

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



Alumni

Spring 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

IN THIS ISSUE:

Honors and Recognition
Faculty Achievements

New Initiatives
Grants

Noteworthy
Pediatrics in the News

Upcoming Events
Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception

Education Fund
Deborah Kredich
Pediatric Education Fund

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. Despite the financial challenges associated with the sluggish economy and the flat National Institutes of Health budget, the Department of Pediatrics continues to thrive and make important strides in the areas of patient care, medical education, and research.

As an indication of our progress, we recently completed a highly successful Intern Match, attracting 16 new pediatrics interns and six new medicine-pediatrics interns from top medical schools across the country who will add impressive diversity and talent to Duke Pediatrics. During the past few months, we also learned that two new T32 training grants will be funded by the NIH, including one in pediatric infectious diseases and the other in clinical pharmacology. The addition of these grants will bring the total number of T32 grants in the Department to ten and will effectively expand our ability to train future pediatric academicians, which is currently an important national priority. Activities in our Office of Pediatric Education are increasingly focused on simulation as a strategy to meet the educational needs of our students, residents, and fellows, and we are partnering with the School of Medicine Simulation Laboratory and other clinical departments to maximize the impact of this effort.

From a research perspective, the Brumley Neonatal-Perinatal Research Institute, the Chen Pediatric Genetics and Genomics Research Center, the Pediatric Neurocognitive Outcomes Research Program, the Pediatric Site-Based Research Unit, and the Duke Clinical Research Institute remain important resources, facilitating renewal of our participation in the NIH-funded Neonatal Research Network and establishment of the Pediatric Trials Network to carry out testing of common drugs and devices in children.

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 Saturday, April 30, at the Hotel Hyatt Regency Denver during the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Denver, Colorado.

I hope you enjoy reading about the latest accomplishments of Duke Pediatrics, and I look forward to sharing more news with you over the course of the year.

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Duke Medicine





Kurtzberg Receives 2011 Health Care Hero Award

Joanne Kurtzberg, MD, Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Director of the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank, was one of 22 doctors, nurses, volunteers, and administrators to receive a *Triangle Business Journal* Health Care Hero Award for 2011. The prestigious Health Care Hero Awards are given to individuals and organizations that put innovation and compassion to work to improve the human condition.

Dr. Kurtzberg is an internationally renowned expert in umbilical cord blood transplantation. In collaboration with her colleagues in the Division of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, she has pioneered the use of unrelated umbilical cord blood transplants for children with resistant

cancers and rare metabolic diseases. She has also been an active advocate of public umbilical cord blood banking and was instrumental in the passage of a federal bill establishing a national umbilical cord blood program and providing federal funding to collect and store cord blood for life-saving blood cell transplants.

Dr. Kurtzberg was honored for her extraordinary achievements at the Brier Creek Country Club in Raleigh on March 24. ■

McGann Named Glenn and Muriel Kiser Professor of Pediatrics

Kathleen McGann, MD, Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Vice Chair of Education, has been named the Glenn and Muriel Kiser Professor of Pediatrics, recognizing her broad leadership role in medical education in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. McGann is nationally recognized as an innovative educator and an outstanding



clinician in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. In addition, she is actively engaged in multi-center research that focuses on pediatric HIV infection.

“In her position as Vice Chair of Education, Dr. McGann provides oversight for our education programs for medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty and plays a key role in spearheading a variety of initiatives to maintain our education programs at the cutting edge,” says Joseph St. Geme, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. “The Glenn and Muriel Kiser professorship represents a true distinction, and she is highly deserving of this recognition.” ■

St. Geme Elected to Institute of Medicine

Joseph W. St. Geme, III, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine, was one of 65 new members elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on October 11, 2010, at their 40th annual meeting.

“Election to the IOM is one of the highest honors in the fields of health care and biomedical science,” says Nancy Andrews, MD, PhD, Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine. “Joe has always demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, and his commitment to advancing children’s health is being recognized with this prestigious membership.”

Dr. St. Geme is internationally recognized for his research on the molecular and cellular basis of disease due to *Haemophilus influenzae* and other important pediatric bacterial pathogens. At Duke, he oversees clinical activities, training programs, and research at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center, one of the largest health care providers for infants, children, and adolescents in the Southeast. He is a James B. Duke Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the Duke University School of Medicine.

New IOM members are elected by current active members through a highly selective process that honors individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health. ■

NEW INITIATIVES

New Federal Awards The following new federal major independent investigator awards were recently received by faculty in the Department of Pediatrics:

Oren Becher, MD, Principal Investigator. Department of Defense.

TITLE: “Genetically Engineered Mouse Model of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma as a Preclinical Tool.”

PROJECT PERIOD: 10/2011–9/2014.

Vandana Shashi, MD, Principal Investigator. NIH.

TITLE: “Development of a Novel Cognitive Remediation Program for 22q11 Deletion Syndrome.”

PROJECT PERIOD: 4/2011–3/2014.

Judy Voynow, MD, Principal Investigator. NIH.

TITLE: “Gastrin-Releasing Peptide and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia.”

PROJECT PERIOD: 07/01/2011–6/30/2016.

New Training Grants The following new NIH T32 training grants were recently received by faculty in the Department of Pediatrics:

Colleen Cunningham, MD. T32HD060558.

TITLE: “Institutional Training Grant in Pediatric Infectious Disease.”

PROJECT PERIOD: 04/2011–03/2016.

Danny Benjamin, MD, PhD; Kim Brouwer, PharmD, PhD; and Paul Watkins, MD. T32GM086330.

TITLE: “UNC-Duke Collaborative Clinical Pharmacology Postdoctoral Training Program.”

PROJECT PERIOD: 07/2011–06/2016.



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

2010 George Brumley Jr. Memorial Lecture

Jeffrey I. Gordon, MD, Dr. Robert J. Glaser Distinguished University Professor at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and Director of the Washington University Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology, visited Duke on March 24 to present the 2011 George Brumley Jr. Memorial Lecture in the Searle Center. His lecture was entitled “The Human Gut Microbiome: Dining in with Trillions of Fascinating Friends.” In addition, he gave a presentation entitled “A Translational Medicine Pipeline for Studying the Role of the Human Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease” as the keynote speaker at the Neonatal-Perinatal Research Retreat on March 25 at the Washington Duke Inn.

Benjamin to Lead National Initiative

Daniel K. Benjamin Jr., MD, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics at Duke and Associate Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute, will lead the Pediatric Trials Network (PTN), a groundbreaking initiative to reduce the risks and dangers faced every day by millions of children who are prescribed medications that lack definitive data about pediatric dosing, efficacy, and safety. The PTN will be supported by a \$95 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.



The PTN represents a collaboration between the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Best Pharma-

ceuticals for Children Act Program, the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and the Duke Department of Pediatrics and will involve the participation of preeminent pediatric medicine experts and medical centers across the country.

“It’s staggering to consider that fewer than 10 percent of licensed therapeutics have been adequately studied in children. Much of pediatric drug use is based on an educated guess by a pediatrician using studies conducted in adults, who often absorb drugs differently or experience different side effects than children,” Benjamin says.

The PTN was conceived to create a scientific, technical, and administrative

infrastructure for conducting pediatric clinical trials in an environment that provides optimal safety for the research participants and sophisticated expertise to determine the balance of benefits and risks of drug and device treatment of medical illnesses in children. Over the next seven

years, the network will conduct 16 trials spanning a variety of therapeutic areas, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, infectious diseases, gastroenterology, respiratory diseases, neonatology, and medical devices. The drugs and devices have yet to be determined. ■

17th Annual Radiothon Exceeds the Magic \$1 Million Mark

At the conclusion of the 17th Annual Radiothon for Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center on February 17, Bill Jordan and Lynda Loveland of WRAL FM MIX 101.5 announced a three-day record-breaking fundraising total of \$1,224,053. MIX 101.5 listeners, Duke Children’s sponsors,



patient families, and hundreds of volunteers came together to make magic happen again for Duke Children’s.

The Radiothon for Duke Children’s broadcasts live from the lobby of the Duke 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 17 years, the Radiothon has raised over \$14 million to advance patient care and research at Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center.

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

Duke Pediatrics Opens New Sleep Lab

A new two-bed sleep lab was opened on February 4, 2011, at Duke Children’s Consultative Services of Raleigh, located at Duke Medicine Plaza in Raleigh. Sleep studies are currently offered on Friday and Saturday nights and will eventually be available seven nights per week. The new sleep lab is supported by regular pediatric sleep clinics and general pulmonary clinics at Duke Medicine Plaza. This new lab in Raleigh complements the sleep lab at Duke Children’s Health Center, where sleep evaluations are performed seven nights per week.

“Sleep disorders in children are very common and are under-recognized,” said Richard Kravitz, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division

of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine and Medical Director of the Pediatric Sleep Lab. “Unfortunately, there aren’t a lot of places in which children are able to be evaluated for these problems.” ■



Armstrong Receives Childhood Obesity Grant from GlaxoSmithKline

Sarah Armstrong, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Duke Healthy Lifestyles Program, recently received a \$368,000 research grant from GlaxoSmithKline to evaluate the efficacy and sustainability of childhood obesity treatment in an outpatient setting. It is anticipated that this research will lead to the dissemination of a model of care to hospitals and primary care practices throughout the nation.



“The awarding of this research funding underscores Dr. Armstrong’s achievements in developing and implementing a distinctive program that

strives to educate and encourage healthy behavior through incentive and active participation,” says Joseph St. Geme, MD, Chair of the Duke Department of Pediatrics.

The Healthy Lifestyles Program currently offers a six-month, comprehensive medical, dietary, exercise, and behavioral modification treatment program at clinics in Durham and Raleigh. In addition to providing individualized treatment, the Healthy Lifestyles Program offers a free exercise group for teens and their adult workout partners (called Active Teens) and peer support groups for teens and their parents focusing on stress reduction and emotion regulation. ■

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

NOTEWORTHY**2011 Pediatric Research Retreat**

The Department of Pediatrics Research Retreat was held on the afternoon of March 18 and the morning of March 19 and involved over 100 participants. This annual event offers the opportunity for students, post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research assistants, research associates, research scientists, and faculty members in the Department of Pediatrics to engage in collaborative discussions and to showcase current research. The retreat featured nine oral presentations and more than 60 posters.

Brian Hare, PhD, Director of the Canine Cognition Center and Hominoid Psychology Research Group in the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, presented the keynote address focusing on comparative cognitive development in humans, bonobos, and chimpanzees.

Peggy Kirby, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Cell Biology, was recognized during the retreat for her lifetime achievements in characterizing the molecular and cellular determinants of a variety of congenital heart lesions and received the Michael M. Frank Research Prize. ■

NICHD Cooperative Multicenter Neonatal Research Network Award is Renewed

Ronald N. Goldberg, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of the Division of Neonatology, received a \$1-million research grant renewal from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) to participate under a cooperative agreement in an ongoing multicenter clinical program

designed to perform interventional and observational clinical studies in newborn infants, particularly low birth weight infants.

This multicenter program includes 16 institutions and is referred to as the Neonatal Research Network. Over the years this program has resulted in important progress in the areas of perinatal ischemia, chronic lung disease, and necrotizing enterocolitis, among others. The objective of the program is to facilitate the advancement of neonatal care via rigorous patient evaluation using common protocols. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS**Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception**

Saturday, April 30, 2011
9:00 – 11:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Denver
Capitol 1 Room
650 15th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

This reception is scheduled in conjunction with the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) annual meeting, April 30 – May 3, 2011, at the Colorado Convention Center. We hope you'll join us.

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

EDUCATION FUND**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