Welcome to the fall 2011 issue of the Duke University Department of Pediatrics Alumni Organization newsletter. Duke Pediatrics continues to make important advances in the areas of patient care, medical education, and research, resulting in increasing national recognition of our faculty, staff, and programs.

This summer, 16 new interns in Pediatrics, six new interns in Medicine-Pediatrics, and 20 new subspecialty fellows joined us from top institutions across the country, adding impressive diversity and talent to Duke Pediatrics. In ongoing activity in our Office of Pediatric Education, we are increasing our focus on simulation as a strategy to more effectively meet the educational needs of our students, residents, and fellows. Among the top priorities for the simulation program is patient hand-offs, particularly given the heightened importance of the hand-off process with the implementation of the new ACGME duty hour guidelines.

With the start of the new academic year, we launched two new National Institutes of Health T32 training grants, one in Infectious Diseases and the other in Clinical Pharmacology. The addition of these training grants expands our ability to train future pediatric investigators and brings the total number of T32 grants in the Department to ten.

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 Department of Pediatrics Division of Quantitative Sciences remain important resources, facilitating clinical and translational research and fostering collaboration with colleagues across Duke University.

I want to highlight that Duke Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 20–23, 2011 and will include a breakfast for Duke Pediatrics Alumni and friends on Saturday 22 at 8:00 a.m. in the lobby of the McGovern-Davison Children’s Health Center, an event I hope you can attend.

I am grateful for your relationship with Duke Pediatrics, and I look forward to sharing more news as the year continues to evolve.

Joseph W. St. Geme III, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Duke Medicine
Duke Professor Receives Top Scientific Honor
Rebecca H. Buckley, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Immunology at the Duke University School of Medicine, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for her life-saving research in pediatric immunological diseases. NAS membership is one of the highest honors given to a scientist or engineer in the United States.

“Being elected to the National Academy of Sciences is truly a great honor,” says Buckley. “I would like to thank those who nominated me, my Duke mentors, colleagues and trainees, and also my family who have made it possible for me to enjoy a lifelong career in immunology.”

Buckley joined the faculty at Duke in 1965 and served as Chief of the Division of Allergy and Immunology from 1974 to 2003. Her research has focused on the fundamental causes and optimal treatments of genetically determined immunodeficiency diseases. She pioneered the use of stem cell transplantation as a successful treatment for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or “bubble boy disease.”

Buckley joins 71 scientists and engineers who were inducted into the NAS in April. She brings the number of Duke faculty elected to the NAS to 22.

Burks Receives Faculty Mentor Award
The Duke Department of Pediatrics has honored Wesley Burks, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Allergy and Immunology, with the Faculty Mentoring Award. This award recognizes mentoring excellence by a department faculty member who exemplifies a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of trainees and/or junior faculty. Burks is a world leader in the field of food allergy and has a broad-based translational research program that focuses on understanding the mechanism of food allergy and developing immunotherapy for peanut allergy. Burks’ reputation as an accessible mentor who fosters a positive environment of openness and creativity was evident in the numerous letters of recommendation supporting his nomination.

“Wesley is a successful scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of food allergy,” said one nominator.

“However, he also has the special quality of really caring about junior faculty, being inclusive in his interactions with students and faculty, and providing sound advice and guidance.”

Burks was recognized and presented with a plaque during the final Grand Rounds of the 2010–11 academic year.

Frush Receives 2011 Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
Karen Frush, BSN, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Professor of Nursing, and Chief Patient Safety Officer, Duke University Health System, received the Leonard B. Tow Humanism in Medicine Award in recognition of her compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of health care.

“Karen is a model physician and leader who is among the most caring and empathetic people I know, extending her talents both clinically and in support of her peers,” says Joseph St. Geme, III, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Frush has served as Medical Director of Pediatric Emergency Services and Chief Medical Officer of Duke Children’s Services in the past. She completed the National Patient Safety Leadership Fellowship and was named Chief Patient Safety Officer of the Duke University Health System in November 2004. She has led numerous patient safety initiatives at the local, state, and national levels, and has served on committees and boards to improve the patient experience and enhance the delivery of safe, high quality care.

Frush was honored at the annual Spring Faculty Meeting, held at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on May 4, 2011.

Kishnani Named Chen Family Professor of Pediatrics
Priya Kishnani, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Medical Genetics, has been named the Chen Family Professor of Pediatrics. Kishnani specializes in clinical and biochemical genetics and has spent much of her career focused on the development of treatments for glycogen storage diseases.

“Priya is an accomplished clinical investigator who has played a pivotal role in the development of enzyme replacement therapy for Pompe Disease,” says Joseph St. Geme, III, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. “She is also internationally recognized for her pioneering work on the treatment of cognitive dysfunction in individuals with Down syndrome and for her efforts to develop treatments for a variety of other genetic diseases. The Chen Family professorship represents a true distinction, and she is highly deserving of this recognition.”

New Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics since July 2011
Alaina Brown, MD
Neonatology
Ann Buchanan, MD
Infectious Diseases
Rebecca Chancey, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
Richard Chung, MD
Primary Care Pediatrics/Adolescent Medicine
Deanna Green, MD
Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine
David Ming, MD
Hospital Medicine
Dorothee Newbern, MD
Endocrinology
Sallie Permar, MD, PhD
Infectious Diseases
Rebecca Smith, MD
Critical Care Medicine
Priti Tewari, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
Julie Wood, MD
Blood and Marrow Transplantation
David Johnson, MD
Co-Chief Resident
Kanecia Zimmerman, MD
Co-Chief Resident
**Seed Receives Hartwell Foundation Biomedical Research Award**

Patrick Seed, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Assistant Professor of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, has received a 2011 Hartwell Foundation Individual Biomedical Research Award. These three-year awards are intended to inspire innovation and achievement that will ultimately improve child health.

Seed was named a Hartwell Investigator for his project entitled “Interactions between the Environment and Microbiome in Extremely Preterm Infants.” The study will involve the first high resolution examination of sources and mechanisms of microbial transmission and colonization among very premature infants.

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**Yee Honored as Master Clinician/Teacher**

Linton Yee, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Hospital and Emergency Medicine, received a Duke University School of Medicine Master Clinician/Teacher award, which honors individuals with superlative accomplishment and service in the areas of clinical care and teaching.

Yee graduated from the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine in 1988. He went on to complete his residency in pediatrics at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and his fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Since coming to Duke in 2007, Yee has pursued his interests in medical student and resident education, sports injuries, head trauma, and cardiac emergencies. He is the clinical course director for the Body and Disease course for first-year medical students and serves as Director of Medical Student Education in the Pediatric Emergency Department.

Yee was honored at the annual Spring Faculty Meeting, held at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens on May 4, 2011.

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**Pediatrics Faculty Elected to the APS/SPR**

Among faculty in the Duke Department of Pediatrics, four were recently elected to the Society for Pediatric Research and two were elected to the American Pediatric Society. The Society for Pediatric Research honors young pediatricians who have demonstrated creativity and productivity in research addressing child and adolescent health and disease. The American Pediatric Society recognizes academicians who have well-established credentials as teachers, investigators, and scholars and whose professional contributions have advanced the cause of pediatrics.

The new members of the Society for Pediatric Research include: Anthony Moody, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases; Cassandra Moran, DO, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Hematology/Oncology; Patrick Seed, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases; and David Turner, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Critical Care Medicine.

The new members of the American Pediatric Society include: Alex R. Kemper, MD, MPH, MS, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Primary Care, Associate Professor in Community and Family Medicine, and Director of Pediatric Health Services Research; and Daniel Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Associate Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute.

These individuals were inducted at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Annual Meeting, April 30–May 3, 2011 in Denver, Colorado.

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**Pediatrics Announces New Division of Global Health**

The Duke Department of Pediatrics has a strong commitment to global health and has numerous faculty working on children’s health initiatives internationally. In an effort to coordinate and effectively build upon these efforts, the Department of Pediatrics has created the Division of Global Health. The primary mission of the Division is to improve the health of children in disadvantaged populations worldwide through research, education, and service.

“The Division represents a true partnership with our collaborators at Duke and around the world and consists of a multi-disciplinary team of faculty with notable experience working in resource-poor communities and mentoring and teaching future leaders in pediatrics,” says Coleen Cunningham, MD, newly appointed Chief of the Division of Global Health and Chief of the Pediatric Division of Infectious Diseases.

A number of education and mentorship activities in global health already exist in the Department of Pediatrics, and the new Division will build on these activities. The Division will work closely with the Duke Global Health Institute and the Duke Hubert-Yeargen Center for Global Health and with other universities and global institutions. An important aim is to deliver tailored postgraduate training experiences that integrate specialty-specific research opportunities, didactic training, and close mentorship to develop careers in global health.

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**New Federal Awards**

The following new major federal awards were recently received by faculty in the Department of Pediatrics:

**David Brass, PhD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. Title: “Environmental Epigenetics and Innate Immunity.” Project period: 07/01/2011 – 06/30/2013.


**Coleen Cunningham, MD**, Principal Investigator. HRSA. Title: “Coordinated Comprehensive Medical Service of HIV-Infected Children, Youth and Women.” Project period: 08/01/2011 – 07/31/2016.

Pediatric Alumni Grand Rounds 2011

The Department of Pediatrics will host the Pediatric Alumni Grand Rounds on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, immediately preceding the annual School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend. This year’s speaker is David Lyden, MD, PhD, Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Stavros S. Niarchos Associate Professor in Pediatric Cardiology, and Associate Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

The results are based on an extensive analysis using a methodology that combines data from a survey of physicians, a direct survey of children’s hospitals (mostly freestanding hospitals and large pediatric services amounting to “hospitals within a hospital”), and other resources.

The data reflect hospital quality in three key aspects of hospital care: clinical outcomes such as surgical death rates, reputation among pediatric specialists, and hospital characteristics such as infection control programs and nursing support.

“I firmly believe that this distinction reflects the breadth and depth of the talent and expertise among our faculty and clinical staff,” says Joseph St. Geme III, MD, Chair of the Duke Department of Pediatrics and Chief Medical Officer of Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center.

Duke Children’s Recognized for Top Pediatric Care

Duke Children’s Hospital & Health Center is proud to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report in its 2011–12 Best Children’s Hospitals edition. Duke was ranked among the top 40 nationally in all 10 measured areas of pediatric specialty care (Cancer, Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Diabetes & Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, and Urology), a unique distinction among pediatric centers in North Carolina.

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The School of Medicine Medical Alumni Weekend 2011

October 20–23, 2011

Medical Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 20–23 and will include breakfast for Duke Pediatrics alumni on Saturday, October 22 at 8:00 a.m. 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.

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.

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

Deborah Kredich
Pediatric Education Fund
DUMC 2975
Durham, NC 27710