

PEDS NEWS

LSU DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

FROM THE CHAIR



Wow, what a hectic and active last few months! As the newsletter shows, our LSU Department of Pediatrics did not take a “summer vacation”. We have

celebrated people, including Bonnie Desselle’s leadership of our Residency Program and Yves Lacassie’s well-deserved retirement following his three decades of service to LSU. We said goodbye to our graduating trainees and hello to our new trainees. We celebrated research mentorship and the spirit of discovery at our annual Pediatric Research Day. The university has celebrated our residents and fellows with several awards, most notably Dr. Palombo’s selection as UMC Resident of the Year. The medical community honored eighteen of our faculty via selection to the 2017-2018 Best Doctors Awards. The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics honored Dr. Desselle with the Elizabeth Cassinelli Award, given in recognition of special efforts relevant to women’s careers in Pediatrics, while our CHNOLA friend and colleague Keith Perrin and our gratis faculty member Raj Warriar were selected as “Master Pediatricians”. Christian Lilje and Dana Rivera were selected to represent the LSUHSC Faculty as Faculty Assembly Delegates. What a performance by our faculty and trainees.

Our faculty continue to emphasize and champion wellness via wellness training sessions, mindfulness instruction, mommy wellness initiatives and others. If we take care of ourselves, we will do better in taking care of our patients. Our first

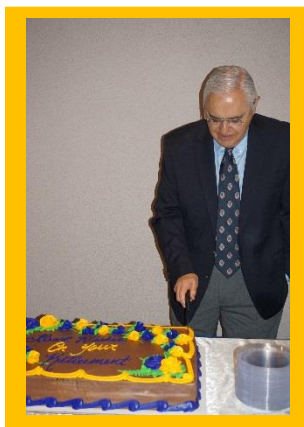
DEPARTMENT AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Vice Chair for Education **Bonnie Desselle, MD** was awarded the LA-AAP Elizabeth Cassinelli Award back in August at the Louisiana American Academy of Pediatrics Acadiana Potpourri Annual Meeting. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Desselle’s special efforts relevant to women’s careers in Pediatrics. The State Chapter recognized her two decades of work in training, mentoring and motivating young women to enter the field of pediatrics. Congratulations, Dr. Desselle!



Bonnie Desselle, MD and Raymond Watts, MD at the LA-AAP Acadiana Potpourri Annual Meeting.

Chairman Raymond Watts announced last spring that **Yves Lacassie, MD** earned the title of Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics after nearly 30 years of service to the Department and School of Medicine. Dr. Lacassie has held a faculty position at LSUHSC since 1986 and was the Division Head of Genetics from 1986 – 2017. He retired in March and was honored during the Pediatrics’ Research Day festivities. **Ricardo Sorensen, MD** gave attendees a talk titled “Dedication to Yves Lacassie, MD” and Dr. Lacassie presented a lecture of his own titled “50 Years of Genetics: Highlights”. Many colleagues attended in celebration of Dr. Lacassie including **Michael Marble, MD** and the Genetics team of nurses and administrative staff who presented him with a book of all his 120+ publications.



Left: Dr. Lacassie cuts his retirement cake. Right: Dr. Marble and the Genetics team present a retirement gift to Dr. Lacassie.

Department of Pediatrics Picnic at Audubon Park was a huge success. It was so good to see families and children, those who support us and we champion at the event, in the park, enjoying our beautiful city. Thanks to the organizers and the participants.

Two LSU Medical Students, mentored by Drs. Ashoor and Lacassie represented our Department at the 4th Annual Pediatric Medical Student Research Forum in Orlando. The Endocrinologists spend their summers meeting and four of our researchers presented their work.

Our campus is also changing. Construction is the buzz word. The most prized initial part of the nearly \$300 million expansion project at CHNOLA is the 600-space parking deck. It is actually rising out of the ground at the corner of Henry Clay and Tchoupitoulas. Fingers crossed it will be ready for use by the spring of the new year.

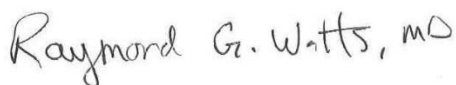
CHNOLA has also selected a new CEO, Mr. John Nickens, IV from Texas Children's Hospital. An accomplished leader who has held senior positions at both TCH and Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics will begin his work in New Orleans in November. You won't be able to miss John's energy, attitude and dedication. Great times ahead.

Our Departmental offices have moved to the State Street Campus. We will hold an open house soon (if we can get the pictures on the wall). However, drop by and see us even before we are all set up.

Three new faculty members have joined us since May, Drs. Shubho Sarkar and Amanda Messer, in the Hospitalist Division and Dr. Elizabeth Wisner in Allergy and Immunology. Be sure and tell them hello and welcome them to our team when you meet them.

Finally, the American Medical Association has declared September "Women in Medicine Month". Join me in congratulating and thanking our female faculty members and trainees. They make all of us better.

Keep working hard, you are doing a great job.



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

Congratulations to **Christian Lilje, MD** and **Dana Rivera, MD** who are two of the newly elected delegates to the Faculty Assembly. We look forward to their representation of the department at the university level!

EQUP Director Zee Ali, MD announced the winners of LSU's Enhancing Quality Improvement for Patients Program's 5th Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Forum. Neonatology Fellows **Julie Gallois, MD** and **Maya Heath, MD** won the award for Best Oral Presentation for their research titled "Ventilator Associated Pneumonia, Hospital Acquired Conditions Team: 2016 Data Process and Outcomes at Children's Hospital of New Orleans". **Kathleen Vincent, RN** and **Christy Mumphrey, MD** were also a part of the research team.

Kudos to the 5 residents who were recently honored by the Gold Humanism Honor Society as Residents of the Month. Having our Pediatric and Medicine-Pediatric residents selected for this award three months in a row is a testament to the welcoming, educational environment they help create for our students.

June: **Mary Beth Hulin**

July: **Meghan Benak** and **Rahul Kamat**

August: **Monica Hajirawala** and **Nikita Patel**

And the honors keep coming for our wonderful residents! Medicine/Pediatrics Program Director **Betty Lo, MD** announced to the department last June that Med/Peds Chief Resident **Shannon Palombo, MD** was selected as University Medical Center's 2017 Resident of the Year. Dr. Lo congratulated all LSU interns and residents nominated and thanked them for working so diligently to provide great care to patients and families.



Shannon Palombo, MD

Awards were presented at the 2016-2017 Hello/Good-Bye Graduation Celebration in June:

Nick Algu
Pediatric Alumni Award
(Best 4th-year Medical Student
Staying at LSU)

Ellen Chang
*Outstanding Medicine-Pediatrics
Resident Award*

Aditya Dewoolkar
*Outstanding Fellowship
Teaching Award*
(voted by residents)

Isa Ashoor
*Nick Gagliano Outstanding
Faculty Award*
(voted by residents)

Freda Lindsey (PGY-1)
Rachel Herdes (PGY-2)
Vincent Devlin (PGY-3)
*Alfonso Vargas Resident
Research Awards*

Vincent Devlin
Gretchen Life Award
(voted by residents)

Nicky Sheldon
Outstanding Teaching Resident
(voted by 3rd year students)

Mary Beth Hulin
*Penny Scurto, Outstanding
Pediatric Resident* (voted by faculty)

Numerous Pediatrics faculty members were listed as Top Doctors in New Orleans Magazine's annual list of best local physicians:

Ken Paris, MD, MPH
Ricardo Sorensen, MD
Michael Brumund, MD
Kelly Gajewski, MD
Ernest Siwik, MD

Bonnie Desselle, MD
Stuart Chalew, MD
Ricardo Gomes, MD
Renee Gardner, MD
Maria Velez, MD

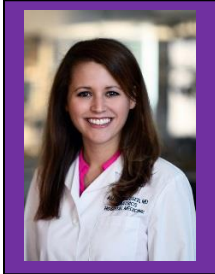
Raymond Watts, MD
Diego Aviles, MD
Abraham Gedalia, MD
Brian Barkemeyer, MD
Minnie Buis, MD

Staci Olistter, MD
Dana Rivera, MD
Betty Lo-Blais, MD

NEW FACULTY



Shubho Sarkar, MD



Amanda Messer, MD

The Ambulatory Division welcomed two new faculty members over the summer. **Shubho Sarkar, MD** joined the team as Assistant Professor on June 1. He graduated from Tulane Medical School and completed his pediatric residency at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. He is interested in student/resident education, quality assessment and improvement and medical informatics. His wife is a family practice physician in Chalmette and they are expecting their first child this fall. **Amanda Messer, MD** joined the division on July 19 as an Assistant Professor. She is a graduate of LSU School of Medicine and our own Pediatric Residency Program. She completed an additional fellowship in Pediatric Hospitalist Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Messer's interests include quality and standardization of care including patient handoff procedures. She also overcame administrative hurdles and tradition at Baylor to pilot the use of continuous nebulized albuterol on non-ICU nursing units.



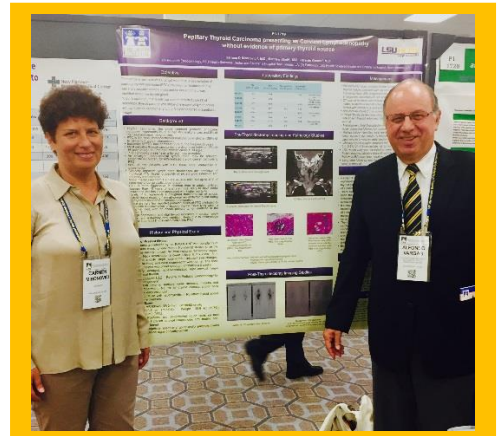
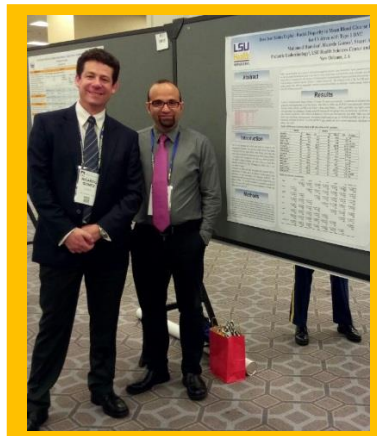
Elizabeth Wisner, MD

The Allergy/Immunology Division welcomed a familiar face to their team of faculty on August 1. **Elizabeth Wisner, MD**, a recent graduate of their fellowship program, is now an Assistant Professor. After completing medical school at LSUHSC New Orleans, she stayed on to become one of our most respected pediatric residents here at Children's Hospital. Dr. Wisner will primarily see patients at the Children's Hospital Metairie Center location. She will also play an active role in the training of our medical students, residents and fellows who rotate through our outpatient clinics.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Endocrinology Division made a strong showing at the 10th International Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology in Washington, D.C. earlier this month. This is a true world meeting which happens every 4 years. To be chosen for presentation is a great achievement and proper honor and recognition to the research submitted. **Ricardo Gomez, MD** participated in the Fellowship Program Directors Committee Meeting and the Pediatric Endocrine Society (USA) International Committee meeting. He was also recognized at the Business Meeting of PES. The following presentations highlighted research and academic activity by the division:

Is Medullary Thyroid Cancer in Sibling Possible When the RET is Negative: to Treat or Not to Treat is the Question! *Authors:* Aqeel Alaqeel, Aditya Dewoolkar, Ricardo Gomez



Ricardo Gomez, MD, Mahmoud Hamdan, MD, Carmen Mironovici, MD and Alfonso Vargas, MD present at the 10th International Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology.

Hemoglobin A1c, Home Blood Glucose Testing and Social Disadvantage: Metrics of Racial Health Disparity in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes *Authors:* Stuart Chalew, Ricardo Gomez, Alfonso Vargas, Cruz Velasco-Gonzalez, Jodi Kamps, Richard Scribner, Brittney Jurgen, James Hempe

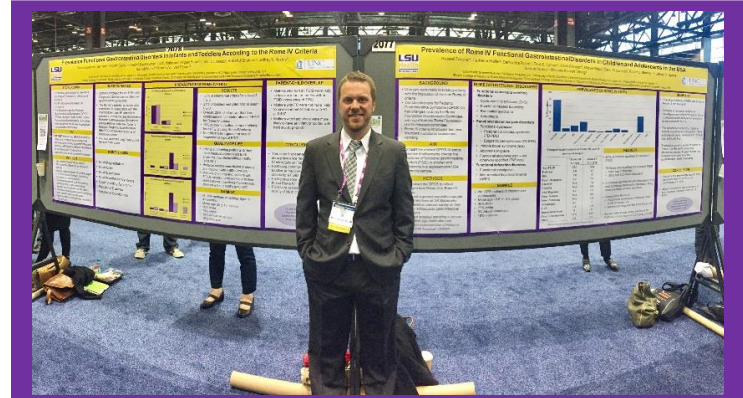
Metreleptin Use in Children with Congenital Generalized Lipodystrophy *Authors:* Dania Felipe, Ricardo Gomez, Alfonso Vargas, Stuart Chalew

Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma Presenting as Cervical Lymphadenopathy Without Evidence of Primary Thyroid Source *Authors:* Carmen D Mironovici, Matthew Stark, Ricardo Gomez

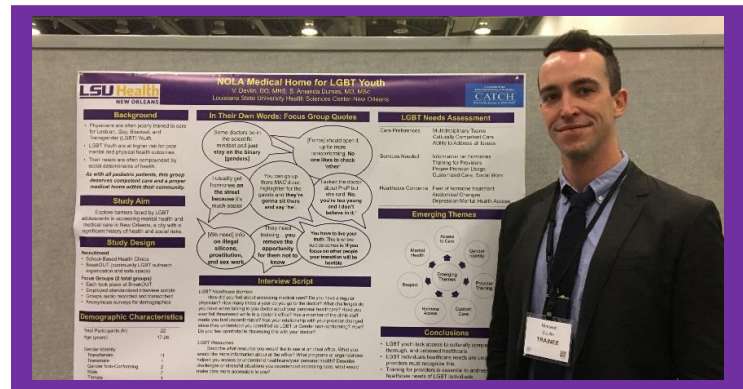
Does Iron Status Explain Racial Disparity in Mean Blood Glucose Independent HbA1c Outcome for Children with Type 1 DM? *Authors:* Mahmoud Hamdan, Ricardo Gomez, Stuart A. Chalew

Dania Felipe, MD was introduced by **Alfonso Vargas, MD** and elected as Member Adherent of the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Endocrinologia Pediatrica SLEP during its business meeting also in Washington DC.

Gastroenterology Fellow **Russell Zwiener, MD** (*top right*) presented two posters at Digestive Disease Week in Chicago last May. "Prevalence of Rome IV Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders in Children and Adolescents in the United States" and "Prevalence of Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders in Infants and Toddlers According to the Rome IV Criteria" were both nominated by the AGA (American Gastroenterological Association) Digestive Disease Week 2017 Early Career GI Poster Judging Program.



Graduated resident **Vincent Devlin, DO** (*bottom right*) attended the 2017 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting last spring in San Francisco and presented a poster entitled "NOLA Medical Home for LGBT Youth", which was a project funded through an AAP CATCH grant he was awarded. **S. Amanda Dumas, MD** served as his research mentor on the project.



In the May department newsletter, the following presentations by residents were incorrectly labeled as poster presentations. They were in fact oral presentations:

A Case of Persistent Neutropenia Without Recurrent Infections, VP Devlin and A Rubinstein

Pneumococcal Protection, Not Atopy, S Sussman, LE Leiva and LA Wall

Nutritional Rickets: A Rare Case of Renal Rickets, WJ Lindsey, R Herdes, R Kamat, SJ Beck and I Ashoor



Two medical students mentored by members of the department attended and presented at the 4th Annual Medical Student Research Forum held in Orlando earlier this month.

Samantha Karlin presented "Bardet-Biedl Syndrome Due to a Pathogenic Mutation on CEP290 and an Unreported TTC8 Variant". **Yves Lacassie, MD** served as her research mentor. **Jacob Grodsky** worked with **Randall Craver, MD** and **Isa Ashoor, MD** on his research titled "Utility of Electron Microscopy in Kidney Transplant Biopsies".

LSU Medical Students Samantha Karlin and Jacob Grodsky present posters at the 4th Annual Medical Student Research Forum.

RESEARCH DAY 2017

Research Day gave faculty, research staff, fellows, residents and medical students a chance to highlight their recent research activities. The day was dedicated to **Yves Lacassie, MD** who retired after nearly three decades at LSUHSC. Dr. Lacassie joined Department Head **Raymond Watts, MD** to present awards for the Best Research Day Presentation in four categories. The winning researchers were:



Presenters, winners, judges and attendees of Pediatrics Research Day 2017

Best Oral Presentation:

Neha Santucci, MD

Fellow, Gastroenterology

A Pilot Double Blinded Randomized Study to Assess the Effect of Improving Self-Efficacy on Outcomes in Children with Functional Constipation

Authors: Neha Santucci, MD; Erin Reuther, PhD; Miranda van Tilburg, PhD; Mackenzie Schindler; Lauren Rein; Adam Mansfield; Paul E Hyman, MD

Best Poster Presentation by a Student:

Natalie Rall

LSUHSC-NO Medical Student

New Ocular Finding in Baraitser-Winter Syndrome

Authors: Natalie Rall; Yves Lacassie, MD, FACMG; Alejandro Leon, MD; Ricardo Gomez, MD; Jessica Daroca

Best Presentation by a Resident:

Rachel E. Herdes, DO

Resident, Pediatrics

Hands-on Simulation as a Valuable Tool for Feeding Tube Education in Pediatric Students and Residents

Authors: Rachel E. Herdes, DO and Taylor Arnold, PhD

Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc (tie):

Aditya Dewoolkar, MD and

Mahmoud Hamdan, MD

Fellows, Endocrinology

Does Iron Status Explain Racial Disparity in Mean Blood Glucose Independent HbA1c Outcome for Children with Type 1 DM?

Authors: Mahmoud Adee Hamdan, MD and Stuart Chalew, MD

Best Presentation by a Fellow or Postdoc (tie):

Hemant Menghani, MD

Fellow, Hematology/Oncology

Vitamin B12 Deficiency Masquerading as Evans Syndrome?

Authors: Jacob Grodsky, BS; Randall Carver, MD; Isa Ashoor, MD

Best Presentation by Jr. Faculty or Research Professional:

Isa Ashoor, MD

Assistant Professor, Nephrology

Utility of Electron Microscopy in

Kidney Transplant Biopsies

Authors: Jacob Grodsky, BS; Randall Carver, MD; Isa Ashoor, MD



Hope Wilson, MD, Valerie Cruz, MD, El Chiccarelli, MD and Neha Santucci, MD present their research.

Thank you to all who participated, especially our 2017 judges: Lauren Green Davis, MD, Michael Marble, MD, Duna Penn, MD, MS, Janet Rossi, MD, Ricardo Sorensen, MD, David Swetland, MD and Lolie Yu, MD.

DEPARTMENT WELLNESS

Chief Wellness Officer **Jerussa Aita-Levy, MD, MPH** and the Wellness Committee have been busy coordinating department activities over the last several months. Most recently, the committee hosted the first Department Picnic in Audubon Park. Faculty, fellows, residents, and administrative staff came together to enjoy some BBQ and cool weather with their families. The kids enjoyed the bounce house and faculty and residents battled it out in a fun game of tug-of-war. Special thanks to those who planned and lent a hand including **Kelly Allerton, Hyang Lee, Leone Coe, Jerussa Aita-Levy, MD, MPH, Bonnie Desselle, MD, Chelsey Sandlin, MD and Brian Barkemeyer, MD.**

Over the last few months, retired Professor of Pediatrics **Jayashree Rao, MD** lead a noon conference series on Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction geared towards residents, fellows,

faculty and administrative staff. The series included lectures from Dr. Rao, group discussions and meditation at the end of each session. If you are interested in learning more, the materials are available free of charge online: <https://palousemindfulness.com/>.



Left: Attendees participate in a meditation session during Dr. Jayashree Rao's Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Series.

Bottom: The Mommy Working Group enjoy a catered meal to celebrate Women in Medicine Month.

Dr. Levy and the Wellness Committee also sponsor the department's Mommy Working Group. The crew recently celebrated "Women in Medicine Month" with a special catered lunch.



RESIDENT REUNION HONORING DR. DESSELLE

Vice Chair of Medical Education **Bonnie Desselle, MD** was honored last June at a Pediatrics Resident Reunion. A huge turnout of graduated residents, current residents and faculty celebrated Dr. Desselle's 15 years as Residency Program Director. Registration, donations and the silent auction brought in nearly \$19,000 which went straight to the Pediatrics Residency Program. Dr. Desselle's successor **Chelsey Sandlin, MD** coordinated the



event along with **Susan Wack Lenoir, Christy Mumphrey, MD, Jeffrey Surcouf, MD** and **Jessica Patrick-Esteve, MD**. More pictures from the event can be found here: <https://allerton.smugmug.com/DesselleReunion>.

MORE DEPARTMENT FUN



Chairman **Raymond Watts, MD** treated the administrative staff to his homemade vanilla ice cream to celebrate Memorial Day last May (*left*).

Also in May, Residents packed boxes at Second Harvest Food Bank to kick off the TigerCare Clinic's summer meal program to give meals to children at the clinic (*right*). This program was created and is led by **Rachel Herdes, DO**.

The Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine Residents and Program Director **Anna McFarlin, MD** recently gathered together for a retreat (*below*). The gang enjoyed a special day at the home of **Raghubir**

Mangat, MD with each other and their families.



NEW ADDITION

S. Amanda Dumas, MD and her husband Todd welcomed a beautiful boy to their growing family. William Cooper Sanderson was born on August 17 weighing 9 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches.

