



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

---

## KUDOS CORNER

Congratulations to **Dr. Robin English** on her receipt of the 2006 Allen Copping Award for Excellence in Teaching during graduation in May. Only one faculty member is chosen from each of the basic and clinical sciences in the Schools of Medicine and Allied Health for this coveted honor, and we are very proud of Dr. English, whose innovative and dedicated teaching has earned her this recognition.

**Dr. Bonnie Desselle** was chosen by our residents to receive the 2005-2006 Nicholas Gagliano Outstanding Faculty Award for excellence in teaching through knowledge and example. Congratulations to Dr. Desselle!

**Drs. Stuart Chalew** and **Alfonso Vargas** inform us that the Endocrinology Division has been authorized as an official TrialNet Affiliate site for the enrollment of pediatric patients in the international Natural History Study for prevention and treatment of type 1 diabetes. The faculty will implement three phases of protocol for this study: Screening, baseline risk assessment, and follow-up risk assessment. This study is supported by NIH and DHH, as well as by the American Diabetes Association and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

**Dr. Richard Howes**, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at University Medical Center in Lafayette receives the Bettina Hillman Award from the Louisiana Chapter AAP this Fall.

**Raj Warriar, MD** has been named Principal Investigator for the LSUHSC Minority-Based Community Cancer Outreach Program (MBCCOP) funded by NIH for \$361,000 per year, and **Lolie Yu, MD** is the Principal Investigator for the MBCCOP Children's Oncology Program at Children's Hospital.

## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Dear members and friends of the Department of Pediatrics,***

After a year-long interruption, our departmental newsletter is back. It will be distributed electronically reflecting our new reality that makes mail distribution a bit more difficult. This first post-Katrina newsletter is a reflection of the fact that we have survived very well and that we are now ready to resume our growth and the growth of our programs and new initiatives. We are going into this year's recruitment season with confidence and enthusiasm. This first issue will bring you a few of the reasons for our optimism. Please help us in making the October issue even more complete and informative. At a time when getting together in the same room has become difficult, let keep together by sharing our news with each other. - Ricardo Sorensen

## ANNOUNCING THE OCTOBER FACULTY MEETING - PLEASE ATTEND!

The next departmental faculty meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. in the Auditorium at Children's Hospital.

## FYI: PEDIATRICS SUPPLEMENT OF "HANDS-ON STORIES" DURING KATRINA

In May the AAP Journal, *Pediatrics* published a supplement containing many first-hand accounts by pediatricians of their efforts to care for children during and after Hurricane Katrina (*Pediatrics* 117(5)SupplS2, 355-460, May 2006.) Among these are two noteworthy accounts by our own **Brian Barkemeyer, MD**, "Practicing Neonatology in a Blackout: The University Hospital NICU in the Midst of Hurricane Katrina" and by our resident, **Sandhya Mani, MD**, "On Call for the Duration: Code Gray: A Resident's Personal Account from Children's Hospital of New Orleans". You can access these and other inspiring stories on line by clicking "Past Issues" and scrolling down to May, 2006 at the journal's web address: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org>

## PROMOTIONS!

Promotions were granted this year to two of our Pediatrics faculty. **Kudos** to **Dana Rivera, MD**, Neonatology Division, who was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and to **Renee Gardner, MD**, Hematology/Oncology Division, on her promotion to Professor of Pediatrics.

**Dr. Susan Berry** was recently promoted to Title V Director for Children with Special Health Care Needs in the Office of Public Health. She will continue to be medical director for the program as she also assumes an administrative leadership role. Programs she directs include Children's Special Health Services, Hearing Speech and Vision which includes newborn hearing screening, the Birth Defects Monitoring System, and Early Steps, the early intervention program for Louisiana under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

## NEW PEDIATRICS INTERNS

Natalie Ball, MD	LSU
Urvashi Barua, MD	St. George's
Veronica Garibaldi, MD	Tulane
Hider Brandace, MD	LSU
Jamie Jackson, MD	American U. Carib.
Jeong-Name Kim, MD	Saba University
Athena Lefort, MD	U. So. Alabama
Kristina Mire, MD	Royal Col. Surg. Ireland
Andrea Ocmond, MD	LSU
Erin Pratt, MD	LSU
Ricky Pratt, MD	LSU
Melissa Roy, MD	LSU
Neel Shah, MD	St. George's
Dinesh Thekke-Karumathil, MD	Calicut Coll.
Mia Weber, MD	LSU

## NEW MEDICINE/PEDIATRICS INTERNS

Justin Geisler, MD	Ross Univ.
Nicole Giambrone, MD	LSU
Ranada Johnson, MD	Meharry College
Tina Moll, MD	U. Mississippi
Kim Schurman, MD	American U. Carib.
Carolina Urbizo, MD	U. De Guadalajara

**Welcome to all our new residents!** To see photographs of new (and "old") Pediatrics and Med/Peds residents on our website, go to URL [www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/pediatrics/](http://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/pediatrics/), click on residency and scroll down to Resident Roster.

## TIGER CARE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Our Faculty Practice (Tiger Care) on Claiborne and Canal is open for business and doing very well. **Dr. Suzanne Lefevre** reports that "We are seeing as many or more kids than we did prior to Katrina in our ambulatory clinic". Tiger Care Pediatrics provides general pediatric, adolescent, behavioral and allergy services at this site. The address is 1661 Canal Street, Suite 1200, telephone 504-299-9980. A second Pediatrics Faculty Practice clinic will open soon in Kenner, at 3321 Florida Avenue.



## ANNOUNCING: NEW CENTER FOR PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCIES

A new Center for Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases will be established here in New Orleans under the direction of Dr. Ricardo Sorensen. It will be one of 22 such centers world-wide. The Jeffrey Modell Foundation (JMF), a foundation that promotes the study, diagnosis, and treatment of primary immunodeficiency diseases, will support a new Chair for research in children's immunology. The first activity of the JMF center will be a full day's CME program at the Monteleone Hotel on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, followed on Saturday by a KIDS DAY at the New Orleans Aquarium for patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases. The new Center will be dedicated during the CME course.

Please set this important date aside. The CME program is directed mainly towards primary care physicians. The program and registration instructions will be distributed soon. For now, reserve the date and if you do not live in New Orleans, plan to stay at the unique family-owned Monteleone Hotel for this event.

## SSPR - DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS!

The abstract deadline of October 16th looms near for those planning to submit to the Southern Regional Meetings, including the Southern Society for Pediatric Research, to be held February 8-10, 2007 here in New Orleans. Several useful workshops will be given on the afternoon of Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> on the topics of manuscript preparation, evidence based medicine, academic medicine, quality of care, and clinical cases. For more information and registration, see [www.cme.tulane.edu](http://www.cme.tulane.edu). A brochure on the meeting can be downloaded at [www.afmr.org](http://www.afmr.org) or [www.ssciweb.org](http://www.ssciweb.org).

## NEW PEDIATRICS FELLOWS

**Jeff Kuo, MD** and **Yameika Head-Carroll, MD**, are new fellows in Pediatric Forensic Medicine; **Larry Montelibano, MD**, **Rafiquddin Rehimi, MD**, and **Victoria Arsenis, MD**, have been given fellowships in Allergy/Immunology; **Sonal Patel, MD**, has joined Neonatology/Perinatal Medicine as new fellow for 2006.

## NEW HIRES

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

**Ken Paris, MD** (former Fellow, A/I) has joined our Pediatrics Allergy/Immunology Division as an Assistant Professor-Clinical, effective July 1, 2006.

**Mary Pendleton** just came on board as our new Administrative Assistant 3 in the Ambulatory Division. Mary will split her time between Science and Math High School and McMain.

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Please mark the date of December 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and prepare to enjoy another holiday celebration at the home of Maria Eugenia and Alfonso Vargas, MD, who have kindly offered to share their festive spirit with the rest of us for our annual Department of Pediatrics End of the Year Celebration.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Judith Rodriguez **NO LATER THAN** Friday, October 27th. You can reach Judith by telephone (896-9263), FAX (896-2720), or e-mail ([jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu)). All information is subject to Dr. Sorensen's approval.

## A NEW ORLEANS TRADITION SURVIVES!

The New Orleans Pediatrics Board Review™ survived its first real hurricane test to enjoy its 21<sup>st</sup> year of helping attendees to prepare for the Board Exam in Pediatrics. The Review fortunately retained almost all of its faculty, and although attendance this year was less than usual, we fully intend to continue this very successful LSU tradition next year and Beyond.



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS!

Since cyberspace publications are theoretically limitless, we'd love to hear from you, dear readers, and include some of your thoughts in our newsletter. We have an excellent first letter from one of our fellows in the Neonatology Division, **Capt. Alfonso Vargas III, MD**, who responded to Monday night's dramatic football event here in the Superdome as follows:

*If you were one of the more than 11 million people to watch the Saints game on Monday night, you witnessed one of the most amazing sporting events in history, and it had little to do with the sport. You witnessed the rebirth of a city, of a culture, of a people who had been left for dead in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. You witnessed the reopening of a stadium which many believed would have to be demolished, not only because of the amount of structural damage it had sustained, but also because of the atrocities and human suffering which had occurred in its confines. You witnessed an event that many believed would never happen again... the Saints playing a game in their HOME stadium in front of a sellout HOME crowd.*

*When the Saints took the field on Monday night they were not alone...all 230,000 of us who are still living and breathing in this city were suited-up and on the field with them. We were there to show the world that our city is not dead, that our culture and heritage are not forgotten, and that our people and their spirit are far from extinguished. We were there to show that, in fact, all of these things are stronger and more resilient than ever.*

*Now, there is still much that needs to be done, and the city is far from being back to what it once was, but we are on our feet and standing proud. We are ready to host the tourists that once flocked to our city. We are ready to host conventions, and sporting events, and concerts. We are not only ready for these, we need them. We need them because they are such an important part of our economy and because they are vital to our ongoing recovery.*

*So, congratulations New Orleans! For defeating the odds, for your undying optimism, for your resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversity, hell, for surviving. You deserved Monday night...keep it, embrace it, savor it. Take the emotion of that night off the field and bring it back to our homes, FEMA trailers, hospitals, schools and businesses and use it to our advantage. After all, if we can rebuild the Superdome there is nothing we can't do.*

**WE'RE BACK!**



*Photos from the New Orleans Saints website.*