



"Blended"
by Mary Aiken

Bhatia to Join UAB and COA

We are thrilled to share that Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH, will join the Department of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology on January 1, 2015. Smita will also serve as Vice Chair of Pediatrics for Outcomes and pending approval by the UA System Board of Trustees on Sept. 19, Director of a new School of Medicine Institute for Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship.

Smita is an internationally recognized leader. Her primary focus will be to establish a comprehensive program for cancer outcomes and survivorship research at UAB. This program will reduce the burden of cancer and its sequelae across all segments of the population through collaborative interdisciplinary, interventional and educational efforts in Pediatrics and other Departments. Based on her outstanding record of accomplishment in pediatric and adult cancer care and research, we believe that she will continue to identify and refine risk models and health care disparities. These will inform our opportunities to intervene to mitigate



Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH

unfavorable outcomes. In the Department of Pediatrics, we believe that Smita will be a beacon and resource for trainees and for other investigators in hematology -oncology *and in other divisions* and that UAB and COA will be among the very best institutions in the country for outcomes research.

Smita comes to us from the City of Hope in Duarte, California where she established the Department of Population Sciences and serves as its current Chair. She also serves as the Associate Chair for

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Faculty Meeting—September 29th

The Pediatric faculty meeting currently scheduled for October 14 is being moved to **September 29, 12:00-1:00**, in the Bradley Lecture Center. Dr. Selwyn Vickers, Dean of the SOM, will be attending.

Lunch will be provided, but we will need an accurate number of attendees to order. Please respond as to whether or not you will be able to participate.

rmorrow@peds.uab.edu

Upcoming Events

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

October 23

We're on the Web!
www.uab.edu/medicine/peds



*Pediatric Cardiology Welcomes
Dr. Cohen In Style!*

Dr. Stagno ensured a warm welcome for Dr. Cohen's first day. Children's of Alabama bow ties were distributed and worn by many of our faculty to compliment Dr. Cohen's signature style. Even the COA Vice Presidents got in the spirit!

*COA VP's from left to right are
Vickie Atkins, Tom Shufflebarger,
Beverly Barrett and Deb Wesley*



Faculty Development Opportunities:

Registration for the

2014 Education Summit

is now open! The Education Summit is a full day of workshops and speakers on **Friday, September 19th** designed to enhance the teaching skills of UAB Faculty. Click [here](#) to register.

REQUIRED: Faculty Corporate Compliance

*"Everything I Need to Know About
Compliance I Learned in Kindergarten"*

Presenters: Brian Bates, Chief Compliance Officer
Stephen A Stair, MD, FAAP

Where: Bradley Lecture Center

When: Grand Rounds—October 30, 2014, 12:00 PM

Fellows —

Apply for NIH Loan Repayment Program Awards

The National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs) repay the student loans of doctoral level, biomedical or behavioral scientists conducting research funded by nonprofit institutions. The application cycle opens on **September 1, 2014** and closes on **November 17, 2014**. You may be eligible to receive up to **\$70,000** of qualified educational debt repayment with a 2 year contract.

[Click for more information.](#)

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the Children's Oncology Group (COG), coordinating survivorship research across 200 pediatric oncology institutions in the U.S. She was elected to membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation. In addition to other federal and foundation grants, Smita has 3 current R01 grants.

We look forward to welcoming Smita to the Department of Pediatrics, UAB, Children's of Alabama and to Birmingham, and to welcoming her husband Ravi who will be the new director of hematology-oncology in Internal Medicine. This is good news for the children of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Raymond G. Watts, MD and Mitchell Cohen, MD



Clinical Productivity Recognized

The Clinical productivity of our faculty is outstanding. This year, the UHC Pediatric Headcount ranks our Neonatology, Cardiology and Pulmonary divisions as number one in their peer group. Four other divisions: Allergy/Immunology, Gastroenterology, Nephrology and Neurology were ranked in the top ten of their peer groups. All divisions are to be congratulated on their hard work!

Division	2013 Ranking	2014 Ranking
<i>Peds: Allergy / Immunology</i>	<i>3 of 34</i>	<i>4 of 36</i>
<i>Peds: Cardiology</i>	<i>1 of 45</i>	<i>1 of 46</i>
<i>Peds: Critical Care</i>	<i>15 of 55</i>	<i>11 of 53</i>
<i>Peds: Endocrinology</i>	<i>13 of 54</i>	<i>17 of 54</i>
<i>Peds: Gastroenterology</i>	<i>16 of 64</i>	<i>9 of 54</i>
<i>Peds: General</i>	<i>51 of 69</i>	<i>45 of 62</i>
<i>Peds: Hematology / Oncology</i>	<i>27 of 57</i>	<i>25 of 55</i>
<i>Peds: Hospitalists</i>	<i>27 of 44</i>	<i>30 of 45</i>
<i>Peds: Infectious Disease</i>	<i>32 of 53</i>	<i>34 of 56</i>
<i>Peds: Neonatal Medicine</i>	<i>1 of 59</i>	<i>1 of 55</i>
<i>Peds: Nephrology</i>	<i>12 of 53</i>	<i>8 of 53</i>
<i>Peds: Neurology</i>	<i>16 of 51</i>	<i>9 of 54</i>
<i>Peds: Pulmonology</i>	<i>4 of 54</i>	<i>1 of 52</i>
<i>Peds: Rheumatology</i>	<i>21 of 35</i>	<i>22 of 33</i>

Kimberlin Appointed Vice Chair for Clinical and Translational Research

Dr. David Kimberlin, co-director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, has been appointed as Vice Chair of Pediatrics for Clinical and Translational Research. In this new role, David will help build an infrastructure to further support and nurture pediatric clinical and translational investigation throughout the Department. Dr. Kimberlin has broad expertise and recognition in clinical research, patient care, teaching and administration. His scholarly work has established the 'standard of practice' in several areas of pediatric infectious diseases, for which he has been recognized both nationally and internationally. Dr. Kimberlin is the editor of the American Academy of Pediatrics Red Book, which defines and impacts national practice standards for pediatric infectious diseases. Working closely with his partners in pediatric infectious diseases, David's leadership in the Collaborative Antiviral Study Group is a strong model for how UAB can advance discovery and improve the care of children here and around the world.



David has received several awards in recognition of his contributions and excellence, including the Ralph E. Tiller Distinguished Faculty Award, the UAB Gold Humanism Honor Society Award, and numerous Argus Award nominations. He has served as Director of the Subspecialty Medical Education Program for the Department. His expertise in clinical medicine, teaching, and research make him particularly suited for this new position of leadership within the Department. I am personally grateful for his willingness to take on this important new role.

Mitch Cohen

Website Tip of the Week:

Need to know what's being presented at Grand Rounds? Check the dedicated Grand Rounds page, or our Calendar, on the Pediatric Website! The URL is:

www.uab.edu/medicine/peds

Geeta Chhabra leads our new Pre-Award Research Office

Looking for direction on an upcoming grant submission? Geeta Chhabra in our research support office is here to help. Geeta brings 12 years of pre-award grant preparation experience in the UAB Office of Sponsored Programs to the department . She is here to assist faculty, fellows, and administrators in all aspects of the submission process of grants and contracts. Geeta's services will greatly lessen the administrative burden on investigators in putting together grant applications to allow the faculty focus to be completely on the science. Geeta can be reached at 638-9366 or by email at gchhabra@uab.edu.



We also plan to hire a Research Nurse to work with Geeta in the research support office. This position will be available to assist investigators with IRB and other regulatory paperwork and procedures.

EV68 Virology Lab Testing Update

The Virology Lab has determined that the controls necessary for the testing of respiratory specimens for EV68 specific enterovirus are not currently available in our lab. The lab will continue to accept respiratory specimens to test for enterovirus but will not be able to determine whether it is enterovirus 68 or another enterovirus. Several respiratory specimens tested earlier this week were identified as an enterovirus. The virology lab has sent these to the state for further identification. These results will be reported when available, in several days .

Please let me know if you have questions.

- Cecelia Hutto, MD

Grant Opportunities -

KPRI Application Process is open

Find KPRI Application information & instructions at: <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/peds/edu-research/research/pediatric-research/18-fac-staff/fac-dev/48-kpri-grant-info> (on our pediatric website).

New Grants this week

Dr. Suresh Boppana (ID) awarded a RO1, "Acquisition of HCMV from breast milk-correlates of protection." Four year award totaling \$2.8M.

Pilot program to fund community-based research

UAB's Center for the Study of Community Health will award many as three \$30,000 pilot grants for projects that address health issues affecting Birmingham communities.

SSPR Call for Abstracts

The SSPR has announced its call for abstracts for the 2015 American Federation for Medical Research and Participating Societies Regional Meetings.

[Click here for announcement and details](#)

Researchers may wish to bookmark the direct link to our Research Website:

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/peds/edu-research/research>