



FYI Fridays

October 3, 2014

DOP Faculty Meeting

At the DOP Faculty Meeting this past Monday, Dean Vickers shared his vision and approach to re-invigorate research and re-invest in the SOM. In response to his request, the DOP submitted 4 proposals for the remaining over-arching themes as part of AMC21 Reload. These proposals centered around: 1) Outcomes Research, 2) Population Health, 3) Fetal Origins of Disease, Pregnancy, and Neonatal Outcomes as Windows to Lifelong Health, and 4) Adaptive Medicine. I am very pleased that we responded with strength and substance to the request for proposals and whichever themes are added to Personalized Medicine-Genomics and Informatics, we will ensure that there is great opportunity for researchers in the DOP to participate and thereby improve the health of the children of Alabama.

David Kimberlin, MD, also presented information on the process of identifying needs in the DOP to strengthen the pre- and post-award research infrastructure. We will invest wisely with your input. Christi Napper presented our process to identify and close gaps in quality that will improve patient care and as a result also improve our US News and World Report rankings. In partnership with COA we will be working on both cross cutting measures, e.g., infection control, that affect more than 2 divisions and division-specific quality measures. I briefly reviewed [goals for the DOP for FY 2015](#). These goals were distributed at the meeting and are reprinted in FYI Friday. We will review progress towards these goals throughout the year.

Several of the goals relate to education. I have asked Susan Walley, MD as director of CME to help advance the education agenda. In this issue of FYI Friday, she has solicited interest in serving on a speaker's bureau to help match your talent and interests with requests that she receives from COA. This is an opportunity to help change the outcome for children by educating other providers. Education of health care providers is an important mission of the DOP; as such, it should be considered as a positive contribution during the faculty activity review and as part of consideration for promotion. Susan has other great ideas for the coming year. I thank her for her efforts to facilitate learning by students, residents, fellows and other physicians and for all your education efforts as a faculty. - *Mitch Cohen, M.D.*

COA/UAB**Speaker's****Bureau**

The COA CME program is recruiting faculty who are interested in joining the new COA/UAB Speaker's Bureau. The goal of the Speaker's Bureau is to provide a pool of experts among the Department of Pediatrics to speak to practitioners around the state on general pediatric and subspecialty topics. This is a great opportunity if you have programmatic or clinical content you would like to promote to referring physicians and have (or would like to develop) excellent speaking skills. Speaking opportunities range from the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics conferences to outside hospital Grand Rounds to medical society meetings and would be no more than twice a year depending on interest. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email [Dr. Krisztina Harsyani](mailto:Dr.Krisztina.Harsyani) with topics you'd be willing to speak on. In addition, if you have any questions or comments about the CME program, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Susan Walley, MD
CME Program Chair

**Congratulations to Dr. Marjorie Lee White**

Dr. Marjorie Lee White has been appointed Director of the Office of Interprofessional Simulation effective October 1. She will hold the title of Assistant Dean for Clinical Simulation in the School of Medicine and Vice President of Clinical Simulation in the Health System. Dr. White will report to Dr. Robert Rich, Associate Vice President and Associate Vice Provost and to Dr. Loring Rue, Chief Quality Officer. Dr. White will continue to be clinically active in the DOP division of emergency medicine.



2014 Alabama AAP Award Recipients Pictured: Back L-R: Ron Johnson & Jabo Waggoner, 2014 AAP Legislative Heroes; Dr. Bill Barron, Wallace Clyde Award, Dr. Anne Stafford, Master Pediatrician; Dr. Michael Ramsey, AL-AAP President; front row - Drs. Michele Nichols and Cason Benton. Article follows -

Alabama AAP Awards

A number of our Pediatricians were recognized at the annual Alabama AAP Meeting Awards Luncheon and Dinner this past weekend. Dr. Mitch Cohen provided the Keynote address for the dinner. Among those recognized with awards were: Dr. Sergio Stagno, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Anne Stafford received the Master Pediatrician Award and Dr. Kathy Monroe received the Marsha Raulerson AAP Advocacy Award. Chapter Awards were presented to Dr. Michele Nichols, AAP Special Achievement Award; Dr. Cason Benton for work developing the AL Child Health Improvement Alliance & promoting Quality Healthcare in Alabama; and, Dr. Megan Brennard, resident representative for Choose to Have a Healthy Family, Alabama! social media campaign. Congratulations to you all!

[Benefits fair, Open Enrollment](#)

Annual open enrollment for employees began at 7 a.m. today, October 3, and will end 5 p.m. October 20. Open enrollment information has been mailed to employees and is available on the Benefits [website](#).

New Pediatric Grants This Week

Dr. Alan Percy has been awarded a U54 grant for his study "Rett syndrome, MECP2 Duplications, and Rett-related Disorders Natural History" in the amount of \$1.25M per year for 5 years.

Spotlight on our International Adoption Clinic



The International Adoption Clinic is a non-profit clinic whose mission is to serve the initial and ongoing medical, developmental and emotional needs of adoptive parents and their children from around the world. Through our interdisciplinary clinic that includes pediatric medicine, occupational therapy, psychology, family therapy and speech therapy, we provide comprehensive medical services to assist parents in their exciting journey through international adoption including pre-adoption and post-adoption services. Our staff has a unique perspective in that international adoption is both a personal and professional passion. Most of us have worked in orphanages, adoption agencies, have adopted or have been adopted ourselves so we have a unique love for children from hard places and desire for them to reach their fullest potential.

[Read more...](#)

Flu Shots

Children's of Alabama will be offering flu shots Tuesday, October 7, and Thursday, October 9, on the 2nd floor of Children's Harbor lobby, from 7:00a - 4:00p. All UAB, HSF, and COA employees at Children's Hospital are eligible to receive their shots at this time.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is comprised of a variety of Children's health professionals, including physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, as well as community members.



Its role is to provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues encountered by staff, patients and families. Although the committee does not take an active role in patient care decisions, it serves to provide an ethical framework that helps to illustrate appropriate courses of action relating to the medical care of children. Dr. Leon Dure, Neurology, has chaired the committee for approximately 10 years and seen the membership of the committee grow and evolve into an outstanding resource for the hospital community.

The Ethics Committee now has an email address, ethics@childrensal.org, to make it easy for doctors and staff to share their concerns. The committee's role is to provide a forum for discussion of ethical issues encountered by staff, patients and families.

[Training to help researchers build community relationships](#)

Boost your practical skills for collaborative research and service during a half-day [Community Engagement Institute](#) Oct. 10 led by the UAB centers for Clinical and Translational Science and the Study of Community Health.



The deadline for submission of information for inclusion in the FYI Fridays newsletter is noon on the preceding Thursday.

Fringe Benefit Rates for FY2015 have been approved. Click [here](#) for the table.

Upcoming Events:

National AAP in San Diego, CA

[Reception Invitation](#)

Oct. 11 - 14

[2014 Pediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders Symposium](#)

October 23 Bradley Lecture Center. [Download a brochure](#) and [register](#) for the symposium.

[Casino For a Cause](#)

November 5, 2014 from 6-9 pm.
Regions Field

[2014 Illuminations Ball benefiting Children's of Alabama](#)

November 14, 2014

Publications

September - October 2014:

The protein TGF-beta is a genetic modifier of CF lung disease, although previously no clear mechanism explained this disease association. In this paper, we evaluate the direct effect of TGF-beta on CFTR (the mutant protein in CF) and alternative chloride channels (called CaCC's). TGF-beta downregulates both chloride channels, providing mechanisms by which TGF-beta impacts CF and non-CF lung disease. Importantly, in an era of CFTR modulator therapy, TGF-beta also neutralizes the beneficial effect of one CFTR modulator currently in clinical trials (Vertex compound 809):

[TGF-Beta Downregulation of Distinct Chloride Channels in Cystic Fibrosis-Affected Epithelia](#). Sun H, Harris WT, Kortyka S, Kotha K, Ostmann AJ, Rezayat A, Sridharan A, Sanders Y, Naren AP, Clancy JP. PLoS One. 2014 Sep 30;9(9):e106842. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0106842. eCollection 2014.

This article provides a description of the history and development, organization, mission, research priorities, current studies, and future plans of the Network of Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Centers was created initially in 2006 to improve the diagnosis and care of children with demyelinating diseases:

[The US Network of Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Centers: Development, Progress, and Next Steps](#). Casper TC, Rose

JW, Roalstad S, Waubant E, Aaen G, Belman A, Chitnis T, Gorman M, Krupp L, Lotze TE, Ness J, Patterson M, Rodriguez M, Weinstock-Guttman B, Browning B, Graves J, Tillema JM, Benson L, Harris Y; the US Network of Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Centers. J Child Neurol. 2014 Sep 30. pii: 0883073814550656.

NOTE: This is our first attempt publishing the FYI Fridays newsletter in this electronic format. Please let us know your thoughts - cmallete@peds.uab.edu.

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