

PEDS NEWS

LSU DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

FROM THE CHAIR



My first several weeks as the new Head of Pediatrics at LSUHSC-NO has been marked by a warm welcome and a gratifying

validation that my decision to join the LSU Pediatrics family was the right one.

As I have mentioned, I believe the work of the Department is important, the foundation of the Department is strong, the commitment and dedication of the faculty and staff is exceptional, and the future is bright. However, we all face uncertainties and anxiety about today and the future.

Academic medicine in the United States faces important challenges. Health care reform is primarily a process in health care funding reform (read less money). Our success will require cooperation, a willingness to change and adapt and the ability to form close and valued relationships with our partners: Children's Hospital of New Orleans, LSU School of Medicine, community health clinics, local, regional and national funding agencies and others.

Continued on next page

A TRIBUTE TO RICARDO SORENSEN, MD

Several events were held in May 2015 to celebrate Dr. Ricardo Sorensen's tenure as Head of the LSUHSC Department of Pediatrics. Research Day 2015 started off the festivities with a special recognition of Dr. Sorensen's tenure by Steve Nelson, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine. A CME symposium titled "LSU Pediatrics Update: A Tribute to Ricardo Sorensen, MD" included talks from **Bonnie Desselle, MD, Troy Torgerson, MD, PhD, Rodolfo Bégué, MD, Victoria Dimitriades, MD, Kenneth Paris, MD, MPH, Brian Barkemeyer, MD** and **Mary Perrin**.

The department also hosted a dinner at Antoine's to benefit the LSU Pediatrics' Education Fund. Several speakers honored Dr. Sorensen including **Brian Barkemeyer, MD, Luke Wall, MD, Robert Suskind, MD, Mary Perrin, Leone Coe** and **Lily Leiva, PhD** followed by a speech from Dr. Sorensen. Vice Chair of Education **Alfonso Vargas, MD** presented Dr. Sorensen's official Chairman's Portrait and gave a brief history of Dr. Sorensen's many achievements:

Dr. Sorensen was born and grew up in Valdivia, Chile. He received his medical degree from the University of Chile School of Medicine where he also completed an internship and residency in Pediatrics. He then completed a fellowship in Pediatric Immunology in Hamburg, Germany before coming to the United States and beginning an Immunology Fellowship Program at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1976, Dr. Sorensen was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University. He was recruited to LSU and Children's Hospital in New Orleans in 1989 as Head of the Section of Allergy/Immunology and then accepted the position of Interim Chair of Pediatrics in 1998. He was officially appointed as Head of Pediatrics in 2000. Dr. Sorensen is an internationally recognized educator and leader in immunology and immunodeficiencies as well as being a lifelong advocate for his patients. His academic and research accomplishments are well known, and he is a frequently invited speaker of the specialty societies in every corner of the globe.

During his tenure, the Department continued to develop and to grow into a well-respected stronghold for academia, research and clinical excellence, while also training a significant percentage of the pediatricians and medicine/pediatrics specialists practicing in Louisiana.

I intend to learn about the things you do well, identify unmet needs and focus on how we can all work together to meet our individual and group goals.

Later in the spring, we will all have the opportunity to participate in a Strategic Planning Retreat. I hope to leave that process with a clearer understanding of our immediate and longer range goals and priorities. For now, continue to work hard to provide the best possible patient care, education and research to our patients, learners and community. Support each other (and me). Begin to identify items of focus for our planning retreat. Take pride in what you do. I appreciate your struggles and dedication.

Thank you for the warm welcome.

Raymond G. Watts, MD

Raymond G. Watts, MD
Professor and Head
Department of Pediatrics
LSUHSC School of Medicine – New Orleans
William H. Stewart, MD Chair in Pediatrics

Our graduates are found all over the country, with some in international locations that cover five continents. In this period, it is estimated that close to 3000 medical students have rotated under the departmental umbrella, 400 residents in pediatrics and medicine/pediatrics have graduated from the program, and approximately 120 fellows have received their subspecialty degrees.

Dr. Sorensen is now back in the Research and Education building, spending the majority of his time on research and seeing patients in two clinics per week.

**Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center -
School of Medicine in New Orleans - Department of Pediatrics
Professors and Heads of the Department 1931 – 2015:**

1931 - 1938	John Signorelli, M.D. (1889 – 1938)
1938 - 1946	Chester A Stewart, M.D., Ph.D. (1890 – 1946)
1946 - 1952	Myron Wegman, M.D. (1909 – 2004)
1952 - 1954	Nelson K. Ordway, M.D. (-)
1955 - 1982	Richard E. L. Fowler, M.D. (1923 – 1982)
1982 - 1984	Nicholas C. Gagliano, M.D. (Interim) (1927 – 1997)
1984 - 1998	Robert M. Suskind, M.D.
1998 - 2015	Ricardo U. Sorensen, M.D.
2015 (July - Dec)	Brian Barkemeyer, M.D. (Interim)
2015 (Dec) -	Raymond G. Watts, MD



Several events marked Dr. Sorensen's tenure as Head of Pediatrics. *Top:* Dinner at Antoine's, *Bottom Left:* Dean Nelson presents Dr. Sorensen with a gift, *Bottom Right:* Dr. Sorensen cuts the lymphocyte cake at the CME event.

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Please email submissions for the next issue and include photos.

FOND FAREWELL

Duna Penn, MD retired in June 2015 after a long and distinguished career in clinical neonatology and pediatric research. Dr. Penn came to LSUHSC in 1993 with her husband, the late Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld. As a member of the division of neonatology, she was a valued clinician, researcher, and educator. In all aspects of her work, she was patient, kind, and thorough. She directed the neonatology fellowship program which produced over 20 fellowship graduates during her career at LSU. In the patients she served and fellows she trained, her career work will carry on for many years to come. Many of her colleagues and fellows honored Dr. Penn at her retirement party last year:



Top: Dr. Penn with some of her division colleagues- Marlene Buis, MD, Brian Barkemeyer, MD, Staci Olistter, MD, Dana Rivera, MD, Neva Seago, MD, Malektaj Yazdani, MD

Middle: Dr. Penn with some current and former fellows- Jessica Steinkampf, MD, Jessica Patrick-Esteve, MD, Kristine Chimento, MD, Raegan Gupta, MD, Amy Zeringue, MD, Michelle Steinhardt, MD, Zeromeh Gerber, MD

Bottom: Dr. Penn and her mother.

Other departures from 2015 included **John Estrada, MD**, **Derek Pepiak, MD** and **Amanda Brown, MD**.

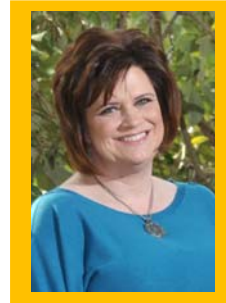
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Brian Barkemeyer, MD

Department Head Raymond Watts, MD has appointed **Brian Barkemeyer, MD** as Vice Chair for Clinical Services effective February 1, 2016. This new position will involve the coordination of the delivery of services at all sites where our Pediatrics faculty members practice including both the LSU HealthCare Network and the private entities with whom we work to support educational, service, and research programs, most notably Children's Hospital and LCMC Health. Dr. Barkemeyer's role will include working with Dr. Watts in planning and executing clinical initiatives, working to insure excellence of clinical care and outcomes, and participating in leadership roles in patient safety initiatives. In addition to his new position in the department, Dr. Barkemeyer was also recently appointed to LSUHSC's chapter of the Arnold Gold Humanism Honor Society. Dr. Barkemeyer served as Interim Department Head from July – December 2015. He will continue in his position as Chief of the Division of Neonatology which he has had since 1998.

The School of Medicine Alumni Board announced the winners of the School of Medicine Alumni Awards recently. Residency Coordinator **Susan Wack Lenoir** and Assistant Professor **Chelsey Sandlin, MD** of the Hospitalist Division won the award which recognizes faculty and staff who act as team players, demonstrate excellence in performing job duties and are respected by peers for their integrity and work ethic. Congratulations to these well-deserving colleagues!

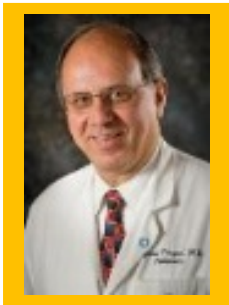


Susan Wack Lenoir



Chelsey Sandlin, MD

Sara Sussman, MD, PL-2 Pediatric Resident, was selected to participate in the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC) "Frontiers in Science" program. The program was initiated in 1987 in an effort to broaden the engagement of pediatric residents-in-training in academic pediatrics. The program exposes promising residents to exceptional scientists/investigators as a means of generating and furthering interests in investigative careers. Sara will accompany Dr. Watts to the AMSPDC meeting to be held in Savannah, GA in April.



Alfonso Vargas, MD

The Southern Society for Pediatric Research presented the 2015 Abbott Nutrition "Pediatric Educator Award" to **Alfonso Vargas, MD** during its annual meeting in conjunction with the Southern Regional Meetings in New Orleans. Dr. Vargas, Vice Chair of Education and International Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Endocrinology, graciously accepted the honor by thanking the professors, mentors and special colleagues that have shaped his career. He ended his speech by paying homage to his parents, "Today, in accepting the award I would like to paraphrase my unforgettable mentor Lew Barness in the introduction to his well-known book Manual of Pediatric Physical Diagnosis... 'I dedicate this award to my first pediatricians, my father and my mother.'"

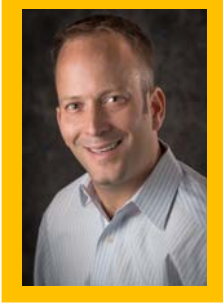
Professor and Nephrology Division Chief **Diego Aviles, MD** was accepted as a member of the Society of Pediatric Research. To be accepted, candidates must have an established record of research and academic activities and be nominated by two current members.

Associate Professor and Allergy/Immunology Division Chief **Kenneth Paris, MD, MPH** was elected to be the Allergy/Immunology representative for CoPS (Council of Pediatric Subspecialists). He will serve a term of 2 years.

Christy Mumphrey, MD of the Division of Neonatology was appointed Assistant Student Clerkship Director in July 2015. **Kelly Gajewski, MD** of the Division of Cardiology was named Program Director of the Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program. **Dana Rivera, MD** assumed the position as Program Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program after Dr. Penn retired. Over in Hematology/Oncology, **Pinki Prasad, MD** became the Associate Program Director of the fellowship program and will assist Program Director **Maria Velez, MD**.

GI fellow **Neha Santucci, MD** has been appointed Chairperson of the Fellowship Committee of the North American Society for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

RESEARCH NEWS



Ryan Pasternak, MD, MPH

Ryan Pasternak, MD and the Adolescent Medicine Section of the Ambulatory Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine Division received a 1.2 million dollar grant from The David & Lucile Packard Foundation. The award will be funded over 3 years to address and improve clinical care, provider training and care coordination for adolescent reproductive health care in Louisiana. The department will work with local and national partners including the Louisiana Public Health Institute to evaluate the local landscape of adolescent reproductive health care and provide advanced training to physicians, nurse practitioners and health sciences students.

The LSU Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Division was chosen as a recipient of a 2015 Curing Kids Cancer grant in the amount of \$15,000 to support their work with innovative therapies for childhood cancers. The grant is given in honor of the support received from the LSU Football Team and Coach Les Miles for the organization's Blow the Whistle on Kids Cancer awareness campaign in September 2015.

Tri Tran, MD, MPH of the Division of Public Health reports that his 2016 Graduate Student Epidemiology Program (GSEP) Application has been approved by Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB). A student will start in summer 2016 and conduct the study 'Louisiana Longitudinal Assessment of Mortality among Children Born with Birth Defects'. Dr. Tran will be the primary preceptor. The student will get a stipend of \$4500 from GSEP.

Associate Professor **Ernest Siwik, MD** and Assistant Professor **Kiran Mallula, MD** of the Cardiology Division are participating in a Post Market Surveillance Study on ASD closure with the AMPLATZER septal occluder device sponsored by St. Jude Medical.

Professor and Interim Cardiology Division Chief **Christian Lilje, MD** mentored summer research student Elizabeth Owers who was awarded a travel grant by the SSPR/APA to present her research at their upcoming annual meeting.

Several faculty members have received grants as part of the LSUHSC Department of Pediatrics Intramural Clinical and Translational Grants Program since the department took over operations from Children's Hospital's Research Institute. The program was established to provide initial funding to facilitate the maturation of new research ideas and collection of preliminary data necessary for competitive applications for extramural support. Professor and Endocrinology Division Chief **Stuart Chalew, MD**, Chair of the program's Review Committee, congratulates the awardees:

- S. Amanda Dumas, MD** – Young Mothers Study: a Medical Home Intervention for Parenting Adolescents
- Raegan Gupta, MD** – The NICU Microbiome and Gastrointestinal Bacterial Colonization in the Hospitalized Premature Infant.
- Dana LeBlanc, MD** – Neuronal ERK/MAPK Signaling in a Mouse Model of Sickle Cell Disease Pain
- Janet Rossi, MD** – Stimulus of Blood Brain Barrier Disruption and Inflammation in Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury
- Regina Zambrano, MD** – The Use of Dermatoglyphics as a Diagnostic Tool in the Genetics Clinic

RESIDENCY NEWS

Congratulations to our four Pediatrics residents who successfully matched in Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowships:

- Veronica Fabrizio, DO** – Yale School of Medicine
- Julie Gallois, MD** – LSU Health Sciences Center
- Maya Hills, MD** – LSU Health Sciences Center
- Jonna Marret, DO** – University of Rochester

NEW HIRES



Dana LeBlanc, MD, MS joined the Hematology/Oncology Division as Assistant Professor after completing her fellowship this July. She graduated from LSU School of Medicine in 2009 and went on to complete her Pediatrics Residency and fellowship in our department. She received her Masters of Science degree from LSU in 2005. Her research interests include the neurobiological mechanisms of pain in sickle cell disease and clinical pain management in sickle cell disease.

The Cardiology Division welcomed Interventional Cardiologist **Kiran Mallula, MD** as Assistant Professor. Dr. Mallula received his MBBS from Osmania Medical College and his MD from Kakatiya Medical College, both in India. After completing a pediatric internship and residency in India, he finished another U.S. Pediatrics Residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia in 2010. Dr. Mallula completed a Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship at Rush University Medical College in Chicago in 2013 and an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at University of California at San Diego in 2014.



Anna McFarlin, MD joined the Emergency Medicine Division last year as Assistant Professor and was recently named Program Director of the Pediatrics Emergency Medicine Residency Program. She received her medical degree from the University of South Florida in 2008. Dr. McFarlin completed an Emergency Medicine Residency at LSU in 2012 followed by a year as chief resident. She went on to complete a two-year Pediatrics Residency at LSU.

Megan Murphy, MD joined the Hospitalist Division as Assistant Professor in July. Dr. Murphy is a familiar face, having completed her Pediatrics Residency in the department last June. She graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in 2012.



The Hospitalist Division also welcomed **Amy Prudhomme, DO** as Assistant Professor. She received her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree in 2012 from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Dr. Prudhomme also completed her Residency in Pediatrics in our department last June.

Another familiar face joined the department last July. The Division of Neonatology welcomed **Jessica Patrick-Esteve, MD, MPH** as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. She completed both her Pediatrics Residency and Neonatology Fellowship within the department. Dr. Patrick-Esteve received her medical degree from LSU-Shreveport in 2009 and a Master of Public Health and Parasitology in 2005 from Tulane University.



Caroline Straatmann, MD returned to the Division of Nephrology as Assistant Professor last year after a move to New York in 2013. Dr. Straatmann received her medical degree from LSU-Shreveport in 2004. She completed her pediatrics residency within our department and went on to be chief resident. She was the Division of Nephrology's first fellow and originally became a faculty member in February 2012.

Children's Hospital hired **Patricio Arias, MD** as part of the GI Division last year. Division Chief **Paul Hyman, MD** welcomes Dr. Arias who will coordinate patient care and research in Hepatology.

FRAGILE X CLINIC OPENS

Under the direction of Professor and Genetics Division Chief **Yves Lacassie, MD** and Genetic Associate **Louise Gane, MS**, Children's Hospital opened a new clinic for patients and families with fragile X syndrome on December 16, 2015. That same day, renowned fragile X experts Randi Hagerman, MD, and Flora Tassone, PhD, of UC Davis MND Institute gave Grand Rounds to the department, a seminar with patients and families, and visited the new clinic. Dr. Lacassie and Gane will hold a fragile X clinic quarterly. The disorder requires a multidisciplinary approach to provide monitoring and treatment for patients and other affected family members. Children's Hospital recently applied for the Fragile X Clinical and Research Consortium (FXCRC) which has 26 clinics across the country and is gaining international affiliates. Children's was temporarily accepted as a new clinic because of its strong multidisciplinary approach. The new clinic is expected to provide patients with the best medical care in the region.



The fragile X team with experts, patients and families

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Wall L, Dimitriades VR, Sorensen RU. Specific Antibody Deficiency. *Imm All Clin N Am.* Nov 2015; 35(4):659-70.

Barber JC, Rosenfeld JA, Graham JM, Kramer N, Lachlan KL, Bateman MS, Collinson MN, Stadheim BF, Turner CL, Gauthier JN, Reimschisel TE, Qureshi AM, Dabir TA, Humphreys MW, **Marble M**, Huang T, Beal SJ, Massiah J, Taylor EJ, Wynn SL. Inside the 8p23.1 Duplication Syndrome; Eight Microduplications of Likely or Uncertain Clinical Significance.

Am J Med Genet A. Sept 2015; 167A(9):2052-64.

Meaux T, Zeringue A, Mumhrey C, Barkemeyer B, Marble M. Bilateral Absence of the Ulna in 4q Terminal Deletion Syndrome: Evidence for a Critical Region. *Clin Dysmorphol.* Jul 2015; 24(3):122-4.

Dimitriades VR, Wisner E. Treating Pediatric Atopic Dermatitis: Current Perspectives. *Pediatric Health, Medicine and Therapeutics.* June 2015. 6:93-99.

Gedalia A, Kahn T, Shetty A, Dimitriades VR, Espinoza L. Childhood Sarcoidosis: Louisiana Experience. *Clin Rheum.* Jan 2015.

Christian Lilje, MD presented three abstracts at the 20th Annual Meeting of the International Academy of Cardiology, in Vancouver last summer. He also presented two abstracts at the 9th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Pediatrics in Oslo, Norway back in September.

LSUHSC Department of Pediatrics participated actively in the XIX International Intensive Course in Bioethics which was held in Scilla, Reggio di Calabria, Italy last April. It was entitled "Bioethical Challenges and Dilemmas in a Rapidly Evolving Biomedicine". Last year's Chief Residents **Emily Klepper, MD** and **Heidi Murphy, MD** distinguished themselves as strong leaders within the group of 40 students. **Ricardo Sorensen, MD, John Estrada, MD** and **Alfonso Vargas, MD** were invited as lecturers and panelists of the group of 25 faculty representing 12 countries.

Kenneth Paris, MD, MPH gave several invited lectures last year: "New Approaches to Immunoglobulin Administration" at the National Adult Immunology Conference in Warsaw, Poland. "Introduction to Primary

Immunodeficiency Diseases" and "IgG Subclass Deficiency" at the Immune Deficiency Foundation National Conference in New Orleans. Dr. Paris also presented a live webinar for the Immune Deficiency Foundation entitled "Allergic Disease in CVID". This was part of the Clinical Immunology Society/IDF PI Connect Live Webinar Series.

Members of the LSUHSC Division of Pediatric Endocrinology participated in the XXV Congress of the Latin American Society of Pediatric Endocrinology-SLEP in Puerto Varas, Chile. Associate Professor **Ricardo Gómez, MD** Assistant Professor Dania Felipe, MD presented their work "Metreleptin Use in Children with Congenital Generalized Lipodystrophy" and "Missed Cases of CAH: Value of Neonatal Screening". The abstracts have been published in a special supplement of the scientific journal Hormone Research in Paediatrics, the official journal of the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology, the USA Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Japanese, the Asian, the Australian Pediatric Endocrinology Societies, and SLEP. **Alfonso Vargas, MD**, a Founder (1987) and Honorary Member (since 2003) of SLEP, was chosen as an abstract reviewer and plenary session moderator.

LSUHSC Department of Pediatrics organized a strong participation and delegation to the XVII Congress of the Latin American Pediatric Association - ALAPE 2015 in Lima, Perú, held in conjunction with the III Extraordinary Congress of the Peruvian Society of Pediatrics. **Yves Lacassie, MD** delivered the plenary lecture "Current Diagnosis of Genetic Diseases" and moderated a full session dedicated to Genetics. LSUHSC School of Public Health's **Melinda Sothorn, PhD**, Professor and Academic Program Director of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and Jim Finks Endowed Chair in Health Promotion, participated in the asthma session "Asthma and Obesity: Current evidence", and in the Obesity Satellite Symposia "Interdisciplinary Management: Physiological Bases" and "Experience with Successful Interventions". In the same Symposia **Ricardo Gómez, MD** presented "Obesity: Individual Approach". Dr. Gómez also lectured during the Endocrinology Symposia: "Growth Disorders" and "Diabetes in Childhood and Adolescence: Inequalities in Finances and Health Resources". **Alfonso Vargas, MD** was a member of the International Advisory Committee, and also Co-Organizer and Moderator of a full day-symposium on pediatric education and certification/re-certification. Finally, and during the closing ceremony, Dr. Alfonso Vargas became an Honorary Member of the Sociedad Peruana de Pediatría.

SAVE THE DATE

February 9	Mardi Gras Holiday
February 12	Faculty Meeting, Auditorium
February 15	Division Heads Meeting, Board Room B
February 18-20	Southern Society for Pediatric Research Annual Meeting
March 18	Faculty Meeting, 2 Center
March 25	Easter Holiday
March 30-April 2	Association of Pediatric Program Directors Spring Meeting
April 15	Faculty Meeting, 2 Center

