

NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S REPORT

The summer was nice and hot and rather busy, but September always brings an upsurge in activity of all types: more patients needing ever more complex care, more students needing ever more complex education and training, and, of course the endless research grant deadlines.

It's not surprising that things don't look quite the same as the new academic year begins: so what is different:

1. In Hematology/Oncology, the year began with Jim Whitlock's arrival as Head of our biggest division. Jim comes from Vanderbilt in Nashville and is a leader in many aspects of clinical oncology, but perhaps particularly his reputation is derived from his work in the histiocytoses. Shortly after his arrival, Jim was one of those instrumental in securing the massive \$30 million gift from the Garron Family to improve cancer care in children. This fund will no doubt be transformational. Quite an auspicious start!
2. In Paediatric Emergency Medicine, Steve Porter arrived from Boston Children's Hospital, and together with unit manager, Dinarte Vivieros, is already impacting service and morale. The Urgent Care area is being tidied up to provide service closer to the Emergency Department. We look forward to great things in Paediatric Emergency Medicine under Steve's leadership.
3. Daniel Roth has joined the Division of Paediatric Medicine as a clinician scientist. Daniel has been spending bits of time at SickKids the past couple of years while doing his doctorate at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Reshma Amin is the newest member of Respiratory Medicine. Reshma trained at SickKids. As a clinician investigator, her roles will be in children needing ventilator support, and those with sleep disorders. Suzanne Beno has joined Paediatric Emergency Medicine as an academic clinician. Suzanne has come from Edmonton, having done her emergency medicine training at CHOP.

From the "time-flies-when-you-are-having-fun" department, the five-year review of the Department of Paediatrics will take place in March 2011. There will be plenty of opportunity to have input into the process as it evolves over the next few months.

There are three ad hoc committees within the Department of Paediatrics at present assessing the following issues with a view to providing recommendations for appropriate departmental policies and procedures:

1. The Awards Committee will review the financial awards to the department in the form of career development awards, contract, etc., with a view to determining appropriate apportionment of these resources. The chair of this committee is Felix Ratjen.
2. The Retirement Committee, chaired by me, will make recommendations for the policies needed now that mandatory retirement has been scrapped.
3. The Academic Away Time Committee, to be chaired by Jim Whitlock, will assess the impact of time spent away from the hospital in academic pursuits and make recommendations to ensure that policies are in place to support the department's strategic plan.



Finally, please do not forget the following dates:

1. December 1st, 2010: Annual Meeting of the Paediatric Consultants Partnership with a detailed discussion of the current status of the CDCP.
2. December 14th, 2010: Annual End-of-the-Year Party at Hart House. Please come.

With my best wishes,

Denis

NEW RECRUITS



Division of Haematology/Oncology

Dr. Jim Whitlock is the Division Head and Women's Auxiliary Millennium Chair in Haematology/Oncology at The Hospital for Sick Children and Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto. Prior to his arrival at SickKids in 2010, Jim was the Craig-Weaver Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. After earning his medical degree from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, he completed his residency in Pediatrics at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and remained at Vanderbilt to pursue fellowships in the Divisions of Pediatric Genetics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology. During his 12-year tenure as Division Director, the Pediatric Oncology program at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Program tripled in size, was ranked #7 nationally for Cancer Care in Child

Magazine's survey of Best Children's Hospitals (2005), and ranked among the Top 25 children's cancer programs in the 2009 U.S. News & World Report survey. Jim has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including Phi Beta Kappa, the David T. Karzon Award for outstanding research during his residency, and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He has been recognized in America's Top Doctors (Castle Connolly) and The Best Doctors in America annually since 2006. Jim's research interests include the biology and treatment of childhood acute leukemias, the development of new drugs for the treatment of childhood cancers, the biology and treatment of childhood cancers in Down syndrome, and the biology and treatment of histiocytic disorders. He is the President-Elect of the Histiocyte Society and a member of the Board of Directors of the Histiocytosis Association of America. He serves as the Vice-Chair for New Agents and Relapse studies for the Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Committee of the Children's Oncology Group, and has served as Chair or Vice-Chair of several national clinical trials for the Children's Cancer Group and the Children's Oncology Group. He is a founding member of the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutics Investigators' Consortium (POETIC) and serves on its Executive Committee. He is the lead investigator for an international trial for relapsed T-cell ALL through the Therapeutic Advances in Childhood Leukemia (TACL) consortium, and was recently elected to Chair its Steering & Prioritization Committee by his peers. He has organized and co-chaired international conferences on Down Syndrome and ALL, and New Agents in ALL. He has authored or co-authored over 80 peer-reviewed or invited manuscripts and book chapters, and served on the Program Committees for the Histiocyte Society, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

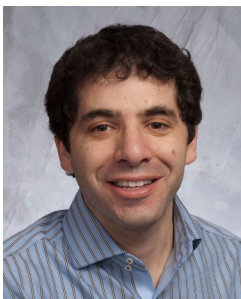


Division of Paediatric Emergency Medicine

Dr. Suzanne Beno received her medical degree from the University of Saskatchewan. She finished both her pediatric residency training and completed a pediatric emergency medicine fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2006. She has been faculty at the University of Alberta working at the Stollery Children's Hospital in Emergency Medicine for the last four years. Her research interests and publications have included work in the field of urticaria and anaphylaxis. She has been the site lead for a multi-centre national study evaluating safety surveillance in procedural sedation. She also has a strong interest in injury prevention and advocacy efforts to decrease preventable morbidity and mortality in children. She has joined the Division of Emergency Medicine here at the Hospital for Sick Children and looks forward to working with the children of Toronto and the staff at SickKids.



Dr. Stephen Porter graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with University Honors as a double major in Biology and English Literature. In 1993, he received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and at graduation was awarded the Carl Weihl prize for promise in Pediatrics. After training in general pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Steve moved on to Children's Hospital Boston where he completed subspecialty training in pediatric emergency medicine as well as a health services research fellowship. As a fellow, he was the first recipient of the Ludwig-Seidel award from the Ambulatory Pediatrics Association, awarded for excellence in research in pediatric emergency medicine. He stayed on as faculty in Boston, and focused his research agenda on the emerging field of clinical informatics with support from the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research. Over the past decade, Steve has pursued a patient-centered focus in clinical research, asking how parents' knowledge about their children could benefit clinical decisions and clinical care in emergency medicine. He has designed and evaluated parent-driven information solutions in an effort to understand their impact on quality and safety outcomes. His research interests include the topics of health literacy, health communication, human factors and information design, workflow and task analysis, and system-level improvement.



Division of Paediatric Medicine

Dr. Daniel Roth is a general pediatrician and an epidemiologist focusing on global child health. Originally from Calgary, Daniel received his MD from the University of British Columbia, and completed his general pediatric residency and MSc at the University of Alberta. He is currently completing a PhD in international public health and human nutrition at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore. Daniel's primary research interest is the clinical and epidemiologic study of maternal-infant nutrition and infant infectious diseases in developing countries, with a particular emphasis on the role of vitamin D in early infant growth and the risk of infection in South Asia. He has previously conducted studies exploring the association between vitamin D and lower respiratory tract infection in Alberta, Peru, and Bangladesh, and is currently carrying out a randomized controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation in pregnant women in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Daniel is also a co-investigator on a randomized trial of simplified antibiotic regimens for management of suspected neonatal sepsis in Bangladesh and a multi-centre community-based surveillance study to determine the etiologies and risk factors for early infant infections in urban and rural resource-poor settings in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. Daniel first became affiliated with the Division of Pediatric Medicine in July 2008, working occasionally as a staff physician on the pediatric wards during the time that he was conducting his PhD thesis research. He recently moved back to Canada with his wife Kyla, and they are very glad to now call Toronto home. As a full member of the Department, Daniel looks forward to continued contributions to clinical and educational activities on the Pediatric Medicine Inpatient Units, as well as collaborations with SickKids colleagues in local and international child health research targeting vulnerable populations.



Division of Respiratory Medicine

Dr. Reshma Amin joined SickKids in July 2010 as a Clinical Investigator in the Division of Respiratory Medicine and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. She has also been recently appointed as an Associate Scientist in the Department of Child Health and Evaluative Sciences. Reshma completed a degree in Biology at the University of Western Ontario prior to graduating from medical school at the University of Toronto in 2002. She completed her paediatric residency training in Toronto. This was followed by a two-year respiratory medicine fellowship at SickKids. She subsequently completed a Master's of Science degree in clinical epidemiology at the University of Toronto concurrently with a research fellowship. She completed a Pediatric Sleep Medicine fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2010. At present, Reshma's main research focus is the assessment of the Quality of Life and identification of the limitations of care which exist for the mechanically ventilated pediatric population. This is a rapidly expanding population and characterization of this population as well as the identification of the burden of the disease for these children is currently lacking. In addition, she is also interested in the validation of early outcome measures to assess interventions in children with Cystic Fibrosis - in particular, the Lung Clearance Index (LCI) as well as Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging.