



# Alumni

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Welcome to the spring 2016 issue of the Pediatrics Alumni Organization newsletter. During the period since our last newsletter, we have continued to experience significant success in our clinical programs, educational activities, and research initiatives. This success is a direct reflection of our dedicated and collegial faculty who work hard to support all aspects of our mission. In addition, we continue to recruit bright and motivated resident and subspecialty fellows who add impressive diversity and talent to our community.

This year, we have welcomed 12 new faculty members spanning 10 of our divisions to the department. In addition, we have continued to develop the department's leadership structure with the appointment of new vice chairs, medical directors and ongoing searches for division chiefs in primary care and nephrology.

As you will see inside, our faculty members continue to have award-winning impact on science and medicine, with broad visibility that heightens national recognition of our department. A number of our faculty have also received new independent investigator awards from the National Institutes of Health and other state and federal agencies, an especially impressive accomplishment given the challenging funding environment.

We are looking forward to more chances to reconnect at events this spring, including the Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception that is scheduled for May 1 in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting (PAS), and the Duke Pediatric Research Day that will take place on April 11—two events I hope you can attend.

I look forward to the coming year with a great sense of enthusiasm about our future. I thank all of you for the continued support, and I look forward to sharing more news as the year continues to evolve.

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We would like to hear from you! If you have news about yourself or if you would like to send us comments about this newsletter, please write Duke Pediatrics Alumni News, Box 3352, Durham, NC 27710, or e-mail us at [rebecca.casey@duke.edu](mailto:rebecca.casey@duke.edu).

### Ann M. Reed, MD

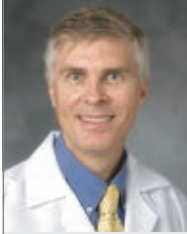
William Cleland Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Physician-in-Chief, Duke Children's  
Duke Health



### Walter appointed to Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

**Emmanuel Chip Walter, MD, MPH**, professor of pediatrics (Primary Care) was recently appointed as a voting member to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP is a group of 15 medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. The recommendations stand as public health advice that will lead to a reduction in the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases and an increase in the safe use of vaccines and related biological products.

Walter is director of the Duke Clinical Vaccine Unit and associate director of the Primary Care Research Consortium at the Duke Clinical Research Institute. His work focuses on vaccine and immunization research and epidemiologic studies of childhood diseases.



### Katz honored with 2015 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has honored **Samuel L. Katz, MD**, the Wilburt Cornell Davison Professor and chair emeritus of pediatrics at Duke University, with the 2015 Maxwell Finland Award for Scientific Achievement.

Katz is an innovative physician-scientist whose pioneering work on the development and promotion of the Edmonston measles virus vaccine revolutionized children's health and reduced childhood mortality worldwide. According to the NFID, "He has achieved what most investigators dream of: translation of his research into a global resource that has improved public health and the lives of many."

"Dr. Katz has had a remarkable impact in vaccine research and development and in efforts that have saved lives, decreased human suffering, and reduced healthcare costs in the US and around the world," said Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD, dean



of the Duke University School of Medicine. "Dr. Katz is a revolutionary scientist, a respected teacher, a valued colleague, and a tremendous citizen of his profession and the world."

The award was presented at the 2015 NFID Annual Awards dinner in the Washington, DC area.

### Permar awarded federal grant for maternal and infant HIV vaccine studies

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a research program project grant of more than \$11 million over five years to a collaborative effort led by **Sallie Permar, MD, PhD**, associate professor of pediatrics (Infectious Diseases), and involving researchers at the University of North Carolina and the University of California, Davis.

The program project, "Maternal and infant immunization to eliminate breast milk transmission of HIV-1," is supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

"This is an exciting collaboration between Duke and UNC to combine expertise in maternal and infant immunity and B cell responses, as well as highly-relevant animal models from the UC Davis primate center," Permar said. "We hope our studies will show how maternal and infant immunizations might work to end infant HIV transmission, which still accounts for over 200,000 cases globally each year."

The award will support two research projects and three core facilities. Overall, the program project will determine the feasibility, safety, and effectiveness of combined maternal and infant HIV-1 immunization as an alternative strategy for prevention of breast milk transmission of HIV-1 in the nonhuman primate model, an important step to designing effective maternal/infant HIV-1 vaccines that may be necessary to achieve an HIV-1 free generation.

Permar's work focuses on defining and eliciting immune responses at the maternal-fetal interface that prevent vertical transmission of neonatal viral pathogens. She is also studying the impact and prevention of postnatal cytomegalovirus (CMV) transmission in preterm infants.



### Schanberg receives funds to advance patient-centered outcomes research

**Laura Schanberg, MD**, co-chief of the Pediatric Division of Rheumatology, will serve as part of a larger network of National Institutes of Health investigators seeking to capitalize on recent advances in the science of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) to improve pediatric health and well-being by capturing the voice and experience of children and their families living with a variety of chronic diseases and conditions.

The purpose of Schanberg's project, the Validation of Pediatric Patient-Reported Outcomes in Chronic Diseases (PEPR) Consortium, is to test several pediatric PRO tools that measure aspects of physical, mental, and social well-being such as pain, anxiety, and peer relationships. By validating these measures, the consortium will facilitate their adoption and meaningful use in research and clinical care settings, ultimately improving the treatment of chronic diseases in children.

The consortium comprises four centers. Schanberg's center, which she will lead with Bryce Reeve, PhD, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will focus on understanding how living with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, lupus, cancer, or inflammatory bowel disease affects children's well-being.

In addition, Schanberg recently received a funding award of \$1.3 million from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to expand the Patients, Advocates, and Rheumatology Teams Network for Research and Service (PARTNERS).

PARTNERS, which focuses on improving the lives of children with rheumatic diseases through research that engages patients, is one of 33 health data networks that comprise PCORnet, a large, collaborative research initiative that links researchers, patient communities, clinicians, and health systems in research partnerships.

"Working with patient representatives in PARTNERS is invigorating and has given me a much broader understanding of what research means to patients," said Schanberg.





**March of Dimes commits \$10 million**

The March of Dimes has designated Duke Health, in collaboration with the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, as its fifth Prematurity Research Center.



Over the next five years, the March of Dimes will invest \$10 million in the Center, which is solely dedicated to solving the public health challenge of premature birth. The United States still has one of the highest prematurity rates among developed nations of the world. A total of 11.4 percent of children are born before full term.

**Gregory E. Crawford, PhD**, associate professor of pediatrics (Medical Genetics) is Duke's principal investigator in the new collaboration, and he, along with Duke researchers, such as **Amy Murtha, MD**, professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and associate professor of pediatrics, are working to discover the causes of preterm birth in order to prevent it.



"The March of Dimes is to be congratulated for funding a study that will significantly grow our fundamental understanding of the genetic drivers of preterm birth," said Duke Chancellor for Health Affairs A. Eugene Washington, MD. "We are pleased and honored to be participating in this study aimed at giving more babies a healthy, strong start in life."

**Transgender clinic launched**

Duke Children's has launched a new center for gender-related disorders. The Center for Child and Adolescent Gender Care opened in July 2015 and is the first of its kind in North Carolina and one of only a handful in the Southeast. **Deanna Adkins, MD**, a pediatric endocrinologist who founded the center, says it provides support and medical care to transgender children and help to those with problems developing gender due to chromosomal problems or other issues.



Clinical social worker **Kristen Russell** noted that the center fills a critical need for a transgender community that has historically lacked access to quality gender-affirming medical services. The disorders of sex development (DSD) population will also benefit greatly from coordinated, interdisciplinary care to promote sexual and emotional well-being, she said.

The gender care center team is comprised of more than a dozen people, including specialists in urology, psychology, social work, pediatric surgery and endocrinology.

According to **Jonathan Routh, MD**, associate professor of surgery and assistant professor of pediatrics, the center is set to become a leader in medical provider training and collaborative networking with other medical centers to build strong community outreach and support for patients. "I want to make sure that every child has the chance to have their needs addressed," Routh said.



**Duke Children's is ninth certified Duchenne Care Center**

Duke Children's has been named a Certified Duchenne Care Center by Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), a nonprofit organization leading the fight to end Duchenne muscular dystrophy (Duchenne).

Duke Children's is the ninth center to be certified by PPMD's Certified Duchenne Care Center Program, which supports standardized, comprehensive care, and services for all people living with Duchenne. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately one in every 5,000 live male births.

The Duke Children's Neuromuscular Clinic is co-directed by **Edward C. Smith, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics (Neurology) and **Richard Kravitz, MD**, associate professor of pediatrics (Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine). Both Kravitz and Smith specialize in pediatric neuromuscular disorders, including Duchenne.

"Duke has had a long commitment for the care of patients with neuromuscular weakness," Kravitz said. "We look forward to working in partnership with PPMD in further improving the care and quality of life of our patients and their families with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. "

**New Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics since January 2015**

**Mehreen Arshad, MD**  
Infectious Diseases

**Robert McCaslin, MD**  
Emergency Medicine

**Mary Boruta, MD**  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

**Mekdem Tesfaye, MD**  
Blood and Marrow Transplantation

**Richard Boruta, MD**  
Cardiology

**Travis Vesel, MD**  
Critical Care Medicine

**Annabelle Chua, MD**  
Nephrology

**Kanecia Zimmerman, MD**  
Critical Care Medicine

**Krystal Irizarry, MD**  
Endocrinology

**Reid Chamberlain, MD**  
Co-Chief Resident

**Sameer Kamath, MD**  
Critical Care Medicine

**Victoria Parente, MD**  
Co-Chief Resident

**Monica Lemmon, MD**  
Neurology

**Deesha Mago-Shah, MD**  
Neonatology



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## NOTEWORTHY

### Duke launches autism research app

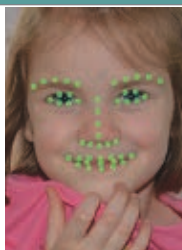
A team of researchers and software developers from Duke University and Duke University Medical Center has introduced a free iOS app to learn more about autism in young children living around the world.

Beginning in October, a ResearchKit app called “Autism & Beyond” has been offered from the Apple App Store for use on iOS devices. ResearchKit is a new open-source framework developed by Apple that allows researchers to create app-based studies with a global reach.

The free program from Duke is not a diagnostic tool. It is intended to test the reliability of smart phone questionnaires and video analysis of facial expressions as a possible screening tool for autism and other developmental disorders of children.

“You can’t diagnose a child with a video screen,” said **Helen Egger, MD**, chief of Duke’s Division of Child and Family Mental Health and Developmental Neuroscience, associate professor of pediatrics, and a co-leader of the research team. “We’re interested in getting to a place where we could use the data we’re collecting to give individual advice. But we’re not there yet.”

“With hundreds of millions of iPhones and iPads in use around the world, app-based health studies such as this could enable researchers to measure more diverse patient populations faster and more affordably,” said **Ricky Bloomfield, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of mobile technology strategy for Duke Health.



## MAKE A GIFT

### Deborah Kredich Pediatric Education Fund

The Deborah Kredich Pediatric Education Fund provides support for a variety of educational experiences for residents and subspecialty fellows at Duke, including participation in research projects, attendance at national meetings, involvement in community outreach programs, and sponsorship of a named Grand Rounds.

### Pediatrics Excellence Fund

The Pediatrics Excellence Fund provides support for the most immediate needs of the Department of Pediatrics.

**You can make your gift quickly and securely online by visiting:**  
**[SupportMedTraining.duke.edu](http://SupportMedTraining.duke.edu)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception

Sunday, May 1, 2016  
8:00 – 10:00 PM

Hilton Baltimore Hotel  
401 W. Pratt Street, Room: Johnson A, Baltimore, MD 21201

This reception is scheduled in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting, April 30 – May 3, 2016, at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel. We hope you’ll join us.

RSVP to Diane Crayton at [diane.crayton@duke.edu](mailto:diane.crayton@duke.edu).

### Pediatric Research Day

Monday, April 11, 2016  
1:00 – 8:00 PM  
Trent Semans Center for Health Education  
Duke University Medical Center Greenspace  
Durham, NC 27710

Save the date for the 2016 Pediatric Research Day. This annual event offers the opportunity for students, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, residents, research assistants, research associates, research scientists and faculty members in the department to engage in collaborative discussions and showcase current research.