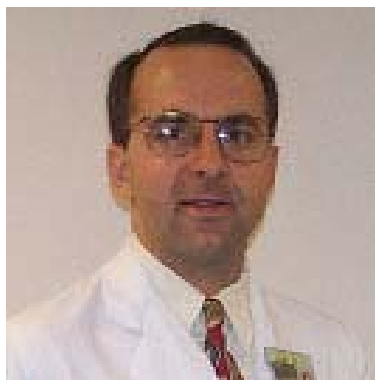




Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans



Brian M. Barkemeyer, MD

Honors keep rolling in for Neonatologist **Dr. Brian Barkemeyer**. In April, we announced that **Dr. Barkemeyer** was named 2008 Alumnus of the Year for Brother Martin High School. Now, we happily report that he and **Dr. Mark Juneau** were named 2008 LSU Alumni of the Year by the LSU Medical Alumni Association. Outstanding, **Dr. Barkemeyer**—keep up the good work!

KUDOS FOR DR. VELEZ

Hematologist/Oncologist **Maria Velez, MD**, was named Vice-Chair of the Minority Affairs Committee for the Children’s Oncology Group, the NIH-sponsored national group that treats children with cancer. She also was honored with the Spirit Award of the American Cancer Society 2008 for her volunteer work with them and as Medical Director and Advisor of the SMILE program. This program connects first year medical students with cancer patients to develop a “buddy” relationship. The program is a collaboration of Children’s Hospital, LSU School of Medicine, and the American Cancer Society.

SIX PROFESSORSHIPS AWARDED

Six Pediatric faculty members were honored with professorships at an LSUHSC School of Medicine ceremony last June. **Dr. Diego H. Aviles** received the Alan Robson, MD Professorship of Pediatric Nephrology; **Dr. Brian Barkemeyer** received the Sheila B. Gottschalk, MD Professorship of Excellence in Teaching; **Dr. Oluwatoyin F. Bamgbola**, the Percy Rosenbaum, MD Professorship in Pediatric Nephrology; **Dr. Robin English**, the John Ey, MD Professorship in Hospitalist Pediatrics; **Dr. Suzanne Lefevre**, the

Nick Gagliano Professorship in Ambulatory

Pediatrics; and **Dr. Lolie Yu**, the Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation Professorship in Pediatric Cancer.

Altogether, 17 professorships were awarded at the ceremony. Pediatrics Chair **Dr. Ricardo Sorensen** said the Department is proud to have bestowed this honor on six of its faculty. He noted that divisions still without endowed professorships or chairs should consider looking for possibilities to establish new professorships. He explained that a professorship will be established with \$60,000, an amount that is matched by \$40,000 from the Board of Regents. If a division comes up with \$40,000, the department will contribute \$20,000 to complete the \$60,000 sum needed to apply for matching funds from the State. A chair requires \$600,000 but is obviously a much more attractive endowment, Sorensen said.



WELCOME TO THE NEW FACULTY

We extend our sincere congratulations to the following new faculty members and wish them success in their future endeavors:

Started July 2008:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Uma Pisharody, MD | Pediatric GI |
| Valentine Enemuo, MD | Pediatric GI |
| Yameika Head, MD | Forensic Medicine |
| Caroline Straatmann, MD | Nephrology |
| | (General Pediatrician) |
| Rachel Dawkins, MD | Ambulatory |
| Amy Creel, MD | Critical Care |
| Aja Sanzone, MD | Ped Infectious Diseases |

Starting September 2008

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| Melissa Nass, MD | Ambulatory |
| (School-based health clinics & Tiger Care) | |

Starting October 2008

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Kathryn Beatty, MD | Pediatric ER-Bogalusa |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|

WARM WISHES FOR THE FELLOWS

We are pleased to announce that fellowships began in July for these doctors:

Kishor Bhende, MD	Hem/Onc
Jenelle Ferry, MD	Neonatology
Pinar Gumus, MD.	Endocrinology
Gital Karamchandani, MD	A/I
Javier Monagas, MD	GI
Lynn Tran, MD	Neonatology

Marco Rodriguez, MD, an international fellow, will complete a one-year observership in Allergy/Immunology

HOP ABOARD, MATES

A hearty welcome to **Christi Dupre** and **Rosita Bischoff**, hired by the LSU Pediatrics Business Office on July 1st and August 1st, respectively. Christi is assistant business manager for finance, while Rosita is coordinator for non-academic and service areas, charged with handling credentialing matters and requisitions.



Uma Pisharody, M.D.

Dr. Uma Pisharody is the PI for a new \$73,902 per year grant award for the next two years from The Louisiana Vaccine Center/South Louisiana Institute for Infectious Disease Research Cooperative Pilot Research Grant Fund. Dr. Pisharody is working on a pilot translational project investigating the role that bacteria play in the etiology of necrotizing enterocolitis. She will use the grant money for lab supplies and support to get the project completed. Co-investigators are **Michael Ferris, Ph.D.** and **Duna Penn, M.D., M.S.** Their goal is to examine the role of intestinal bacteria in the pathogenesis of NEC using 16S rRNA gene-based molecular techniques.

"I am deeply indebted to Dr. Michael Ferris and Dr. Duna Penn for their support of my research," Dr. Pisharody said. "Without their mentorship, I could not have gotten this grant." She added: "I started this project as a fellow, under the guidance of the late **Dr. Schmidt-Sommerfeld**, whose teaching and guidance will never be forgotten. And I would like to thank all the physicians in the GI division for

helping me as their new junior faculty, supporting me as I attempt a career as a physician doing research." This was one of ten Pilot Research Grants awarded by the LVC/SLIIDR this month.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ye-Qi Liu, PhD. Associate Professor of Pediatrics: Xu J, Han J, Long YS, Epstein PN, and Liu YQ, 2008, The role of pyruvate carboxylase in insulin secretion and proliferation in rat pancreatic beta cells. *Diabetologia*, in press.

Dr. Liu also had this paper accepted by *Diabetologia*: Xu J, Han J, Long YS, Lock J, Weir GC, Epstein PN, and Liu YQ, 2008, Malic enzyme is present in mouse islets and modulates insulin secretion.

Tri Tran, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics-Research: Tran T, Kieltyka L, Chin A. A short birth interval enhances a risk of low birth weight, Louisiana, 2000-2004. LA Morbidity Report 19(2) March-April 2008.

Dr. Yves Lacassie, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Head of the Division of Genetics, was one of the co-authors of the paper "Infantile spasms is associated with deletion of the MAGI2 gene on chromosome 7q11.23-7q21.11," published in the *Am J Hum Genet* in July (83:106-111).

In other news involving the Division of Genetics, Dr. Lacassie and his colleagues were deeply saddened by the death of Aaron Frank Marcus on Saturday, July 19th after a brief illness. Marcus, 49, was the husband of **Karen Weissbecker Remer Marcus, PhD**, who has worked in the Neurofibromatosis Clinic since its inception in March 1994. Funeral services were held July 21st for Marcus, who was a partner in the law firm Lehmann Norman & Marcus LC.



A WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

Dr. Indra Jayasinghe retired last month after more than 27 years of service in general pediatrics and developmental pediatrics at LSUHSC-Earl K. Long Medical Center in Baton

Rouge. The Medical Center also has a new pediatrician, **Dr. Traci Woodard**, who previously worked at the privately-run KidMed Clinic in Baton Rouge.

PROMOTION

Dr. Robin English is now the Director of the Clinical Sciences Curriculum for the medical school, which is a half time position with the Office of Medical Education. She will be directing the Science and Practice of Medicine 100 course for the first year students.

FOWLER MEMORIAL LECTURE

You are cordially invited to attend the Fowler Memorial lecture given each year during the Pediatrics Board Review in New Orleans. The speaker this year is Elizabeth McBurney, MD, FACP, who will lecture on the topic, "Skin Problems in the Adolescent Patient." Dr. McBurney will present the annual Fowler Lecture at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20th at the Hotel InterContinental, 444 St. Charles Avenue, in a meeting room on the third floor of the hotel. All faculty members are encouraged to attend the lecture. Hope to see you there!



Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld, M.D.

HONORING DR. SCHMIDT-SOMMERFELD

We'd also like to encourage you to attend a two-day CME event to give tribute to the late **Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld**, Director of the Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship Program and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition from 2004 until his death last November.

Nineteen internationally-known speakers will give talks on the broad theme of inflammatory bowel

diseases in children at the Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Sommerfeld Memorial Symposium in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, to be held Friday, October 31 – Saturday, November 1, 2008 at the Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel, 739 Canal Street in New Orleans.

The symposium is jointly sponsored by LSU Department of Pediatrics, and Children's Hospital of New Orleans. Children's Hospital designates this event for a maximum of 10.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™.

Talks will include "Probiotics in gastrointestinal disease: The promise for the future" (**Emanuel Lebenthal, MD**); "A homegrown look at necrotizing enterocolitis: Do bacteria play a role?" (**Uma Pisharody, MD**); "Functional abdominal pain" (**Eduardo Hebel, MD**); "Reduced muscle mass and bone size in pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease" (**Sibylle Koletzko, MD**); "Gastrointestinal manifestations of primary immunodeficiency diseases" (**Ricardo Sorensen, MD**); "Effect of IBD on GI motility" (**Paul Hyman, MD**); "Early history of infant nutrition research" (**Buford Nichols, Jr., MD**); and "The double role of Vitamin D in Crohn's Disease: Control of inflammation versus pathogen growth" (**Solo Kuvibidila, PhD**).

For on-line registration, you can go to <http://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/pediatrics/medicalsymposium.aspx>. Or you can register by contacting Vicki Salloum-Holley at 504-896-9800 or via e-mail, vsallo@lsuhsc.edu.

RESIDENCY NEWS: NICE JOB, RUSTY!

Please join us in congratulating Med-Peds resident **Rusty Rodriguez, MD**, for winning the MCLNO Resident of the Year Award. Congratulations, Rusty!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERNS!

Introducing our bright, eager crop of new interns for the academic year 2008-2009:

Pediatrics Interns

Brooke Bock	St. George's Univ.
Jane Chung	St. George's Univ.
Amar Dave	Ross University
Jessie Dieguez	St. George's Univ.

Pediatrics Interns continued . . .

Penny Dupre LSU-Shreveport
Kelly Kennett Medical College of Virginia
Angela Kosarek LSU-New Orleans
Gabrielle Lambert LSU-New Orleans
Sarah Latiolais LSU-New Orleans
Rebecca Levine Univ. of New England
 College of Osteopathic Medicine
Paige Oliver LSU-New Orleans
Thara Raghuthman St. George's Univ.
Dhiraj Singh Shaym Shah Medical College
Laura Snow LSU-Shreveport
Jeremy Toler West Virginia University
Joyce Varghese Nova Southeastern Univ.
 College of Osteopathic Medicine

Medicine/Pediatrics Interns

Courtney Austin LSU-New Orleans
Amanda England University of South Alabama
Kishore Gandla Andhra Medical College
Neha Gupta Bharati Vidyapeeth's Medical Col
Michele Salassi LSU-New Orleans
Appalanaidu Sasapu Andhra Medical College
Gisella Tay Universidad San Martin de Porres

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Vicki Salloum-Holley no later than September 15, 2008. You can reach Vicki by telephone (896-9800) or via e-mail at vsallo@lsuhsc.edu. All information is subject to Dr. Sorensen's approval.