

**Children's Memorial
Research Center™**

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InTouch

WITH RESEARCH

at Children's Memorial Research Center

The Interactive Effect of Clinical Practice and Research

John Lavigne, PhD, Chief Psychologist at Children's Memorial Hospital and professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, is keenly aware of the psychological problems that young children may face, and the challenges that pediatricians can encounter in treating them. "The clinical work gives one a real sense of what needs to be done, and the gaps between the research literature and what practitioners can even do...Little by little, that's become known as the process of translating research into practice." Dr. Lavigne's translation has involved using what he observes in his research to identify problems in his patients, develop better therapies and help practices improve their services. Conversely, his awareness of the types of problems that children present with leads to more questions to be addressed in the research setting.



photo: Jan Terry

John Lavigne, PhD

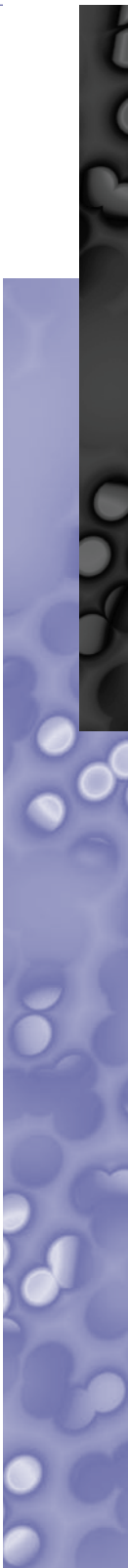
An ongoing area of research is a condition known as Oppositional Defiant Disorder, or ODD. This term is used to describe children who are very difficult to manage, have severe temper tantrums, or won't do what adults tell them to do. Almost all young children display some ODD-like behaviors, but some preschoolers take it to an extreme, either in terms of intensity or frequency. Lavigne and his co-investigators were able to show how common the problem is. They also discovered that young children with ODD don't necessarily "grow out" of it, and that these children often develop other problems later, such as depression or anxiety.

But this raised more questions: Were depression and anxiety already there but masked by the ODD? Or did they result from conflicts these children had with their families or at school? Lavigne's current ODD study attempts to delineate these pathways. In a sample of 797 children that is similar demographically to that of Cook County, his group began tracking study participants at age 4 to determine how stable the problems were and what psychosocial factors might contribute to secondary problems. Family conflict, maternal depression, interactional factors such as quality of support the mother provides during play activities, maternal warmth vs. hostility, the child's attachment to the mother, and his temperament are all evaluated for their potential roles.

[continued on page 9]

In This Issue

- Director's Message . . . 2
- Graduate
Student News 3
- Appointments,
Promotions, Awards . . 4
- MRIC Matters 6
- News 8
- Research News 10
- Profile 11



Director's Message



Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD,
Medical Research Institute
Council Professor, President
& Scientific Director,
Children's Memorial
Research Center

Progress, Progress, Progress

This spring, the research enterprise underwent an academic strategic planning process.

Specifically, our Program and Center directors, together with their respective faculty, completed an internal assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, and outlined opportunities to better integrate with the clinical programs of Children's Memorial Hospital and the research themes of Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. This phase was followed by a site visit from a distinguished panel of external reviewers who made excellent recommendations to strengthen the research infrastructure. This strategic plan facilitates our ability to work with the new leadership of the Feinberg School in a coordinated manner to achieve the highest level of integration relative to campus coordination.

Dr. Ram Yogev has assumed the position of Deputy Director for Research — Clinical Sciences. The Program in Experimental Therapeutics has been renamed to the Program in Clinical and Translational Research, under his leadership.

Dr. Philip M. Iannaccone and **Mr. Philip V. Spina** have accepted two new corporate positions as Senior Vice President, Children's Memorial Research Center. Dr. Iannaccone will continue to serve as Deputy Director for Research — Basic Sciences, and program director of Developmental Biology. Mr. Spina will concurrently serve as the Chief Operating Officer. Both bring unique expertise to the leadership team and make significant contributions to the academic research mission of the enterprise. The Senior Vice Presidents will continue to report to the president and scientific director.

The research center's Program leaders continue to advance our overall mission with noteworthy recruitments: **Drs. Xin Liu** and **Hui-Ju Tsai** joined the Smith Child Health Research Program; **Dr. Michael Klüppel** was recruited to the Human Molecular Genetics Program; and **Dr. Vasil Galat** was appointed director of the Stem Cell Core Facility at the research center.

I hope you are encouraged by our progress. We are truly grateful for your continued, generous support.



Save the Date for the Bear Symposium

The Second Annual "Cracking the Code With the Bear" research symposium, hosted by The Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation and Children's Memorial Research Center, will be held November 16, 2007, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the Hotel InterContinental — Chicago. The seminar will recognize ten outstanding post-doctoral scientists from prominent institutions in the U.S. for their seminal contributions in the field of cancer biology and epigenomics. These bright young investigators

were nominated by their mentors, all senior leaders in the field, based on their achievements and potential for success as independent junior faculty members. Researchers, students, cancer specialists and anyone interested in the field of cancer biology and epigenomics are welcome to attend to hear reports of cutting-edge research. For more information, please contact Alicia Capraro at Bear Necessities (acapraro@bearnecessities.org).



Please send questions and comments to Peggy Jones:
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Significant Accomplishments

Kathleen Somera-Molina, in the laboratory of Mark Wainwright, PhD, Division of Neurology, Children's Memorial Hospital, was invited to present at the Sixth Annual St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium, Memphis, TN, in March 2007. The symposium's purpose is to introduce prospective postdoctoral candidates to St. Jude Children's Hospital research and faculty. Somera-Molina presented her research in a talk entitled "Glial activation as a potential treatment target in pediatric epilepsy."

Somera-Molina has also been awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Training Grant through Northwestern University's Center for Drug Discovery and Chemical Biology, entitled "Drug discovery training for age-related disorders." The award supports her work on the role of glial activation and neuroinflammation in pediatric brain injury. Wainwright and Somera-Molina are part of the Neurobiology Program at the research center.

Jennifer Krcmery, in the Integrated Graduate Program in the Life Sciences (IGP) of Northwestern, in the laboratory of **Hans-Georg Simon, PhD,** Developmental Biology Program, has received a Ruth L. Kirschstein award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the NIH. This very prestigious award is a pre-doctoral fellowship for approximately \$143,000 for 5 years. The title of her grant is "Heart development following genetic inactivation of Lmp4." The proposed studies determine the biological function of the Lmp4 protein in heart development, alone and in association with the transcription factor Tbx5. The overall goal is to elucidate the functional role of the interaction of Lmp4 and Tbx5 in heart development, which may provide new insights into heart/limb phenotypes observed in Holt-Oram syndrome. Krcmery will specifically test the hypothesis that Lmp4 functions as a regulator of Tbx5 subcellular localization in heart and coronary vasculature development.

Krcmery is grateful to Dr. Simon, the members of the Simon lab, and her co-sponsor on the grant, **Susan Crawford, MD,** for their support.

Top prizes went to three graduate students in the Human Molecular Genetics Program for the 2007 Chicago Graduate Student Association (CGSA) Poster Session held on September 20.

1st place: Chris Ott (**Ann Harris, PhD,** lab)

2nd place: Chris Heier (**Christine DiDonato, PhD,** lab)

3rd place: Neil Blackledge (**Ann Harris, PhD,** lab)

The CGSA is a Northwestern student organization that encompasses graduate students in the following programs on the Chicago Campus: the IGP, Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), Northwestern University Institute for Neuroscience (NUIN), Genetic Counseling, Clinical Psychology and Physical Therapy. The CGSA provides a forum to address the academic, social and political needs of graduate students on the Chicago campus, as well as to promote interactions with groups on the Evanston campus.

by Suzan Hammond



Kathleen Somera-Molina



Jennifer Krcmery



Left to right: Neil Blackledge, Chris Heier and Chris Ott

Awards, Honors and Research News:

New Appointments



Michael Klüppel, PhD

Michael Klüppel, PhD, joined the Human Molecular Genetics Program at Children's Memorial Research Center from the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada, where he worked as a postdoctoral fellow and research associate in the laboratory of Dr. Jeffrey Wrana. His investigations at the research center will focus on the characterization of the functional importance of chondroitin sulfate and chondroitin sulfate modifying enzymes (including C4ST-1) at the convergence of the Ras and TGFbeta signaling pathways in pediatric diseases including Costello syndrome, which is caused by oncogenic Ras signaling. Importantly, his laboratory will extend these studies to understand the roles of chondroitin sulfate and chondroitin sulfate modifying enzymes during cancer progression, a process tightly controlled by both Ras and TGFbeta signaling.

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Hui-Ju Tsai, MSc, MPH, PhD

Hui-Ju Tsai, MSc, MPH, PhD, joined the Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research (CHR) Program at the research center as a tenure track assistant professor in 2006. Dr. Tsai's training is in molecular biology, epidemiology and statistical genetics. During her two-year postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Francisco, she received a Junior Research Training Fellowship from the American Lung Association of California, and the James V. Neel Young Investigator Award by the International Genetic Epidemiology Society. Since joining the Smith CHR Program, Dr. Tsai has been actively participating in an ongoing preterm birth study and the Children's

Memorial Food Allergy Study. Specifically, she has applied advanced statistical methods and computing algorithms to dissect genetic predispositions and gene-environment interactions of preterm birth and food allergy. In addition, Dr. Tsai has served as a co-principal investigator for a recently funded Chicago Community Trust grant and as a co-investigator for a pending NIH Food Allergy Cooperative Research Center grant.

Memorial Food Allergy Study. Specifically, she has applied advanced statistical methods and computing algorithms to dissect genetic predispositions and gene-environment interactions of preterm birth and food allergy. In addition, Dr. Tsai has served as a co-principal investigator for a recently funded Chicago Community Trust grant and as a co-investigator for a pending NIH Food Allergy Cooperative Research Center grant.



Xin Liu, MD, PhD

Xin Liu, MD, PhD, joined the Smith CHR Program and the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine as a tenure track assistant professor in January 2007. Dr. Liu's research includes applied and methodological studies in genetic epidemiology,

with the overall aim to decipher the mechanisms underlying complex traits. Her methodological work has focused on the evaluation of tests for gene-environment interactions using different epidemiological study designs and the extension of hierarchical modeling on association studies of multiple disease-associated phenotypes. Currently, Dr. Liu is actively involved in the genetic association studies of preterm birth and food allergy. Her primary research interests are to evaluate interaction effects between multiple biological pathway-based candidate genes and relevant environmental factors on risk of childhood diseases.

Promotions

Philip Iannaccone, MD, PhD, has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Deputy Director for Research — Basic Sciences.

Philip Spina, CRA, has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Appointments

Ram Yogeve, MD, has been appointed Deputy Director for Research — Clinical Sciences.

Publication

"The Teen Photovoice Project: A Pilot Study to Promote Health through Advocacy" was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and*



Jonathan Necheles, MD

Action. The study's first author was **Jonathan Necheles, MD**, Center on Obesity Management and Prevention, Smith CHR Program and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Feinberg School. This study demonstrates that youth can engage in a process of identifying community-level health

influences that ultimately result in health promotion through advocacy. The paper also demonstrates how existing methods (i.e., photovoice) can be extended to accommodate the youth's needs and existing technology. Finally, the results suggest that youth can identify community influences of obesity, and are concerned about them.

Awards

Children's Memorial Research Center was recently awarded two grants from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust. The grants will support **Dr. Xiaobin Wang's** study, "Application of genomics and proteomics approach in understanding biological mechanisms of food allergy," and **Dr. Hans-Georg Simon's** study, "Rebuilding a heart."

Wang's study will provide much needed genetic and proteomic research on food allergy. Food allergies affect up to 6% of children and 3.5% of adults in the U.S., but limited knowledge exists on underlying biological mechanisms. The ongoing multi-center study has found that there is a significant genetic component to food allergy and its related traits. This study will lead to a better understanding of the biological mechanisms of food allergy; findings through studies like this could help develop more effective prevention or

treatment strategies. **Xiaobin Wang, MD, MPH, ScD**, is the Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Research Professor and director of the Smith CHR Program at the research center; and professor of pediatrics at the Feinberg School.

Simon's study will investigate the inherent regenerative abilities of newts and zebrafish, which are able to regenerate lost appendages and injured organs, including their limbs/fins and heart. Understanding how regeneration occurs naturally in newts and zebrafish will facilitate development of strategies for inducing the appropriate signals to elicit a regenerative instead of a scarring response after wounding in a non-regenerating mammal. The possibilities for use of regeneration in humans are endless and could eventually lead to significant improvements in care and treatment for children who have suffered a heart attack, lost a limb or had a debilitating injury. **Hans-Georg Simon, PhD**, is the Bernard L. Mirkin Research Scholar in the Developmental Biology Program at the research center; and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Feinberg School.

We at the research center are sincerely grateful for the funding from the Searle family and the Chicago Community Trust that has made these studies a reality. To find out more about the Trust, visit www.cct.org.

Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD, was honored with the 2007 Murray L. Barr Award by the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario. In 1948, **Murray L. Barr, OC, MD, FRS**, discovered the sex chromatin that came to be known as the Barr Body, and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1998 for his pioneering work in human genetic disorders. Dr. Barr received the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation Award from President John F. Kennedy in 1962 for this medical discovery, and was nominated several times for the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. The annual Murray L. Barr Lecture was established at Western in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medical science.

Fundraising: MRIC Matters

About the MRIC

The Medical Research Institute Council (MRIC) was established in 1951 as a private, independent initiative to raise funds for innovative biomedical research. In 1991, the MRIC began its affiliation with Children's Memorial Hospital. Since that time, the MRIC has raised more than \$37 million, including support of Children's Memorial Research Center construction and expansion. MRIC funding has led to advanced investigation in cancer, heart disease, genetics, microbiology and neonatology.

Wang Receives NIH Career Development Award

In 2002, the MRIC identified a family that felt passionately about research into pediatric

integrative medicine, more commonly known as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Through this connection, The Judith Nan Joy Integrative Medicine Initiative at Children's Memorial was created and launched with a five-year seed grant from Judith Nan Joy and the Audrey and Jack Miller Family Foundation.

David M. Steinhorn, MD, is the program's medical director and co-founder. Since that time, more than 1,600 CAM interventions, primarily in the form of massage and touch therapy, have benefited over 500 Children's Memorial patients. Among those most commonly referred to the program's staff of practitioners are children who are receiving organ transplants, cancer care, post-surgical pain management and individuals with gastro-intestinal disorders and chronic pain.

Sheila Wang, PhD, the program's research director, recently received a five-year K-23 Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health. Wang credits the generosity of the Miller family with bringing her work to the attention of the NIH. "My passion for this work has been inspired by my vision about the potential impact of integrating complementary therapies into conventional medicine throughout the world," she says. "I am honored and grateful that the NIH has recognized my work as a scientist in this area and, more importantly, appreciates the potential benefit of this research for children globally."

Serving as Wang's primary mentor is **Ram Yogev, MD,** director of the Clinical and Translational Research Program and Deputy Director for Research — Clinical Sciences at the research center. Yogev is also director of the hospital's Section of Pediatric, Adolescent and Maternal HIV Infection and the Susan B. DePree Founders' Board Professor in Pediatric, Adolescent and Maternal HIV Infection. "I think CAM therapies may have a role in enhancing traditional medicine, improving quality of life and improving compliance and attitudes toward the health care system," says Yogev.

Wang will primarily focus on the effects of massage therapy on the immune systems of HIV-infected adolescents, coordinating her efforts with **Robert Garofalo, MD,** the hospital's primary physician seeing patients at the Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago. In a controlled study, she will evaluate the effects of massage on immune function in one group and compare it to a group undergoing relaxation training. Wang says that CAM interventions likely function in a totally different way than medications, which are believed to affect specific targets, such as receptor and neurotransmitter pathways. Since many CAM interventions are assumed to act on the person systemically, comprehensive clinical CAM research should be multidimensional, and look at the relationships between the autonomic, hormonal, behavioral and immune systems to detect changes in the internal organization of the individual. "This represents an entirely new way of thinking," says Wang.

According to Wang, additional philanthropic support is essential to ensure that high quality research will continue to increase the acceptance of non-traditional forms of medicine and demonstrate its relevance to traditional Western medicine. "We are seeking support for building our program in order to conduct additional evidence-based research," says Wang. "For example, if we can show these interventions can produce immune enhancement or produce a shorter time for the successful implantation of stem cells, those would be huge outcomes that would be very meaningful."

by Dan Kening



Sheila Wang, PhD

photo: Children's Memorial Adult/Visual Department

MRIC Golf Outing

In June, the MRIC hosted its inaugural Links Pro-Am Golf Tournament. Forty-four golfers braved the stormy weather for the event at North Shore Country Club in Glenview, which raised \$20,000 for Children's Memorial Research Center. MRIC board members Hilary Sallerson and Gary Wolfson served as co-chairs for the event.

Professional golfer and PGA champion Craig Stadler, nicknamed "The Walrus," and Northwestern University Golf Coach Pat Goss were on hand to play a hole with each foursome as well as lead a golf clinic. After a day of golf, guests were treated to a cocktail reception at the club. 🍷

by Arla Silverstein



Professional golfer Craig Stadler (left) and Biff Ruttenberg



2007 MRIC campaign co-chairs Lisa Lewis (left) and Jenny Patinkin



Left to right: Gary Wolfson, Hilary Sallerson and Rick Tannenbaum. Wolfson and Sallerson were co-chairs of the event.



Left to right: Ruth Geller, Mimi Sherman and Sandra Kamin



Left to right: Judy Weitzman, Gail Gassner and Mimi Sherman at the 2006 Children's Ball

2007 Children's Ball

Next up for the MRIC is the 2007 Children's Ball, scheduled for Saturday, December 8 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Galaxy Gala is the theme of this year's ball, which is always one of the most popular social events of the year. For tickets or more information, please call 773-975-8892.

Chicago Neural Repair Club Turns Ten

The Chicago Neural Repair Club, hosted by the Children's Memorial Research Center

Neurobiology Program, kicked off its 10th anniversary on September 24, 2007 by featuring **Serge Przedborski, PhD**, from Columbia University. Przedborski spoke on his exciting research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, drawing a large crowd from the Chicago area. Each event includes a reception where neuroscientists can talk with the speaker and enhance their interactions with Chicago colleagues. The remaining schedule features the following speakers.

October 22, 2007

Clive Svendsen, PhD (The Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison); "Repairing the damaged brain with stem cells: Where are we now?"

December 3, 2007

Linda J. Van Eldik, PhD (Northwestern University); "Glia proinflammatory cytokine up-regulation"

February 18, 2008

Jean-Christophe Rochet, PhD (Purdue University); "Alpha-Synuclein and DJ-1: Two proteins with opposite functions in Parkinson's disease"

March 17, 2008

Kun Ping Lu, MD, PhD (Harvard Medical School); "Protein conformational regulation after phosphorylation, from the atomic structure to cancer and Alzheimer's disease"

April 14, 2008

Mari Dezawa, MD, PhD (Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto); "Insights into autotransplantation: The discovery of specific induction systems in bone marrow stromal cells"

May 19, 2008

D. James Surmeier, PhD (Northwestern University); "Striatal plasticity in Parkinson's disease models"

For more information about the Neural Repair Club, go to www.childrensmrc.org/neurobiology

by Greg Wendling

Winners of the 2007 Children's Memorial Research Center Travel Awards

Spring: Caleb Bailey, PhD (Hendrix laboratory) — Keystone Symposium "Molecular Targets for Cancer", Whistler, British Columbia; IRF6 and Masp1 function cooperatively to regulate cell proliferation and apoptosis

Xiao Wang, MD, PhD (Tan laboratory) — Digestive Disease Week 2007 Conference, Washington, DC; Characterization of lamina propria dendritic cell subsets in the normal mouse small intestine

Summer: Kate Meyer (Morris laboratory) — First Pan American Conference in Developmental Biology, Cancun, Mexico

Hengfu Bu, PhD (Tan laboratory) — Digestive Disease Week 2007 Conference, Effect

of lactadherin/milk fat globule-EGF factor 8 on intestinal mucosal integrity and repair

Tyler Schwend (Ahlgren laboratory) — First Pan American Conference in Developmental Biology, Zebrafish lacking a functional Dispatched 1 display variable pharyngeal arch defects in part due to aberrant neural crest cell morphogenesis

Catherine M. Drerup, BS/MS (Morris laboratory) — European Zebrafish Genetics and Development Meeting, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; A role for a schizophrenia susceptibility gene in development of the vertebrate jaw

Grant Parker Flowers (Topczewski laboratory) — European Zebrafish Genetics and Development Meeting; Regulation of WNT signaling by extracel-

The Interactive Effect of Clinical Practice and Research (continued from cover)

Since the 1980s, Lavigne has been collaborating with the Pediatric Practice Research Group (PPRG), a practice-based research network that is part of the Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research Program at Children's Memorial Research Center. The PPRG was founded by **Drs. Katherine Kaufer Christoffel** and **Helen Binns** (the current director), who were interested in doing research in the clinical setting. Not long after this, they and Lavigne began looking at ways to improve the psychological care that children receive in primary care. Since pediatricians see preschool children at a much higher rate than other age groups, they focused on this range. Out of this study came the careful evaluation and follow-up of 500 children, which allowed them to determine how stable psychiatric diagnoses are when made in young children. Eventually the group shifted its focus to developing effective interventions that could be easily applied in primary care. Dr. Lavigne thinks this type of research is possible only with the kind of infrastructure the PPRG has established.

Currently, Dr. Lavigne is investigating ways to help doctors improve their use of stimulant medications for children with Attention Deficit Disorder

with Hyperactivity (ADHD). These medications are generally effective but are not being used in the optimal way in regular practice. He seeks to train pediatricians, using guidelines and best techniques, to optimize effectiveness. This type of research has an immediate impact on the way people practice medicine and is beneficial to the patient.

What pushes Dr. Lavigne forward is the prospect of moving toward clinical applications. In a tertiary care setting such as Children's Memorial Hospital, mental health professionals have contact with only a small percentage of all children who have psychological problems. Reaching out to children involves going through other service venues, such as schools or primary care settings. He is hoping that some of his work can be used in a widespread manner, and will have psychological benefits for kids. In terms of the ODD studies, his longterm goals are a deeper understanding of these problems, and insights into what the next generation of treatment programs ought to be. In Dr. Lavigne's words, his work is "not unidirectional, it's definitely bidirectional. It's the kind of thing that makes being both a clinician and in a research group stimulating and interesting."

lular matrix proteins in zebrafish neural tube development

Fall: Shih-Hsing Lier, PhD (Harris laboratory) — Mucins in Health and Disease Conference, Cambridge, UK; The role of the MUC6 mucin in tumor progression

Winter: Aleksandra Glavaski, PhD (Bohn laboratory) — Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting, San Diego, California; Transplantation of genetically modified human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells rejuvenation dopaminergic fibers in a rat model of Parkinson's disease

Christina Khodr, PhD (Bohn laboratory) — Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting; Adeno-associated virus (AAV) — mediated gene silencing of ectopically expressed human alpha-Synuclein (SNCA) in rat substantia nigra

Diana Lynn Schwab (Kohtz laboratory) — Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting; The role of the conserved zinc hydrolase domain in Shh activity in the forebrain

Magdalena Suszko, PhD (Harris laboratory) — North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Anaheim, California; The role of Intron 1 in the regulation of CFTR gene expression

Yongdong (Dan) Zhao, MD, PhD (Pachman laboratory) — American Society for Bone and Mineral Research, Honolulu, Hawaii; Role of cell death and osteogenic activity in injury-induced calcification from TNF-alpha receptor p55^{-/-}p75^{-/-}mice

For a full list of travel award winners, go to www.childrensmrc.org/education_training/Travel_Awards/

Lead and Toy Recalls

Commenting on Mattel's massive recall of toys with lead paint, **Helen Binns, MD, MPH**, said "While exposure to lead-containing toys presents



Helen Binns, MD, MPH

a real and unnecessary additional hazard to children, we should not forget the danger of other exposures in the home. Lead was a permissible addition to paint until 1978; currently 25% of homes with children younger than 6 years have lead contamination. Steps to eliminate new types of exposures and address past hazards are needed." Binns chairs the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on environmental health, is director of the Pediatric Practice Research Group of the Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research Program at Children's Memorial Research Center, and is professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

Prevention of Heart Defects in Babies

The American Heart Association has issued new recommendations to help reduce congenital heart defects in babies. Those tips, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, come from experts who reviewed research on uninherited risk



Catherine Webb, MD

factors for congenital heart defects. They included **Catherine Webb, MD**, a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Memorial Hospital and professor of pediatrics at the Feinberg School.

In a news release, Webb stresses "the need to think about prevention of heart defects in

babies before conception and very early in pregnancy. Paying attention to parental lifestyle issues and the association with congenital heart disease is a good start," says Webb. "However, congenital heart disease may still occur in children despite excellent prenatal care and the very best efforts on the parents' part." Doctors often don't know exactly why congenital heart defects occur, and genes can play a role. "It is very important to continue to learn much more about prevention through ongoing research," says Webb. (from WebMD Medical News)

Women Faculty and Success

Early career women faculty in the fields of science, technology and medicine at Northwestern University are learning the language of success. An important institutional step forward and a first for the university, the "Navigating the Professoriate Program" is addressing the concern that women



Holly Falk-Krzesinski, PhD

faculty remain significantly underrepresented, especially in the higher ranks. Response to the new program, held during the 2007 academic year and supported by the Provost's Office, the vice president for research, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Burroughs Wellcome

Fund, has been overwhelmingly positive, according to **Holly Falk-Krzesinski, PhD**, one of the program directors and director of Northwestern's office for research development.

Falk-Krzesinski recently received the annual Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Women in Science, Chicago Area Chapter, for her efforts with the program. She is a member of the Molecular and Cellular Pathobiology Program at the research center. (from NewsCenter, Northwestern University News and Information)

Folic Acid and Stroke Risk

A group of researchers have determined that folic acid supplements appear to reduce the risk of stroke, particularly in people who do not get enough of this B vitamin. By combining the findings from eight previously reported studies, the group found the benefits were greatest among



Xiaobin Wang, MD, MPH, ScD

people who took folic acid supplements the longest. But it is not clear if supplements are indeed associated with a lower risk of heart attack and stroke or if they are safe for everyone. "We only looked at stroke as an outcome, and we saw a clear benefit for supplementation in people who

had not had previous strokes," researcher **Xiaobin Wang, MD, MPH, ScD**, tells WebMD.

With the exception of women who are pregnant or nursing, Wang says people in the U.S. who eat healthy diets probably get enough folic acid in the foods they eat. More research is needed to determine if folic acid supplements are beneficial for lowering stroke risk in these people. Wang is the Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Research Professor and director of the Smith CHR Program at the research center and professor of pediatrics at the Feinberg School. (from WebMD Medical News)

Bereavement

It is with great sadness that we report the passing in October of Jackie Garton, beloved wife of Ray Garton, a long-time employee of the research center. In lieu of flowers, the family would like contributions to be made to the Music Ministry at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 805 Western, Joliet, IL 60435.

Profile: Peggy Jones

In this issue we have the opportunity to interview the editor of *InTouch*, Peggy Jones, MILS. In addition to producing *InTouch* and the Children's Memorial Research Center Annual Report, Peggy is the librarian for the research center.

Peggy joined the research center in 1997. The library, in its first year of operation, had a small collection and was just beginning the process of offering services to patrons. Peggy spent the majority of her time meeting with investigators, learning about their specialized fields of research and planning how to provide materials and services that met their specific needs. This attention to detail established the library as a unique resource. As the number of faculty and staff have grown and research interests have changed and expanded, so have the services and collections of the library.

Peggy enjoys interacting with her colleagues because she feels she learns as much from them

as they do from her. To her, the best moments are hearing a researcher say, "I didn't know that existed!" or "I didn't know you could do that!" She feels fortunate to have the opportunity to get to know many of the people she serves; this would be impossible in a larger setting. Her ability to pinpoint and meet the information needs of the research community is exceptional.

In her free time, Peggy creates functional stoneware pottery such as mugs, bowls and vases at her home in northwest Indiana. She also loves to read and sew. An avid gardener, Peggy plans to surround her home with prairie that can be enjoyed by an array of butterflies, bees, spiders, birds and other critters. She maintains a collection of her own critters, including boyfriend Jim, three dogs and six cats. Peggy and Jim occasionally escape to a cabin in the woods of southern Indiana.



Peggy Jones

by Kimberly Deprey

Donation:

Ruttenberg Arts Foundation Gift



Michal Raz-Ruzzo and Philip Iannaccone, MD, PhD

[Page 12]

The David C. and Sarajeon Ruttenberg Arts Foundation has made a generous gift of important photographs from its collection to Children's Memorial Research Center. On behalf of the research center, **Philip Iannaccone, MD, PhD**, Senior Vice-President and Deputy Director of Research — Basic Sciences, accepted the gift from Michal Raz-Russo, co-curator and administrator for the Ruttenberg Collection. The research center will be working with experts from Columbia College of Chicago to site the photographs. 



[Children's Memorial Research Center]



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at Children's Memorial Research Center

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Children's Memorial Research Center is the research arm of Children's Memorial Hospital, and a virtual center for pediatric research at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Founded in 1989, the research enterprise has grown to include more than 200 investigators and more than \$27 million in external funding for research, two-thirds from NIH and other federal agencies.