



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUHC New Orleans

## KUDOS CORNER



## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Ping Wang, Ph.D.**, who was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics with tenure, and to **Michael Lan, Ph.D.**, who was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics with tenure.

Congrats to **Dr. Adrienne Atzemis**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, who has been named Program Director of Forensic Medicine for the LSUHC Department of Pediatrics.

## HEADS UP:

**Drs. Ricardo U. Sorensen and Kenneth Paris** are now planning *The Second Annual Jeffrey Modell Symposium*, another one-day workshop offering CME credit, to be held in New Orleans on Friday, November 30th, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend this event.

## WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY!

We are, indeed, pleased to announce that the following pediatric cardiologists from Tulane have joined our faculty: **Robert Ascutto, PhD, MD** and **Nancy Ross-Ascutto, MD**, both professors of clinical pediatrics; and **Steffan Sernich, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics. Dr. Sernich came on board in June and Drs. Ascutto and Ross-Ascutto in July.

Dr. Ascutto and his wife Dr. Ross-Ascutto met while attending Yale School of Medicine, where they graduated in 1981. They started at Tulane in 1988 and were full professors when they left on July 1, 2007. Dr. Ascutto was Director of Tulane's Section of Pediatric Cardiology. Dr. Ross-Ascutto headed Tulane's Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship

Program.

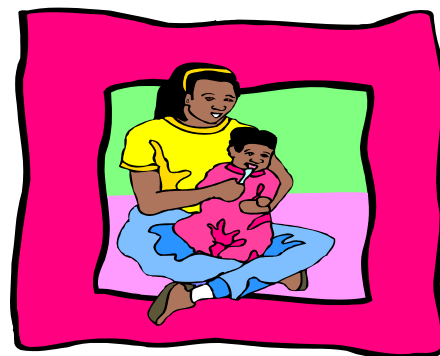
Dr. Sernich, born in Cali, Columbia, became a U.S. citizen on July 25th. He received his medical degree in 1991 from Universidad El Bosque, Escuela Colombiana de Medicina, in Bogota, Colombia. He was a fellow at Tulane and then an assistant professor there from 2001 until 2002, when he moved to Arizona. He returned to Tulane in March 2004. Our best wishes to all three physicians!

## WELCOME TO NEW FELLOWS!

We'd also like to recognize our most recent fellows. Joining us for the academic year 2007-2008 are: **Dania Felipe** (Endocrinology); **Jeff Surcouf** (Neonatology); **Brent Keith** (Gastroenterology/Nutrition); **Sandhya Mani**, (Allergy/Immunology); and **Cori Morrison** (Hematology/Oncology). Dr. Morrison will begin her fellowship Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and the others have already started.

## OTHER NEW HIRES

We extend a warm welcome to **Kimberly Van Voast**, who replaces **Keeanya Dupre** as an assistant business manager in Pediatrics. Keeanya resigned in June to become business manager for the LSUHC Department of Orthopaedics.



We're delighted to welcome three nurses who will be working with **Dr. Susan Berry** in a program in Orleans Parish called, "Nurse Family Partnership." **Barbara Bull**, **Yvette Luster**, and **Angela Bradley-Byers**, all clinical

associates/RN, will work under a grant from the Institute of Mental Hygiene to provide clinical services to first-time, low income mothers.



### CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK!

Cheers to our residents who have been accepted into these fellowship programs:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Amanda Brown</b>       | Pediatric Rheumatology<br>Children's Hospital<br>Pittsburgh                         |
| <b>Jenelle Ferry</b>      | LSU-Tulane Neonatology<br>New Orleans   |
| <b>Paul Gastañaduy</b>    | Pediatric Infectious Diseases<br>Emory University, Atlanta                          |
| <b>Kevin Ginn</b>         | Ped. Hematology/Oncology<br>Children's Mercy Hospital<br>Kansas City                |
| <b>Daniel Hsia</b>        | Adult and Pediatric<br>Endocrinology<br>Baylor University, Houston                  |
| <b>Rusty Rodriguez</b>    | Pediatric Cardiology<br>Baylor University and Texas<br>Children's Hospital, Houston |
| <b>Caroline Stratmann</b> | Pediatric Nephrology<br>Emory University, Atlanta<br>(2008)                         |

### *NAMED TO ADVISORY*

**Dr. Sorensen** has been named as one of the 11-member Jeffrey Modell Centers Network Advisory, which also includes member immunologists from Canada, France, Sweden and Austria. The purpose of this Advisory is to encourage greater communication between the 30 JMF Centers worldwide, and to promote increased recognition, diagnosis and treatment of Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases. Dr. Sorensen directs the Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies (PI), established here at Children's Hospital in December of 2006 as the only JMF Center in the south between Florida and California.

### ADIEU TO DR. JAYASHREE RAO

Sadly missed but fondly remembered, Dr. Jayashree Rao retired at the end of February after 29 years of service with LSU Pediatrics, Endocrinology Division, and 28 years at Children's Hospital. Dr. Rao was especially beloved by her young patients for her kind compassion and her ready humor, and by colleagues and staff for her professional generosity and supportive attitude. Dr. Rao's outstanding value as a physician, mentor and friend was marked by a celebration at Children's Hospital on May 29<sup>th</sup>, featuring scientific presentations by former fellows Ricardo Gómez, MD and Oscar Escobar, MD, colleagues James Hempe, Ph.D., Stuart Chalew, MD, and Alfonso Vargas, MD, as well as Departmental Chair Ricardo Sorensen, MD, and Children's Hospital Senior Vice-President for Medical Affairs, Alan Robson, MD. She was further lauded at a dinner in her honor held at Restaurant Luke on that evening. We are proud to have known and worked with Dr. Rao, and we send our very best wishes to her for an enjoyable retirement.



Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Vicki Salloum-Holley **NO LATER THAN** September 1st. You can reach Vicki by telephone (896-9800), FAX (896-2720), or e-mail ([vsallo@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:vsallo@lsuhsc.edu)). All information is subject to Dr. Sorensen's approval.

Also, remember to send any changes or updates for our Departmental Website to Vicki. Previous issues of this newsletter can be found on the website: [www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/pediatrics](http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/pediatrics) .