

Duke University Department of Pediatrics

Your Pediatrics Alumni Community

Duke Pediatrics Alumni News is published twice a year by the Duke Department of Pediatrics Alumni Organization



Spring 2010

Alumni

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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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.

Greetings from the Duke University Department of Pediatrics. During the period since the alumni newsletter last fall, we have continued to pursue excellence at all levels of our mission, namely patient care, medical education, research, and advocacy. Our success is a reflection of the impressive talent that spans the department, including faculty, trainees, and staff. In addition, we benefit from strong partnerships with a variety of other programs at Duke.

The vibrant and collegial nature of the department is apparent on a regular basis and was underscored recently by the annual Neonatal-Perinatal Research Institute Retreat, which featured a keynote presentation by Charles Lee, PhD, from Harvard Medical School, and by our annual Department of Pediatrics Research Retreat, which featured a keynote presentation by Dan Rittschof, PhD, Lee Snowdon Professor of Ecology in the Nicholas School of the Environment. Later this spring, we will hold our yearly Pediatric Education Day.

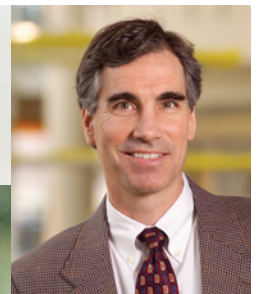
Despite the difficult funding environment, a number of our faculty have received new independent investigator awards from the National Institutes of Health, other federal agencies, and a variety of foundations. In addition, several of our faculty have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to medicine with honorary awards and election to national academic societies.

With the goal of keeping you connected with friends and colleagues, I invite you to join us at the Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception, scheduled for the evening of May 1 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver during the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia (see "Upcoming Events" in this newsletter for more details).

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

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD

Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Duke Medicine



Pediatrics Faculty Elected to the APS and SPR

Rasheed Gbadegesin, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Nephrology; **Yong-hui Jiang, MD, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Medical Genetics and Assistant Professor in Neurobiology; **William Malcolm, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology; and **Sara Pasquali, MD**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Cardiology,

were recently elected to the Society for Pediatric Research, reflecting their creativity and productivity in research addressing child and adolescent health and disease and their potential for ongoing research contributions in pediatrics.

Mohamad Mikati, MD, Wilbert C. Davison Professor of Pediatrics, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, and Professor in Neurobiology, and **Coleen Cunningham, MD**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Chief of the Division of Pediatric

Infectious Diseases, and Associate Professor of Pathology, were recently elected to the American Pediatric Society in recognition of their accomplishments as pediatric academicians who have well-established credentials as teachers, investigators, and scholars and whose professional contributions have advanced the cause of pediatrics.

These six individuals will be inducted at the Pediatric Academic Societies' annual meeting, May 1-4 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Benjamin Elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation

Daniel K. Benjamin Jr., MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Quantitative Sciences in the Department of Pediatrics, has been elected to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). Dr. Benjamin is an internationally recognized leader



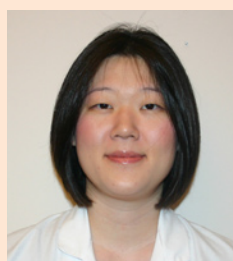
in the area of neonatal infections, with particular emphasis on neonatal candidiasis and other nosocomial infections, and on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of antimicrobials in neonates. He is responsible for the first pivotal multi-center studies on the epidemiology, early diagnosis, treatment, and outcome of neonatal candidiasis. He has recently used his scientific expertise to improve neonatal and pediatric drug development in North America and Europe via activity at the Food and Drug Administration and collaboration with the European Medicines Agency.

Division of Pediatric Endocrinology Receives 2010 American Diabetes Association's Provider of the Year Award

The Duke Division of Pediatric Endocrinology was selected to receive the 2010 American Diabetes Association Provider of the Year Award. The award is given to ADA Recognized Education Programs that exceed the national standards for providing patient care through excellence in caring for individuals with diabetes. The division was honored at the ADA's seventh annual gala and awards program on January 23 at the Washington Duke Inn.

Chung Receives Golden Apple Award

Aimee Chung, MD, Co-Chief Resident of the Duke Pediatric Residency Program, received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Student-Faculty Show, presented during Medical Families Weekend on February 27 in Page Auditorium. Each year, School of Medicine students, residents,



and faculty honor the peers and mentors who have most significantly influenced their learning experience during the year. Dr. Chung was recognized for her sincere enthusiasm, exemplary dedication to patient care, and teaching excellence.

Armstrong Selected as the 2010 Dr. Nell C. Jackson Award Honoree

The National Association for Girls and Women in Sport has selected **Brenda E. Armstrong, MD**,



Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Cardiology and Director of Admissions for the School of Medicine, as the 2010 Dr. Nell C. Jackson Award Honoree. This award was established to recognize African American women who have demonstrated outstanding potential in scholarship, coaching, administration, and leadership through distinguished service to girls' and women's sports.

Dr. Armstrong has worked for more than 25 years with the Durham Striders, which is widely regarded as the premiere

youth development track and field program in the country. "Working with the Strider program has defined what being a pediatrician means to me beyond the medicine that I am trained to deliver," she said.

Dr. Armstrong was recognized at the 125th Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in Indianapolis on March 19.

Kurtzberg Receives 2009 Angel Award

Joanne Kurtzberg, MD, Chief of the Duke Division of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank, was awarded the 2009 Kristjan Ragnarsson Angel Award. The prestigious Angel



Awards are named after the world's leading experts in dealing with brain injury and are given to the most accomplished members of the pediatric acquired brain injury community in recognition of their dedication and contributions in advancing the field.

Dr. Kurtzberg is an internationally renowned expert in umbilical cord blood transplantation. She pioneered the use of unrelated umbilical cord blood transplants for children with resistant cancers and rare metabolic diseases, and she personally performed the first unrelated cord blood transplant in the 1980s. She has also been an active advocate of public umbilical cord blood banking.

Dr. Kurtzberg was honored at the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation Angel Awards Reception on November 17 in New York City.

16th Annual Radiothon Exceeds the Magic \$1M Mark

At the conclusion of the 16th Annual Radiothon for Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center on February 11, **Joseph St. Geme III, MD**, Chair of the Duke Department of Pediatrics and



Chief Medical Officer of Duke Children's Hospital, and **Bill Jordan** and **Lynda Loveland** of MIX 101.5 WRAL-FM, announced a three-day fundraising total of \$1,019,376. MIX 101.5 listeners, sponsors, patient families, and hundreds of volunteers came together to make magic happen again for Duke Children's.

The three-day Radiothon for Duke Children's broadcasts live from the lobby of the McGovern-Davison Children's Health Center and raises more money per capita than any other Children's Miracle Network Radiothon in the United States or Canada.

Over the past 15 years, the Radiothon has raised nearly \$11 million for the children and families cared for at Duke Children's Hospital.

New Book Examines Etiology, Pathogenesis, and Treatment of Pediatric Obesity

Michael S. Freemark, MD, Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, will celebrate the publication of a new book entitled *Pediatric Obesity: Etiology, Pathogenesis, and Treatment* (Humana Press) in May. Dr. Freemark served as editor of the 400-page book, which focuses on childhood obesity and its many co-morbidities.

Despite a wealth of investigation, there is considerable controversy regarding the etiology of childhood obesity and the optimal approaches to prevention and treatment. The book addresses this

controversy with a range of features that makes it a unique resource for all health care providers concerned with the evaluation and care of children with nutritional and metabolic disease, and with the societal implications of the obesity epidemic.

Duke Research Leads to 'Extraordinary Measures' Film

When the film *Extraordinary Measures* premiered on January 22, it told the story of one man's quest to obtain treatment for his children who suffer from Pompe disease.

The real story began 20 years ago in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke when pediatric geneticist **Y.T. Chen, MD, PhD**, began work on the first and only lifesaving treatment for Pompe disease. Based on the research at Duke and the collaborations with investigators around the world, in 2006 the FDA approved the use of Myozyme, recombinant human acid alpha-glucosidase, the enzyme that is mutated in Pompe disease.



"Myozyme is to Pompe disease as insulin is to diabetes," explained **Priya Kishnani, MD**, Chief of the Division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics and the world's leading expert on Pompe disease. "It does the job of the missing or malfunctioning enzyme." Dr. Kishnani and others in the Division of Medical Genetics continue to pursue research aimed at enhancing the longevity and quality of life for patients with Pompe disease.

Footloose Fundraising

Duke University students filed into the Intramural Building near Cameron Indoor Stadium on March 27 for the third annual Dance Marathon to benefit Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center. Students volunteered as individuals or relay teams and were challenged to raise money and stay on their feet for 12 hours while dancing, participating in games and activities, and interacting with children and families from the hospital.

Proceeds from the Duke Dance Marathon have facilitated cutting-edge clinical care and a number of special touches that ensure a child-friendly environment at Duke Children's. The enthusiasm, passion, and dedication of the Duke students is inspiring for all the faculty and staff who work at Duke Children's.

NEW INITIATIVES

New NIH Awards

The following new and competitively renewed National Institutes of Health awards were recently received by faculty in the Department of Pediatrics:

Nancie MacIver, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator. Title: "Leptin as a regulator of T-cell metabolism and function." Project period: 4/2010–3/2015

Laura Schanberg, MD, Principal Investigator. Title: "CARRA: Accelerating towards an evidence-based culture in pediatric rheumatology." Project period: 9/2009–8/2011

Patrick Seed, MD, PhD, Principal Investigator. Title: "Role of PAI-X in the virulence of E. coli." Project period: 4/2010–3/2012

Judy Voynow, MD, Principal Investigator. Title: "NQO1 linking oxidant stress to inflammation in airway epithelial cells." Project period: 1/2010–11/2014

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

EVENTS

2010 Pediatric Research Retreat

The Department of Pediatrics Research Retreat was held on March 20 in the Schiciano Auditorium and Atrium of the Fitzpatrick Center on the university campus. This annual event offers the opportunity for students, residents, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research assistants, research associates, and faculty members to showcase research from across the Department of Pediatrics and to engage in active discussions about science. The retreat featured 10 oral presentations and more than 50 posters.

Dan Rittschof, PhD, Lee Snowdon Professor of Ecology in the Nicholas School of the Environment, presented the keynote address focusing on marine glues and the role of enzymes, pheromones, and silicones.

2010 George Brumley Jr. Memorial Lecture

Charles Lee, PhD, Director of Cytogenetics for the Harvard Cancer Center and Associate Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, visited Duke on March 4 to present the 2010 George Brumley Jr. Memorial Lecture in the Searle Center. In addition, he gave a presentation as the keynote speaker at the Neonatal-Perinatal Research Institute Retreat on March 5 at the Washington Duke Inn.

Fourth Annual Pediatric Education Day

The fourth annual Pediatric Education Day is scheduled for May 18 and will feature guest speaker Julia A. McMillan, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. McMillan is a renowned educator, who has been an active member of the American Board of Pediatrics, the Federation of Pediatric Organizations, and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Review Committee for Pediatrics.

The day's schedule of activities will include Grand Rounds as well as a series of workshops for residents, fellows, and faculty.

pediatrics.duke.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception

Saturday, May 1
9:00–11:00 PM

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
Tweedsmuir Room
900 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada

This reception is scheduled in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Annual Meeting on May 1–4 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

We hope you'll join us.

**Please RSVP to Diane Crayton at:
919-681-3260
diane.crayton@duke.edu**

EDUCATION FUND

Deborah Kredich Pediatric Education Fund

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

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

Deborah Kredich
Pediatric Education Fund
DUMC 2975
Durham, NC 27710