

SEEDLINGS

News from the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO COMER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
and the INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR PEDIATRIC SCIENCES

Summer 2005

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Chair's Corner Welcome Home to Comer

Impressive. That's the word that comes to mind when I consider the opening of Comer Children's Hospital and its first few months of operations.

Move day:

- a move that was scheduled to take 7 hours 2 minutes was so well-planned and executed it took a mere 4 hours and 14 minutes;
- contingency plans that were so complete, we handled a critical admission to the ER as smoothly as the routine admissions and discharges on that day;
- faculty and staff who were so enthusiastic we had over 100 volunteers (donating over 400 service hours) to assist patients and families during the move;
- a marketing and public relations effort that was so effective, our message was picked up in over 38 outlets countrywide (even in Puerto Rico!)



Go Live:

- within 48 hours of opening, a heart transplant was successfully performed in Comer's operating suite;
- since opening, the average daily census in Comer is 139 patients – up from 124 in the Wyler facility;
- patients and families love the new amenities – “room service” and on-demand entertainment are a big hit;
- advanced technology is improving workflow – new wireless phones call nurses when a patient uses the call light or the monitor registers a critical value

This extraordinary new hospital, the passion and expertise that drove the planning and continues to guide its operations, are emblematic of what can happen when we come together in the service of children and families. In fact, this inaugural edition of our newsletter highlights accomplishments of many of our faculty and staff on all fronts of our tripartite missions of service, teaching and research. In addition to celebrating these successes, I'd like to take advantage of this first edition of the “Chair's Corner” to share our vision for the future of pediatrics at the University of Chicago.

Our efforts will be patient-centered, research-driven, teaching-focused and business-oriented. They will be actualized through the integrated efforts of the department, hospital, and Institute for Molecular Pediatric Science. The core mission of the University of Chicago motivates our goals: to offer the greatest good to the largest number. Our missions of service, teaching and research are equally important. These missions can only be achieved if we are financially sound and thus able to maintain and build programs. To this end, clinical program investment will be targeted towards those areas with the greatest potential for distinctive service. Initial programs include:

- The **Diagnostic Referral Center for Children (DRC)** has been established with a seed grant from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. The center will allow us to partner with physicians throughout the state through direct and telemedical consultation to provide evaluation, diagnosis and management advice for children with complex medical problems. Call 866-434-7363 to arrange for a consultation.



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- The **University of Chicago Child Health Practice (UCCHP)** opened in September. The practice will provide on-site care to the children of University and Hospital employees.

Digital Grand Rounds will commence this fall and can be accessed via our web site at <http://pediatrics.uchicago.edu>.

Other priorities include:

- Implementing a **revised compensation plan** for faculty using a system designed to advance faculty careers and departmental aims;
- Ongoing Recruitments:
 - » After many years of outstanding service, Dr. Kwang-sun Lee has announced his intention to step down in 2007. A search committee is being formed to select a **Section Chief of Neonatology** who will build upon the extraordinary success of this program.
 - » The newly established **Herbert T. Abelson Professorship** has been committed to the identification of an international leader in **bone marrow transplantation and stem cell research**.
 - » The newly established **Bunning Family Professorship** has been committed to the identification of an international leader in **food allergy research** to build a program to advance diagnosis, therapy and prevention.
 - » A search committee is now interviewing candidates to select a **new Section Chief of Endocrinology** who will build upon the strength of this program.
 - » Appointment of Michael D. Schrieber, MD, as **Vice-Chair for Clinical Programs** to further enhance the department's ability to build and maintain clinical service and research programs of the highest caliber.
- Addressing the current space needs of our faculty as we design, build and move to the **New Research Building in 2007**;
- Development of our **mentorship, residency and fellowship** programs;
- Launch of a new departmental web site, including the capacity for online broadcasting and archiving of digital grand rounds;
- Recruitment for the **Institute of Molecular Pediatric Sciences**
- Building our capacity to raise the monies to support our vision through increased efforts with the **Development** staff and clear articulation of priorities.

The energy and commitment of our faculty and staff to achieving the missions is extraordinary. I am very proud of what we have already accomplished, and believe we will advance child health not only in Chicago but worldwide. Our team will make the challenges ahead opportunities to shine as we establish ourselves among the top ten departments of pediatrics in the U.S.

Sincerely,



Steve A.N. Goldstein



About Seedlings

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Seedlings is a publication for the faculty and staff of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago and The University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, as well as physicians serving children and families in the Chicagoland area. Its purpose is to share news and information about the Department and Hospital, its faculty and staff.

We want this newsletter to be a useful source of information for you. We would appreciate your ideas for its continuous improvement. Please share your ideas with Melissa Bacon via email: mbacon@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu, or by phone at 773-834-2718.

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Development Update

The Division of the Biological Sciences (BSD) and the University of Chicago Hospitals (UCH) are major partners in *The Chicago Initiative*, the University's campaign to raise \$2 billion—the largest ever launched by the University and among the most ambitious efforts underway at several universities or academic medical centers nationwide. Within the Initiative, \$550 million is the goal for *Spark Discovery, Illuminate Life*—the combined BSD/UCH effort.

With more than 40,000 gifts in hand, the *Spark Discovery, Illuminate Life* campaign has raised \$459 million with over half of the contributions from individuals and families. These gifts have supported capital projects, research in almost every facet of human disease, helped to recruit world-renowned scientific leaders to the University, and trained future scientists and physicians by funding graduate and medical education.

Notable major gifts to support the Department of Pediatrics and the Comer Children's Hospital in FY05 include:

- Friends and trustees endowed \$2 million professorship in honor of Herbert Abelson, MD
- Chicagoan David Bunning committed \$2.2 million to endow a professorship in allergy and immunology, allowing us to bring a leader in food allergy to Chicago
- Ralph and Marian Falk Trust renewed its support of the Center for Advanced Study and Care of Children with Epilepsy with a \$1.3 million pledge
- A Hospitals Trustee named the Institute for Molecular Pediatric Science in his will for \$500,000
- Stryker Endoscopy pledged \$250,000 toward a study led by Donald Liu, MD, and Michael Nishimura, PhD, to develop novel gene therapy based treatments using minimally invasive endoscopic approaches for targeting immunotherapy to individual organs and lesions

Grateful families, donor friends, community leaders and staff hosted more than 15 fundraising events including the 2nd Annual Comer Kids' Classic and the 1st Annual American Girl Place brunch. These efforts generated more than \$260,000 for pediatric research and patient care programs.

For more information about philanthropy and fund raising for pediatrics, visit <http://sparkdiscovery.uchicago.edu> or contact Sarah Berg (formerly Ummel), Director for Development, at (773) 834-2496 or at sberg@mcdmail.uchicago.edu

In the News . . .

Our faculty have been very busy spreading the word in local and national media about their good work. In addition to the impressive amount of media coverage of the Comer Hospital opening, here are some recent highlights.

Our faculty continue to build on the strong tradition of scholarly work which is the trademark of the University of Chicago – making contributions to medicine and science which allow us to do the greatest good for the greatest number. Here are some highlights:

Led by **Dr. Michael Schreiber**, a team of our faculty recently published exciting results in the July 5th issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Team members **Drs. Jeremy Marks** and **Kurt Hecox**, along with **Dezheng Huo, PhD**, from the Department of Health Studies, and former neonatology fellow and principal author **Karen Mestan, MD**, reported their findings in the article “Neurodevelopmental outcomes of premature infants treated with inhaled nitric oxide”. The study found that premature infants treated with inhaled nitric oxide have improved neurodevelopmental outcomes at two years of age.

Stefano Guandalini, MD, chief of pediatric gastroenterology, was the sole editor of a well-received new GI textbook, *Textbook of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition*, which was favorably reviewed in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The reviewer states “Two events in 2004 helped to underscore the rapid growth and increasingly international flavor of the young field of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. The first was the convening of the Second World Congress of



Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition in Paris, which was attended by more than 3,100 delegates representing 107 countries. The second was the publication of this textbook, whose stated goal is the creation of a “global flavor,” one that will reflect “the different realities that gastroenterological and nutritional problems take on in different parts of the world.” It is worth noting that it was our own Dr. Guandalini who was the convener of the Second World Congress mentioned by the reviewer!



Robert Daum, MD, chief of pediatric infectious diseases, is the world leader in the study of Community-Acquired Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). He has recently been featured on many national news broadcasts discussing this difficult problem. The problem of methicillin resistance has posed a special concern. The term MRSA has been used to describe *S. aureus* organisms that are resistant to all members of the penicillin and cephalosporin family, the so-called β -lactam classes of antibiotics. Thus infection with MRSA organisms leaves clinicians few options for therapy. His current research is focused on new treatment strategies for these community-onset MRSA infections as well as on understanding the scientific basis for spread from strain to strain.

Steve Goldstein, MD, PhD, was featured on WGN 720 AM's *Extension 720* radio program discussing the latest developments in medical research. He was also profiled in *Crain's Chicago Business*. His recent paper, “Sumoylation silences the plasma membrane leak K⁺ channel K2P1” was published in the April 8, 2005 issue of the journal *Cell*. Goldstein's lab found that a recently discovered biological process known as sumoylation occurs in not only a cell's



nucleus, but also near the cell's surface. The discovery that this process regulates at least one protein suggests that it may regulate others and thus is a potentially novel target for new drugs.

Discovery Health's *Super Surgery* program featured **Drs. McKay McKinnon** and **Madelyn Kahana's** high-risk surgery to remove a large tumor on a patient in Romania. This is the second time the Discovery Health Channel has featured the McKinnon and Kahana team removing such a tumor. The first was an 18-hour surgery to remove a 200-lb Neurofibromatosis tumor from patient Lori Hoogewind, who sought out Dr. McKinnon after being turned down by many other academic medical centers.



Kyran Quinlan, MD, MPH, and his colleagues received extensive national media coverage for their study of drunk driving published in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. Their study found that after a general decline in the United States in the mid-1990s, self-reported alcohol impaired driving (AID) increased substantially by the turn of the century. AID is strongly associated with binge drinking. Effective interventions to prevent

AID and binge drinking should be widely adopted.



Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, PhD, an expert in medical ethics, was quoted in a front-page *New York Times* article regarding the ethics of newborn screening. The story reported on a current debate over a federal advisory board's recommendation that all newborns be screened for 29 rare medical conditions. Those in favor of the screening argue that early detection of medical conditions can be life-saving, while those opposed

to such testing claim that babies could be needlessly treated for mild forms of illness. Opponents also argue against the advisory board's recommendation that parents be notified of test results suggesting conditions known as abnormalities, but which cannot be explained. “We don't know if they are medical conditions,” said Ross. “We don't know what to do with the information. Reporting test data for which there are no systems in place for follow-up testing and treatment is not rejecting paternalism, but it is patient abandonment.”

DCAM Clinic Operations Improvements

If you have spent some time in the specialty pediatrics clinics in the DCAM lately, you may have noticed that some things are different. That's because Kevin O'Boyle, Clinical Administrator for the Department of Pediatrics, and Jeff Coto, Clinical Director for children's ambulatory services at the University of Chicago Hospitals, are working with faculty and staff to make our clinics a great place for our patients to receive care, a great place for our staff to work, and a great place for our physicians to practice medicine.

A major change in clinic operations is the reorganization of job responsibilities for our clinic coordinators. Previously, clinic coordinators were responsible for making clinic appointments, checking in and checking out patients, and entering charges into Last Word. In the new model, our clinic coordinators' primary responsibility is to provide outstanding customer service to our patients and families as they check in and out of our clinics. Making appointments is now the responsibility of a central group of appointment coordinators, who make appointments for our patients, telephone them to remind them of upcoming appointments, and work with them to resolve any insurance issues in advance of their visit. Billing is now the responsibility of a central billing office, whose staff is responsible for entering all clinic charges, as well as checking all charge tickets against the list of patients in clinic that day, and following up regarding missing or incomplete charge tickets.

Reorganizing these functions will allow us to provide better service to our patients and families, physicians, and one another in the clinic. Delonda Bryson has joined us as the new office manager for the clinics, and Tammy Mills, the newest addition to our team, is our clinic biller. You can reach Delonda at (773) 834-0297; and Tammy at (773) 702-3385.

It's a Match!!

Our results for this year's annual "match" of graduating medical students and U.S. residency programs were outstanding! Some highlights:

- 75% of our candidates are from outside the Chicagoland area
- 30% of our incoming interns identify themselves as underrepresented minorities
- 2 incoming residents are MD/PhDs
- Candidates who considered us for their residency also considered the country's other top programs (CHOP, Stanford, Boston Children's)

The following physicians joined our existing team of outstanding residents this July!

Deborah Accetta, MD
Dana Aronson, MD
Tamika Baskerville, MD
Carey Chicorel, MD
William Ching, MD, PhD
Hey Chong, MD, PhD
Megan DeFrates, MD
Amanda Ellis, DO
Joshua Friedland-Little, MD
Patrick Hairston, MD
William Harenburg, MS, MD
Noel Mensah-Bonsu, MD
Rochelle Naylor, MD
Navin Pinto, MD
Claudia Ruiz, DO
Jennifer Schaffler, MD
Alexandra Walsh, MD

Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New York University
University of Michigan Medical School
Eastern Virginia Medical School
University of Michigan Medical School
New York University School of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine
Mayo Medical School
Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Ohio State University

Med/Peds
Salil Ginde, MD
Jennifer Jeskey-Sabuda, MD
Flavia Lega, MD
Teresa Nam, MS, MD

University of Illinois
University of Illinois
New York University
Case Western Reserve

Comer Move Recap

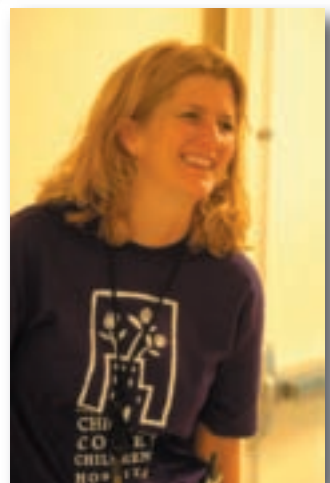
On February 19, 2005, over 100 well-trained employee volunteers (and an assortment of clowns, bubbles and other entertainment) safely moved 122 children from the Wyler building to the new University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. The move parade was a celebration, with many patient beds decorated to look like parade floats.

Although there was much joy and excitement, the move was also serious business. Among the children transported were 53 babies from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), as well as dozens from the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The day of the move, there were four emergency admissions, as well as routine discharges, which were handled seamlessly.

The move was so well-planned and executed that it was completed in only 4 hours (it was estimated to take 7). The success of the move was due to months of planning on the part of the Comer Move Team, as well as extraordinary efforts from dozens of staff members throughout the hospitals. For example:

- Nurses spent many night hours going over supply cabinets to ensure that they had everything they needed to do their jobs successfully
- Individuals in the Linen Services Department made sure that the entire hospital had linen carts prepared and readily available
- Individuals in the Clinical Engineering Department took on added responsibility in the Mitchell Hospital to allow co-workers to dedicate more time to making sure that the Comer clinical equipment was fully operational

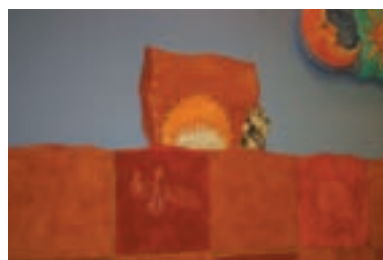
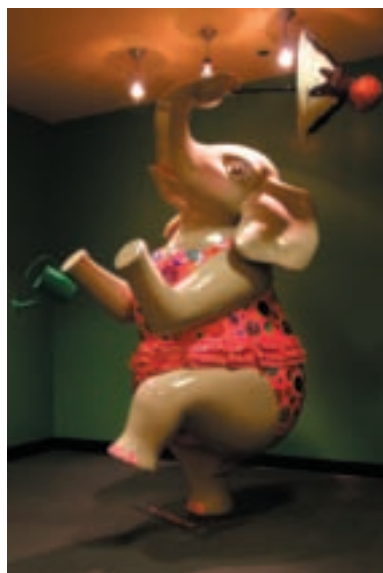
The success of this move has set a high standard for continued operations in Comer. Together, we demonstrated how careful planning, close collaboration and a focus on our patients and their families results in outcomes worthy of celebration.



We're Growing!



In FY2005, the department recruited 25 new faculty and academic non-faculty and promoted seven faculty members, including two promotions to full professor. There were 26 reappointments of faculty and academic non-faculty. Please welcome our new colleagues and congratulate those established members of our team.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

SECTION	NAME	RANK
Cardiology	Mehmet Gulecuyz	Assistant Professor
	Marc Ovadia	Clinical Associate
Critical Care	Marian Brandwijk	Clinical Associate
	Melanie Brown	Instructor
	Jennifer Liedel	Instructor
General	Heather Johnston	Clinical Associate
	Paj Lysouvakon	Instructor
	Tamara Nix	Instructor
	Neethi Panicker	Clinical Instructor
Hematology/Oncology	Josh Robinson	Clinical Instructor
	Alexandra Lichtenstein	Post-Doc Scholar
	Kenan Onel	Assistant Professor
Institute of Molecular Pediatric Sciences	Astrid Kollwe	Post-Doc Scholar
	Anthony Lewis	Post-Doc Scholar
	Zoe McCrossan	Post-Doc Scholar
	Leigh Plant	Post-Doc Scholar
	Sindhu Rajan	Post-Doc Scholar
	Heun Soh	Post-Doc Scholar
	Zoltan Takacs	RA (Assistant Professor)
	Dierk Thomas	Post-Doc Scholar
	Dan Levy	Instructor (Nephrology)
	Neonatology	Leslie Caldarelli
Kelly M. Harte		Clinical Associate
William C. Jordan		Clinical Associate
Gerd McGwire		Clinical Associate
Alison Weis		Clinical Associate
Neurology	John Hunter	RA (Assistant Professor)
	Thomas Sullivan	Clinical Associate
Pulmonary	Maria Dowell	Instructor
Rheumatology	Bart Bastwirth	Clinical Assistant Professor
	Karen Onel	Assistant Professor

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

SECTION	NAME	RANK
Developmental Pediatrics	Lawrence A. Gray	Assistant Professor
General	Icy Cade-Bell	Assistant Professor
	Helen Barrett Fromme	Assistant Professor
	John D. Lantos	Professor
Infectious Disease	Susan Boyle	RA (Associate Professor)
Neonatology	Michael D. Schreiber	Professor

Growing so fast that we missed your name or that of someone in your section? Drop us a line, so that we're sure to include the information in our next update! Please contact Melissa Bacon at x4-2718 or mbacon@peds.bsd.uchicago.edu

Featured Program

The Eating Disorders Program at the University of Chicago Hospitals

The Eating Disorders Program at The University of Chicago Hospitals provides comprehensive outpatient and limited inpatient services for the assessment, treatment and follow-up of adolescents and young adults with eating disorders. This includes:

- Adolescent anorexia and bulimia nervosa and related disorders
- Adult anorexia and bulimia nervosa and related disorders
- Binge eating disorder
- Childhood and adolescent obesity

The goals and length of outpatient treatment depend on the special needs of each patient and is therefore tailored to the requirements of each patient. In general, the treatment focuses on eating disorder symptoms (e.g., self-starvation, binge eating and purging), as well as emotional and interpersonal concerns. In addition, if the patient experiences significant anxiety, depression, or relationship problems, these conditions will also be assessed and treated at the Eating Disorders Program.

Services include:

- Diagnostic evaluations
- Individual and/or group psychotherapy
- Nutritional counseling
- Parent participation in the treatment of children and adolescents
- Medication consultations and management

Most individuals are seen for a course of outpatient treatment sessions. In general, our program follows standardized treatment protocols which have received extensive clinical and research support. Because eating disorders usually have serious medical consequences, our program will also facilitate appropriate medical management either through our Pediatric or Primary Care Departments at The University of Chicago Hospitals. Brief inpatient intervention for medical instability due to the eating disorder is provided in Comer Children's Hospital.

Adolescents are typically treated using standardized protocols which allow for parental involvement. Specific goals are set at the outset of treatment and reviewed throughout the therapy. Treatment typically addresses eating disorder issues in 20-25 sessions that are scheduled over 10-12 months.

The eating disorders program is directed by psychologist Daniel le Grange, PhD. The medical director is psychiatrist Jennifer Bremer, MD. Team members include representatives from multiple BSD departments, including Sara van Orman, MD, a med/peds faculty member and Director of the Student Care Center. If you would like detailed information about the Eating Disorders Program or to schedule an appointment, please call 773-834-5677.



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