



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

## KUDOS CORNER

### **A Clean Sweep from ACGME**

The ACGME has notified us that we have received full accreditation for our core pediatric training program and its subspecialty fellowship programs in the divisions of Hematology/Oncology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology and Neonatology, most with a long cycle. Dr. Charles Hilton, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, commented: *This represents very welcome news and reflects a tremendous job on the part of the Program Directors and the Department to restore programs after the storm.* Our profound thanks to all of you who made this success story come true!

**Results are in:** LSU Department of Pediatrics scores for the July, 2006 In-training examination taken by our residents compared very favorably with the national average.

Level	National Score	LSU Score
1	159 (57%)	146 (55%)
2	284 (65%)	288 (65%)
3	362 (70%)	359 (70%)

**Bonnie Desselle, MD**, Program Director, was very pleased with the exam scores: *Actually, this is one of the best results that we have had in years. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the teaching program.*

**It's Official: Dr. Lolie Yu** has been named as the Chairperson of the Departmental Promotions and Tenure Committee.

**Drs. Yves Lacassie and Michael Marble**, Genetics Division, took part in a platform presentation, followed by a press briefing, on "The Provision of Genetic Services in the Aftermath of Katrina: The LSU Experience" during a recent Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics in New Orleans, October 9-13. The meeting was the first important meeting in the Convention Center after Katrina and brought about 6,000 geneticists to New Orleans.

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

**Dr. Alfonso Vargas** presented his timely lecture at Grand Rounds on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, "NIH & CDC National Diabetes Education Program: Contributions from New Orleans." Dr. Vargas suggests anyone interested in further information visit the internet site: [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov).



"TRIM KIDS" PROGRAM GOES NATIONAL  
Congratulations to **Dr. Melinda Sothern**, and her working groups both at LSUHSC and PBRC. The Trim Kids (formerly Committed to Kids) pediatric weight management program, which was developed and tested at LSUHSC and PBRC, is now featured on the National Cancer Institute Research Tested Intervention Program website: <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/rtips/index.asp>  
This is an outstanding contribution to evidence-based medical practice and a well-deserved recognition of consistent efforts over the years. The Department of Pediatrics takes pride in having hosted a number of the research efforts that launched some of the core programs. We are certainly looking forward to new developments in Dr. Sothern's study and treatment of pediatric obesity, and many more years of continued collaboration.

## NEW HIRE

Welcome to **Faisal Razzaqi, MD**, new fellow in our Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Division.

**Robert M. Suskind, MD**, former Chair of LSU Pediatrics, has recently been named the founding dean of a new school of medicine in El Paso, Texas. Dr. Suskind will oversee the development of a new 4-year medical school, its curriculum, teaching and research faculty. The El Paso School of Medicine will be the first of its kind on the U.S. – Mexico border.

**Alfonso Vargas, MD** was elected Honorary Member of the "Sociedad Latino-Americana de Endocrinologia Pediatrica - SLEP" during the XVIIIth Congress in Vina del Mar, Chile in early October. He also participated on the Editorial Board of the *Endocrinologia Pediatrica On-Line* [www.endopedonline.com.ar](http://www.endopedonline.com.ar), a bilingual publication with many resources and links providing free access to anyone interested.

**Raj Warriar, MD** was invited to present for grand rounds and as Visiting Professor at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM .Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Dr. Arlette Soros**, Pediatric Endocrinology fellow presents "Nutritional Rickets in infancy and early childhood - The reemergence of a preventable problem" at the Southern Pediatric Endocrine Society - SPES Annual Meeting in Birmingham, AL November 10-12th, co-authored with J.Rao, R. Gomez, S. Chalew, and A. Vargas.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CITY PARK

Some of our staff are volunteering for a new City Park adoption program to help beautify and maintain the landscaping and statuary of this great asset to New Orleans. Please help to restore and preserve the flower beds, fountains, bridges, and marvelous Depression-era statues of the 5<sup>th</sup> largest urban park in the U.S. Call Vicki Salloum-Holley (896-2798) for more information.



### KIDS FIRST – LSU TIGER CARE PEDIATRICS

The new "LSU Tiger Care Pediatrics" *Clinica Pediatrica Hispana* is now open in Kenner, under the direction of **Dr. Edith Linares**. The clinic, sponsored by both LSU and Children's Hospital, will accommodate the growing Hispanic community in this area with a bilingual practice and special attention to the needs of children in transition. The address of the new clinic is 3321 Florida Avenue, Kenner, LA 70065, Tel: 468-4437.



### PAS - DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting (PAS), May 4-7, 2007 is at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. **The deadline for abstract submissions this year is Tuesday, December 5, 2006.** Visit the PAS web site at [www.pas-meeting.org](http://www.pas-meeting.org) for additional details on electronic submissions and programming.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Judith Rodriguez **NO LATER THAN** Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. You can reach Judith by telephone (896-9263), FAX (896-2720), or e-mail ([jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jrodri4@lsuhsc.edu)). All information is subject to Dr. Sorensen's approval.



**The kids –and adults—of New Orleans need Story Land!!! - Owen Allen**