Welcome to the first issue of the Duke University Department of Pediatrics Alumni Organization newsletter. We have established this organization to increase communication with our alumni, to cultivate an appreciation for the history of the Department of Pediatrics among our current trainees, and to strengthen the sense of community among the large group of people who are members of the Duke Pediatrics family. The goal of this newsletter is to keep our alumni up-to-date with departmental announcements, faculty and alumni achievements, facilities changes, and upcoming events.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and staying connected with Duke Pediatrics. Please visit the Department’s website at pediatrics.duke.edu for updates on our latest news and developments.

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Duke Medicine
Drucker Receives 2007 Palumbo Faculty Achievement Award

Robert P. Drucker, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and a member of the Division of Infectious Diseases, was awarded the 2007 Leonard Palumbo Jr., MD, Faculty Achievement Award.

The Palumbo Award was established in 1999 and recognizes a member of the School of Medicine faculty who displays dedication to compassionate patient care and excellence in the teaching and mentoring of young physicians. It was created in memory of Palumbo through an endowment gift by his brother, E. Arthur Palumbo (Trinity College ’49).

Drucker has served as the pediatric clerkship director for approximately 14 years. In this role, he is well-known for his direct interactions with students and for his responsiveness to their suggestions for enhancing the clerkship.

For the past seven years, Drucker has also served as Advisory Dean for Students and Associate Dean for Medical Education. In this role, he advises a quarter of the students in every medical school class from their first day in medical school through graduation. In addition, he plays a role in advising many others via direct interaction with the other associate deans.

Millington Receives 2006 Guthrie Award

David Millington, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and a member of the Division of Medical Genetics, received the 2006 Guthrie Award. The award honors an individual for achievement in the field of neonatal screening. In the 1980s, Millington pioneered the use of tandem mass spectrometry to detect specific substances in blood samples, eliminating the need for chromatographic separation of substances and allowing efficient diagnosis of inherited metabolic diseases with very small quantities of blood.

New Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics as of January 2007

Michael Armstrong, MD, PhD
Hematology/Oncology
Adrienne Bagley, MD
Neurology
William Gallentine, DO
Neurology
Rasheda Gbadegesin, MD
Hospital & Emergency Medicine
Joseph Jackson, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics
Chay Kun, MD, PhD
Neurology/Cell Biology/Brain Tumor Center
Catherine Lavau, PhD
Hematology/Oncology
Peter Margolis, MD, PhD
Primary Care Pediatrics
Cassandra Morun, MD
Hematology/Oncology
Shermirin Saini, MD
Blood & Marrow Transplant
Laura Saldizar, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics
May Stovick, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics
Brian Smith, MD
Neurology
Edward Smith, MD
Neurology
Kimberly Talkoff, MD
Hospital & Emergency Medicine
Brian Tinch, MD
Blood & Marrow Transplant
Linton Yee, MD
Hospital & Emergency Medicine

Student Health

Effective July 1, the Department of Pediatrics assumed responsibility for administrative oversight of the Duke Student Health Program, reflecting the strong relationship between the Student Health Clinic and our residency programs in pediatrics and medicine-pediatrics, particularly relating to the experiences in adolescent medicine organized by Terry Bravender, MD, Director of Adolescent Medicine. Leadership for the Student Health Program includes William Purdy, MD, as Executive Director and Dev Sangvai, MD, as Medical Director. In the coming years, we anticipate increasing interaction with Student Health, especially in the areas of mental health, eating disorders, and health promotion. This new relationship represents a terrific opportunity for the Department of Pediatrics.

Alice and YT Chen Pediatric Genetics and Genomics Research Center

In April 2006, Myozyme (recombinant acid alpha-glucoisidase) was approved by the FDA for use in patients with Pompe disease, representing the culmination of efforts by YT Chen, MD, PhD and colleagues to develop a cure for this deadly condition.

With the goal of reproducing the bench-to-bedside approach that generated Myozyme and now offers hope for patients with Pompe disease, the Chens made a gift to the Department of Pediatrics to establish the Alice and YT Chen Pediatric Genetics and Genomics Research Center. This new initiative will focus on single gene disorders amenable to enzyme replacement therapy or gene therapy. Priya Kishnani, MD, Chief of the Division of Medical Genetics and the lead investigator in the international clinical trials of Myozyme, will serve as Medical Director of the new center.

Katz Receives 2007 Pollin Prize

“As a teacher I still love to hear about the influence I’ve had on [students]. You teach because you love to nurture.” — Samuel L. Katz, MD

Samuel Katz, MD, Wilbur Connell Davison Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center, has been awarded the 2007 Pollin Prize for his lifetime contributions to pediatric infectious disease research and vaccine development.

The Pollin Prize was established in 2002 to honor one person annually for his or her contributions to pediatric research and to recognize outstanding achievement in biomedical and public health research that improves the health of children. The award is administered through New York-Presbyterian Hospital and is the largest international award of its kind monetarily.

Katz was selected for his role in the development of the measles vaccine and for his work to eradicate the disease in resource-poor nations abroad. Since its discovery, the vaccine has been credited with saving millions of lives. In 2005 the deaths attributed to measles had fallen to less than 500,000 from up to eight million in the late 1970s.

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**McKinney Named New Director of Trent Center**

After five years as Dean for Research with the Duke University School of Medicine, Ross McKinney, MD, has accepted the role of Director of the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and History of Medicine.

In his new role, McKinney will report to the Dean of the Medical School and will continue to provide administrative leadership and oversight to the Conflict of Interest Committee. In addition, as one of the chief architects of the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award received by Duke, McKinney will continue to be a major contributor to the Duke Translational Medicine Institute (DTMI) initiative.

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**New Pediatric Emergency Department**

In an effort to provide enhanced care for children in Durham and the surrounding area, a new, 18-bed pediatric emergency department has been constructed. This facility is contiguous with a new adult emergency department (ED) that opened in part on April 2 and is expected to be fully operational this fall.

Patients and families who come in through the ED main entrance will be greeted by the sight of a 20-foot-high collage of scenes from North Carolina, from the mountains through the Piedmont and on down to the coast.

The pediatric area emergency department is designed to make working on children easier for both the patients and the doctors. In addition to cheerful seaside decorations, each room has equipment designed specifically for children. The facility includes two critical care rooms and isolation rooms for children with infectious diseases.

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**The School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend 2007**

Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 11–14 and will include breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni on Saturday, October 13 at 8:00 am in the McGovern-Davison Children’s Health Center. We hope you’ll join us. Please RSVP to Diane Crayton at: 919-681-3260 or diane.crayton@duke.edu.

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**Future issues of this newsletter will be sent electronically.**

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