Welcome to the Spring Edition of Inside Pediatrics!

In this edition of Inside Pediatrics, we feature information about Dr. Drayton being awarded $1 million in funding, Pediatrics hosting the Rising Scholars Program, Aspect Go-Live, and upcoming Departmental meetings and events. We are very pleased to also highlight many faculty and staff accomplishments.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. I encourage you to send items of interest to Colleen Fraser (fraserco@umich.edu) for future publications. Thank you for your continued support of Pediatrics at Michigan. GO BLUE!

Valerie P. Opipari, MD
Ravitz Foundation Professor of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Physician-in-Chief, C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital
Michigan Medicine

Grand Rounds
Non-operative Management of Appendicitis
May 30, 2017
Samir Gadepalli, M.D., M.B.A.

Building a Learning Healthcare Culture: Lessons from Pediatric Oncology
June 20, 2017
Steven Joffe, M.D., M.P.H

State of the Department
September 12, 2017
Ford Auditorium
12:00–1:00 pm
(*all faculty and staff are encouraged to attend!)

Faculty Development
Brain Tumor Precision Medicine Conference
June 2, 2017
2:00 pm—3:00 pm
Neurosurgery Conference Room, 3898 Taubman

Partners in Pediatric Care Conference
June 2, 2017
Traverse City, MI
(*must register)

Sixth Annual Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Symposium
June 8 & 9, 2017
8:00am—6:15pm
Palmer Commons Forum Hall
(*must register)

The 3rd Symposium on Developmental Origins of Metabolic Syndrome
October 9, 2017
Location TBA
(*must register)

Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming Youth
October 21, 2017
8:30am—4:00pm
Washtenaw Community College
(*must register)

28th Annual Research Symposium
November 13-14, 2017
Towsley Center

Inside this issue:

Faculty Accomplishments 2
Employee Recognitions 5
Behavioral Feeding Disorders Program Grant 6
Aspect Go Live 7
Promoting UMHS Molecular Genetics Testing 8
Michigan Medicine SiMfest and Showcase 9
Intramural Research Funding Awardees 9
Rising Scholars Visit Michigan Medicine 10
Upcoming Events 11
Save the Date 12
Dr. David Stewart Selected to Receive 2017 Senior Award

The 2017 graduating class selected Dr. David Stewart to receive the Senior Award at this year’s Medical School Commencement. This honor was announced by Student Council at Match Day. The Senior Award is given each year to the clinical faculty member below the rank of Associate Professor who, in the opinion of the graduating class, best upheld the ideals of medical education.

The award will be presented to David by the Deans at graduation. During the ceremony, David will sit on-stage and present a short address to the graduates, families, and guests. 

Well deserved, Dr. Stewart!

Installment of Rajen Mody—David G. Dickinson Professorship

Rajen Mody, M.D., M.S., Professor of Pediatric Hematology Oncology celebrated his installment to the David G. Dickinson Professorship with his family, friends, mentors, colleagues, and three previous recipients late April. This professorship is granted to a faculty member that will have a great impact on the future of clinical care.

The David G. Dickinson Professorship was established in 1990 and granted to clinical investigators caring for children with debilitating illnesses or disease. Dr. Dickinson articulated a vision that the patient’s care should not be limited to purely medical considerations but also extend to addressing practical, personal and emotional problems.

Rajen Mody is highly regarded for his expertise and commitment to advancing clinical care through research, but most importantly, he serves his patients and their families with a level of competent compassion that is a comprehensive representation of the work of Dr. David G. Dickinson. Congratulations, Dr. Mody!

Dr. Ellen Selkie Elected to the Executive Committee of AAP’s Council on Communications and Media

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Ellen Selkie! She was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Council on Communications and Media.

The Council on Communications and Media (COCM) works to ensure that children, their families, and the pediatricians that care for them have the information they need to make informed and health-promoting choices regarding the messages that children receive through various media outlets.

This is a national responsibility that puts Dr. Selkie in the position to help draft AAP policy on children and the media, as well as shape AAP programming regarding media research and interactions between pediatricians and the media.
2017 Hyundai Hope on Wheels Award Recipients

Every day there are 36 children diagnosed with cancer in the United States, virtually a classroom full. Out of that classroom, more than 7 students will not survive the disease. You may be shocked to discover that less than 4% of federal research funding for cancer is designated for pediatrics. Without necessary funding, these young patients are left without a voice. Hyundai Hope On Wheels (HHOW) was established to fill that void. Dr. Gina Ney is the recipient of the 2017 Hyundai Hope on Wheels Young Investigator Award. The Hyundai Young Investigator Award provides funding for principal investigators whose research projects are likely to have a significant impact on improving the understanding of the biology of childhood cancer. Dr. Ney's research focuses on mechanisms underlying hematopoietic stem cells during transformation to leukemia. Congratulations, Dr. Ney!

Dr. Carl Koschmann has been awarded the Hyundai Hope on Wheels Scholar Hope Grant. These Scholar Senior Research Grants will fund childhood research projects designed to improve the treatment and quality of life for children with cancer. The ultimate goal is to find cures for these childhood cancers once and for all.

Dr. Koschmann states, “The Hyundai Hope on Wheels Hope Grant is so important for our lab and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at Mott Hospital. This project will answer meaningful questions about the ability to combine targeted therapies with blood-brain barrier optimization for children with high-grade-glioma, as well as outline a platform for monitoring future precision medicine-based clinical trials for pediatric brain tumors. We are hopeful this will be the first step towards improved outcomes for patients with this devastating disease.”

Congratulations, Dr. Koschmann!

Heart Rhythm Society Highlights

- Dr. Katie Bates presented an excellent overview on QI, in a session devised by Dr. Martin LaPage. He also spoke, to great acclaim, on "Grassroots QI" in the EP laboratory.
- Brynn Dechert had an invited talk and first-authored 2 of the EP group’s 5 abstracts at the main HRS meeting. (Co-authors include Drs. Cheyenne Beach and Martin LaPage.) Brynn was also nominated to an HRS committee by the incoming president, George van Hare.
- Patty Arscott, genetic counselor on the program, joined Mark Russell and adult EP colleagues on an abstract regarding desmoplakin cardiomyopathy.
- C. S. Mott Hospital's EP lab was recognized for being the first pediatric facility to be accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission.
**Dr. Swindell Attends State of the Union in DC**

Dr. Sharon Swindell, the President-Elect of the Michigan AAP, and one of our senior division members, was invited by Senator Stabenow to attend the State of the Union speech in DC this February as a guest of the senator.

Dr. Swindell states, “I was in Washington DC representing the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in my role as President-elect of the Chapter. The national AAP had a "fly-in" advocacy day—one AAP leader from each state came to DC to meet with U.S. legislators from his/her state to advocate on behalf of children's health coverage, benefits, and access to pediatric-specific providers and specialists. I met with members of Senator Stabenow's, Senator Peters, and Congresswoman Dingell's staff and while there, was invited to be Senator Stabenow's guest at the President's State of the Union Address. I had the opportunity to do a media event with Senator Stabenow prior to the speech, highlighting children's health issues.”

---

**Clinical Track Advisory Committee Selection**

Dr. Terry Bravender has been selected by his peers to serve as a representative on the Advisory Committee on Clinical Track Appointments and Promotions.

*Congratualtions, Dr. Bravender!*

---

**Promoted Faculty**

- Adam Dorfman
- Jennifer Butcher
- Suzanne Dawid
- Kevin Dombkowski
- Joyce Lee
- Amy Hepper
- Mark Hoeltzel
- Kristin Kullgren
- David Olson
- Maria Skoczylas
- Jimmy Lu
Staff Receive Gratitude During March Recognition Month

March was a very special month in the Department of Pediatrics! Various staff received recognition from their colleagues during Recognition Month. These people portray great customer service and go above and beyond in their areas.

Janean DeVaul, Medical Technologist in the Michigan Medical Genetics Lab (MMGL), nominated by Dr. Marwan Tayeh, Assistant Professor and Director for MMGL in the Division of Pediatric Genetics

Janean deserves this recognition because of the careful work she organized and executed to validate all of the MLPA genetic tests at MMGL. Best of all she completed the validation project well in advance of the upcoming hospital-wide College of American Pathologist (CAP) inspection. Dr. Tayeh states, “Janean has proved herself to be one the best staff in the lab in all methodology that she has been trained. Janean also is working on bringing up two new tests while she is excelling on performing all of her clinical tasks.” Way to go, Janean!

Michelle Baker, Medical Assistant in the Pediatric Specialty Clinics, nominated by Dr. Steve Leber

Michelle deserves this recognition because she always goes that extra mile to serve as a positive role model and inspire with others great team spirit. On one particular occasion, Michelle sensed a high level of tension in the office, made an impassioned plea during a staff meeting for everyone to work together and be respectful to each other.

Dr. Leber states, “She also sent out “love letters” to staff in our office, praising them and their work. This is how we should work together.”

The Pediatric Rheumatology staff were nominated and awarded the “Extra Mile Award” by Dr. Hilary Haftel, Professor and Division Director for Pediatric Rheumatology, Terri Bass, Alyssa Proctor, and Kaitlin Spencer deserve this recognition because of the phenomenal level of customer service they delivered during a time of staff shortage. Dr. Haftel indicates, “Kaitlin, Alyssa and Terri worked together to cover all the additional work with grace, good spirits and provided outstanding service when we were really busy. Their extra efforts allowed our divisional clinical services to continue to run smoothly and provided seamless service to our patients and faculty.”

(Left to right): Terri Bass, Patient Services Associate; Alyssa Proctor, Administrative Assistant; Kaitlin Spencer, Administrative Assistant
The lives of families with children who are underweight, enteral feeding, or malnourished revolve around ensuring their child receives enough nourishment to survive. Feeding disorders are common among children born prematurely, with chronic medical issues, and/or developmental disabilities, especially Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Given that more babies with significant medical challenges are surviving and rates of ASD are on the rise, the demand for evaluation and treatment of pediatric feeding disorders has never been higher.

Interventions based on applied behavior analysis are the only scientifically proven treatments for children with feeding disorders, and access to behavioral feeding therapy is currently extremely limited in the state of Michigan. Feeding disorders occur in children who are typically developing and who have developmental issues, but expertise in treating feeding disorders in children with autism and other developmental disabilities are even more limited. “We know what works and that it is highly cost effective. We just need to hire and train more experts and work with public and private insurers to expand access to care,” says pediatric psychologist and director of the behavioral feeding program Amy Drayton, Ph.D.

Drayton was awarded $500,000 by the Michigan Health Endowment Foundation and $500,000 in matching funds by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to do just that. The funding will allow Drayton to establish new levels of care and an interdisciplinary team to address the behavioral, oral-motor, and medical aspects of each child’s feeding disorder.

Our ultimate goals are to provide more treatment options and reduce wait times so that children who get their medical care at Mott can also get their feeding issues addressed at Mott, which we believe will result in better coordinated, patient- and family-centered care.”

Specifically, the funding will allow Drayton to team with Pediatric Gastroenterology, Nutrition, and Speech-Language Pathology to create an interdisciplinary evaluation clinic and intensive treatment program. In the intensive treatment program, children will be seen for 3 meals per day, 5 days per week, for up to 8 weeks in order to prevent surgical placement of gastrostomy tubes (g tubes) and get children off of g-tubes quickly. The funding will also be used to pilot a consult clinic using eHealth to work with patients’ local feeding therapists and expand access to behavioral feeding services throughout Michigan.

Drayton is working closely with Pediatric Administration to make sure that these new programs are sustainable when the funding period ends. “We are working with private insurance companies and the state to make sure that as many children as possible will be able to access empirically-supported feeding services well into the future.”

“I feel that everyone from the top down at Michigan Medicine is committed to making this work, which is important because it takes a village to care for these complex patients.”

To learn more about the Behavioral Feeding Disorders Program, please visit: http://www.mottchildren.org/conditions-treatments/feeding-disorders
Aspect Go-Live

From April 18th to April 20th, the Department of Pediatrics went live on the Aspect Call Management System. The system is designed to enhance and promote our communication with patients through technology and allows us to improve patient safety, satisfaction and overall experience. To make the transition a success, it took everyone involved in the go-live to effectively and efficiently integrate the new system into current workflows without interrupting the quality of patient care.

“As one of the numerous examples, the staff in the divisions of Pediatrics Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, and Rheumatology worked tirelessly and collaboratively to plan and execute the go-live. Their hard work made the transition a seamless process to all the patients and families whom they served during the go-live. The staff were upbeat, helpful to each other, and took excellent initiatives to problem solve. Owing to this excellent team work and morale, patient care was maintained at its usual high standard without interruption. We are proud of the top notch people in the Pediatric family!” -Chang-Yu Chang, Division Administrator

New Pediatric Cardiology Clinic Opens in Lansing

As one of the nation’s top congenital heart programs, we are committed to helping keep high quality heart care closer to home for children and their families.

Incremental Brandon Beds Open

We are excited to announce that C & W expanded the Brandon Newborn ICU bed capacity from 46 single patient rooms to 52 single patient rooms early March. This was due in part to the growing number of neonates needing newborn ICU specialty care. The incremental beds are located on 10W beside the Pediatric Cardio Thoracic ICU (PCTU), rooms 55 – 60.
Residents Volunteer at Food Gatherers

As part of the wellness and humanism curriculum, residents dedicated time to give back to our community by volunteering at an event with Food Gatherers.

“It was a really fun evening,” stated Priyanka Rao, “hoping to do it again in the future!”

Teaming Up to Promote UMHS Molecular Genetics Testing

MMGL and MLabs teamed up to promote UMHS molecular genetics testing at the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics in Phoenix, Arizona in March. The group spent time highlighting the newly launched next generation sequencing based germline cancer genetics panels.

(Left to right): Megan Glassford, Marwan Tayeh, Dustin Suntheimer, Todd Ackley
The Department of Pediatrics was one of 14 Michigan Medicine departments participating in SiMfest at the annual meeting of the Student National Medical Association (the largest association of minority medical students in the US) in Atlanta last month.

Meera Meerkov (neonatology fellow), Gabriella Tomlinson (3rd year resident), Yolaine Civil (primary care faculty), and Gary Freed (faculty and Associate Chair) provided medical students and residents with the opportunity to use simulators to intubate newborns, conduct resuscitations and place an interosseous line!

Mott Hospital also provided us with items to give away and our new residency and fellowship brochures were a big hit! Over 50 students interested in pediatric residency signed up to stay in touch with the department. We hope to receive residency applications from many of them in the future.

This effort is the start of several future activities in our new diversity, equity and inclusion program in the department.

Intramural Research Funding Program Awardees

Congratulations to the following 2017 Winter/Spring Intramural Research Funding Program Awardees...

- **Carl Koschmann, MD**
  - **Nancy Newton Loeb Pediatric Cancer Research Award**
  - Optimizing Precision Medicine for PDGFR/FGFR-Altered Pediatric High-Grade Glioma

- **Kanakadurga Singer, MD**
  - **Elizabeth Kennedy Children's Research Award**
  - Investigating Lipolysis as a Mechanism Driving Sex-Differences in Diet-Induced Inflammation

- **Kristin Kullgren, PhD**
  - **Children's Health Research Award**
  - Youth Admitted to CS Mott Children's Hospital with Suspected Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders (SSD): Evaluation of the Mott SSD Protocol Pilot

- **Jonathan Troost, PhD**
  - **Children's Health Research Award**
  - Defining the Relationship Between Patient Reported and Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis

- **Carey Lumeng, MD, PhD**
  - **Gorman Scholar Award**
  - Novel Inflammatory Regulators of Obesity-Induced Adipose Tissue Dysfunction

- **Jenny Radesky, MD**
  - **Janette Ferrantino Young Investigator Award**
  - Longitudinal Associations Between Preschooler Emotion Regulation, Executive Function, and Digital Media Use

The Pediatric Intramural Research Funding Program disseminates funds twice annually through a peer-review competition, offering various award mechanisms for junior and senior faculty. Research activities can be clinical, basic, translational, or health services in nature. Information about the program and previous awardees can be viewed at [https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pediatrics/research/intramural-research-funding-opportunities](https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/pediatrics/research/intramural-research-funding-opportunities) and [https://iteams.med.umich.edu/umhhc/peds/research/Pages/Intramural-Funding.aspx](https://iteams.med.umich.edu/umhhc/peds/research/Pages/Intramural-Funding.aspx)
Department of Pediatrics Hosts Rising Scholars of Ann Arbor Pioneer

On May 16, the Department of Pediatrics hosted 15 Pioneer High School students, aspiring to careers in science or technology. Drs. Jordan Shavit, Marc Hershenson, Durga Singer, Vasantha Padmanbhan and the Michigan Medical Genetic Laboratory staff participated by allowing students to visit their laboratories, see the work done and ask questions about their specific research areas. This has been an annual event under our Pediatric Cares initiative for the past 3 years. This year the clinical pathology laboratories (chemistry, hematology and microbiology) joined with us to share in this program. Highlights of the day included the “Follow your Dream” lecture done by Dr. Alex Blackwood and the guided tours coordinated by Maydis Skeete. Several pediatric employees participated as tour guides and much enthusiasm filled the day. Every student had the opportunity to visit a research laboratory and a clinical laboratory where they saw and learned about equipment usage and the relevance of wet bench laboratory research and how it relates to the clinical laboratory and/or other clinical procedures. Students seemed eager to learn and excited about seeing the actual work and machinery that is used in a lab. Many asked interesting questions and several commented as they departed that this visit confirmed their interest to pursue an education geared to science.

Many thanks to all of our faculty and staff who participated in this endeavor. You have Inspired young minds in a special way.
UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

Annual UMSN Peony Walk

Join: The School of Nursing
When: June 3, 2017 at 12 PM
Where: Meet at Nick’s Cafe

28th Annual Pediatric Research Symposium

The objective of the Pediatric Research Symposium is to present new research in the Pediatric world that can be taken back to the clinics for practical implementation. As a result of their participation in this activity, physicians will be able to improve specific aspects of care and better perform research to identify new ways to improve care.

28th Annual Pediatric Research Symposium
Monday, November 13 & Tuesday, November 14
Towsley Center

2017 State of the Department

All Department of Pediatrics & Communicable Diseases faculty and staff are welcomed and encouraged to attend this year’s State of the Department meeting.

When?: Tuesday, September 12, 2017
What time?: 12–1 pm
Where?: Ford Auditorium
Save the Date  October 9, 2017

The University of Michigan Department of Pediatrics Presents:

The 3rd Symposium on Developmental Origins of Metabolic Syndrome

We invite you to join us for a day of cutting edge talks from leaders in the field of developmental programming. Our speakers will be highlighting advances in clinical and basic research from their recent work.

Details on abstract submission, meeting website, registration and talk titles to follow in May

Department of Pediatrics & Communicable Diseases

D3202 Medical Professionals Building
1500 East Medical Center Drive, SPC 5718
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5718

Editor: Colleen Fraser
fraserco@umich.edu  |  734-763-9326

Associate Chair for External Affairs: Gary L. Freed, MD, MPH
gfreed@umich.edu  |  734-615-0616

Inside Pediatrics is published quarterly by the Office of the Chair. Suggestions or submissions for this newsletter should be directed to Colleen Fraser (fraserco@umich.edu)