

Cub Corner

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Inside this Issue

Medical Education

Dr. Robin English: Pipelines for Pediatricians in Medical Education

Research

LSU Pediatrics Represents at SSPR: Poster and Oral Presentations

Who Dat?

Renee Gardner, MD
Ryan Pasternak, MD
Joy Osofsky, PhD

Wellness

Do we have Meaning and Purpose at Work?

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Welcoming the New Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Community

LSU Pediatric Residents Host Book Drive

Get Acquainted

Georgia Clark; Fellowship Coordinator



MOULTON'S MESSAGE

Dedrick Moulton, MD
Pediatrics Department Chair



“

As we step into the new year, let's renew our dedication to pediatric healthcare. Let's pledge to champion enhanced access to healthcare services for children, advocate for preventive care initiatives, and push forward research efforts aimed at tackling pediatric health issues. Together, let's forge a path towards a brighter and healthier future for our youngest patients, ensuring they receive the comprehensive care and support they deserve to flourish. Here's to a year brimming with progress, compassion, and unwavering commitment to advancing the well-being of children in our communities and beyond.

”



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>>

Wednesdays at 12:00
Grand Rounds
Large Conference
Room, CH

May 31, 2024
Pediatric Research Day
Worley Hall

March 30, 2024
National Doctors
Day!

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



Dr. Kirk Thame
Associate Professor
of Clinical Pediatrics
and Division Head of
Pediatric
Gastroenterology
Vice Chair of
Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion



Dr. Robin English: Pipeline for Pediatricians in Medical Education

Dr. Robin English, a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Department's Division of Hospital Medicine, holds a role as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) at the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans. Her primary role within the Office of UME is to oversee the medical education program which includes the pre-clerkship and clerkship phase of the curriculum for medical students. Her mission is to ensure that all of our medical students graduate with the skills to be great physicians in whatever field they choose.

Dr. English embarked on a journey of educational leadership in 2004 when she was encouraged to take the Pediatric Clerkship Director position by Dr. Brian Barkemeyer. Despite initial hesitation, she embraced the role and honed various skills in education and administration that propelled her involvement in medical education even further. As she frequented the downtown campus often in her role as clerkship director, Dr. English was recruited in 2008 by Dr. Richard DiCarlo, who was at the time the Assistant Dean for UME, to run the clinical skills course as the Director of the Clinical Science Curriculum. Later in 2017, she became Assistant Dean of UME and was recently promoted to Associate Dean this past November.

Dr. English's passion for medical education lies within her strong belief in building good doctors.

"It's important to graduate caring and competent



doctors who know how to take care of all of their patients in a culturally sensitive, compassionate and confident way." Dr. English emphasizes, "That's what I want to do every day and so much of what I do is related to that."



Recognizing the value that pediatric expertise could offer to young learners, Dr. English has facilitated increased involvement of LSU Pediatric Faculty in the medical curriculum. One such way is through the Clinical Skills Integration/House program. The Department of Pediatrics currently has 16 faculty members serving in this program, namely Andrew Abreo, Tamara Bradford, Hannah Bauer, Gary Duhon, Ashley Farge, Kyle Fulton, Jay Hescocock, Colleen LeBlanc, Zach LeBlanc, Raghubir Mangat, Elizabeth McDonough, Jessica Patrick-Esteve, Amy Prudhomme, Shubho Sarkar, Robin English and Jeffery Surcouf.

"We have far more pediatricians this year than in previous years", states Dr. English. "We welcome having our Peds faculty come and teach even if they don't have an official title. We want them visible and accessible to our first year students."

As physicians in academics, involvement in medical education is a unique opportunity that many find great value in. From ensuring the continuity of accumulated training and knowledge to the professional development that naturally emerges from practice in teaching, involvement in academic medicine transcends the traditional role of patient care, ultimately allowing one to leave a meaningful and lasting impact on the healthcare landscape.

For faculty interested in UME opportunities, feel free to contact Dr. Robin English.

In late February, The Southern Society For Pediatric Research (SSPR) hosted a number of medical professionals from fellows and residents to seasoned faculty members, many of which were LSU Pediatrics Residents, Fellows and Faculty members. The SSPR is a regional conference renowned for sharing groundbreaking research, fostering professional connections, and promoting continuous learning in pediatrics.

This year's conference was particularly notable for the significant presence of LSU Pediatrics in both oral and poster presentations from residents and fellows. See the next page for a list of residents and fellows who were able to present their research findings at the annual meeting.

One of the hallmarks of the SSPR Annual Meeting is the recognition and celebration of excellence through numerous awards granted each year. These awards encompass categories such as Pediatric trainees, young faculty, travel grants, and original science, highlighting the diverse contributions and achievements within the pediatric research community.

Congratulations to all who presented and especially to those who received awards! The LSU Department of Pediatrics demonstrates an obvious abundance of talent in the research realm as showcased this past February.

“At the Southern Society for Pediatric Research, we foster career development and leadership in academic pediatrics. We strive to improve health outcomes for all children through the support of rigorous research, quality improvement and advancing cutting edge clinical care. Our primary mission is to support and grow the next generation of academic pediatricians and to propel them to national and international recognition.” - SSPR Mission Statement

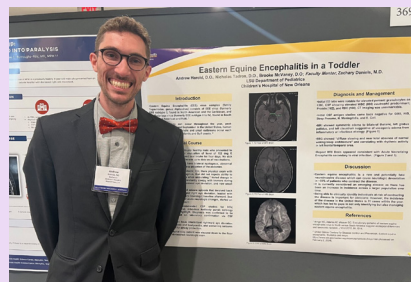


Notable Mentions

Dr. Mary Johnson approved as a new member of the SSPR

Dr. Julie Gallois served as Institutional Representative, abstract reviewer, session organizer and moderator for Neonatology session

Dr. Luke Wall completed his second 2-year term as Council Member, and served as trainee travel award judge, poster session mentor, abstract reviewer and session moderator for Allergy and Immunology session



Oral Presentations

Christian Nieves, MD – Neighborhood Deprivation Negatively Affects Survival Rate In Pediatric Oncology Patients; Faculty Mentor: Pinki Prasad, MD, MPH

Mike Evers, MD – Case Series: Multiple Congenital Anomalies with Neural Tube Defects, renal Abnormalities, and Lung Hypoplasia; Faculty Mentor(s): Jullie Gallois, MD, Michelle Knecht, MD

Kathryn Cyrus, MD – Perinatal Case of Extreme Neuroanatomical Anomalies and End Stage Renal Disease In Chromosome 17Q12 Deletion Syndrome; Faculty Mentor: Reagan Gupta, MD, Anne Tufton, MD, and Mary Johnson, MD

Aamna Hafeez, DO – Papillitis as a Presentation of Syphilis; Faculty Mentor: Lauren Davis, MD

Tracy Omoegbele, MD – Pediatric Clerkship Implicit Bias Conference; Faculty Mentor: Lauren Davis, MD

Sarah Short Leo, DO – Undetectable C1Q, Hyper-IGM, Hypogammaglobulinemia: Whole Exome Sequencing Reveals Pathogenic Variant In Magnesium Transporter 1 (MAGT1); Faculty Mentor: Luke Wall, MD

Mariah Humphrey, MD – Unexplained Neonatal Liver Failure; Faculty Mentor: Anne Tufton, MD, Michelle Knecht, MD

Corinna Victor, MD – Diffuse Alveolar Hemorrhage Related To Obesity; Faculty Mentor: Nihal Godiwala, MD

Karleigh Barkemeyer, MD – Interesting Case of 28 Digit Polydactyly And Orofacial Anomalies; Faculty Mentor: Kyle Fulton, MD, Mary Johnson, MD

Peyton Bennett, DO – Unique Presentation of Miller Fisher Syndrome In A Pediatric Patient; Faculty Mentor: Leslie Reilly, MD

Riley Jay, MD – Improving Language Concordance on Discharge Instructions for Spanish-speaking Patients; Faculty Mentor: Caroline Roth, MD

Shivani Patel, DO – Maternal Fetal Hemorrhage: A Rare Case of Respiratory Distress; Faculty Mentor: Christy Mumphrey, MD

Mary Lago, MD – Neonatal Presentation Of A Contiguous Gene Deletion Syndrome; Faculty Mentor: unknown

Gabby Sheets – Effect of Methotrexate Treatment on Neurocognitive Development and Neuroinflammation

Gene Expression In Pediatric Cancer Patients; Faculty Mentor: Caroline Roth, MD

William Delahoussaye – Cleft Lip And Palate Repairs In A Patient With Epidermolysis Bullosa Simplex; Faculty Mentor: Emily Masoumy, MD, Kyle Fulton, MD

Poster Presentations

Hannah Rader, MD - Parkinsonism-Hyperpyrexia Syndrome: A Case Report Emphasizing Early Recognition and Management in Parkinson's Disease

Hina Qureshi, MD – What The Brash?

Taylor Sanders , MD– Can COVID19 Cause Progression of Dementia?

Nali Gillespie, MD - Multifocal Pneumonia with Complications Secondary to Aspiration of Rare Anaerobe

Sam Maltby, MD – Revisiting the Diagnostic Criteria of Constrictive Pericarditis

Amber Gafur, MD - Metastatic Neuroblastoma: A Rare Cause of Abdominal Distension in a 1-month-old Infant

Christian Nieves, MD - Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor, A Malignant Transformation from a Plexiform Neurofibroma in a Pediatric Patient; A Case Report.

Riley Jay, MD - A Case of Penicillium Peritonitis in an Adolescent Requiring Peritoneal Dialysis.

Hope Retif, MD & Tabitha Kearns - Awareness of Regions Endemic for Blastomycosis Essential in Prompt Diagnosis.

Karleigh Barkemeyer , MD & Mike Evers, MD - Amniotic Band Syndrome with Multiple Lower Extremity Amputations: A Case Report.

Mary Lago, MD & Emily Riley, MD - Newborn Presentation of a Contiguous Gene Deletion Syndrome

Kelly Ordemann, MD - Complete Trisomy 22 -Extended Survival and Hirschsprung's Disease: A Case Report.

Andrew Harold, DO, Brooke McVaney, DO, Nicholas Tadros, DO - Eastern Equine Encephalitis in a Toddler

Nicole Vegh, MD – From Urine Dipstick to Diagnosis: All Proteinuria is not Glomerular.



WHO DAT?



The month of February brought with it the departure of three esteemed members of our team from the LSU Department of Pediatrics: Drs. Renee Gardner, Ryan Pasternak, and Joy Osofsky.

Their contributions to our department have been immeasurable, and we are grateful for their dedication, expertise, and outstanding commitment to excellence in pediatric care, education, advocacy and research. Their presence will be missed, but we extend our heartfelt wishes for their success in all their future endeavors.

Dr. Renee Gardner, MD

Professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology



Dr. Renee Gardner, Professor in the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology is retiring after over 30 years of remarkable service with LSU Pediatrics. Dr. Gardner's legacy is one of excellence,

compassion and tireless advocacy. Joining LSU Pediatrics in 1993 as an assistant professor, she quickly established herself as a leader in the field and within the department. Her influence and impact in research, community advocacy, and pediatric advancement will continue to resonate within our department as well as within the greater pediatric landscape. Thank you and best wishes, Dr. Gardner, on behalf of the LSU Department of Pediatrics.

“Renee, I have always looked up to you ever since I chose you as my residency mentor back in the 90s! You're an amazing doctor and mentor, and I wish you the best in your next steps.” - Dr. Robin English

“Dr. Gardner will be greatly missed! Her wonderful bedside manner and vast experience have influenced countless trainees!” - Dr. Amanda Messer

“Dr. Gardner is a person of integrity, compassion and tremendous humility. I am very honored to have known Dr. Gardner, but more importantly, very lucky to be her friend. We will miss her tremendously” - Dr. Lolie Yu

“She is a visionary, trendsetter, trailblazer, and all-around phenomenal physician. She transformed the care of Sickle cell patients in Louisiana with her advocacy and goals towards

health equity. She has also made a lasting impact on patients and families diagnosed with cancer. She has left an indelible impression on all those she mentored and guided throughout their professional journey. Her accomplishments are endless. Her level of dedication, tenacity and passion are unmatched. She will forever be a legend in the realm of medicine and life in general.” - Dr. Cori Morrison

Joy Osofsky, PhD

Professor in Pediatric Mental Health



Dr. Joy Osofsky is a renowned and dedicated Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics in the LSU Department of Pediatrics. After 38 years with LSUHSC, Dr. Osofsky completes her remarkable service to our institution and leaves behind her a legacy not to be forgotten

Past president of the World Association for Infant Mental Health and published authored of seven books on trauma in the lives of children, Dr. Osofsky is known for her research on infant mental health, parent/child relationships, and infant/child trauma and violence. Dr. Osofsky's contributions to her community are endless and internationally recognized. Her involvement with multiple organizations such as Zero to Three and the World Association for Infant Mental Health have allowed her to be a leader in the field of child and infant mental health. The department thanks Dr. Osofsky and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

“Joy, thank you so much for your advocacy and expertise in the care of young children. Our medical students benefit greatly from your teaching regarding traumatic experiences in childhood.” - Dr. Robin English

Ryan Pasternak, MD

Vice Chair of Pediatric
Community Health and
Advocacy; Professor and
Section Head of Ambulatory
pediatrics and Adolescent
Medicine



Dr. Ryan Pasternak, Vice Chair of Pediatric Community Health and Advocacy and Section Head of Ambulatory Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, marks the end of his journey with LSU Pediatrics after tirelessly serving for nearly two decades. His

departure marks and end of an era characterized by his unwavering dedication, passion and profound impact within our department and the broader community. Dr. Pasternak is a lifelong advocate for the communities he serves, and his effects of his efforts are sure to extend beyond present day. The department extends their warmest wishes as Dr. Pasternak embarks on new endeavors, confident his passion for serving others will continue to make a difference wherever he goes.

“Dr. Pasternak was a great mentor, friend, and colleague and the department and adolescents of Louisiana are going to miss him tons!” - Dr. Leslie Reilly

“Ryan, you have been a true model of advocacy for our patients, and you have been a tremendous asset to the education of our students and residents. Thank you so much for your commitment, and I wish you all the best in your new role.” - Dr. Robin English

“Dr. Pasternak’s legacy cannot be overstated. Countless teens are seen, heard, and getting appropriate SHEADDSSSS (how many S’s are there now?!) exams because Dr. Pasternak trained us not to overlook this important and vulnerable population. So much of what I use in my daily practice, I learned from Dr. Pasternak as a medical student and resident. So many career/life lessons, I learned from him even now as faculty. Dr. Pasternak is a fierce advocate for his patients, trainees, colleagues, and for the New Orleans community. He will be so very missed, though I know he has great things ahead!

-Dr. Amanda Messer

“Thank you for your dedication, passion, and service to the children and families of Louisiana. Wishing you continued success on your new journey.” - Dr. Cori Morrison



WELLNESS

Do We Have Meaning and Purpose at Work?

Professor Robert Bellah of the University of California, Berkeley in 1987 described 3 relationships that people have with their work. Some see their work as a job... others see it as a career... and still others see it as a calling or vocation. Those who view their work as a vocation or calling are typically physicians who experience work as an end, rather than a means. Often seeing their work as their purpose.

A large Gallup poll, conducted in 155 countries asked people what made them happy? The top determinant of happiness was meaningful work.

Meaning in work is also strongly related to the risk of physician burnout. In a large study in 2009, Dr. Shanafelt (Mayo Clinic) asked 500 physicians what aspect of their work was most meaningful?

Each individual derived meaning from various activities such as teaching, leadership, patient care or research. Evidence indicated that physicians who spent 20% of their work life on a meaningful activity had half the burnout rate as those that did not!

-Dr. Jerrusa Aita-Levy

CHALLENGE

What is your area of medicine where you derive the most meaning?

[Share here with Microsoft Forms](#)

Welcome Dr. Kirk Thame

The LSU Pediatrics welcomes Dr. Kirk Thame as its new Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). With a medical degree from the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica in 1992 and an Advanced Diploma in Child Health in 1995 from the same institution, Dr. Thame's background and exposures have moved him into developing interest and experience in DEI.



In his position, Dr. Thame commits to cultivating a departmental culture that values diversity and inclusion. ““It all boils down to culture” Kirk states. “Many talk about an environment, but I prefer culture”. Sharing an analogy about 5 monkeys, Dr. Thame acknowledges that to build a strong culture within the department, all divisions much be strong within themselves but united together. He emphasizes the need for tailored initiatives, acknowledging the unique challenges that can differ in divisions.

Dr. Thame's approach emphasizes respectful dialogue and understanding: “The ideal structure would allow people to come to work and be themselves. Most importantly, each person should feel respected and valued enough to know that what they say is really heard.” Dr. Thame continues to discuss the pillars of DEI work: building bridges, finding common ground, and fostering a sense of belonging.

By prioritizing communication, respect and understanding, Dr. Thame aims to maintain and further embrace diversity, equity and inclusion as cornerstones of LSU Pediatrics. The department welcomes Dr. Thame and looks forward to the value he will bring to LSU Pediatrics.

Organizational Culture: The Five Monkeys Experiment

Five monkeys were placed in a cage as part of an experiment with a ladder leading up to bananas. Every time a monkey climbed the ladder, all of them would be shocked. Eventually, each time a monkey started to climb the ladder, the others would yank him off.

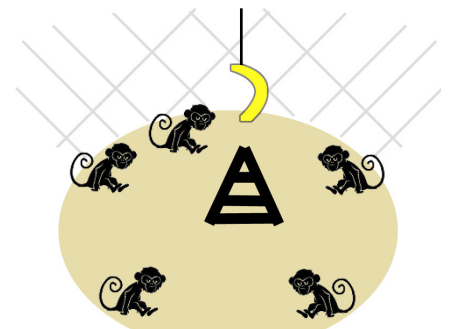
The experimenter then substituted one of the monkeys in the cage with a new monkey. The first thing the monkey tried to do was climb the ladder, but before he was able the other monkeys yanked him off. He never knew why they yanked him off, but he quickly learned his behavior would not be tolerated by the other monkeys.

One by one, each of the monkeys in the cage was substituted for a new monkey until none of the original group remained. Every time a new monkey went up the ladder, the rest of the group pulled him off.

By the end of the experiment, the 5 monkeys in the cage had learned to follow the rule (don't go for the bananas), without any of them knowing the reason why. If we could have asked the monkeys for their rationale behind not letting their cage mates climb the ladder, their answer would probably be: “I don't know, that's just how it's always been done.”

This story captures a theme about culture: We tend to do things the way we're told they've always been done without questioning or revisiting the reason behind it.

Question for thought: How might this relate to a positive culture of diversity, equity and inclusivity?





Over the past few months, LSU Pediatric residents have taken the initiative to make a positive impact on the lives of their young patients through organizing a Book Drive. Shivani Patel, a dedicated second year resident, spearheaded the event this year that began just before Christmas and extended into January.

Growing up with a love for reading, Dr. Patel recalls being part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, where a new book arrived in her mailbox every month. Inspired by her own experiences, she aimed to bring the joy of reading to children.

"Kids get so excited every time we give them a book," Dr. Patel enthusiastically shares. The books are distributed to patients during their Well Child Check appointments throughout the entire year. The recipients not only get to keep the books but are encouraged to engage with them and request another when they might return.

One touching story Shivani shares is of a family of three children under her care. After one sibling received a book during her wellness check, during a later visit, the older sibling



Dr. Shivani Patel, PL2

Take a look
at our
wishlist here:



Order free
CDC pediatric
books here:



eagerly reminded Dr. Patel of the promised book during her own check-up. "They all told each other about the books and got so excited within the family" Shivani relates.

To ensure a diverse collection and create convenience, residents utilized an Amazon wishlist, where many supporters purchased books. A significant number of books donated also were used that faculty had collected and brought in. Donations are accepted all year round. Books can be either new or used, and in either English or Spanish for children of all ages.

Looking ahead, Shivani expresses her commitment to community outreach and service as she anticipates continuing her oversight of the book drive into the next holiday season.

"As pediatricians, we love our advocacy. We love to watch these kids grow and develop, and this Book Drive is a huge part of that," Shivani emphasizes. "It's really important for us to give back in small and simple ways, such as a book drive."

The success of this year's book drive has inspired a wave of enthusiasm among LSU residents and young patients alike. With plans to continue collecting books for patients, LSU pediatric residents eagerly await the opportunity to promote literacy and serve their community.





Hi readers!

My name is Georgia Clark and I am a new Program Coordinator that started with LSUHSC in September of last year. Since then, I have been working closely with our Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellowship programs and helping with the launch of our new Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship program!

I grew up in Richmond, Virginia (where snow days exist!), but moved with my family to my mom's hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana when I was in middle school. After numerous weekend trips to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, Saints games, or shows at the Saenger, I fell in love with the city and attended Tulane University for undergrad where I studied English and Economics (roll wave!).

When I'm not at work, you can find me reading just about anything on the couch, ideally curled up next to my family's frenchies – Koko, Tumba, and Ziggy. Science fiction, memoir, fantasy, thrillers, true crime... I will dive into anything! When I'm not glued to my couch (rare, but it happens), I drag my friends and family to weekend estate sales and to grab a bite to eat at one of our favorite spots. Lately we've been liking Patois, but happy hour at Superior is always a good option.

I am looking forward to my first batch of fellows set to start with LSU this July and feel lucky to be supported by the wonderful LSU Pediatrics team in the process!



Acknowledgements

Chief Editor:

Sarah Brooks

Co-editors:

Dedrick Moulton, MD

Bonnie Desselle, MD

Contributors:

Jerrusa Aita-Levy, MD

Dedrick Moulton, MD

Georgia Clark

Design and Layout:

Sarah Brooks

What do you want to see next time?

[Submit content suggestions](#) or contact Sarah Brooks at sbroo9@lsuhsc.edu