

Interim Chair's Commentary

Dear Colleagues,

Celebrating Comer's 10th anniversary this past month was a day to honor the many leaders who, through their talents, commitment, and generosity, have made Comer the outstanding children's hospital it is today. Gary Comer's boldness as an entrepreneur and benefactor, and the vision of Herb Abelson, our former chair of pediatrics, allows us to provide comprehensive and compassionate care to kids and their families on the Southside of Chicago and beyond in a patient-centered work environment that is second to none. It also provides an outstanding platform to evaluate innovative therapies for childhood diseases and to establish standards for the healthy well-being of all children.

We have provided a sterling education and training experience to more than 500 resident trainees in the last 10 years. This achievement was possible because of the leadership of many, not least our late colleagues, Don Liu, Joel Schwab, and Jim Nachman. They not only set a high bar for rigorous scholarship, but modeled in their daily interactions with patients the level of empathy and care that distinguishes great pediatricians from good ones. The department will continue to strive for educational excellence through programs such as GME MERITS and our recent inaugural educational seed grant program that facilitates the preparation of residents and fellows for academic careers. A matching Request for Proposals for pediatric research seed funding will be announced on March 9.

Despite our many clinical achievements over the last decade, we're at a time when pediatric programs across the nation have been significantly challenged by economic pressures related to healthcare reimbursement. Our new executive administrator Carianne Johnson is partnering with section leadership, the faculty practice plan, and Comer Children's Hospital to spearhead a broad series of operational improvements that will help our physicians and staff meet these challenges and strengthen our ability to provide exemplary care for more children.

Gary Comer's legacy provides us with an opportunity to use our talents and commitment to solve the health challenges that face many children, especially in an urban environment. Our goal must be to have a vibrant environment of care, education, and discovery that ensures that every child under our care achieves his or her full potential. I am confident of the remarkable contributions we will make together to pediatric medicine in the next 10 years.

Sincerely

John



UChicago Pediatrics in the news

Each month, faculty and their work are featured in dozens of local, national and international news stories. Here's a round up of recent mentions.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1k2osiJ>

New Appointments, Re-appointments & Promotions

Karen Onel has assumed the new role Director of Pediatric Continuing Medical Education

Susan Cohn is now Co-Director, Institute for Translational Medicine/CTSA

Rachel Wolfson has been appointed Co-Director of the Pritzker Scholarship and Discovery Program

Viviana Berthoud Barrandeguy was promoted to Research Associate Professor, Hem/Onc

Michele McKee was named PEM Medical Director

March Grand Rounds

March 5: Chronic Disease: "Adolescent Reproductive Health Update" -Christiane Stahl, Clinical Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of the University of Illinois at Chicago

March 12: Endocrinology: "What We Can See Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: A New Look at T2DM in Adolescents" -Morey W. Haymond, Director, Metabolic Research Unit, Children's Nutrition Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine

March 19: Cardiology: TBA

March 26: Psychiatry: TBA

Teachers in Residents



For GME MERITS scholars' (from left) Molly Diaz, Justin Triemstra and Uchenna Ewulonu, and co-director H. Barrett Fromme the program is providing valuable insight toward innovative teaching strategies.

As a former sixth-grade teacher and coach for new graduates of the Teach for America program, second-year pediatrics resident Molly Diaz knows what it takes to engage students. But her time in the classroom didn't exactly prepare her to teach medical students. "The adult learner wants information that is directly applicable to what they need to know, and they want it presented in their own learning style," says Diaz. "I had never heard of accommodative or diverger adult-learning styles before." Read more: <http://bit.ly/1k2pATp>

Would-Be Pediatrician Finds Her Calling as Department Administrator



Carianne Johnson

As a kid, Carianne Johnson, Executive Administrator of the Department of Pediatrics, dreamt of becoming a pediatrician. But after finishing pre-med courses at the University of Notre Dame, Johnson heeded the lure of a business career, a decision, no doubt, influenced by her entrepreneurial family. Growing up in South Florida, Johnson watched her carpenter grandfather build from scratch a furniture-making business, which employed her mother, uncles, and grandmother. "I learned a lot about entrepreneurship and having a strong work ethic from my grandfather," says Johnson.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1NESCVK>

Comer Children's Hospital Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On Feb. 19 Comer staff, patients, philanthropic supporters and community partners gathered to reflect on the hospital's first pivotal decade. Receptions kicked off a yearlong 10th anniversary celebration filled with events, lectures and art exhibits showcasing Comer's role in the advancement of pediatric medicine, medical education and care for communities.



Twins Lindsay and Gabe Hartman join the Comer 10th anniversary celebration Feb. 19.

I'd Say ...

Carianne Johnson

Executive Administrator, Department of Pediatrics

What's one thing your colleagues don't know about you?

That I'm an avid Notre Dame football fan. I attend most of their home games, and I've traveled to Ireland to see them play.

Best piece of advice you've received... Always leave a place better than you found it.

Biggest pet peeve... Lack of follow-through

Your idea of a perfect day...

Taking a bike ride along the lake and having a picnic lunch

Most important trait in a leader...

Effective, two-way communication

To Be So Honored

A round up of awards, grants, publications and presentations from across the UChicago Medicine Pediatrics community.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1hCJHFW>

Save the Date

March 6: Third Annual Chicago Pediatric Foundation Bowlathon, strike out pediatric cancer, 6-8 p.m., Lucky Strike Lanes, 322 E. Illinois St., www.pcfbowlathon.org.

March 7: Irish Fest for Comer Children's Hospital, all-day benefit/silent auction, children's activities from noon-3 p.m., soda bread judging at 2 p.m., stepdancers and bagpipers, 2:30 p.m., music at 9 p.m., Charleston's Bar and Grill, 2101 Calistoga Drive, New Lenox, (815) 462-2000.

March 14: 48th Annual Irish Coffee Benefit, Irish coffee, sandwiches and desserts, silent auction, door prizes and raffle, 2-4:30 p.m., Augustana Lutheran Church, 5500 S. Woodlawn Ave., \$10, sponsored by the Comer Children's Hospital Service Committee