



Spring 2008

Alumni

IN THIS ISSUE:

Honors and Recognition

Faculty Achievements

New Initiatives

Programs and Facilities

Noteworthy

Pediatrics in the News

Upcoming Events

Duke Pediatrics Alumni
Reception

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Duke University Department of Pediatrics provides a variety of opportunities for alumni to remain actively engaged long after they have graduated. Examples include social activities, Duke-sponsored CME conferences, national meetings, the Department of Pediatrics and the Duke Children's Hospital websites, and this newsletter. Our goal is to ensure that all alumni stay connected with us, their fellow alumni, and the Duke community.

With this goal in mind, please join us at the Duke Pediatrics Alumni reception at the Pediatrics Academic Societies meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, on May 4, 2008. (See "Upcoming Events" in this newsletter for more details.)

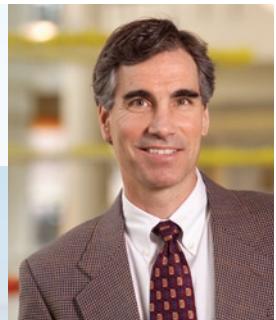
I hope you enjoy reading about our events, activities and program initiatives and some of the latest accomplishments of our faculty. I look forward to sharing more news throughout the year.

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD

Chair, Department of Pediatrics

Duke Medicine

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.





Wilfert Honored with New Endowed Fellowship

In recognition of the contributions of **Catherine Wilfert, MD**, to pediatric infectious diseases, HIV medicine, and global health, the Department of Pediatrics has established the Catherine Wilfert, MD, Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Dr. Wilfert served as Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke from 1976 to 1994 and is internationally renowned for her research on the natural history and treatment of AIDS in children. She is currently a Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and Microbiology and serves as Scientific Director of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Friends and colleagues of Dr. Wilfert and her husband, **Samuel Katz, MD**, Chair Emeritus of Pediatrics, contributed more than \$1,000,000 toward the endowment fund, which will support the training of fellows in pediatric infectious diseases, particularly those interested in global health. ■



Kurtzberg Appointed to Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation

Joanne Kurtzberg, MD, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank at Duke, was appointed to the new Advisory Council on Blood Stem Cell Transplantation (ACBSCT) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she and other board members will review and make recommendations on issues pertaining to blood stem cell transplantation.

The goals of the ACBSCT will include increasing the number of unrelated donor transplants using blood stem cells from adult donors and cord blood; creating a public inventory of cord blood; and increasing the amount of cord blood that is available for research. The ACBSCT will also advise the Department of Health and Human Services on cord blood donation policies and actions to increase donations. ■



Andrews Named Dean, Duke University School of Medicine

Nancy Andrews, MD, PhD, assumed responsibilities as Dean of Duke University School of Medicine on October 1, 2007. An internationally renowned investigator, Andrews relocated from Harvard Medical School where she was Dean for Basic Sciences and Graduate Studies. In addition to her responsibilities as Dean, she is a Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, reflecting her training and academic emphasis as a pediatric hematologist/oncologist.

Dr. Andrews is the first female dean of Duke University School of Medicine and of any top-10 medical school in the United States.

"I am deeply appreciative and humbled by the opportunity to lead one of the premier medical schools in the United States," Andrews said.

Dr. Andrews is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2007. ■

Voynow to Lead Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine

Judith Voynow, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center, will assume responsibilities as Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine beginning July 1, 2008. Dr. Voynow has been a faculty member at Duke since 1994 and is currently Director of the Fellowship Program in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine.

"We are very fortunate to have such an accomplished clinician-scientist assume this position," said **Joseph St. Geme, MD**, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

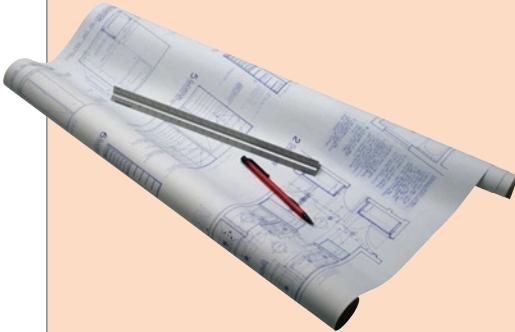
"Judy is an extremely talented clinician, teacher, and investigator who has gained international acclaim for her NIH-funded research program examining the molecular and cellular determinants of inflammatory airway disease, with a focus on cystic fibrosis." ■

Mikati Appointed Chief of Pediatric Neurology

Mohamad Mikati, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Professor of Pediatrics, Biochemistry, and Pharmacology at American University of Beirut, will join the faculty at Duke in July as Professor of Pediatrics and

Neurobiology and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology. Dr. Mikati has held his current position at American University of Beirut for the past 12 years. He received his training in neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Boston Children's Hospital and was a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital from 1985-1995.

"Mohamad is highly respected for his clinical and laboratory research in the area of epilepsy and will be an outstanding addition to the academic community at Duke," said **Joseph St. Geme, MD**, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. ■



Construction of New Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit Begins

Duke's pediatric cardiology program has grown considerably in recent years, with marked increases in patients and the number of echocardiograms, cardiac catheterizations, electrophysiology procedures, and cardiothoracic surgeries performed. To accommodate this growth, the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation recently approved a certificate of need for a new 13-bed pediatric cardiac intensive care unit. This new unit will be located adjacent to the multi-disciplinary pediatric intensive care unit on the fifth floor of the hospital. **Jon Meliones, MD**, will serve as Medical Director, and **Jim Jagers, MD**, will serve as Surgical Director of the new unit. Construction is under way and is expected to be complete by the end of 2008. ■

Division of Quantitative Sciences Is Established

The Department of Pediatrics has established a new Division of Quantitative Sciences, led by **Daniel Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH**. The goals of the Division of Quantitative Sciences are to support laboratory research in the Department of Pediatrics; increase external funding in the Department of Pediatrics; and enhance the education and mentoring of junior faculty and trainees with research interests in child health. ■

Pediatric Residency Program Implements New Programs

Exciting revisions are being made to the curriculum of the Pediatric Residency Training Program. Following a systematic evaluation by a Department of Pediatrics task force, a Curriculum Committee was created consisting of Pediatrics faculty

and education leaders across the School of Medicine for the purpose of optimizing the curriculum.

In addition, the Pediatric Residency Training Program has created a new Mentorship Program where program leaders meet regularly with residents to provide career counseling and help in developing academic projects. The Mentorship Program was designed to complement the existing Advising Program.

Further, a new research curriculum for residents has been developed by **Daniel Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH**, and **Jennifer Li, MD**, consisting of a series of six two-hour sessions addressing a broad range of research topics.

For more details about the Pediatric Residency Program, please visit: www.pediatrics.duke.edu. ■

Office of Pediatric Education Takes Shape

In December 2007, construction of the Office of Pediatric Education in the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center was completed. The new office allows for co-location of key members of the Pediatric Education leadership team. In the coming months, the Harris Library will be relocated from Duke University Hospital to the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center, completing the education hub in the Department of Pediatrics.

Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program Receives Accreditation

In the 22-year history of the Combined Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Training Program, dozens of physicians have completed Duke's four-year program and have received dual board certification. In the past, combined medicine-pediatrics programs like Duke's were accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) under the parent categorical programs in medicine and pediatrics. In June 2006, the ACGME decided to allow for direct accreditation of combined medicine-pediatrics programs. The Duke Combined Medicine-Pediatrics program was among the first group of combined programs to receive full accreditation in June 2007, retroactive to July 1, 2006, reflecting the efforts

of Program Director **Suzanne Woods, MD**, and Program Coordinator **Phillis Scott**. This new accreditation status mandates satisfaction of program requirements specific to combined medicine-pediatrics programs as well as common program requirements relevant to all ACGME programs. ■

NOTEWORTHY

Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory Accredited by ICAEL

The Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory was recently reaccredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories. The laboratory is currently the only pediatric echocardiography lab in the state of North Carolina to be accredited in all echo modalities (transthoracic, fetal, and transesophageal). In addition, accreditation was granted to each of Duke's pediatric outreach clinics. ■

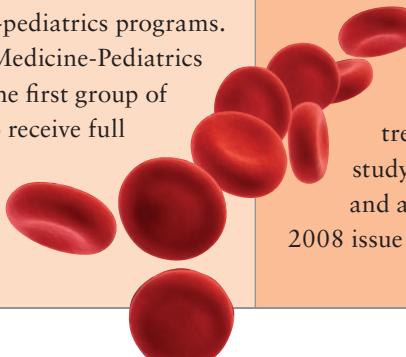
Peanut Allergies Showing Up at Much Earlier Ages

According to a new study led by **Wesley Burks, MD**, Chief of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, children are being exposed to peanuts and exhibiting signs of life-threatening peanut allergies at much earlier ages. The study looked at a group of children born during or after 2000 and compared them to a group of children born between 1995 and 1997, and was published in the journal *Pediatrics* in December 2007. ■

Anti-Platelet Therapy for Pint-Sized Patients

Jennifer Li, MD, Chief of Cardiovascular Research in the Department of Pediatrics, and colleagues from 22 research centers around the world have completed a groundbreaking study examining the use of clopidogrel in children under the age of two. Other studies have established that clopidogrel can reduce the risk of heart

attack, stroke, or death in adults. This study showed that children with heart disease can also benefit from treatment with clopidogrel. The study is known as the PICOLO Trial and appeared in the January 29, 2008 issue of the journal *Circulation*. ■



14th Annual Radiothon Exceeds \$1 Million

MIX 101.5 FM listeners and the "Change Bandits" came together to make magic happen again for the Duke Children's Radiothon. At the conclusion of the fundraiser in February, Joseph St. Geme, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Chief Medical Officer of Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, announced a three-day total of \$1,175,759.

The Duke Children's Radiothon raises more money per capita than any other Children's Miracle Network radiothon in the United States and Canada. Duke Children's offers a huge thank you to MIX 101.5 and to all the sponsors, patient families, hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors who held Duke Children's in their hearts on Valentine's Day.

To view photos from the event or to learn how you can be involved in the Radiothon and other events for Duke Children's, visit www.dukechildrens.org. ■



Duke Designated Affiliate of the Children's Tumor Foundation NF Clinic Network

The Duke Neurofibromatosis Clinic has been designated as an Affiliate Clinic of the Children's Tumor Foundation NF Clinic Network (CTF-NFCN), in recognition of exemplary medical care provided to children with neurofibromatosis. The Duke Neurofibromatosis Clinic is directed by Fawn Leigh, MD, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Neurology. ■

Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center Launches Redesigned website

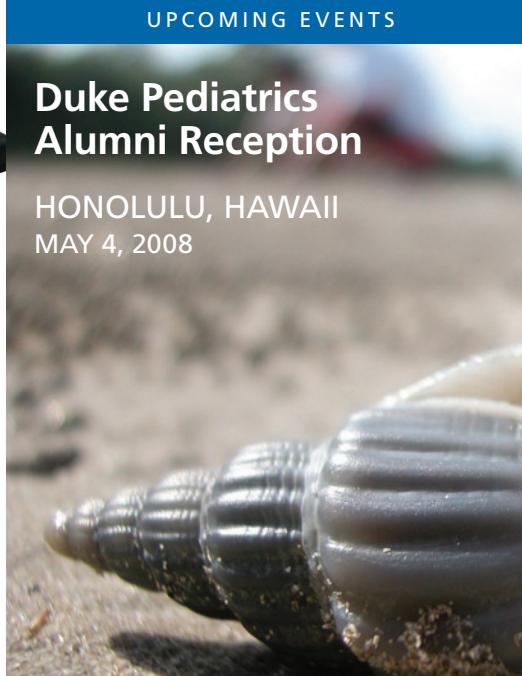
Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center launched a new website on March 21, 2008 designed to be the primary source of information for patients, families and visitors as well as constituents including alumni and donors. Please visit us at: www.dukechildrens.org and send us your feedback. We'd love to hear from you! ■

dukechildrens.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception

HONOLULU, HAWAII
MAY 4, 2008



Reconnect with former classmates and faculty at the Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii from 9:30 to 11:00 p.m. This reception is scheduled in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, May 3-6, 2008 at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu. We hope you'll join us. RSVP to Diane Crayton at: 919-681-3260 or diane.crayton@duke.edu.

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to: diane.crayton@duke.edu.



Duke Medicine

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