



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

## PRESS COVERAGE:

The Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based program which helps first-time parents succeed, was featured on WWLTV's *Sunday Edition with Dennis Woltering* on April 26. **Susan Berry, MD, MPH**, Director and Division head of Pediatrics' Public Health Division, was featured on the program along with Interim Nurse Supervisor **Dawn Penning, RN, BSN** and Visiting Nurse **Ronaele Homberg, RN, BSN**. The three discussed the program's success, specifically the improvement of pregnancy outcomes and the decreased incarceration of kids. Each mother served by NFP is partnered with a registered nurse early in her pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits that continue through the child's second birthday. Every dollar invested in the program can yield more than five dollars in return. If you would like to refer a patient to the program, call Dawn Penning at (504) 214-8764. Mothers must be in their first 28 weeks of a first-time pregnancy. More information on NFP can be found at [www.nursefamilypartnership.org](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org).

**Rodolfo Bégué, MD** was interviewed by WDSU-TV's News Channel 6 for a story about H1N1 (swine flu). The segment aired on the 10p.m. newscast and was also heard on 87.7 FM.

## KUDOS CORNER

**Ricardo Sorensen, MD** received a big honor from the Jeffrey Modell Foundation. He traveled to New York City last month to receive the "Dream Makers" Award at the Foundation's annual "Spring Ahead" Gala. The Foundation is dedicated to early and precise diagnosis, meaningful treatments, and ultimately cures of the ever increasing known Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases.

Dr. Sorensen also coordinated The Neonatal Screening for Primary Immunodeficiencies Workshop which took place on May 4 in Children's Hospital Auditorium. **John Routes, MD** (pictured) from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin talked about his experience implementing a pioneering screening program for newborns in Wisconsin that detects severe combined immunodeficiency



John Routes, MD

disease (SCID). The goal of the local workshop was to discuss the possibility of starting a similar program in Louisiana. Members of the CDC and Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals attended the meeting. **Seth Pincus, MD**, Director of the RIC and Vice Chairman of Pediatrics, presented a talk titled "Update on Genetic Screening Technologies." **Jay Kolls, MD**, Chairman of Genetics, presented "Genetic Control of Immune Responsiveness." Dr. Sorensen's presentation was titled "Proposal for a New Generation Neonatal PID Screening."

**V. Matti Vehaskari, MD, PhD** was invited to present at the Annual Meeting of American Academic Pediatric Societies (PAS) in Baltimore on May 4. His Plenary Session talk was titled "Experimental Models Linking the Kidney to Developmental Origins of Adult Hypertension."

**Diego Aviles, MD** presented "Extrarenal Causes of Proteinuria" at the same meeting. Dr. Aviles' grant titled "Role of IL-2 in Children with Steroid Resistant Nephrotic Syndrome" has been funded by the Louisiana and Tulane Clinical and Translational Research Education and Commercialization Project (CTRECP). The award is for \$50,000 and will cover the project from May 2009 - May 2010 with potential for a second year of funding for the same amount.

## NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Uma Pisharody, MD, Michael Ferris, PhD and Duna Penn, MD, MS** are conducting a study that hopes to ultimately develop methods for early detection, more effective treatment and perhaps prevention of a deadly intestinal disease in newborns called necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). Almost a fifth of all premature babies admitted to the NICU at Children's Hospital are diagnosed with this life-threatening disease. Twenty to 50 percent of infants with NEC do not survive. Drs. Pisharody, Ferris and Penn are investigating whether the intestinal bacteria of infants who develop NEC are different from the intestinal bacteria found in healthy premature infants. Preliminary results are promising, but there is still much more work to be done before any conclusions can be drawn.



*"NEC affects thousands of children each year so finding a way to eventually curb and potentially cure the disease could impact millions of people around the world."*

- Uma Pisharody, MD

## PUBLICATIONS

**Ken Paris, MD, MPH and Ricardo Sorensen, MD** published two articles recently. Dr. Paris was co-first author on a paper titled "Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) associated with a Coronin-1A mutation and a chromosome 16p11.2 deletion." It was published last month in *Clinical Immunology*.

Drs. Paris and Sorensen's article titled "The actin regulator coronin 1A is mutant in a thymic egress-deficient mouse strain and in a patient with severe combined immunodeficiency" was published in *Nature Immunology* back in November 2008.

**Alfonso Vargas, MD, Abraham Gedalia, MD, Randall Craver, MD and V. Matti Vehaskari, MD, PhD** will have their article, "Recurrence of granulomatous interstitial nephritis in transplanted kidney", published in *Pediatric Transplant*.

Dr. Vehaskari is the senior author on a paper titled "Role of postnatal dietary sodium in prenatally programmed hypertension." **Tyrus Stewart,**

Nephrology Research Associate, is the lead author. **Jeannine Ascani, MS and Randall Craver, MD** are also authors on the paper which will be published in *Pediatric Nephrology*.

## ONLINE TRAINING

Remember to log onto LSUHSC's online training system (KDS) to see what training you need to complete. To access the system, type the following url into your browser:

<https://intranet.lsuhs.edu/ctms/kds/ComplianceTrainingOnLine>

Logon to the intranet by filling in the following fields:

**Username:**

lsumc-master\your LSU logon ID

**Password:**

same as your LSU logon password

## RESEARCH DAY ABSTRACT DEADLINE

All faculty, fellows, research associates, residents and students of the Department of Pediatrics and Research Institute for Children are invited to submit abstracts for Research Day 2009. All presentations will be given as posters and a small number of abstracts will be selected to be presented orally based on scientific review of the abstract. Posters should be no larger than 4 ft x 4 ft (we will accept a larger poster that was recently presented at another meeting). Abstracts should be 300 words or less. Please contact Kelly Allerton for an abstract submission form. Completed forms should be emailed to her (kslumb@lsuhsc.edu) by **Friday, June 5, 2009**. Research Day will be held in the Auditorium on Friday, June 19.

## DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

Mark your calendars for all upcoming events. All Faculty Meetings begin at 12:00 noon and lunch is served.

<b>June 19</b>	Faculty Meeting & Research Day, Auditorium
<b>June 20</b>	Hello Good-bye, The Ritz-Carlton
<b>July 17</b>	Faculty Meeting, Auditorium
<b>August 21</b>	Faculty Meeting, Auditorium
<b>September 18</b>	Faculty Meeting, Auditorium
<b>October 16</b>	Faculty Meeting, Auditorium