon Abitbol, MD**, **Jill FitzPatrick, MD**

Interns: **Chelsey Sandlin, MD**, **Emily Simon, MD**, **Hitesh Chheda, MD**

Alfonso Vargas, MD participated in the 14th Annual Conference of the National Hispanic Medical Association - NHMA (www.nhmamd.org) "Health Care Transformation to Increase Prevention & Health Promotion for the Hispanic Community" in Washington, D.C. March 25th – 28th, 2010. During the Leadership Awards Banquet he received the "NHMA Board of Directors Award" at the conclusion of his 2008-2010 tenure as Chair of the National Council of Hispanic Medical Societies, a consortium of 17 medical societies and 14 health-related organizations serving the Hispanic/Latino communities nationwide. As an ex-officio member of the Board, he has contributed to the development of the portal HispanicHealth.com and the campaigns for obesity and diabetes (type 2) prevention. As part of the conference, Dr. Vargas met with staffers from the Committees on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in the U.S. Capitol Building. He spoke with Sheldon Fields, PhD, RN, staff of Senator Barbara Mikulski (Maryland) along with Craig Martinez, DrPH, MPH and Taryn Morrissey, PhD, staffers of Senator Tom Harkin (Iowa), Chairman of the Committees. Dr. Vargas commented on the outcome of his trip saying, "We left strong voices of appreciation, of support for children and adolescent causes, obesity and diabetes prevention, education and health access to minorities and the uninsured, and the need to protect the children's hospitals and the educational programs for fellows, residents and medical students."

Last month, **John Estrada, MD**, along with Dillard University, was awarded a \$6,721,704 grant from the NIH's National Center for Minority Health Disparities. The grant will support 5 years of research, training, and community engagement at the new Dillard-LSUHSC Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center. Three research projects will focus on disparities in research. These include: prostate cancer in African Americans, STDs and cervical cancer, and asthma and obesity. The training component of the grant will pair LSUHSC scientists with junior faculty at Dillard. Undergraduate students from Dillard will train at LSUHSC and Dillard labs during the summer while minority nurses will be trained to become clinical research associates. The project also aims to engage the community to seek early detection of disease and participate in clinical

research, including cancer clinical trials. Dr. Estrada has indicated that several members of the Department of Pediatrics will benefit from this grant.

PUBLICATIONS

Eduardo Davila, PhD will publish several articles this year. These include the following:

Title: When Toll-like receptor and T-cell receptor signals collide: A Mechanism for enhanced CD8 T-cell effector function

Authors: Degui Geng, Liqin Zheng, Nicole Asprodites, Cruz Velasco-Gonzalez, Eduardo Davila

Description: These studies described the signaling mechanism by which toll-like receptor engagement on Tumor-specific T cells enhances killing activity against certain cancers and infected cells.

Journal: Blood 2010

Title: Amplifying TLR-MyD88 signals within tumor-specific T-cells enhances antitumor activity to suboptimal levels of weakly-immunogenic tumor-antigens"

Authors: Degui Geng, Liqin Zheng, Ratika Srivastava, Cruz Velasco-Gonzalez, Adam Riker, Svetomir N. Markovic, Eduardo Davila

Description: These studies highlight that amplifying toll-like receptor signals (by over-expressing TLR-related genes) in tumor-specific T cells augments antitumor against an established and aggressive melanoma tumor.

Journal: Cancer Research 2010

Title: A Toll for Th17 Expansion

Authors: Jay Kolls and Eduardo Davila

Description: This editorial highlighted studies conducted by Drs. Tony Vella and Jeremy McAleer showing that toll-like receptor 4 stimulation enhances the expansion of pre-committed Th17 cells.

Journal: Journal of Leukocyte Biology (2010 in Press)

Yves Lacassie, MD coauthored "Mixoploidy: Perinatal Diagnosis and Pregnancy Outcome." The article was recently published in *American Journal of Perinatology*.

GOOD-BYE TO GRADUATING FELLOWS...

Gital Karamchandani, MD completed her fellowship in Allergy/Immunology. **Brent Keith, MD** completed his fellowship in Gastroenterology/Nutrition. Dr. Keith will become faculty in July. As will **Jeff Surcouf, MD**, who finished his Neonatology fellowship, and **Jamie Jackson, MD**. Dr. Jackson completed her Forensic Medicine fellowship this month. **Cori Morrison, MD** will complete her Hematology/Oncology fellowship in August. She is also planning to become a faculty member. **Dania Felipe, MD** will complete her Endocrinology fellowship in October.

...HELLO TO NEW FELLOWS

Karen Jacobsen, MD – Allergy/Immunology
Erin Pratt, MD – Allergy/Immunology
Shreepal Shah, MD - Endocrinology
Charles Otu-Nyarko, MD – GI
Jennifer Mullinax, MD – Hematology/Oncology
Rebecca Zaman, MD – Hematology/Oncology
Kristine Falcon, MD – Neonatology
Amy Zeringue, MD – Neonatology
Mahmoud Kallash, MD – Nephrology

RESIDENT AND FELLOW AWARDS

The following awards were presented to graduating residents and Pediatrics faculty at Hello/Good-bye on Saturday, June 12:

Emily Harrison, MD received the *LSU Pediatrics Alumni Award*.

Nicole Giambrone, MD received the *Outstanding Medicine/Pediatric Resident Award*.

Pinar Gumus, MD received the second annual *Outstanding Fellowship Teaching Award*.

Jay Hescocock, MD received the *Nicholas Gagliano, MD Outstanding Faculty Award*.

Jill Fitzpatrick, MD received the *Gretchen Life, MD Award*.

Salomon Abitbol, MD and **Amy Zeringue, MD** received the *Outstanding Teaching Resident Award*.

Luke Wall, MD received the *Penny Scurto, MD Outstanding Pediatric Resident Award*.

FOND FAREWELL TO ALL GRADUATES:

Pediatric Residents:

Salomon Abitbol
Jill FitzPatrick
L'Issa Gates
Star Gianelloni
Danielle Giliberti

Christy Mumphrey will be chief

Julia Schweizer
Karim Suazo
Andrea Suen
Sheela Vardey

Luke Wall – will be chief

Med/Peds Residents:

Nicole Giambrone
Ranada Johnson
Tina Moll

A few Pediatrics residents will graduate off-cycle. **Kristine Falcon** completes her residency in July 2010, **Jason Turner** and **Amy Zeringue** in August, **Monica Riojas** in October and **Mrunalini Chavarkar** and **Hina Patel** in November 2010. As for the Med/Peds graduates, **Carolina Urbizo** will graduate in July and **Fabiana Farinetti** completes her residency in August.

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS:

New Pediatric Residents:

Michael Blancaneaux
Catherine Durst
Amy Duthu Eagan
Emily Harrison
Jacky Heredia
Marcella Houser
Leslie Kern
Anupa Kudva
Simone Lawson
Gerald Mazo
Aimee Morales
Tiffany Petty
Eric Price
Rashmi Rajendra
Jessica Steinkampf
Sarah Syed

New Med/Peds Residents:

Evan Atkinson
Christine Bojanowski
Jonathan Heiman
Kelley Hutchins
Michelle Korah-Sedgwick
Rocky Mollere
Viresh Patel



RESEARCH DAY 2010

The Children's Hospital Auditorium was a scene of lively scientific activity on Research Day, June 4. Over thirty participants submitted posters describing their research. Eight oral presentations were chosen to represent a cross-section of the type of research sponsored by The Research Institute for Children and the LSU Department of Pediatrics. Awards for the **Best Research Day Presentation** in four categories were bestowed upon the following researchers:



Hong Xin, PhD

Moving Toward a Synthetic Vaccine Against Disseminated Candidiasis Acceptable for Human Use

Division of Research

Best Laboratory Research

Murat Eren

Fulminate Neonatal Cardiorespiratory Collapse Caused by Coxsackievirus B1 Myocarditis

Department of Research

Best Clinical Research

Cori Morrison, MD and Jeremy Toler, MD

Acquired Factor IX Inhibitor and Subsequent Resolution with Immunotherapy in a Child with Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Division of Hematology/Oncology

Best Case Presentation

Lynn Tran, MD

Fecal Bacterial Colonization in Premature Infants with and without Necrotizing Enterocolitis

Division of Neonatology

Best Project by a Trainee

Second place winners were also announced:



Ryan Craig

Engineering Dual-Variable Region Antibodies
Division of Research

Runner-up, Best Laboratory Research

Lynn Tran

Fecal Bacterial Colonization in Premature Infants with and without Necrotizing Enterocolitis

Division of Neonatology

Runner-up, Best Clinical Research

Tammy Harvey, DO

Diverse Clinical and Immunologic Phenotypes in Patients with Autosomal Recessive Hyper-IgM Syndrome Caused by Mutations in the AICDA Gene

Division of Allergy/Immunology

Runner-up, Best Case Presentation

Thank you to all who participated and especially to Genentech, Pfizer and US Astellas for providing refreshments for this event. More pictures from Research Day follow on the next page.



Faculty Coordinator Seth Pincus, MD with Research Day winners Cori Morrison, MD, Hong Xin, PhD, Lynn Tran, MD, and runner-up Ryan Craig



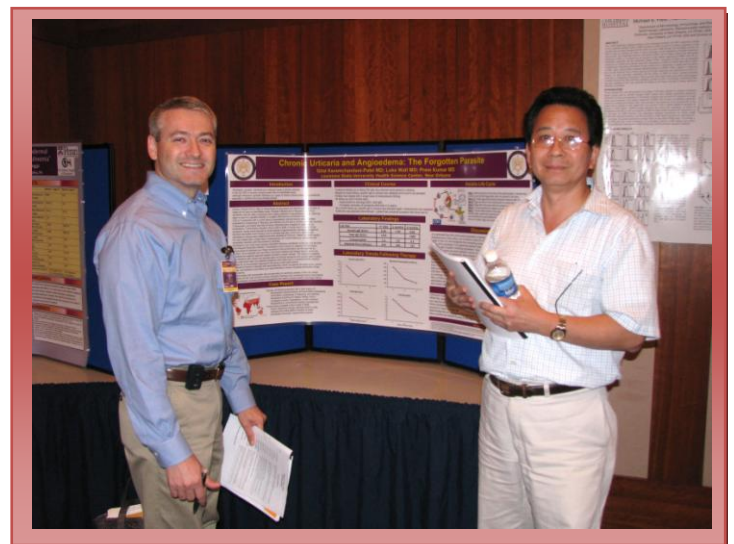
Chiachen Chen, PhD presents her poster to Grace Maresh, PhD and Hong Xin, PhD



Jim Hempe, PhD and his student, Brett Goldman



Runner-up for Best Case Presentation Tammy Harvey, DO with Andrea Hauser, MD



Judges for Best Laboratory Presentation, Ken Paris, MD and Michael Lan, PhD



Lily Leiva, PhD and Tyrus Stewart, MS discuss his poster.



Best Case Presentation winners, Jeremy Toler, MD and Cori Morrison, MD, with Lolie Yu, MD

Dr. Alfonso Vargas wanted to share the following article with all faculty, fellows, residents and staff. The NIH/CDC National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) is distributing this article as part of National Women's Health Week.

New Moms Can Prevent Diabetes by Keeping Up Healthy Habits

By the National Diabetes Education Program

Women who develop high blood glucose (blood sugar) levels during pregnancy are said to have gestational diabetes. These women should be tested for diabetes 6 to 12 weeks after their baby is born. In many cases their blood glucose levels show that they are no longer considered to have diabetes. But what many people don't realize is that new moms who had gestational diabetes will continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes during their entire lifetime. So even if the test for diabetes is normal right after the baby is born, these women should continue to get tested for diabetes at least every three years.

"Many women think that if the follow-up test after the baby is born shows no signs of diabetes, they are in the clear. That is not the case," said Vivian Pinn, MD, Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health. "They continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes in the future. The good news is that there are modest but important steps these women can take to prevent or delay developing diabetes."

Gestational diabetes occurs more often in women with a family history of diabetes, obese women and Latina, African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native women. Moms who have had gestational diabetes should be tested on a regular basis for diabetes, so it is important that they tell their doctors about their history of gestational diabetes. This follow up screening may be a simple blood test. Women who have had gestational diabetes have a 2 in 3 chance that it will return in future pregnancies so they should also talk to their obstetricians if they plan on becoming pregnant again.

Women with a history of gestational diabetes should also make an effort to reach and maintain a healthy weight by making healthy food choices and being active for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week. Even if women do not reach their "goal" weight, research shows that maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help reduce risk. These action steps are also good for the entire family.

"Children of women who had gestational diabetes are also at risk for obesity and diabetes, so it's a good idea for mothers to let their child's doctor know that they had gestational diabetes," added Pinn. "Keeping a healthy lifestyle as a family is good for everyone. It helps both mom and baby manage their risks for getting diabetes in the future."

For a free tip sheet on gestational diabetes, including steps to reduce the risk of developing diabetes, call the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) at 1-888-693-NDEP (6337) or visit their website at www.YourDiabetesInfo.org.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT: ***RESIDENT NOON CONFERENCES ARE NOW INTERACTIVE***

By Bonnie Desselle, MD and Rachel Dawkins, MD

Traditionally the resident lectures have been a passive learning environment, but we would like our faculty to make a dramatic shift in this educational venue by creating **INTERACTIVE LECTURES**.

Advantages

- Increased learning
- Increased attention span
- Increased motivation
- Increased satisfaction of FACULTY!

Helpful Hints for Creation of Interactive Lectures

- Identify a few essential points that the audience must learn
- Case based: create one to three cases to illustrate these points
- Minimize your slides

Helpful Hints to Increase Audience Participation

- Develop a worksheet for the residents and students to complete
- Have residents and students work in groups to solve cases
- Ask clear questions
- Pause after each question >5 seconds
- Make them justify their answers

Remember: *The most important thing at the end of the lecture is what the residents LEARNED and not what was taught!*

Dr. Desselle is visiting all divisions to assist the faculty with this transition. Please contact her at bdesse@lsuhsc.edu for individual assistance.