NOW OPEN! New Golisano Children’s Hospital

UR Medicine’s new 245,000 square foot Golisano Children’s Hospital opened its doors to patients in July.

Pediatric Fellows Participate in Community Panel With Autism Scholar

This year’s Gilbert B. Forbes Lecture Series featured preeminent international autism scholar, Catherine Lord, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain at Weill Cornell Medical School. Renowned for developing tests used for diagnosis and her contribution to the revision of DSM criteria, Dr. Lord shared her expertise during a panel discussion on the under-diagnosis of autism in special populations, attended by health care providers, community organizations and parents.

Research Spotlight

Robert Nutt, M.D., Third Year Developmental-Behavioral Fellow
Understanding the Response of Parents to Newborn Hearing Screening

Dr. Robert Nutt’s involvement in the Forbes panel stemmed from his clinical and research interests in the development of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This is a population in which the diagnosis of autism is a challenging scenario given the test’s reliance on social interaction through speech and language, both of which are greatly affected by a child’s hearing ability. While there is still much to understand about this dual diagnosis, Dr. Nutt notes that it is critical to first understand the full picture of development in a child with a single diagnosis of hearing loss.

Dr. Nutt will be focusing on development at the neonatal stage, specifically studying parent response to newborn hearing screening. He has developed a study to explore the parent-child interaction that occurs while parents await results of the screening test, a critical time in child development. What are parents’ perceptions of the hearing screening test? What do they experience during this waiting period? Do they interact with their child differently while awaiting these results? While some literature exists in psychology and deaf education, very little has been published in the field of developmental pediatrics.
Through asking these questions, Dr. Nutt hopes to identify opportunities to ensure that the interaction between parents and child during this period of uncertainty is optimized in ways that promote total acceptance of the child and that promote healthy attachment and early building blocks for communication and socialization, regardless of hearing status. “It is important to ensure the understanding that even if the child does not have the expected ability for audio information, they can profit from all the other ways that parents bond with their children,” he said, explaining that even though the child may not be able to hear the voice of a parent speaking or singing, they can feel the energy and tone, see facial expressions, and experience comfort through touch and repetition.

Dr. Nutt’s research mentors include Susan Hyman, M.D., James Dolan, M.D., Mark Orlando Ph.D., M.B.A., Scott McIntosh, Ph.D., Peter Veazie, Ph.D., and Ann Dozier, Ph.D. The group will collect this data through a series of interviews and focus groups with key informants and parents in the community. The results have the potential to improve the process of the newborn hearing screening test at the organizational level, as well as further our understanding of the education, resources and support needed for parents during the waiting period and thereafter.

**URMC Clausen and Bradford Fellowship Awards**

Each year, the Department of Pediatrics offers Clausen and Bradford Fellowship Awards to support fellows’ research. The application process is competitive. The 2015-2016 recipients are:

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**Society for Pediatric Research Basic Science Research Award**

Pratik Parikh, M.B.B.S. (2015 Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine graduate) received the Society for Pediatric Research Fellows’ Section Basic Science Research award at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting. Dr. Parikh was given this prestigious award for his work with mentor, David Dean, Ph.D., exploring gene therapy for PDA treatment. Pictured is Jake Kushner, M.D., President of the Society for Pediatric Research and Pratik Parikh, M.B.B.S. at the award ceremony.

**I CARE**

Recent Strong Star recipients, recognized by patients, families, and colleagues for their exceptional commitment to patient and family-centered care, include the following pediatric fellows: Jen DeMichele, M.D. (Critical Care), Javed Mannan, M.D., M.P.H. (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine), Elizabeth Nocera, D.O. (Critical Care), Robert Nutt, M.D. (Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics), Laura Price, M.D. (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine), Casey Rosen-Carole, M.D., M.P.H. (General Pediatrics), and Christina Sollinger, M.D. (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine).
Welcome to Our Newest Fellows!

The Department of Pediatrics welcomed ten new fellows in the divisions of cardiology, critical care, developmental-behavioral pediatrics, general pediatrics, gastroenterology/nutrition, hematology/oncology, neonatology, and rheumatology.

Congratulations to Our Recent Fellow Graduates!

On Thursday, June 11th, we celebrated the accomplishments of our graduating fellows at a Fellowship Graduation Dinner held at Ballroom 384, a chic event space located in Rochester’s historic East Avenue district. Visit our Facebook page to view more photos from graduation.

ADOLESCENT MEDICINE: Laura Obijuru, M.D.
Senior Instructor of Clinical Pediatrics, University Health Service, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Publications


ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY: Jeanne Lomas, D.O.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Allergy and Immunology
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology
University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

Publications


Grants/Awards

- Domestic In-Training FITs/PhD Post Doc FIT Travel Scholarship, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), December 2014
- Domestic In-Training FITs/PhD Post Doc FIT Travel Scholarship, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), December 2013
- FIT Travel Grant, American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI), September 2013

GENERAL PEDIATRICS: Anne-Marie Conn, Ph.D.
Instructor, General Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

Publications


**Grants/Awards**

- PI: Jee, SH | Title: Addressing Parenting Concerns (ABC's) for Young Children: Parenting Pearls by Primary Providers | Sponsor: Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation | Grant Type: non-NIH | 2014 – 2016
- PI: Conn, AM | Title: Supporting Vulnerable Children in Pediatrics: Mitigating the Social Determinants of Health Sponsors | Sponsor: University of Rochester Medical Center | Grant Type: non-NIH | 2014 – 2015
- Bradford Fellowship Award, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2014-2015
- National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Summer Research Institute (Selected for participation in four-day training on secondary data analysis, Cornell University), June 2013

**DEVELOPMENTAL-BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS: Abigail Kroening, M.D.**

Assistant Professor, Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

**Publications**


**Grants/Awards**

- University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Pediatrics NIH T32-funded Fellowship Program, 2013-2015
- Medical Faculty Council Travel Award in Clinical Science Research, May 2015

**DEVELOPMENTAL-BEHAVIORAL PEDIATRICS: Stephanie Straka, D.O.**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Robert Warner Children’s Center, University at Buffalo/Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

**Grants/Awards**

- Haggerty Freidman Psychosocial Award for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, $5,000. February 2015
- American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD) Future Leader Award, 2015

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Zachary Hoy, M.D.**

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist and Pediatric Hospitalist, The Children’s Hospital at TriStar Centennial, Nashville, TN

**Publications**


**Grants/Awards**

- Clausen Fellowship Award, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2013-2014

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Brenda Tesini, M.D.**

9-month Clinical Instructor appointment in Pediatric Infectious Diseases followed by a fellowship in Adult Infectious Diseases, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
Publications


Grants/Awards

- Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) Infectious Diseases Fellows Program Award, American Society for Microbiology, Washington DC, September 2014
- Travel Award, Infectious Diseases Research Careers Meeting, NIAID/IDSA, May 2014
- Clausen Fellowship Award, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2013-2014
- Fellowship Travel Award, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, January 2013

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE: Pratik Parikh, M.B.B.S.

Assistant Professor, Neonatology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Publications


Grants/Awards

- University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Pediatrics NIH T32-funded Fellowship Program, 2012-2015
- Society for Pediatric Research Section Fellow Basic Science Award, Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS), April 2015
- Travel Award, Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR) Annual Meeting, April 2015
- Clausen Fellowship Award, Department of Pediatrics, University of Rochester Medical Center, 2014-2015.
- Travel Award, Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR) Annual Meeting, April 2014

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE: Srujana Rallabandi, M.B.B.S., M.P.H.

Attending Neonatologist, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children, Honolulu, HI

Grants/Awards

- Dean's Fellowship Award, 2013-2015

Current and Graduated Fellows - Please send us your news!

meghan_plog@urmc.rochester.edu