



# Departmental News

Department of Pediatrics ~ LSUMC New Orleans

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## KUDOS CORNER

Congratulations to **Arnette Scavella, MD** and **Giddel Thom, MD**, Hematology/Oncology Division fellows, on their selection as the only two winners from LSUHSC-NO of the SSPR/APA Trainee Travel Award for 2007. Drs. Scavella and Thom will each receive a \$500 award for their research on Sickle Cell Disease. The Southern Society of Pediatric Research will meet in New Orleans, February 8-10, 2007.

The Audrey Hepburn CARE Clinic in Covington staffed by **Dr. Adrienne Atzemis** recently was recognized with a Community Healthcare Initiative award from the American Hospital Association for its unique partnering of a hospital, parenting center and public health unit in service to children suspected of maltreatment.

**Dr. Scott Benton** was presented with the Light of Hope Award In April 2006 by the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocates, as the Outstanding Professional of the Year. He was also appointed in December 2006 to represent the newly recognized pediatric subspecialty of Child Abuse Pediatrics on the American Council of Medical Specialty Societies. <http://www.cmss.org/>

**Dr. Benton** was elected in November 2006 to the executive committee of the Ray E. Helfer Society, an international honor society of physicians seeking to provide leadership to enhance the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. <http://www.helfersociety.org/>

**Dr. Raj Warriar** was invited as Visiting Professor to Loma Linda University at San Bernardino, CA on 12/01/06. He presented Pediatrics Grand Rounds on Bleeding Disorders, and led a case conference on Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology.

**Dr. Hong Xin** was promoted to Assistant Professor, Research effective 12/15/06. Dr. Xin was a Postdoc Researcher and is working in the RIC.

## NEW CENTER ESTABLISHED AT LSU

The new Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies (PI) was established with a televised dedication during the first annual symposium on PI held at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter December 1<sup>st</sup> and followed by a celebration at the home of LSU Chancellor, **Dr. Larry Hollier**. The following day was a "Kid's Day" sponsored in honor of the new JMF Center at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. **Dr. Ricardo Sorensen** will direct the center, one of only 30 centers world-wide dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of Primary Immunodeficiencies.

The new center is funded by a \$150,000 contribution from the Baxter Healthcare Corporation and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation.



## NEW GRANT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

**Dr. Susan Berry** is the PI for a new grant from the Institute for Mental Hygiene in support of a program in Orleans Parish called, "Nurse Family Partnership". The grant of \$551,080 is for two years of funding with a third year possible. The Division of Public Health will hire three nurses who will be trained to establish an intense home visiting program for first-time, low income mothers with incomes below poverty level, focusing on teen mothers. The goal is to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child development, and improve mother's life course development. The grant is a collaborative effort with the Office of Public Health Maternal Child Health Program, the national NFP office, Tulane Child Psychiatry, and the New Orleans Healthy Start Program.

### **New Publications**

Pasternak RH, Geller G, Parrish C, Cheng TL. Adolescent and parent perceptions on youth participation in risk behavior. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med Research* 2006. Nov;160(11):1159-66.

Agwu AG, Pasternak R, Joyner M, Carver CL, Francis HW, Siberry GK. Nontypeable *Haemophilus influenzae* meningitis complicated by hearing loss in a 9-year-old HIV-infected boy. *AIDS Patient Care STDS*. 2006 Aug;20(8):531-5.

### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The LSU Holiday break this year is December 25<sup>th</sup>-January 1, 2007. There will be no Grand Rounds scheduled for Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Submissions for the next issue of the newsletter must be given to Judith Rodriguez **NO LATER THAN** Friday, January 26<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.



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

RESERVE THIS DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2007  
For a symposium coordinated by **Dr. John Estrada** entitled 'Health and Safety for Children: International Academic Approaches', to be held in Children's Hospital Auditorium on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM. CME credits will be offered. The event will be a combination of individual presentations and break-out sessions and will feature speakers from Europe, South America and the US. Several of our faculty will participate as speakers. The main objective of this event is to discuss and learn from different international approaches in the provision of health and safety for children. A particular emphasis will be devoted to evidenced-based decision making regarding the safety of children during major disasters.

### **The History Corner**

**From: Klein, Russell, MD**

**Sent: Monday, December 18, 2006 2:32 PM**

**To: Sorensen, Ricardo**

*By the way, did you know that communists had at one time infiltrated your department?*

**From: Sorensen, Ricardo**

**Sent: Monday, December 18, 2006 4:24 PM**

*Thanks, and if you are referring to the McCarthy era when Dr Ordway refused to fire faculty on unfounded accusations and then had to leave himself, then I heard about it. Unless better evidence is available, I will continue to think that Dr. Ordway's defense of his faculty should be a matter of admiration. Please let me know if I am wrong, but you would have to prove that these were really communists undermining democratic ideals and not victims of that era's witch hunt.*

*Anyhow, I am glad that you are putting together the history of our SOM and its departments. I always wanted to get this done, but never got around to it. I am afraid many people that could have given some key information may be gone by now,  
Ricardo*

**From: Klein, Russell**

**Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 11:02 AM**

*You are right-on in all respects. Actually the problem started under Ordway's predecessor, Myron Wegman, who left LSU in disgust to head the World Health Organization in 1951.*

*Russell – For a full report on “the red menace”, e-mail Dr. Russell Klein, Associate Dean for Alumni Affairs and Development*