Fellow Spotlight: Sarah Ronis, M.D.

Fellowship training dates: 2011 - 2014

“I came to Rochester to learn how to evaluate and improve systems of care for children with chronic illnesses and complex special health care needs. Inspired by my experiences with Health-e-Access and SB-TEAM, my research focus has shifted to explore whether telemedicine and related health IT tools can be used to facilitate care coordination for children with special health care needs (CSHCN). My goal is to learn whether these services can ameliorate the healthcare burden experienced by CSHCN and their families.

“Under the mentorship of Dr. Ken McConnochie, Director of Health e-Access, I am completing an evaluation of acute care utilization patterns by children with complex special needs, before and after gaining access to school-based telemedicine. I have also collaborated with Dr. McConnochie’s team on related evaluations to assess the safety and efficacy of acute care telemedicine for CSHCN, and the influence of telemedicine availability on equity in access to acute care services for urban children in general.

“I am profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to work closely with national leaders in the rapidly emerging field of telemedicine. With the increased emphasis on efficient population-based care under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), organizations across the country are exploring whether telemedicine can help meet these goals and looking to Health-e-Access as a rare example of a mature primary care-oriented telemedicine network. As I finish fellowship, I am convinced that interdisciplinary translational research like these telemedicine investigations will be crucial to the future delivery of high quality primary care, and I am eager to contribute to this growing field.”

– Sarah Ronis, M.D.

Alumni Spotlight:
Jennifer S. Linebarger, M.D., M.P.H.

Fellowship training dates: 2007 - 2010
Dr. Jennifer Linebarger is making a profound difference in the lives of patients through her passion for and expertise in adolescent medicine and palliative care. In addition to a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, Dr. Linebarger is the Medical Director of the Palliative Care Team at Children’s Mercy Hospital. In this role, she leads the efforts of the Palliative Care Team (PaCT) to enhance the quality of life and care for neonatal, pediatric and adolescent patients with life-limiting and life-threatening illness. Dr. Linebarger also serves as a member of the Bioethics and Cancer Care Committees, faculty for the Bioethics Certificate Program, and had served as Medical Advisor for the Eating Disorder Center. At the national level, she sits on the executive committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Linebarger received her medical degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Medicine in 2003 and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Rochester Medical Center in 2006, serving an additional year as Chief Resident. During her three years of adolescent medicine fellowship training, Dr. Linebarger completed a Master of Public Health degree, presented at five national and two international meetings, and was lead author on a peer-reviewed journal article. In addition, she served on numerous national committees. She pursued a Pediatric Palliative Care fellowship at Harvard University upon graduation, and then returned to Missouri in 2011.

“My time and training in Rochester completely shaped me into the provider I am today. The dynamic combination of mentors at the University of Rochester launched (and continue to reinforce) my clinical skills, teaching abilities, and advocacy/research interests.” – Jennifer Linebarger, M.D., M.P.H.

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Fellow Grand Rounds - April 22 and 23, 2014

Each year, a select group of third year fellows presents research at the Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds. This year, our presenters are (pictured from left to right):

-Manvi Bansal, M.D. (Pulmonology) “Relationship between respiratory function and feeding desaturations in preterm infants” Research mentor: Clement L. Ren, M.D.

-Katherine Blumoff Greenberg, M.D. (Adolescent Medicine) “Factors associated with provision of long-acting reversible contraception among adolescent health care providers” Research mentor: Constance D. Baldwin, Ph.D.

-Sarah Ronis, M.D. (General Pediatrics) “Personal health records in the management of ADHD” Research mentor: Peter Szilagyi, M.D., M.P.H.

-Vibha Sood, M.B.B.S. (Gastroenterology/Nutrition) “To study the function and role of type 3 secretion system effector protein VopE in pathogenesis of Vibrio cholerae.” Research mentor: Michelle Dziejman, Ph.D.
Fellow Accomplishments

FUNDED PROJECTS

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics

Third-year fellow, Dr. Stephanie Straka, is working with Dr. Stephen Sulkes on a Special Olympics Team Trainer Program funded by a $50,000 grant from the Special Hope Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

Critical Care


General Pediatrics


Gastroenterology/ Nutrition


NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Adolescent Medicine

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, Austin, TX, March 2014:

- **Greenberg KB**, Kodjo C, Baldwin CD, Shone LP. Improving a pediatric residency rotation in adolescent medicine. (Poster)
- **Greenberg KB**, Kodjo C, Kreipe R, Coles MS. Creating clinical services for transgender youth in an academic medical center: an application of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model. (Poster)
General Pediatrics


Kilbane B, Ronis S, Chen S, Bodley K. The pediatric early warning score as a triage tool: does the score in the emergency department correlate with the need for escalation of care in the first 24 hours of hospitalization? 2013 Pediatric Hospital Medicine (PHM) Conference, New Orleans, LA, August 1, 2013. (Poster)

Gastroenterology/Nutrition

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (NASPGHAN), Chicago, IL, October 2013:

• Mohanty P, Sood V, Brown M, Lee YH. Spontaneous resolution of Type 2 Abernethy malformation in an infant with Noonan Syndrome: a case report. (Poster)
• Shields T, Rossi T, Saubermann L. An unusual case of rectal bleeding in a pediatric patient with portal hypertension. (Poster)
• Sood V, Miller K, Dziejman M. Role of the VopE effector protein in V. cholerae type three secretion system mediated pathogenesis. (Poster)
• Sood V, Mohanty P, Brown M, Lee YH. Gastrointestinal manifestation of ROHHADNET syndrome. (Poster)

Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) Inflammatory Bowel Disease Conference, Hollywood, FL, December 2013:

• Shields M, Goldman B, Kay M, Varade W, Rossi T. Pediatric case report of Stage 3 chronic kidney disease likely due to infliximab. (Poster)

Neonatology

Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR), Philadelphia, PA, March 2014:

• Parikh P, Alfieris GM, Swartz MF, Dean DA. Gene expression of the ductus arteriosus and aorta from neonates and infants. (Platform)

Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS), Vancouver, BC Canada, May 2014:

• **Parikh P**, Alfieris GM, Swartz MF, Dean DA. Gene expression of the ductus arteriosus and aorta from neonates and infants. (Platform)


**Pulmonology**


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**Co-Vice Chairs for Research, Department of Pediatrics: Encouraging Collaboration**

The University of Rochester can take pride not only in its new Golisano Children's Hospital project, but in a highly regarded Department of Pediatrics that ranks 15th in National Institutes of Health research funding -- at a time when NIH funding is hard to come by.

"We would like people to realize that many opportunities exist for collaboration between investigators in the Department of Pediatrics and investigators in other departments and centers in the greater University of Rochester research community," said **Damian Krysan**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases), who along with **Jill Halterman**, Professor of Pediatrics, were recently appointed as the department's Vice Chairs for Research.

"In pediatrics, we view health in a very holistic way," Halterman added. "The health of a child includes not just their medical health but also their psychosocial health and educational achievement; so, the opportunities for collaboration are very broad."

More than 200 faculty and investigators affiliated with the department conduct basic, clinical and translational research in key areas that represent a "microcosm of all of medicine": autism and developmental disabilities, cancer, developmental biology, health services and prevention, infectious diseases and immunology, lung health and disease, neuromedicine, nutrition and metabolism, and renal and cardiovascular.


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**Funding Opportunities**

**Clausen and Bradford Fellowships**
The Department of Pediatrics awards Clausen and Bradford Fellowships for partial support of postdoctoral fellows at any level of training within the department. Fully supported fellows can be the recipient of either of these awards. The awards will be based on merit of the research, training plans and potential of the trainee. Nominations will be reviewed and selection made by the Strong Children's Research Center (SCRC) Director and Associate Directors.

**April 30, 2014** is the application deadline for the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Alpha Omega Alpha Postgraduate Award**

The Alpha Omega Alpha Postgraduate Award provides research support for clinical investigation, basic laboratory research, epidemiology, or social science/health services research. Fellows from programs at institutions with an active AΩA chapter, such as URMC, are eligible. Applicants need not be AΩA members. Projects must fall into one of five categories: Research, Service, Teaching and education, Leadership, Humanism and professionalism.

**May 30, 2014** is the application deadline for the 2014-2015 academic year.

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**A Festschrift to Honor Dr. Caroline Breese Hall**

A Festschrift to honor the late Caroline Breese Hall, M.D., a Professor of Pediatrics and an expert in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 25 in the Class of ’62 Auditorium. Join international experts in infectious diseases and vaccine development – including featured speaker Stanley Plotkin, M.D. Emeritus Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Former Medical and Scientific Director of Pasteur-Mérieux-Connaught Principal of Vaxconsult, LLC – for a full day of scientific talks and discussions.

- Schedule of events

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**Masters in Medical Management Program**

**Have you ever considered a business degree?** The U of R’s own internationally-ranked Simon Business School offers an MS in Business Administration program that provides management and business skills related to the health care industry. The in-class commitment for the Medical Management Master’s program is one night per week and one weekend per month for a total of two classes per quarter. The final academic term is spent completing a comprehensive team project toward the degree.

For more information, attend one of the informational sessions.

*Fellows are eligible for 95% tuition waiver.*

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**CLER (Clinical Learning Environment Review)**
What is CLER? The Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) program is part of the ACGME’s Next Accreditation System that will assess the graduate medical education learning environment of each sponsoring institution and its participating sites, emphasizing the responsibility of the institution for the quality and safety of the environment for learning and patient care. An important aspect of the program is the institutional site visit that will occur approximately every 18 months. During these visits, residents and fellows will be observed and may be interviewed about the following key areas of focus:

- Patient Safety
- Quality Improvement
- Transitions in Care
- Supervision

- Duty Hours Oversight, Fatigue Management and Mitigation
- Professionalism

Each program should have policies in place that address all of these focus areas. Please contact your Fellowship Program Director or Coordinator with any questions.

Our Fellows’ Commitment to I CARE Values

The following pediatric fellows are recent Strong Stars, recognized by patients, families, and colleagues for their exceptional commitment to patient and family-centered care, pictured from left to right: Jennifer DeMichele, M.D. (First Year, Critical Care), Rebecca Pratt, M.D. (Third Year, Cardiology), Karen Sethi, M.D. (Third Year, Critical Care), and Syed Shah, M.B.B.S. (Third Year, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine).

On a Personal Note

Third-year Gastroenterology/Nutrition Fellow, Matthew Shields, M.D. (on left) took some time for fun and recreation during a recent conference in Scottsdale, AZ. The event, hosted by NASPGHAN, gave third-year Pediatric GI/Nutrition fellows from around the country the opportunity to present their research. Dr. Shields presented his research on “ANEXIC: An Assessment of Exercise in Children with Crohn’s Disease.”

Third-year General Pediatrics Fellow, Andrew Sherman, M.D. and his wife Chrystal Jenkins had their second son, Hayes Desmond Scott Sherman, on December 12. (Andy says he’s becoming an excellent dancer!)

Out and About in Rochester
**Lilac Festival** – May 9 - 18, 2014

This year’s **Lilac Festival**, a favorite of Rochesterians and visitors alike, promises to be as memorable as ever with special events including a Lilac 10K and 5K Family Fun Run and a Wine & Chocolate Tasting, as well as a juried selection of arts and crafts. The star of the show, of course, is the over 500 varieties of lilacs, one of which is named for Frederick Law Olmstead, landscape architect of both Highland Park - where the festival takes place - and New York’s Central Park.

**Fairport Canal Days** – June 7 - 9, 2014

**Fairport Canal Days** is an annual arts and crafts festival held on Main Street in the idyllic village of Fairport, along the banks of the historic Erie Canal. Located only 20 minutes from the city of Rochester, this festival offers a unique experience and small-town charm. One of the most popular juried art festivals in the Northeast, the event typically attracts 200,000 attendees. A family-friendly event, you can enjoy food, music, entertainment and the always popular duck race!

**Jazz Festival** – June 20 - 28, 2014

The **Rochester Jazz Festival** is back for the 13th year and will feature a diverse set of headliners including Janelle Monae, Earth, Wind, & Fire, Michael McDonald, Steve Martin, and contemporary jazz quartet, Fourplay. Some headliner shows are already sold out and the final headliners will be announced March 18. Buy a Club Pass to enjoy access to 230 shows at 13 venues in the festival’s Club Pass Series. There will also be a number of free shows so everyone can join in the fun.