



Alumni

FALL 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

IN THIS ISSUE:

Honors and Recognition

Faculty Awards

Faculty

Announcements

Noteworthy

Pediatrics in the News

Upcoming Events

Medical Alumni Weekend

Duke Pediatrics Alumni Grand Rounds

Make a Gift

Deborah Kredich Pediatric Education Fund

Pediatrics Excellence Fund

Greetings! Since our last newsletter, Duke Pediatrics has experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment reflecting all levels of our mission, namely patient care, medical education, research and advocacy. Autumn is always a dynamic time for the department—new students, trainees, and faculty members are getting settled in, and new programs and initiatives are beginning to take shape.

This summer we welcomed 19 new faculty members spanning eleven of our divisions to the department. In addition, 17 new interns in Pediatrics, six new interns in Medicine-Pediatrics, and 20 new subspecialty fellows joined us from top institutions across the country, all with superb records of accomplishment. During this fall's North Carolina Pediatric Society meeting, our residents presented 15 posters, and four received top honors.

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 federal agencies, an especially impressive accomplishment given the challenging funding environment.

We are also proud and honored that Duke Children's was once again ranked among the nation's finest in the 2016-17 U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals rankings. This year, Duke Children's ranked among the top 50 nationally in 10 areas of specialty. I firmly believe this distinction reflects the high quality care we deliver and our outstanding commitment to our patients and their families.

We are looking forward to more chances to reconnect at events this fall, including the Duke Medical Alumni Weekend that is scheduled for November 10-13. This weekend will include a breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni and friends on Saturday, November 12 at 8:00am at the Washington Duke Inn, Ambassador Ballroom — an event 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.

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.

Ann M. Reed, MD

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



Lachiewicz Honored by National Fragile X Foundation

Ave Maria Lachiewicz, MD, associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neurology and assistant professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences, has received the National Fragile X Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award for her



dedication and continued outstanding service to the fragile X community. The award was presented during the 15th annual International Fragile X Conference in San Antonio in July.

Fragile X syndrome is an inherited genetic condition that involves changes in the X chromosome and specifically the FMR1 gene. It is the leading cause of inherited intellectual disability and can be passed on in a family by individuals who have no signs of this genetic condition.

Dr. Lachiewicz's research interests focus on studying the behaviors and phenotype of children and adults with fragile X syndrome. She is a member of the National Fragile X Foundation's Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee and is currently involved with a multicenter registry and data collection project that is being funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Baker Named Director of the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine

Jeffrey Baker, MD, PhD, has been named director of the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine, which brings together scholars and students who use it as a home for research, study and service in ethics, medical humanities, and the history of medicine.

Dr. Baker is a professor of pediatrics and history. He has served as director of the Trent Center's Program in the History of Medicine since 2006. Dr. Baker's historical scholarship has included books on the history of neonatology and American pediatrics, as well as articles on vaccine controversies and autism. He has taught history of medicine at every level of the School of Medicine curriculum, as well as to



undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Baker has practiced for over 25 years as a general pediatrician in the Division of Primary Care, with a focus on children with autism and special needs.

Dr. Baker was preceded by **Ross McKinney, Jr., MD**, who left Duke in early September to serve as chief scientific officer at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Dr. McKinney has been a member of the Duke faculty since 1985 and served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases from 1994 to 2003. He was appointed vice dean for research at Duke University School of Medicine in 2002 and became Director of the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine in 2007.

Perrin Named Chief of the Division of Primary Care

Eliana M. Perrin, MD, MPH, was recently

named the new chief of the Division of Primary Care in the Department of Pediatrics, beginning February 1, 2017. In addition to leading the division, Dr. Perrin will develop and direct an interdisciplinary obesity prevention and treatment research center, based in the department but spanning across the university.

Dr. Perrin comes to Duke from the UNC School of Medicine, where she is a tenured professor of pediatrics and research director in the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. She is also associate vice chancellor for research and director of the Office of Research Development.

Dr. Perrin is a nationally-recognized leader in patient-oriented preventive care and pediatric obesity and is particularly interested in BMI screening and the relationship of obesity to health outcomes. She has been the principal investigator on numerous grants in child health, including a multi-site randomized controlled obesity intervention trial funded by two NIH/NICHD R01s.

Dr. Perrin currently directs a multi-disciplinary laboratory called the Scientific Collaborative for Overweight and Obesity Prevention and Treatment (SCOOPT) and is a board-certified pediatrician, providing primary care and supervising residents at



North Carolina Children's Hospital and outpatient clinics.

Dennis Clements, MD, who has served as chief of the Division of Primary Care since 1994, will be stepping down as chief to dedicate more effort to his role as senior advisor at the Duke Global Health Institute.

Steinbach Named Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases

William J. Steinbach, MD, professor of pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and professor of molecular genetics and microbiology, was recently named chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics, beginning August 1, 2016.



Dr. Steinbach's laboratory investigates the molecular pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of invasive aspergillosis caused by the deadly fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*. He is also the co-founder and continuing co-chairman of the *International Advances Against Aspergillosis* scientific conferences. His clinical research complements his scientific work, and he is the founder and director of the 53-site International Pediatric Fungal Network, currently funded by over \$7M in NIH funds to lead treatment and diagnostic clinical studies in pediatric invasive fungal disease. He also serves as the training program director for the Duke Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program and co-directs the Tri-Institutional Molecular Mycology and Pathogenesis Training Program (MMPTP), each funded by NIH training grants.

"Bill is an innovative scientist, committed mentor, and leader of a worldwide effort to treat pediatric fungal infections, and we are fortunate that he will be serving in this new role in the department," says **Ann Reed, MD**, William Cleland Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Coleen Cunningham, MD, has served as chief the Division of Infectious Diseases since 2003 and elected to step down from this position to dedicate more effort to her continuing roles as vice chair for research and chief of the Division of Global Health.

ECMO Program Recognized as Center of Excellence (Platinum Level)

Duke University Hospital has received a platinum level award for Excellence in Life Support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO).



The award, presented Sept. 17 in San Diego, recognized excellence in Duke's Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program, which is used to treat patients with life-threatening heart and/or lung problems. The platinum level Center of Excellence is the highest level of distinction recognized by ELSO, and Duke is one of five programs worldwide to be recognized at the platinum level.

ECMO is used as a last resort support system for the lungs or heart, supporting patients for days or even weeks while doctors treat their illness. Duke's ECMO program supports neonates through adults across all specialties, keeping patients who are experiencing respiratory or cardiac failure in a stable condition.

"ECMO does not intrinsically fix anything," said **Ira Cheifetz, MD**, chief of the division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine and director of the ECMO program at Duke Children's. "Most of the time it is a bridge to recovery. This life-saving technology allows time for a patient's lungs to recover."

Duke University Hospital's ECMO program meets or exceeds all of the survival to discharge percentage benchmarks established by the ELSO international registry.

"This award is an affirmation of the hard work that the ECMO team and key support staff has done, and continues to do daily, to achieve our goal of providing the best possible care to improve outcomes for our patients and their families," says **Ann M. Reed, MD**, William Cleland Professor of Pediatrics and chair of the Department of Pediatrics. "Please join me in congratulating the Duke Children's ECMO team on this remarkable achievement."

DCRI to Coordinate National Study of Childhood Health

The Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) has been named the coordinating center as part of a \$157-million federal initiative involved in studying how environmental factors affect childhood health. **Brian Smith, MD**, professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology and faculty member of the DCRI will serve as principal investigator for the project.

The grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will fund the organizational framework of the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) initiative. The DCRI has been awarded \$14.7 million in fiscal year 2016. This award is a seven-year grant with a total value of \$119 million.



As the coordinating center for the research initiative, the DCRI will provide support to the ECHO study's steering committee, lead site training for participating research teams, develop common rules and standard procedures, monitor

Faculty Announcements

Welcome to the newest members of the Department of Pediatrics!

- | | |
|---|--|
| Ernestina Maria Belt, MD
Hospital and Emergency Medicine | Patsy Park, MD
Cardiology |
| Eileen Tsai Chambers, MD
Nephrology | Kristin Schroeder, MD
Hematology-Oncology |
| Kathryn Crampton, MD
Hospital and Emergency Medicine | Christopher Severyn, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation |
| Rachel Greenberg, MD
Neonatology | Sophie Shaikh, MD
Primary Care |
| Sarah Holsopple, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation | Zebulon Spector, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation |
| Kimberly Jackson, MD
Critical Care Medicine | Emily Sterrett, MD
Hospital and Emergency Medicine |
| Matthew Kelly, MD
Infectious Diseases | Klaus Werner, MD, PhD
Neurology |
| Lawrence Ku, MD
Neonatology | Noelle Younge, MD
Neonatology |
| Jason Lang, MD, MPH
Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine | |
| Alisha Mavis, MD
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition | Tracey Liljestrom, MD
Co-Chief Resident |
| Victoria Parente, MD
Hospital and Emergency Medicine | Carolyn Sawyer, MD
Co-Chief Resident |

For additional details about our new faculty, please visit: pediatrics.duke.edu.

quality controls, and establish and maintain websites and other communications tools.

The ECHO coordinating center at DCRI will also include an Opportunities and Infrastructure Fund to support pilot projects, encourage development of junior investigators, and introduce new tools and technologies in the context of the ECHO program.

"We are certainly honored to be selected as the coordinating center for this important research initiative at the NIH," said Smith. "This builds on a number of our strengths in clinical research, notably in pediatric clinical research, where we have developed specific expertise."

The awards will build the infrastructure and capacity for the ECHO program to support multiple longitudinal studies that extend and expand existing studies of mothers and their children by examining factors that influence health outcomes from birth through adolescence.



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NOTEWORTHY

New NIH-funded Center to Study Inefficiency in Clinical Trials

Researchers at the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI) and Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) have received a major federal grant to study how multisite clinical trials of new drugs and therapies in children and adults can be conducted more rapidly and efficiently.

The seven-year, \$26.5 million grant for a joint Trial Innovation Center (TIC) is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The center will be a key component of the Trial Innovation Network, which is the newest part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program.



Daniel Benjamin MD, MPH, PhD, Kiser-Arena Professor of Pediatrics and faculty associate director of the DCRI, and **Gordon Bernard, MD**, director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR), are the grant's principal investigators.

"The DCRI and Vanderbilt partnership is a perfect fit for the TIC," said Benjamin. "The academic research organization model at the DCRI and Vanderbilt's informatics and central institutional review board model are poised to immediately contribute to the NIH's vision of high-functioning networks for clinical research."

The Trial Innovation Network will include other TICs, as well as Recruitment Innovation Centers (RICs), which will study ways to engage more volunteers in clinical research. Both programs will leverage the expertise and resources of the NCATS CTSA Program.

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 hosting of a special 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend 2016

November 10-13, 2016

Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for November 10-13 and will include breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni on Saturday, November 12 at 8:00am at the Washington Duke Inn, Ambassador Duke Ballroom. We hope you'll join us. Please RSVP to Diane Crayton at: 919-681-3260 or diane.crayton@duke.edu.

Pediatric Alumni Grand Rounds 2016

The Department of Pediatrics will host the Pediatric Alumni Grand Rounds on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, prior to the annual School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend. This year's speaker, **J. Erin Staples, MD, PhD**, is a medical epidemiologist with the Arboviral Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). Dr. Staples has both a medical degree and a doctoral degree in microbiology and immunology and is a physician in the field of pediatric infectious diseases.