



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUHC New Orleans

## KUDOS CORNER



Alfonso Vargas, MD

### FELICITACIONES, DR. VARGAS!

Double kudos are in order for **Dr. Alfonso Vargas**, who became president of the Hispanic American Medical Association of Louisiana (HAMAL) for the period December 2007 to December 2009. HAMAL ([www.hamal-inc.org](http://www.hamal-inc.org)) has a membership of more than 80 health professionals who develop medical education and community projects for the benefit of underserved Latino residents of New Orleans. Such projects include the Latino Health Access Network (LHAN) which, under the leadership of **Dr. John Estrada**, provides mobile clinics and trains bilingual health promoters to reach out to the Latino community. But that's not all the honors flowing Dr. Vargas' way. Last August he was appointed vice chair of the Diabetes in Children and Adolescents Work Group of the National Diabetes Education Program ([www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)). His group is responsible for a variety of NDEP print materials and online resources to help children with diabetes. And it collaborates with professional associations and organizations that focus on children and adolescent health to further the reach of NDEP. Our best wishes for your efforts on behalf of both organizations, Dr. Vargas!

### WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Jaime Morales-Arias, MD** will begin his duties as an assistant professor in the Div. of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Dr.

Morales-Arias was an attending physician in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Driscoll Children's Hospital in McAllen, Texas. And he was an adjunct assistant professor of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Last month, the Div. of Nephrology welcomed the newest member of its team, **Xiaogang Gu, PhD, MD**, who will work with **Dr. Diego Aviles** as assistant professor, research. Dr. Gu, whose research interests include tumor immunology and T lymphocytes differentiation and regulation, earned his PhD at National Nagasaki University in Japan, and his MD at Shanghai Second Medical University in China. Dr. Gu was a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School and LSUHSC.



Oluwatoyin Fatai Bamgbola, MD

The Nephrology Div. also welcomed **Oluwatoyin Bamgbola, MD** last Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> as an associate professor, clinical. Dr. Bamgbola spent the last four years as an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Sec. of Pediatric Nephrology. Although he could have worked in many regions of the United States, Dr. Bamgbola selected New Orleans for two reasons: (1) to help this struggling city as it rebounds from the devastation of Katrina and (2) to become a part of the strong collegial atmosphere he observed within our department. Dr. Bamgbola said he looks forward to sharing in that relationship.

In other faculty hires, **Dr. Richard F. Howes**, head of LSU Pediatrics-Lafayette, is proud to announce his department's latest acquisitions: **Clinical psychologists Joslyn McCoy, PhD** and **Lisa Settles PsyD**. Dr. McCoy graduated from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 1999, earned a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Alabama—Birmingham in 2005, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology and infant mental health at Tulane University in 2006. She is available for inpatient and outpatient consultations and she is part of the department's efforts to staff coordinated school health programs in St. Martin Parish.

Dr. Settles has been a member of the team on a part-time basis since last July. She earned her undergraduate degree from Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, in 1998 and her PsyD in clinical psychology from the University of Indianapolis in 2003. She also has experience and training in early childhood and infant mental health.

### ADIEU TO A TEACHER/MENTOR/HEALER



Sheila Gottschalk, MD

It is with sadness and gratitude for her thirty years of dedicated service as a Neonatologist in our department that we say farewell to **Dr. Sheila Gottschalk**, who retired February 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Gottschalk, an associate professor who earned her medical degree from LSU and went on to complete her internship and fellowship at MCLNO, was “a champion of the need to better recognize the teaching efforts of the faculty,” said Dept. Chair **Dr. Ricardo Sorensen**. The Sheila Gottschalk Professorship was established in 2002 to support an annual Sheila Gottschalk Teaching Award for the Pediatrics faculty. **Dr. Brian Barkemeyer**, Head of Neonatology, called Dr. Gottschalk a “compassionate” physician who

displayed a great respect for life in her care of sick babies, treating them and their families with kindness and humanity. Dr. Barkemeyer added: “Throughout her career, she kept up to date as she watched the field of neonatology evolve from its own infancy. She read the literature and textbooks extensively, and, later in her career, used Internet resources for self-education and the education of others. She has been an excellent teacher and role model for hundreds of medical students and residents over the years, and especially for most of the current members of the Neonatology Division. Her clinical skills, knowledge, and guidance will be missed by our division.”

Dr. Gottschalk offers seven characteristics that she calls “7 C’s of Good MDs”. These are not for “great” MDs, Dr. Gottschalk explains, but, rather, for “just ordinary physicians trying to take care of patients and their families.” A good MD is “compassionate, competent, conscientious, creative, calm, courageous, and credible.” Her final words: “I’ll miss all of you. God bless!”

### Sheila Gottschalk Teaching Award Winners:

- 2002 Suzanne LeFevre, Mike Johnson
- 2003 Brian Barkemeyer, Robin English
- 2004 Rodolfo Bague, Raja Mouallem
- 2005 Gary Duhon, Keely Carlisle
- 2006 Tammy Singleton
- 2007 Simone Fogarasi

### SPOTLIGHT ON CANCER TEAM RESEARCH

A research team at the Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, led by its director **Dr. Augusto Ochoa**, showed in lab culture that the amino acid arginine is necessary for both normal T-cell replication and for the production of T cell receptors. The team's work, the focus of an article published in the January 11<sup>th</sup> issue of **Science**, found that patients with cancer and patients who experience serious trauma, quickly lose the normal levels of arginine, blocking their ability to control tumor growth and increasing their susceptibility to infection. The article was titled *Cancer's Bulwark Against Immune Attack: MDS Cells*. Dr. Ochoa is a professor in the Div. of Pediatric Allergy-Immunology.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We have added new information on current funding opportunities for grant seekers to our Department of Pediatrics home page. (See bottom of page on the right side.)

