Sparks News

Summer 2011

A quarterly publication of the UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sparks an Early Intervention Site in Alabama
- New PEERS group begins in July
- Welcome new staff
- New Screening Clinic

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Sparks an Early Intervention Site

The Civitan-Sparks Clinics applied to the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in June to become an Early Intervention site for Jefferson County. The clinics received notification in mid-July that they were approved as a new site. Three of our disciplines will be involved in evaluating these kids—psychology, occupational therapy, and speech-language therapy. For more information, contact Kristi Guest at kguest@uab.edu.

Screening Clinic

The new Screening Clinic began on Tuesday, July 19 at the UAB Civitan-Sparks Clinics. For now, the clinic sees younger kids who are covered by Medicaid insurance. Several disciplines evaluate a child, summarizing their work briefly for a joint clinic note. Graduate student trainees gain experience in this new endeavor, also.

PEERS Program

UAB PEERS graduated the first group of teens at the Civitan-Sparks Clinics during the week of July 25-29. A second PEERS group began on July 26 at 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., for preteen youth with varying diagnoses. Sarah O'Kelley, Ph.D. is certified to provide the PEERS program at UAB. Graduate student trainees assisting her include Nina Reynolds, Kate McCalla, Heather Wadsworth, and Liz Goncy. General information about the program may be obtained at www.uab.edu/civitansparks/autism-spectrum-disorders/peers. Details are available by contacting Sarah at sokelley@uab.edu.

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Sparks Award

Congratulations to the **Sparks Dental Clinic**, recipient of the Sparks Award for the summer quarter. Thank you to the staff for all of their hard work and commitment to the Civitan-Sparks Clinics.

- Dr. Janice Jackson
- Dr. John Thornton
- Patricia Griffin
- Tracy Luciano
- Dental Residents

Research and Publications

Sarah O'Kelley, PhD received funding by the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs through the Department of Psychology, Division of Psychology in the amount of $15,000 for the period 12/1/2010 through 11/30/2011 for her grant, "Act Early Alabama Awareness and Training Initiative."

The Biochemical Genetics Team (Inherited Disorders of Metabolism) has begun their fourth consecutive year of a grant from the Alabama Department of Public Health to provide low-protein foods for clients with metabolic disorders who are in financial need. **Suzanne Geerts, MS, RD** and **Lauren Dodd, MA, RD** facilitate the program to benefit the families.

The UAB Rett Syndrome Team under the direction of Dr. Alan Percy traveled to Miami, FL on July 10, to conduct ongoing Rett Syndrome Natural History Study. **Suzanne Geerts, MS, RD** is part of the team. Other medical teams involved in the study include those from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX and Greenwood Genetics Center, Greenwood, SC. The event was hosted by the International Rett Syndrome Foundation and the Rett Syndrome Parents Support Group of Florida. Families attending represent the southeast United States and South America.

Suzanne Geerts, MS, RD was published as a co-author of "Vitamin D Deficiency is Prevalent in Females with Rett Syndrome" in *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition*, May 30, 2011.

Links (go to p. 3)

CDC Autism Fact Sheet Now Translated into Multiple Languages

http://uscucedd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=426

The USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (USC UCEDD) has translated the "Learn the Signs. Act Early" Autism Fact Sheet from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) into multiple languages to reach underserved populations. The Autism Fact Sheet provides a one-page tool for clinicians to share with families to raise awareness about developmental delay, which may be related to autism or other developmental disabilities. It is now available in Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Announcements

Welcome!

Ashley Campbell, AuD joined the audiology team on July 5, having graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. She gained valuable experience during her fourth-year externship at the Magnolia Speech School in Jackson, Mississippi. A couple of courses abroad took her to Tegucigalpa, Honduras and London, England.

Jennifer Kimbrell, RN, MSN, CRNP began full-time on August 1, in Sparks Pediatrics in collaborative practice with Dr. Snehal Khatri. Jennifer graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing and from the training program through the Civitan-Sparks Clinics.

Farewell —

After five years with the Civitan-Sparks Clinics, **Valisia Davis**, C.R.N.P. accepted a position in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry effective August 1. She will work in clinic with Dr. Laura Montgomery-Barefield, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and Dr. Kira Fonbah, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry.

Retirement...

Bart Hodgens, PhD is retiring from UAB effective August 31, after twenty-five years of employment in the Department of Psychology. He has accepted a position at Manatee Glens, a nonprofit agency providing a broad range of mental health services near Tampa Bay in Bradenton, Florida. He will be conducting evaluations and will be involved in program development.

Links (from p. 2)

RoboBraille: Free Conversion from Text to Audio, or Text to Braille
http://www.robobraille.org/frontpage
RoboBraille is a free, non-commercial provider of document conversions for accessibility. You can send an e-mail with an attached text document to the RoboBraille e-mail account and receive the document back in an accessible format – for instance, an audio file or Braille. There is no software to install, and use is unlimited.

Ready Campaign Information for People with Disabilities and Older Americans
http://www.listo.gov/america/_downloads/factsheets/Ready_Seniors_Disabled_Factsheet_20110705.pdf
Ready is a national public service advertising (PSA) campaign produced by The Advertising Council for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

Medical Records

Make sure to complete the medical records form located in the blue plastic folder of the "Reports & File Box" in the CH19 307 Copy Room, if you need a report sent to the family. Otherwise our Medical Records personnel will file the report in the center chart. If the chart has a Medicaid Referral Form, the referring physician will receive a copy of the report automatically.

Civitan-Sparks Clinics

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The Civitan-Sparks Clinics is an integral component of the Alabama University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). The Clinics are the home of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities training program (LEND). We provide clinical training for many disciplines such as social work, audiology, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, speech/language pathology, nutrition, nursing and others.

Email news to Cynthia Helms at helms@uab.edu.

Birthdays

June		July	
1	Janice Jackson	2	Kevin Speed
2	Snehal Khatri	11	Stephanie Deluca
10	Dory Ainsworth	15	Jack Huffstutler
11	Rob Bare	19	Kristie Ford
18	Audrey Minter	24	John Thornton
19	Fred Biasini	26	Trish Griffin
27	Allie Green	30	Lissa LaRue

August

2 Jackie Brunson
5 Jim Willett
18 Teresa Teer

Calendar

August 12	General Staff Meeting
August 19	COC Meeting
September 9	General Staff Meeting
September 9	Combined Baby Shower Lauren Dodd Sarah O'Kelley
September 16	COC Meeting

HIPAA Tip

Lock or log-off your computer when it is left unattended. To lock your screen, press and L.