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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Duke Pediatrics continues to flourish, reflecting the efforts and expertise of our talented collection of faculty, fellows, residents, and staff. In recent months, there has been notable progress in all of our mission areas, namely patient care, biomedical research, medical education, and advocacy for children.

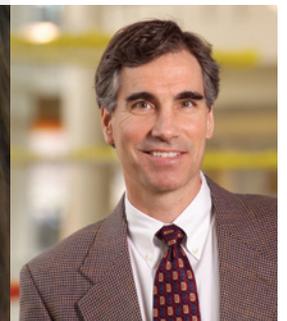
This summer we welcomed 23 new faculty members to the Department of Pediatrics, with additions in Blood & Marrow Transplantation, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Neonatology, Nephrology, Primary Care Pediatrics, and Rheumatology. In addition, we greeted 22 new subspecialty fellows, 16 new interns in Pediatrics, and six new interns in Medicine-Pediatrics, all with impressive records of accomplishment. Thus far, nine of our faculty have received grant award notices from the NIH for projects supported with NIH Stimulus funds, and a number of others are awaiting word soon. Several faculty have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to academic medicine with honorary awards and appointments.

I want to highlight that Duke Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 15–18, 2009, and will include a breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni and friends on Saturday, October 17, at 8:00 am in the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center, an event I hope you can attend.

I hope you enjoy reading about the progress of Duke Pediatrics, and I look forward to sharing more news with you throughout the year.

We would like to hear more about 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.

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Duke University Medical Center



Duke Medical Alumni Association Honors Two Distinguished Pediatrics Physicians

Two physicians who have made important contributions to pediatric medicine will receive awards from the Duke Medical Alumni Association during Medical Alumni Weekend on Friday, October 16. "Each year the Medical Alumni Association recognizes people who are committed to transforming the way we educate doctors, treat patients, and gain new understanding of human disease," said Ellen Luken, Executive Director of Medical Alumni Affairs at Duke.

Distinguished Faculty Award

John M. Falletta, MD

Professor of Pediatrics
Chair of the Institutional Review Board for
Clinical Investigation

During more than three decades at Duke, John M. Falletta built a strong Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, helped establish a new standard of care for sickle cell anemia, and led the reorganization and rebuilding of the Duke Medical Center Institutional Review Board. He was also instrumental in laying the groundwork for construction of the country's 13th Ronald McDonald House, which was built in Durham for families of children undergoing treatment at Duke.

As senior author of two National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute studies, Dr. Falletta helped prove that prophylactic penicillin in children with sickle cell disease under five years of age could prevent deadly pneumococcal infections, establishing a new standard of care and influencing implementation of routine newborn screening for sickle cell anemia. He also helped advance treatment for children's cancers through his service in the Southwest Oncology Group, one of the country's largest National Cancer Institute-funded clinical trials consortiums. In addition, he directed the Duke Clinical Pediatric Laboratory for more than 20 years and published more than 100 scientific papers.

Dr. Falletta attended medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed residency training in pediatrics and fellowship training in pediatric hematology-oncology at Baylor College of Medicine. He was a member of the faculty at Baylor and was recruited to Duke as the Chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology in 1978. Since 1994, he has led the Duke University Institutional Review Board for Clinical Investigation.



John Falletta, MD



Catherine Wilfert, MD

Humanitarian Award

Catherine M. Wilfert, MD

Professor Emerita of Pediatrics and
Microbiology

Scientific Director Emerita of the
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
For more than two decades, Catherine M. Wilfert has focused her efforts on eradicating pediatric AIDS. Her clinical trials group demonstrated the efficacy of AZT to reduce the incidence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Application of this knowledge has resulted in a reduction in pediatric AIDS in the United States by more than 80 percent. Dr. Wilfert now works to reduce mother-to-infant transmission of AIDS in developing countries around the world. She is also currently the Chair of the Perinatal Working Group for the Prevention Trials Network, sponsored by the NIH.

"The successful prevention of transmission of HIV from a mother to her baby is possible now," said Dr. Wilfert. "We have the knowledge to accomplish this in the developing world when this proven prevention is established as an appropriate priority by ministries of health."

Dr. Wilfert is an honors graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Medical School and joined the faculty at Duke University School of Medicine in 1969. She served as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases from

1976 to 1994 and retired from Duke in 1996 to serve as the Scientific Director of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the worldwide leader in the fight against pediatric AIDS. In June 2009, she became the Foundation's first Scientific Director Emerita.

Dr. Wilfert is the recipient of many awards and was inducted into the Institute of Medicine in 1999.

Duke University Distinguished Professor Awards

Duke University recently awarded distinguished professorships to 22 faculty members, including:

Mohamad Mikati, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Neurobiology and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, was awarded the Wilburt C. Davison Professorship of Pediatrics, which was established in honor of Wilburt C. Davison, Professor and Chairman of the Duke Department of Pediatrics from 1927-1954 and Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine until 1960. Dr. Mikati has been recognized for his clinical and laboratory research in the area of epilepsy, providing insights into the neurobiology of epilepsy and facilitating the development of new anti-epileptic agents.

Michael Freemark, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, was named the Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professor of Pediatrics. This endowed professorship was established in memory of Dr. Robert C. Atkins, with the intent to support a tenured faculty member who demonstrates outstanding research and clinical care in the areas of nutrition and metabolism. The professorship and associated research funding were established to advance the Atkins Foundation's objective to combat the obesity epidemic in America.

Dr. Mikati and Dr. Freemark were recognized at a dinner on April 27, 2009 at the Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club.

Steinbach Receives Young Investigator Award from the

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

William Steinbach, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Associate



Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, received the 2009 Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Young Investigator Award for his work on the molecular pathogenesis of *Aspergillus fumigatus* infection as well as his clinical research in advancing the diagnosis and treatment of invasive fungal infections in children.

Steinbach was honored at the Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2009, at the Hilton Baltimore Convention Center.

Gbadegesin Receives Doris Duke Foundation Award



Rasheed Gbadegesin, MD, received a 2009 Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Clinical Scientist Development Award for a project entitled "A new locus for familial FSGS and a

GWAS study of childhood nephrotic syndrome." Dr. Gbadegesin is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and was one of 14 physician-scientists from across the country who received this award. The award is intended for junior investigators to facilitate their transition to independent clinical research careers and provides \$125,000 per year in direct costs for three years.

NEW FACULTY

New Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics Since July 2009

Staci Arnold, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation

Alexandra Bentley, MD
Neonatology

Megan Butler, MD
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Michael Cohen-Wolkowicz, MD
Infectious Diseases/
Quantitative Sciences

Denis Diaz, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics

Diana Dolinsky, MD
Nutritional Disorders & Obesity

Brian Eichner, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics

Donald Ellis, MD
Hospital & Emergency Medicine

Prem Fort, MD
Neonatology

Kevin Hill, MD
Cardiology

Eric Horowitz, MD
Neonatology

SiHong Huang, MD
Neonatology

Kenneth Jordan, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics

Nancie MacIver, MD
Endocrinology

Gabriela Maradiaga Panayotti, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics

Nancy McGreal, MD
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Shashi Nagaraj, MD
Nephrology

Yul Reinstein, MD
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Jennifer Rothman, MD
Hematology-Onology

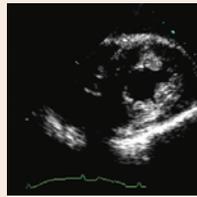
Alyssa Stephany, MD
Neonatology

Heather Van Mater, MD
Rheumatology

Aimee Chung, MD
Chief Resident

Melissa Hendricks, MD
Chief Resident

New Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory Opens



The Duke Pediatric Heart Program has grown significantly in recent years, with considerable increases in the numbers of patients, diagnostic studies, and surgical procedures. To accommodate this growth, Duke Children's Hospital recently opened a new pediatric echocardiography laboratory that provides state-of-the-art assessment of cardiac anomalies in an environment that is designed for the comfort and ease of children and their families. The laboratory is located on the first floor of the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center and includes six imaging suites, a spacious reading area, and connections to the cardiac operating rooms and the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit. Image acquisition is completely digitized, and each imaging suite is equipped with a television and DVD player to make children more comfortable during their evaluation.

Department of Pediatrics Histology and Microscopy Core Facility



The Department of Pediatrics announced the opening of a new Histology and Microscopy Core Facility in September. The core facility is equipped with an inverted microscope and two compound microscopes with cameras for visualizing brightfield and fluorescent immunohistological stains, an inverted fluorescent microscope with a heated stage for timelapse and live cell imaging, a PALM laser microdissection microscope, a paraffin embedding center, three microtomes for paraffin sections, two cryostats for frozen sections, and a vibratome. This equipment allows for processing, sectioning, and imaging of both paraffin-embedded and frozen tissue. In addition, core facility staff are available for training and assistance with use of the equipment. The facility is located on the fourth floor of the Jones Research Building and is managed by Mary Hutson, PhD, and Margaret Kirby, PhD, in the Division of Neonatology, the Division of Cardiology, and the Neonatal Perinatal Research Institute. For detailed information, please visit the Histology and Microscopy Core Facility on the Department of Pediatrics Web site: pediatrics.duke.edu.

Duke Children's Launches New Performance & Quality Improvement Program



In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in performance and quality improvement programs in hospitals across the U.S. This interest has been driven by patient advocacy groups, hospitals, and third party payors. In August, the Department of Pediatrics and Duke Children's Hospital launched a new Performance and Quality Improvement Program (PQIP) that is intended to create a safer environment for patient care, to improve patient outcomes, and to streamline operations in the inpatient and outpatient settings. The initiative is being led by an oversight committee that includes senior faculty members and leaders from nursing services and hospital administration and is chaired by Thomas R. Kinney, MD, Associate Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. PQIP has four primary working groups, including the Patient Safety Group, the Communications Group, the Clinical Outcomes Group, and the Operations Improvement Group. Progress in the area of communications has been evident as a result of efforts by Alyssa Stephany, MD and Heather McLean, MD, who have reviewed and revised the fax communication process with referring providers. Drs. Stephany and McLean recently presented their results at the fall meeting of the North Carolina Pediatric Society.

NIH Stimulus Grants Go Live

The Department of Pediatrics was recently notified that nine faculty received a total of \$4,675,960 in new grants through the NIH Stimulus Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These awards will facilitate new directions in research related to children's health at Duke. Recipients include the following:

Rebecca Buckley, MD, Principal Investigator.

Title: "Mechanisms of Allogeneic Stem Cell Education in SCID." Project period: 7/22/09–6/30/11.

Joseph W. St. Geme, MD, Principal Investigator.
Title: "Biology of the HMW1 and HMW2 Adhesins of *H. influenzae*." Project period: 7/17/09–6/30/11.

Dwight Koeberl, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator.
Title: "Mechanisms for Immune Tolerance in Pompe Disease." Project period: 8/12/09–7/31/11.

A. Wesley Burks, MD, Principal Investigator.

Title: "Prevention and Treatment of Cashew Allergy via Pepsinized Allergens." Project period: 8/1/09–7/31/11.

Margaret L. Kirby, PhD, Principal Investigator.

Title: "Mechanisms for Stem Cell Differentiation into Cardiac Myocytes." Project period: 7/15/09–6/30/11.

Daniel K. Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH, Principal Investigator.
Title: "North Carolina Collaborative PPRU Network." Project period: 1/1/08–12/31/09.

Ravi Jhaveri, MD, Principal Investigator. Title: "The Pathogenesis of Steatosis in Hepatitis C Genotype 3 Infection." Project period: 9/1/09–8/31/10.

M. Louise Markert, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator.
Title: "Thymic Transplantation in Complete DiGeorge Syndrome." Project period: 10/1/09–9/30/10.

Jennifer Li, MD, Principal Investigator.
Title: "Comparative Effectiveness of Medications Used in Congenital Heart Surgery." Project period: 9/30/09–8/31/10.

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

pediatrics.duke.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

The School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend 2009

October 15–18, 2009
McGovern-Davison
Children's Health Center

Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 15–18 and will include breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni on Saturday, October 17, at 8:00am in the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center. We hope you'll join us.

RSVP to Diane Crayton at:
919–681–3260 or
diane.crayton@duke.edu.

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.

Please send your donation to the Deborah Kredich Pediatric Education Fund to:

Deborah Kredich
Pediatric Education Fund
DUMC 2975
Durham, NC 27710