It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that this newsletter will be my last as Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Duke, reflecting the fact that I have accepted the position of Chairman of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia effective July 1, 2013. As some of you may be aware, I was a resident and chief resident at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and have always had feelings of fondness and great respect for the institution where I learned to be a pediatrician. At the same time, I have had an extremely satisfying experience at Duke over the past eight years, working with our faculty and staff to provide outstanding care to children and to ensure an environment that is rich for learning pediatrics and for performing high impact pediatric research. I feel very fortunate to have formed meaningful relationships with so many talented physicians, nurses, scientists, and other staff in the Department of Pediatrics, which clearly stands out as one of the top departments of pediatrics in the country and which sets standards nationally and internationally in the areas of clinical care, medical education, and biomedical research. As I consider my future, I will draw on the many lessons that I have learned from my colleagues and my experiences at Duke.

In preparation for my departure, Nancy Andrews, MD, Dean of the Duke School of Medicine, has named Dr. Ira Cheifetz as the Interim Chairman of Pediatrics. As some of you know, Ira has been a member of the Duke Department of Pediatrics for 24 years, beginning with his internship in 1989. He is an accomplished clinician, clinical investigator, teacher, and leader and has served as Chief of the Division of Critical Care Medicine since 2001. Given the depth and breadth of talent among our faculty, trainees, and staff, I am confident that Duke Pediatrics will continue on an upward trajectory in the coming months and years.

In the interest of saying thank you for your relationship with Duke Pediatrics and your warmth toward me, I invite you to attend the Duke Pediatrics Alumni Reception on Saturday, May 4 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel during the upcoming Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Washington, DC.
Kinney to Receive Duke Medical Alumni Distinguished Faculty Award

Thomas R. Kinney, MD, the Wilbur C. Davison Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, has been selected to receive the 2013 Duke Medical Alumni Distinguished Faculty Award. This annual award recognizes a Duke University School of Medicine faculty member for exceptional career-long achievements in the theory and practice of medicine and for leadership contributions at the community or national level.

In the 43 years since Kinney earned his medical degree at Duke, he has made outstanding academic contributions in the area of pediatric hematology.

Among his many scholarly contributions, Kinney played a critical role in the implementation of the statewide newborn screening program for sickle cell disease in North Carolina and other southern states. He was co-chair of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research Panel that developed the national guidelines for newborn screening for sickle cell disease. He also led the early effort to establish the benefit of hydroxyurea in the treatment of children with sickle cell disease. As a member of the faculty at Duke, he has served as director of the pediatric residency program, co-director of the medicine-pediatric residency program, and Associate Dean in the School of Medicine. More recently, he has directed the Children’s Clinical Research Unit that oversees all clinical trials in the Department of Pediatrics.

Recognizing the general needs of children with sickle cell disease as well as other children with chronic diseases, Kinney forged a relationship with the Pines of Carolina Girl Scouts and organized Camp Kaleidoscope, one of the first summer camps in the country for children with a wide variety of disabling conditions and a camp that has been in place for 34 years.

Kinney received his BA degree from Duke in 1966 and his MD degree from the Duke University School of Medicine in 1970. After completing an internship in internal medicine at Duke in 1971, he completed a pediatric residency and a hematology-oncology fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and then returned to Duke to join the faculty in 1978.

He attributes much of his success to “the inspiration I have received from my patients and their families and the support of my colleagues.”

FDA Approves DUCORD Product from Duke for Stem Cell Transplants

Duke University School of Medicine has received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market DUCORD for transplantation.

DUCORD is a stem cell product derived from umbilical cord blood and is approved for use in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for patients with disorders affecting the hematopoietic system that are inherited or acquired or result from myeloablative treatment.

The approval marks a significant achievement for Duke University and the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank (CCBB), a not-for-profit, public cord blood bank at Duke, which has pioneered cord blood transplants for children and adults with cancer, blood disorders, and inherited diseases. Only two other cord blood banks in the United States have received FDA approval to market similar stem cell products.

“This is a major milestone in the history of the university and a significant step forward in the field of regenerative medicine at Duke and elsewhere,” said Nancy Andrews, MD, Dean of the Duke University School of Medicine.

Hematopoietic stem cells are derived from cord blood and produced in the bone marrow and are able to renew themselves and differentiate into specialized cells. When transplanted in people with lymphoma, leukemia, immune disorders, and genetic conditions, these robust cells can establish a life-saving new blood and immune system.

Blood from the umbilical cords of babies is rich in hematopoietic stem cells. Joanne Kurtzberg, MD, Medical Director and Founder of the CCBB, was a trailblazer in the use of umbilical cord blood for transplants. She has remained at the forefront of expanding the use of cord blood for patients with life-threatening diseases.

“The licensure of DUCORD is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of the entire CCBB staff over the past decade,” said Kurtzberg. “Licensure enables the CCBB to continue to provide cord blood units to patients in need of a donor for unrelated transplantation. We feel that going through the licensure process has strengthened and improved our operations. In addition, it will allow the CCBB to provide the highest quality cord blood units as source material for new clinical applications in cellular therapies in the future.”

Pediatrics Faculty Elected to the APS/SPR

Dwight Koehler, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Medical Genetics and Associate Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, was recently elected to the American Pediatric Society (APS), and Nancie MacIver, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Endocrinology, will be inducted at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Annual Meeting, May 4-7 in Washington, DC.

According to Joseph St. Geme, MD, James B. Duke Professor of Pediatrics and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, “Election to the APS and the SPR represents a true distinction, and Dwight and Nancie are highly deserving of this recognition.”

The APS was founded in 1888 and is the oldest honorary society for academic pediatricians. Members of the APS are recognized for leadership, teaching, research, and contributions at a national and international level. The SPR honors young pediatricians who have demonstrated creativity and productivity in research addressing child and adolescent health and disease.
Crayton Transitions to Retirement after 43 years

After 43 years of service to the Duke Department of Pediatrics, Diane Crayton is transitioning to retirement.

Crayton began working in the Department in 1969 and has served in a variety of positions, including secretary to the department chair, administrative secretary, administrative manager, and most recently, financial management analyst.

“I’ve done a little bit of everything!” Crayton said. “I was fortunate to have great opportunities—I can’t imagine working at any other place.”

Samuel L. Katz, MD hired Crayton originally to be his personal secretary during his tenure as chair of the department.

“She was and is a very sensitive person,” Katz said. “She is dependable, independent, imaginative, polite, kind, and dedicated, and all of these qualities are important in effectively managing our departmental programs.”

In addition to her administrative responsibilities, Crayton has always been willing to take on additional tasks when needed and has worked with generations of medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty, who often came to her if they needed someone to talk to.

“She’s been a surrogate mother to many, lending a kind ear to problems both professional and personal,” says Thomas Kinney, MD, Associate Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, who has worked alongside Crayton for 35 years. “She’s always been a champion and advocate for her Department of Pediatrics family.”

During her time in the Chair’s office, Crayton has experienced many changes, including moving from a cramped office located in the middle of the pediatric clinic in the sub-basement of Duke South to the new McGovern-Davison Children’s Health Center, where she had a hand in selecting the artwork that decorates the walls.

“I have had the pleasure of working closely with Diane for the last eight years here at Duke,” says Joseph St. Geme, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. “She has been a truly outstanding staff member and a pillar in the Duke community,” he adds. “We will certainly miss her many contributions to the Department of Pediatrics.”

After some well-deserved time off in April, Crayton will return to the Department of Pediatrics one day a week in a special projects role. Thank you, Diane, for your wonderful service and dedication to Duke Pediatrics!

Duke Children’s and WakeMed Team Up on Pediatric Care

Duke Children’s Hospital and WakeMed Health & Hospitals are partnering in a collaboration that will significantly enhance the scope and quality of pediatric healthcare in Wake County and beyond.

The newly formed Duke Children’s and WakeMed Children’s Specialty Services Center will bring nationally recognized pediatric subspecialist faculty at Duke to the WakeMed campus in Raleigh. These subspecialists will complement WakeMed’s pediatric platform and ancillary support services and will bring additional quality care and service access to pediatric patients and their families across the region.

“This is truly a win-win-win situation in that it will result in the very best care for children in Wake County and beyond, provide opportunities for our subspecialty faculty to share their expertise with a greater population of patients, and bring to WakeMed important areas of expertise and nationally recognized subspecialists,” said Victor Dzau, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Duke University Health System and Chancellor of Health Affairs at Duke University.

The new ambulatory center will open in mid-July and will involve relocation of the physician group that is currently based at the Duke Children’s Subspecialty Clinic on the campus of Duke Raleigh Hospital. Beyond serving as a resource for expedient outpatient care, the Duke Children’s subspecialists will be available for inpatient consults at WakeMed.

“Duke Children’s is pleased and excited to participate in this project, which will ultimately improve patient care,” said Joseph St. Geme, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Duke and Chief Medical Officer of Duke Children’s Hospital. “I have had many discussions with the physicians and clinical staff at WakeMed and have been impressed with the quality of their program and their commitment to safe and effective care.”

New Federal Awards

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

**Alex Kemper, MD, MPH, MS**, Principal Investigator. HRSA. Title: “Genetics Condition Review Team.” Project period: 09/2012-09/2017.

**Dwight Koeberl, MD, PhD**, Principal Investigator. FDA. Title: “Phase I Study of Clenbuterol in Pompe Disease.” Project period: 07/2013-06/2015. (pending approval)

**Dwight Koeberl, MD, PhD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. Title: “Clinical Trial Planning in Pompe Disease.” Project Period: 04/2013-03/2014.

**Sallie Permar, MD, PhD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. Title: “Maternal Immune Protection Against Congenital CMV Infection.” Project Period: 09/2012-07/2017.

**Sallie Permar, MD, PhD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. Title: “A Novel HIV-1-Neutralizing Protein Isolated from Breast Milk.” Project Period: 02/2013-01/2015.


**Laura Schanberg, MD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. Title: “Enhancing CARRA Research: Integration and Dissemination of Clinical Data.” Project Period: 09/2012-08/2014.

**William Steinbach, MD**, Principal Investigator. NIH. “Multi-center Studies to Improve Diagnosis and Treatment of Pediatric Candidiasis.” Project period: 07/2013-04/18.

**Chip Walter, MD**, Principal Investigator. CDC. Title: “Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment.” Project Period: 09/2012-09/2022.
Department Successfully Renews Child Health Research Career Development Award (CHRCDA) (K12)

The Department of Pediatrics has successfully renewed its Child Health Research Career Development Award (CHRCDA) entitled “Center for Molecular and Cellular Studies of Pediatric Disease” for another five years. This program is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health and is intended to foster the maturation of pediatric junior faculty into independent physician-scientists who are skilled in cutting-edge methods of laboratory research and who pursue long-term academic careers investigating important issues related to childhood diseases. The program at Duke emphasizes opportunities in four broadly defined areas of research excellence, namely Developmental Biology, Cell Biology and Cell Signaling, Infection and Immunity, and Genetics, Genomics, and Metabolomics and benefits from mentors across Duke University. Laboratory research experiences are complemented by opportunities for didactic courses and career development workshops. Joseph W. St. Geme, III, MD serves as the principal investigator and Michael S. Freemark, MD serves as the training director for the program, which is one of only 20 such programs across the country.

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

2013 Pediatric Research Retreat

The Department of Pediatrics Research Retreat will be held on the afternoon of Friday, May 17 and the morning of Saturday, May 18. This annual event offers the opportunity for students, postdoctoral 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 will feature a series of oral presentations and more than 60 posters. Priscilla Wald, PhD, Professor of English and Women’s Studies, will present the keynote address. Wald teaches and works on U.S. literature and culture, particularly literature of the late-18th to mid-20th centuries. Her current work focuses on the intersections among the law, literature, science and medicine. Her recent book-length study, Contagious: Cultures, Carriers, and the Outbreak Narrative, considers the intersection of medicine and myth in the idea of contagion and the evolution of the contemporary stories we tell about the global health problem of “emerging infections.”