DR. MATTI VEHASKARI'S RETIREMENT

The Pediatrics Department would like to wish a most happy retirement to Matti Vehaskari, MD as he retires after twenty years of service with the department and over thirty-five years of experience in Pediatric Nephrology.

Matti Vehaskari worked with Dr. Alan Robson in the Department of Pediatrics at Washington University in St Louis. When Alan Robson was recruited to become the Medical Director of Children’s Hospital, he invited Dr. Vehaskari to join him at Children’s Hospital as an LSU Nephrologist. Convincing Matti Veshaskari to come to New Orleans must be one of Dr. Robson’s biggest achievements. Matti’s passion for quality care, education and research rapidly developed the Division of Nephrology into a star division within the Department of Pediatrics. He developed outstanding clinical services and developed translational research defining the imprinting of fetal nutrition in mice on the later development of hypertension in mice. He always has been an outstanding teacher and a gentleman liked by every person who worked with him. Our department was fortunate to have him as one of our own for many years. And we continue to look forward to seeing him enrich our teaching and clinical care as an Emeritus Professor.

Ricardo Sorensen, MD, Head, Department of Pediatrics

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations are in order for the following Pediatrics faculty who are being promoted as of July 1, 2014.

Amy Creel, MD
promoted to Associate Professor, Clinical

Constantine Dimitriades, MD
promoted to Associate Professor, Clinical

Suzanne Lefevre, MD
promoted to Associate Professor, Clinical

Lily Leiva, PhD
promoted to Professor, Research

Christian Lilje, MD
promoted to Professor, Clinical

Steffan Sernich, MD
promoted to Associate Professor, Clinical

Dr. Vehaskari officially retired on March 31, 2014. He was the Chief of Pediatric Nephrology from July 1994 to June 2011. He did an outstanding job building and developing our division which is now the most active and complete program in the state. He is recognized as a national expert in the field and a very dedicated clinician and researcher. Matti will become an Emeritus Professor and continue to participate in the education of our fellows. As the current Division Chief, I would like to thank Matti for his years of hard work and support.

Diego Aviles, MD, Chief, Division of Nephrology
Ambulatory Division Head Ryan Pasternak, MD recently helped pen a position paper for the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. The paper titled “Recommendations for Electronic Health Record Use for Delivery of Adolescent Health Care” was featured on adolescenthealth.org and medical-horizons.net. The paper provides a framework of best practices for designing and using EHRs to provide the best possible care for adolescent patients while addressing privacy concerns. You can view the press release that includes a PDF link to the paper here: https://www.adolescenthealth.org/About-SAHM/Press-Releases/SAHM-Issues-Recommendations-on-Electronic-Health-R.aspx

Congratulations to Susan Berry, MD and the Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs team! Their article Berry S, Soltau E, Richmond NE, Kielyka RL, Tran T, Williams A “Care coordination in a medical home in post-Katrina New Orleans: lessons learned.” Matern Child Health J. 2011;15(6):782–793 was referenced in the new AAP policy statement on Care Coordination. The reference reads:

“According to research in New Orleans, families of children and youth with special health care needs in an underserved population experienced enhanced services from nurse care coordinator support. In short, fewer unmet needs for services ensue when primary care clinicians are sensitive to the culture and needs of children and youth with special health care needs and their families and incorporate levels of care coordination in care delivery.”

This is proof of the program’s hard work to increase medical home capacity in our state. Keep up the good work!

All four fellowship programs that participated in the Spring Match were filled back in May. Half of the matched applicants were LSU Pediatrics residents. The following physicians will begin their fellowship on July 1, 2015:

Cardiology: Emily Harrison and James Krulisky
Endocrinology: Aditya Dewoolkar
Gastroenterology: Russell Zwiener
Hematology/Oncology: Lauren Raney and Hope Pritchett

Each year, the Aesculapian Society asks medical students to select their favorite professors, residents and interns. Nominees and winners are chosen for their leadership, quality of instruction, approachability, and overall excellence in teaching. Three members of the department received awards from the Aesculapian Society this year:

Lauren Green – Intern Excellence in Teaching
Robin English – Faculty Excellence in Teaching
Melissa Roy – Jr. Faculty Excellence in Teaching

Several members of the department were nominated for awards:

Bonnie Desselle, MD
Constantine Dimitriades, MD
George Hescock, MD
Casey McAtee, MD
Lauren Green, MD
Raegan Gupta, MD

Congratulations to Ricardo Gomez, MD who was appointed to the International Relations Council of the Pediatric Endocrine Society. The council will play a significant role in the periodical pediatric endocrinology update courses to be given at a future meeting in Costa Rica, addressing Central American and Caribbean countries. It is also expected to be an important player in the World Congress of Pediatric Endocrinology taking place in Washington, D.C. in 2017.

In other Endocrinology Division news, Abdulhameed Alsaheel, MD, Eileen Báez, MD, Dania Felipe, MD, and Stuart Chalew, MD won the Helmsley Award at the International Congress of Endocrinology in Chicago last week for their research poster titled “Accelerated Accumulation of Tissue Advanced Glycation Endproducts (AGD) in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D): Preliminary Results from a Longitudinal Study”.

Abdulhameed Alsaheel, MD
RESEARCH DAY 2014

The Children’s Hospital Auditorium was a scene of lively scientific activity on Research Day, May 30. The day was moderated by Emily Moran, MBA, Director of Operations for the Research Institute. Department Head Ricardo Sorensen, MD presented awards for the Best Research Day Presentation in four categories. The winning researchers were:

Casey McAtee, MD
Norovirus Predominance over Rotavirus in Hospitalized Bolivian Children: Molecular Epidemiology after Rotavirus Vaccine
Pediatrics Resident
Best Oral Presentation (tie)

Tyrus Stewart, BS
Effect of IL-2 Stimulation in Murine Podocytes
Research Associate, Nephrology
Best Oral Presentation (tie)

Mengying Chiang, MS
Analysis of Erythrocyte Gluconic Acid
Volunteer/Intern, Dr. Hempe’s Lab
Best Poster Presentation by a Student

Michelle Korah-Sedgwick, MD
Post-Surgical Pleural Effusion as the Initial Presentation of Nickel Hypersensitivity and Rapid Resolution with Corticosteroid Treatment
Medicine/Pediatrics Resident
Best Presentation by a Resident

Siddharth Patel, MD
Morphologic Severity Does Not Predict Myocardial Contractile Function in Pediatric Non-Compaction Cardiomyopathy
Cardiology Fellow
Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc

Ivy W. Terrell, MPH
Elevated Sexual Risk Behaviors among Post-Incarcerated Young African American Males in the Southern United States
Division of Adolescent Medicine
Best Presentation by Jr. Faculty or Research Professional

Thank you to all who participated, especially our 2014 judges: Diego Aviles, MD, Stuart Chalew, MD, Michael Ferris, PhD, Jim Hempe, PhD, Lily Leiva, PhD, Christian Lilje, MD, Michael Marble, MD, Janet Rossi, MD, and Hong Xin, PhD.

PUBLICATIONS

A research letter written by Yves Lacassie, MD was printed in the American Journal of Medical Genetics earlier this year. The letter titled “Unexpected exome sequencing result: De novo TRPS1 mutation in an infant with infantile scoliosis, mild developmental delay, and history of consanguinity” also included authors from LSU Genetics and Orthopedics.

NEW HIRES

The Gastroenterology Division welcomed Elizabeth Alonso-Rubiano, MD as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics on June 1st. Dr. Alonso comes from Baton Rouge where she was a member of the Pediatric Gastroenterology Division at Earl K. Long for eleven years. She did Pediatrics residencies at Tulane University and at the Universidad del Valle in Colombia. She completed her GI fellowship at LSU/Tulane.

Two familiar faces will join the department as faculty on July 1st, Marcella Houser, MD and Christy Mumphrey, MD. Dr. Houser will join the Ambulatory Division as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. She graduated from the American University of the Caribbean in 2010 and went on to complete her Pediatrics Residency at LSU before becoming a chief resident in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Christy Mumphrey, MD will join the Neonatology Division as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Another former chief resident, Dr. Mumphrey completed her Pediatrics Residency and Neonatology Fellowship at LSUHSC. She graduated from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in 2007. Her research interests include metabolic bone disease of prematurity and educational research.

The department extends a warm welcome to Sheri Russell, CPC who began work as a Pediatric Coder back in March. Sheri has eleven years of experience having worked for Tulane, McKesson and now the LSU Healthcare Network. She specializes in general surgery and evaluation management. Sheri is a lifelong resident of the New Orleans metro area and now lives in River Ridge with her husband, Willie, and four children, Justin, Summer, Carl and Sharon.
GOOD-BYE TO GRADUATING FELLOWS AND RESIDENTS...

Heena Shah, Allergy/Immunology  
Dhiraj Singh, Cardiology  
Eileen Báez, Endocrinology  
Audra Rouster, GI/Nutrition  
Matthew Fletcher, Hematology/Oncology  
Christy Mumphrey, Neonatology

Pediatrics:

Brittany Andry  Krystal Jerry  
JoNell Bolton  Karen Kern  
Barbara Brunet  Saima Khan  
Kate Caldwell  Emily Klepper  
Jeff Franklin  Cassandra Krieger  
Chuck Haydel  Heidi Murphy  
Lauren Henderson  Jimisha Patel  
Lauren Hernandez  Shreepal Shah  
Sarah Hickey-White  Michelle Steinhardt

Medicine/Pediatrics

Chief Residents: Evan Atkinson and Rocky Mollere

Christine Bojanowski  
Kelley Hutchins  
Michelle Korah-Sedgwick  
Viresh Patel

...HELLO TO NEW FELLOWS AND INTERNS

Michelle Korah-Sedgwick, Allergy/Immunology  
Bianca Castellanos, Cardiology  
Mahmoud Hamdan, Endocrinology  
Neha Santucci, GI/Nutrition  
Kimberley Corriea, Hematology/Oncology  
Hemant Menghani, Hematology/Oncology  
Michelle Steinhardt, Neonatology

RESIDENT AND FELLOW AWARDS

The following awards were presented to graduating residents and Pediatrics faculty at Hello/Good-bye on Friday, June 20:

Rayne Faucheux, MD received the LSU Pediatrics Alumni Award.
Evan Atkinson, MD received the Outstanding Medicine/Pediatric Resident Award.
Eileen Báez, MD received the second annual Outstanding Fellowship Teaching Award.
Chelsey Sandlin, MD received the Nicholas Gagliano, MD Outstanding Faculty Award.
Heidi Murphy, MD received the Gretchen Life, MD Award.
Heidi Murphy, MD received the Outstanding Teaching Resident Award.
Heidi Murphy, MD and Jeff Franklin, MD received the Penny Scurto, MD Outstanding Pediatric Resident Award.

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

Administrative offices will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observation of Independence Day.
Jerussa Aita-Levy, MD and Lauren Henderson, DO

Christy Mumphrey, MD and Jessica Patrick MD

Kieran Leong, MD, Julie Gallois, MD, and Kevin Gipson, MD

Tyrus Stewart, BS, Best Oral Presentation (tie)

Siddharth Patel, MD, Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc

Ivy Terrell, MPH, Best Presentation by a Jr. Faculty or Research Professional

Casey McAtee, MD, Best Oral Presentation (tie)

Mengying Chiang, MS, Best Presentation by a Student