We conclude the year with more exciting news and department involvement in the community, beginning with the feature article about a partnership launched to fight the Zika virus. The Department News stretches back in time, with a feature on Dr. Ralph Feigin, the late former chairman, and forward with faculty featured on “Quality Day.” CRIS focuses on both the Educator Retreat, which occurred in August, and the upcoming Faculty Education Retreat in December. Different sections highlight exciting events that have occurred in the past few months, including a family reunion and visits by celebrities to TCH, the launching of the East African Fellowship Training Program, BIPAI winning the Colombian national award, training to detect child abuse, and training series for administrative assistants.

Faculty and staff received special recognition, which can be viewed on pages 21-20, and researchers made great strides in medicine and technology. Children’s Hospital of San Antonio achieved full status for its fellowship program, held a review course for pediatric boards, recognized outstanding faculty, and held its second annual Research Symposium. Looking toward 2017, the Pediatric Research & Fellows’ Symposium will be held March 2. In all, it’s a been a great year for the Department of Pediatrics, and there’s more to come!
Feature Article

Partnership Launches Initiative to Fight Zika Virus

In August, TCH joined forces with H-E-B and Cutter® Insect Repellents to launch a community initiative to battle Zika virus, with Houston’s most vulnerable populations in mind.

The initiative was featured on the Houston affiliate of ABC TV, Channel 13, KTRK. Dr. Mark Kline, Chairman, and Physician-in-Chief at Texas Children’s Hospital was interviewed and demonstrated ways to protect one’s home from mosquitoes and explained symptoms.

“We are excited to work with H-E-B and Cutter Insect Repellents to help meet a critical need for so many members of our community. We believe it is only a matter of time before the Zika virus is prevalent in our community. Helping to educate and provide the tools needed to protect those families most at risk of contracting and spreading the disease is something we feel strongly must be done.”

-- Dr. Mark Kline

“H-E-B is committed to preserving and improving the health and wellness of the people within the communities we serve. As Texas prepares to address the effects of the Zika virus, H-E-B is combining resources with Texas Children’s to educate and prevent the spread of the virus in the Houston area. Prevention packets will be available in both English and Spanish, for free, at three of our Houston locations.

-- Winell Herron, group vice-president public affairs, diversity and environmental affairs.
Each entity agreed to provide 50,000 bags filled with educational materials, duct tape, and insect repellent, free of charge to those in targeted areas where the risk of contacting and spreading Zika virus is highest. The free bags were distributed to patients at TCH’s Community Care practices, TCH’s Health Plan Centers for Children and Women, and three selected H-E-B locations.

Zika virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. Once infected, a person continues the transmission when bitten by an *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that, in turn, bites another individual, or through sexual contact.

Of greatest concern is the transmission of the virus to a pregnant woman, who can transmit the virus to the unborn child, with resultant birth complications, including microcephaly.

Symptoms run along a spectrum. Many people may have Zika virus and never know they were infected. Some experience rash, fever, pink eye, and joint pain, which typically are mild and clear up within a week. A small number of people may suffer complications involving the brain and nervous system. Death from Zika virus is rare. A formula for reducing the risk of being bitten by an infected mosquito is “Repel, Repair, Remove.”

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**Protect Yourself from Zika Virus**

- **Repel:**
  Apply a DEET-containing insect repellent when outdoors. DEET is the most effective form of insect repellent and is safe for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, as well as children older than 2 months of age. Follow instructions on the product and do not apply insect repellent onto a child’s hands, eyes, or mouth, or onto a cut or irritated skin. Insect repellent may need to be reapplied. If using sunscreen, apply that first and insect repellent second.

- **Repair:**
  If possible, use air conditioning and close windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of the home. Repair or replace damaged screens on windows or doors. Inspect screens throughout the house. Simple duct tape can be used to repair any holes in screens.

- **Remove:**
  Inspect the area around the home and eliminate places mosquitoes can use to lay eggs. Mosquitoes need standing water to reproduce, so empty, turn over, cover or throw out anything that can hold standing water, including old tires, buckets, planters, plastic pools, bird baths, flower pots, trash cans, cups, toys, etc.

To learn more, visit texaschildrens.org/zika
On September 11, the Houston Chronicle published an article by Ericka Mellon, honoring Dr. Ralph Feigin as “Iconic physician-in-chief revolutionizes pediatric care at Texas Children’s Hospital.”

Noting that his “knowledge of medicine, particularly pediatrics, was so encyclopedic that stumping Dr. Ralph Feigin became a game to the residents,” the article went on to describe how they would save their toughest cases, present a patient’s symptoms, and be amazed that Dr. Feigin would solve them without referencing a book or computer.

In total, Dr. Feigin trained more than 2,000 pediatricians and pediatric specialists, and some 200 went on to leadership roles. His influence on pediatric care extended into the academic arena through textbooks for which he was author and editor, among them the authoritative work Textbook of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

In addition to serving as the second Chairman of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief of TCH, Dr. Feigin also served as president of BCM from 1996 to 2003. During his tenure, he gained legendary status for turning Houston into an elite epicenter of pediatric care with the exponential growth of Pediatrics and the affiliated Texas Children’s. In addition, he served as Physician-in-Chief of Pediatric Services at both Ben Taub General Hospital and Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Feigin was recruited to Baylor in 1977 to lead the pediatrics department and became physician-in-chief at Texas Children’s that same year. He usually arrived at his office around sunrise and earned a reputation for being a passionate champion for children’s health. He promoted the expansion of insurance for poor families and improved the treatment of infectious diseases.

In addition to his legendary expertise as a pediatrician and infectious disease specialists, Dr. Feigin was a consummate administrator. During his time as Chairman, federal funding for pediatrics research at BCM went from $355,000 to $89 million. After stepping down as President of BCM, he launched, along with Mark Wallace, CEO of TCH, an unprecedented initiative that included research additions to the Feigin Center and the creation of the West Campus of TCH and the Women’s Pavilion.

He was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2007, having never smoked and being an avid athlete, running 6 miles a day, according to rumors. He made the announcement in a specially called meeting of the faculty. The silence was palpable. He fought the cancer valiantly, continuing to come to work daily and keeping a rigorous schedule, even for someone in good health, until just a few weeks before his death on August 14, 2008.

“Dr. Ralph Feigin was the most influential and important pediatrician of the last 30 years.”

--Dr. Mark Kline, Chairman
Faculty Featured at TCH “Quality Day” Event

On September 16, TCH held a Quality Day event, “Leading Tirelessly, Always Improving: Celebrating Quality, Safety, and Process Improvement Innovations at Texas Children’s and Advanced Quality Improvement (AQI) 14 Graduation.”

Held at TCH’s Pavilion for Women Conference Center, the event was organized by the Quality Education Team and other TCH quality leaders and featured more than 50 projects. The event included presentations on exciting improvement initiatives implemented by the graduates of the AQI 14 class and showcased the many improvement projects/programs developed by staff and leaders across the organization.

Chief Quality Officer Dr. Angelo Giardino, Assoc. Professor and Chief of Academic Medicine (pictured, top right), kicked off the event with an inspirational keynote to the audience of more than 80 attendees. Dr. Giardino commented that, with the more than 400 AQI graduated trained during the seven years that TCH has offered this valuable education, TCH has great capacity to continue leading tirelessly to improve quality.

In recognition of the Daily Operational Briefing (DOB), a culture-changing safety practice adopted by TCH in November 2015, Dr. Giardino also presented a special quality awards to Dr. Lane Donnelly, Dr. Joan Shook and recently retired Texas Children’s COO Randy Wright for their leadership in supporting the implementation of the DOB.

After the opening and awards presentations, the recent graduates of the AQI program presented their projects, among which were:

- MyChart activation
- Discharge readiness
- Improving isolation compliance
- Postpartum depression screening
- Reduction of medication re-dispenses

“The privilege of getting this training comes with a responsibility to use this new knowledge and the skills to do quality improvements to make things better for the women and children that we seek to serve.” – Dr. Angelo Giardino
CRIS was pleased to host the 6th Annual Department of Pediatrics Clinician Educator Orientation on Friday, August 26. The morning began with Dr. Gerard Rabalais, whose Grand Rounds were in honor of Dr. Martin I. Lorin. His talk was entitled, "A Journey to Better Teaching." Dr. Rabalais shared experiences from different medical schools and encouraged educators to support principles such as learner-centered teaching, reflecting upon one's own teaching and being interactive. Dr. Rabalais is Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and Chief of Staff of Kosair Children’s Hospital. He also serves on the Board of Directors for University of Louisville Physicians. He is a pediatric infectious disease specialist.

After Dr. Rabalais’ address, the retreat continued with presentations by Drs. Gordon Schutze, who spoke on “How to Succeed as a Clinician Educator,” and Julieanna Nichols, who addressed “Feedback and Direct Observation. After a box lunch and time for networking, the session continued with a career guidance panel with Drs. Mark Kline, Rabalais, Schutze, Tammy Kang and Jordan Orange during which they shared their experiences about mentoring and lessons learned in their careers as leaders. The orientation was a great success, with more than 150 participants from main campus, West Campus, the Woodlands, and Children's Hospital of San Antonio.

 Winners of the 12th Annual BCM Academy of Distinguished Educators Showcase of Educational Scholarship Recognition Awards Announced

Brian Rissmiller, Moushumi Sur, Danny Castro, Kevin Roy, Charles Minard, Teri Tuner, Satid Thammasitboon
“A Diagnostic Expertise Acceleration Module: Promoting Formation of Organized Knowledge Among Novice Learners”

Corey Chartan, Satid Thammasitboon, Moushumi Sur, Partha Krishnamurthy, Hardeep Singh
“Isolating Red Flags to Enhance Diagnosis (iRED): An Experimental Vignette Study”

J. Brian Shirley, Fatima Gutierrez, Andrea A. Ramirez, Eyal Muscal, Jennifer Rama
“Reaching the Masses: A Novel Approach to Pediatric Rheumatology Education Via Tele-learning”

BCM School of Medicine Curricular Renewal Kickoff Event November 17 & 18

Everyone is invited to attend the Kickoff Event of the School of Medicine on Thursday, November 17 and Friday, November 18. Dr. Aagaard will open the event with a discussion on Thursday regarding “Conduct Unbecoming: A Professional Case Discussion.” The event on Friday will feature Dr. Eva Aagaard from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Dr. Jennifer G. Christner, Dean, BCM. Small group sessions will meet from 10 am to noon in Rayzor Lounge. Participants may attend any or all of the sessions.
Annual Department Faculty Education Retreat
December 2, 8:30 – 5:00
Pavilion for Women, 4th Floor Conference Rooms

The 2016 Annual Department of Pediatrics Education Retreat

Nurturing a Growth Mindset: A New Culture for Educators and Learners

8:30 – 9:30 am
Dr. Kelly Desclioli Memorial Lecture
“The New Frontier of Medical Education: Competency-Based Medical Education to Support Learning and Improve Patient Outcomes”
Daniel C. West, MD
Vice Chair of Education and Residency Program Director
Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
University of California, San Francisco

10 – 11.30 am
Concurrent Workshops

11.30-1.20 pm
Poster Presentations

1.30 – 2.40 pm
Plenary Session
- CRIS Educational Awards Presentation
- “Teaching Philosophy: A Formative Purpose for Self-Reflection and Improvement”
Harold A. Henson, R.D.H., M.Ed., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Teaching and Learning
Associate Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston/School of Dentistry

2.45-4.45 pm
Concurrent Workshops

Educational Scholarship Expert Consultation
December 1, 3:00 – 5:00
Critical Care Medicine Large Conference Room, WT-6

Two nationally recognized experts in educational scholarship. Drs. Daniel West and Dorene Balmer, will conduct four consultative sessions for developing scholarly projects in medical education. Space is limited. Contact cris@texaschildrens.org to make reservations and for more information.
Dr. Al Hergenroeder, Professor and Section Chief (pictured, below left), was featured, along with the Section of Adolescent and Sports Medicine, in an article for Texas Children’s Hospital that highlighted the growth and development of both portions of the Section. The article noted that Dr. Hergenroeder was recruited to BCM some 30 years ago by the late Dr. Ralph Feigin, second Chairman and Physician-in-Chief at TCH. At the time, the hospital needed to address a growing need for quality, pediatric care of adolescent patients and young athletes who were presenting with a variety of complex issues. Dr. Hergenroeder was in Seattle, but Dr. Feigin recognized his expertise and invited him to come to BCM to create and develop a section focused on adolescent medicine and sports medicine. During the subsequent 30 years, what began as a small portion of the department has grown into an impressive Section, with each branch conducting original research and clinicians seeing 10,000 patients annually. Sports Medicine has added four primary care physicians, more than doubling the previous number of three, in just the last couple of years.

Sports Medicine
Under the direction of Dr. Gabriel Brooks, the Sports Medicine portion has more than 30 physical therapists located around the Houston area. Members of the team, who are located at the Main and West campuses and TCH Health Centers, provide individualized therapy to help patients improve and be less likely to be reinjured. Most of the program is focused on providing care for children, adolescents, and young adults who are injured while engaging in some form of physical activity. The staff specializes in other sports-related physical problems such as concussions and makes referrals for surgery of orthopedic injuries when necessary. Dr. Hergenroeder noted that what makes this program different and more effective is that it is pediatric-based, providing an understanding of the pediatric and adolescent athlete as the faculty has specialized training in pediatrics and sports medicine.

Adolescent Medicine
The Adolescent Medicine portion has been recognized as one of the best in the country, with a staff of five adolescent medicine physician specialists, three psychologists, and a dietitian. The staff addresses problems of adolescents and young adults, including eating disorders, obesity, chronic fatigue, polycystic ovarian syndrome, and reproductive health issues.

“We take care of the sickest, most medically fragile patients with eating disorders . . . [and] believe we are one of the best eating disorder programs in the U.S. In addition to the inpatient component and outpatient clinic, they are developing an intensive out-patient program to serve as a bridge between the two.”

--Dr. Al Hergenroeder
**Family Reunion Attended by Former Patients’ Families**

On August 6, families from across the country joined for the 2016 TCH’s Newborn Center Family Reunion.

The celebration was in honor of former patients who graduated from the Newborn Center in 2015 after spending 21 or more days in the neonatal intensive care unit. The more than 400 patient families gathered in the TCH Pavilion for Women and shared stories of hope and triumph. They also reconnected with the nurses and physicians who had provided the life-saving care to their critically ill infants.

In addition to offering exciting entertainment for the children that included coloring, face painting, inflatable pony races, appearances from Minnie Mouse and SpongeBob SquarePants, the event had remarks from Judy Swanson, Vice-President of Nursing for the Center; Chief of Neonatology Dr. Gautham Suresh; and Newborn Center Nursing Director Heather Cherry. Guest speakers were Katy Haynes and Desiree Collins-Bradley, and blessings came from TCH chaplain Kirsten Springmeyer.

**Nurses Honored at “Bad Pants Day”**

On September 22, nurses from TCH’s Newborn Center were recognized for their hard work and dedication at the annual “Bad Pants Day” celebration at Texas Children’s Pavilion for Women. Nurses exchanged their scrubs for creative pants for nurses at TCH’s Newborn Center, “Bad Pants Day” was more than just dressing up in wacky attire. It was their day to shine and know how much they are appreciated for their efforts to enhance the outcomes of critically-ill infants in our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).
Families Enjoy Visit from Houston Texan

The Houston Texans Devon Still and TORO paid a special visit to TCH in honor of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and in celebration of the hospital’s title game on October 2 vs. the Tennessee Titans. Still understands first-hand what it is like to be a parent of a child with cancer. His daughter Leah was diagnosed with neuroblastoma stage 4 cancer two years ago. Since then, she has undergone surgery to remove her cancerous tumor and surrounding lymph nodes. Doctors deemed Leah cancer-free this year. Still spent weeks sleeping next to her in the hospital while she fought for her life, and he is one of her biggest supporters. During their visit, Still and TORO talked with patients who are battling cancer, signed autographs, and brought smiles to the faces of families on the hospital’s inpatient cancer unit. Still also read the children’s book he wrote along with his 6-year-old daughter, “I Am Leah Strong.” The book is about Leah’s fight with pediatric cancer.

Still’s visit was part of TCH’s partnership with the Houston Texans to inspire children to lead healthier, more active lives through camps, programs and events all year long.

Grant for Evidence-based Cancer Research Awarded

“The funding from CPRIT will allow us to create one of the most comprehensive programs in childhood and adolescent cancer epidemiology in the U.S. Currently, our knowledge on the causes of rare pediatric cancers is very limited. We will be working with our colleagues from around the state to create a resource for the discovery of novel genetic and environmental risk factors for these cancers. This is an important step for the children of Texas, which will also inform our understanding of childhood and adolescent cancers across the U.S."

--Dr. Michael Scheurer

Dr. Michael Scheurer, Assoc. Professor, was among four BCM recipients of a $10M grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). All four grants are for studies focused on evidence-based cancer prevention services and support evidence-based prevention intervention programs, academic research, core facilities that enhance research capacity and life sciences infrastructure, and recruitment of emerging cancer scientists. Dr. Scheurer was awarded $6 million for his work with the Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility service (ACCESS) for Texas.
East African Fellowship Training Program Launched

On September 1, the East African Fellowship Training Program, was launched as a partnership among Baylor College of Medicine Children’s Foundation–Uganda, Texas Children’s, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uganda, the Makerere University College of Health Sciences, the Uganda Cancer Institute and the Mulago National Referral Hospital. Baylor-Uganda is part of the BCM BIPAI network of treatment centers worldwide. Expanding beyond the initial purpose of treating patients with AIDS, this center will address pediatric cancer, which is being cured in more than 80 percent of children in developed countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa (S-SA), the figures are reversed: of the 100,000 children who develop cancer each year, 80 to 90 percent die. A major contrast between Western nations and S-SA is that most children with blood disorders the West are properly diagnosed and receive timely treatment, whereas children in S-SA go undiagnosed and, hence, untreated.

Dr. Joseph Lubega, Asst. Professor, is leading the program. He is based in Uganda through the global program of TCH’s Cancer and Hematology Centers. He also leads a research program in Uganda that focuses on Burkitt’s lymphoma, supported by the St. Baldrick’s Foundation International Scholar Award. Whereas in the U.S., a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology is a third step in training, coming after medical school and a residency in pediatrics, in Uganda, most physicians enter practice immediately after completing medical school and have no additional training. Many of them leave Uganda to get more training, and often they do not return; others learn on the job but have little experience with oncology and hematology.

Uganda is an ideal place to launch the program because it has a strong medical university and hospital system, in addition to being home to a BIPAI Center of Excellence and a childhood cancer and hematology program through TCH’s Cancer and Hematology Centers’ initiatives. As many as 700 new patients are diagnosed annually with childhood cancer, often in advanced stages because of the paucity of specialists and a weak referral system.

The program was limited the first year to fellows from Uganda, but next year it will expand to include other East African countries.

“IT’S very important that we have started this program in East Africa . . . It can potentially help save a lot of kids, and it marks a new chapter of medical education in Uganda and in the region.”

--Dr. Joseph Lubega
BIPAI Program Wins Colombian National Award

By Ed Pettitt II

The SAIL program - a collaboration of Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI), Texas Children's Hospital and Chevron to improve health outcomes in a remote region of Colombia - won first place in the National Nutrition Awards sponsored by the Exitó Foundation (the charitable arm of Colombia's largest retailer) in the category of Promoción Nutrición Materno Infantil - 1000 days (Advancing maternal-child nutrition in the first 1000 days). SAIL, an acronym for Salud y Autosuficiencia Indígenas en La Guajira, is a public-private partnership of Chevron, the central and departmental governments of Colombia, the state of La Guajira, and the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation-Colombia, an affiliate non-government organization of BIPAI. The award was presented at a ceremony on September 7th and was presided over by many Colombian luminaries, including the First Lady of Colombia, María Clemencia Rodríguez de Santos.

"It's a crowning achievement for our program to be honored in the area of nutrition, because very early on we recognized that in order to improve health in the region, we had to do something about the issue of malnutrition. There is a staggering amount of malnutrition in La Guajira."

--Dr. James Thomas, Professor, who leads the program for BIPAI

Dr. Ana Maria Galvis leads the program on the ground in Colombia as executive director. In the first year of the program, more than 700 malnourished children were identified and treated by SAIL’s interdisciplinary team that visited the rural settlements regularly. These efforts were supported by a partnership with the Exitó Foundation, which provides supplementary feeding for the indigenous Wayuu communities in the municipality of Manaure. At-risk families received a monthly food package, including items that are culturally accepted by the Wayuu community, until their malnourishment was reversed and they were no longer considered at risk. The Exitó Foundation has placed an emphasis on eliminating malnutrition in Colombia by 2025.

"The early success of our program in Colombia is a reflection of BIPAI's commitment to public-private partnership. We view ourselves as an extension of government's public health programs. We aim to be complementary and never in conflict or competition with the good work others are doing," said Dr. Mark Kline, Chair and Physician-in-Chief at Texas Children's Hospital.
Spotlight: Global Child Health Residents in Lesotho

By Ed Pettitt II

Two residents in the Pediatrics and Global Child Health residency program, Dr. Yi Wang and Dr. Elizabeth Keating, have recently returned from their year abroad in Lesotho, also known as the “Mountain Kingdom,” a small country completely surrounded by South Africa.

When describing their motivations to join the unique residency program and work abroad in a resource-limited setting, both Dr. Wang and Dr. Keating reflect on previous work and how it had impacted them. Dr. Keating developed a passion to help children who have limited access to care through clinical experiences in Tanzania and Nepal and research experiences in India and Cambodia, prior to joining Baylor. Dr. Wang similarly developed a passion for global health as a medical student and did short-term work in a clinic in Sierra Leone. She described that experience as motivation to join Baylor given the reputation of Baylor’s Centers of Excellence of providing high-quality health care in resource-limited settings.

Drs. Wang and Keating engaged primarily in clinical work in Lesotho, caring for patients at the Baylor Center of Excellence as well as the Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital, the national referral hospital for Lesotho. They recall fondly the fulfilling duty of educating students, nurses, and visiting residents on a daily basis. When not seeing patients, they worked on research and quality improvement projects. Both also served on a committee that met weekly to address challenging cases of virologic failure among children with HIV and discuss whether each case was a candidate for second-line antiretroviral therapy. Both residents accumulated experiences that will remain with them for their entire lives.

BIPAI Hosts Project Interns at Houston Headquarters

This past summer, BIPAI hosted three project interns as part of a new internship program: Mackenzie Parsons, Peter Barth and Cheyenne McCravey.

Mackenzie is a current Bellaire High School student and swim team member who has volunteered with several local agencies including Angela House and the Nehemiah Neighborhood Center. During her internship with BIPAI/TCH Global Health, Mackenzie performed valuable research and analysis in support of global health programs and BIPAI network operations.

Peter is a second-year graduate student in the Master of Global Affairs program at Rice University, from which he graduated last year with a bachelor’s degree. He studies international security issues with the goal of someday working for the State Department; this summer he helped the BIPAI/TCH Global Health team in the development of a safety and security curriculum for faculty and staff travelling abroad.

Cheyenne received her undergraduate degree in Psychology and Child Advocacy Studies from New Mexico State University. She is studying for a Master’s degree in Allied Health Education & Administration at the University of Houston. This summer, Cheyenne helped create a country health data report for the Program and the Operations Committee and worked on projects for various subcommittees of TCH’s Global Health Steering Committee, as well as the Facilities and IT Management Team.

The three interns helped to create a Landscape Analysis of academic-hospital global health partnerships and compiled information about medical conferences specializing in global health, pediatrics, and HIV/AIDS.
Regional training on vaccination initiatives has been developed with the local health authorities and the Colombian Pediatric Society. A pediatric emergency training developed in partnership with the University of Antioquia, Hospital Nuestra Señora de los Remedios and the Colombian Pediatric Society was held on August 18th in Riohacha.

PNG Paediatric Society

Papua New Guinea

Staff on the ground have been working with the PNG Paediatric Society to implement the new child-friendly fixed-dose combination tablets for tuberculosis.
Romania
A stakeholders meeting was held to mark the establishment of the Voluntary Counseling and Testing program in Tulcea 9 years ago. A training for doctors about HIV/AIDS was successfully organized, and 70 people attended, 40% of whom were dentists. A partnership with the local antidrug agency has been renewed, and a new partnership with a local addiction treatment center has been initiated.

Botswana
The International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society 35th Meeting, cohosted by Dr. Okuyinka Olutoye and Dr. Olutoyin Olutoye, was held in Kasane, Botswana August 2-7. Professor Gabriel Anabwani, Executive Director for Baylor-Botswana, gave a keynote address on the history of HIV in Botswana and highlighted the role of BIPAI.

Uganda
Baylor-Uganda won the prestigious Uganda HIV & AIDS Leader of the Year Award sponsored by the Uganda AIDS Commission. This Award recognizes a national non-governmental organization (NGO) that demonstrate outstanding effort and leadership in the delivery of prevention, treatment and social support and services to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The East Africa Paediatric Haematology and Oncology (PHO) Fellowship Training Program was launched in Uganda during a ceremony attended by representatives from the implementing partners including the Ministry of Health, Mulago National Referral Hospital, Uganda Cancer Institute and Makerere University College of Health Sciences and Texas Children’s Hospital. Partner representatives included Dr. David Poplack, Director PHO program, and Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Ugandan Prime Minister, as the Chief Guest.

Lesotho
Two new Toyota Fortuner vehicles have been added to the fleet to carry out activities for the Star-L project funded by Center for Disease Control and Prevention through EGPAF. The goal of STAR-L is to scale-up effective, sustainable, comprehensive HIV and TB/HIV prevention, care and treatment interventions to reduce HIV transmission, morbidity, and mortality.

Swaziland
Baylor-Swaziland hosted their annual Teen Camp with SeriousFun. The camp was a success with 70 participants.
The Society is “one of the nation’s oldest nonprofit membership organizations dedicated to public engagement in science and science education. . . . [It] is a leading advocate for the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement.” The Advocate Grant Program supports underrepresented and underserved challenged youth in the U. S. who have conducted scientific or engineering research projects. It is designed to encourage them to submit their research to a scientific research competition.

Dr. Asojo is one of the 31 exceptional Advocates selected from 240 applications from 45 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam. She will be mentoring seven high school interns to transition their summer research into applications for science competitions.

Dr. Asojo builds on her work as a mentor for K-12 students, having coordinated ACS’s Project SEED programs for over 15 years. Dr. Asojo is also an ACS Chemistry ambassador, Rice University Civic Scientist and extends her mentoring activities beyond K-12 by hosting pre and post-baccalaureate researchers in her laboratory every summer.

For a full list of the 31 Advocates selected for the 2016-2017 year, please visit https://www.societyforscience.org/content/press-room/society-science-public-announces-31-new-mentors-advocate-grant-program. For more information about the Society’s Advocate Grant Program, please visit https://www.societyforscience.org/advocate-grant-program-0.
Section Welcomes New Faculty Member

Dr. Melissa Nolan Garcia was welcomed as the newest faculty member in the Section of Tropical Medicine, by Dr. Peter Hotez, Professor and Chief of Tropical Medicine and founding Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine. Dr. Garcia has worked with Tropical Medicine since 2013 in the Laboratory for Zoonotic and Viral Diseases, headed by Dr. Kristy Murray. She received a Ph.D. in Clinical Investigations from Baylor College of Medicine in 2015. Dr. Garcia’s recent work has focused on Chagas disease, a condition caused by the parasitic protozoa *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Her research has uncovered the largest autochthonous cohort of Chagas patients in the United States and shed new light on various aspects of the disease including its clinical manifestations, transmission routes, and vector distribution.

“I am very excited to continue work identifying epidemiological aspects of Chagas,” said Dr. Garcia.

Prior to her work on Chagas disease, Dr. Garcia established several important findings in her study of West Nile virus.

“We’re thrilled to have Dr. Garcia join our faculty, building on the vector-borne and zoonotic disease program established by Dr. Murray.”

– Dr. Peter Hotez

Academic Medicine

New Faculty Member Recipient of Award

Dr. Ana Monterrey was awarded the Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy Fellow Advocacy Award for the 2015-2016 academic year. The award is given to a graduating pediatric fellow at BCM and TCH who demonstrates exceptional leadership and commitment towards advocacy. Dr. Monterrey is the inaugural recipient of the award.

She completed residency in our Department of Pediatrics. Throughout her fellowship, she exemplified what a physician advocate can do for underserved children. Whether it was through her research, teaching, or initiation of community programs, Dr. Monterrey demonstrated a consistent commitment towards improving the lives of vulnerable children. In her research, she examined racial/ethnic disparities in early cognitive stimulation in childhood. She also assessed the effectiveness of physical activity and self-esteem youth development programs among underserved communities.

In spring 2016, Dr. Monterrey was awarded an American Academy of Pediatrics Friends of Children Health People 2020 grant. She will use these funds to support a community project that will help fulfill the objectives of Healthy People 2020.

Dr. Monterrey has also been a distinguished member of Doctors for Change, helping to lead advocacy efforts on healthy eating across our local region.

Since completing her fellow, Dr. Monterrey has joined the Academic General Pediatrics Section at BCM and TCH.
The Section of Public Health Pediatrics exists to enhance healthier futures for children and families in our region. The section partners with local community organizations to identify, promote, and implement strategies to prevent and mitigate childhood adversities.

Training Offered to Detect Child Abuse

More than 7 million children live in the state of Texas. Each year, approximately 1 - 2% of Texas children are reported to Child Protective Services (CPS), with 40,000 confirmed to be victims of maltreatment. Despite the high number of children reported to CPS every year, many instances go unreported, as potentially 1 in 4 children are victims of abuse and neglect. Reporting child maltreatment is necessary for protecting children from adverse childhood events and thereby preventing distress that can occur in both childhood and adulthood.

The Section of Public Health Pediatrics offers “Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN),” a free training program including Continuing Education Credits, for physician practices, community hospital emergency room physicians and staff, school nurses and counselors, early childcare educators, emergency medical technicians, and firefighters. The goal of the program is to enhance their knowledge of risk factors and evaluations of suspicious injuries potentially related to child abuse and neglect, their understanding of their roles as mandatory reporters, and their recognition of their role in prevention and advocacy on behalf of at-risk children.

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Section of Public Health Pediatrics provided this training to approximately 1,300 staff members at six Houston region school districts and four early childhood education organizations. Those trained in child maltreatment prevention, recognition, and reporting have the potential to impact approximately 275,000 children throughout the Houston region. If your department or community partner would be interested in receiving free Continuing Education Credits and education on Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect, please contact publichealth@bcm.edu.
The Section of Public Health Pediatrics is also partnering with community hospitals in our region to deliver the “Period of PURPLE Crying” program to families through birthing centers and neonatal intensive care units. The “Period of PURPLE Crying” program seeks to educate the community on the normalcy of infant crying and urges parents to understand that crying, when not associated with hunger, dirty diapers, illness, or the need for social interaction, is not necessarily a reflection on the child or the parenting, but rather normal human behavior in infancy.

Frustration with infant crying is a leading trigger for physical abuse inflicted on an infant (abusive head trauma). The goal of this program is to reduce the stress and anxiety related to infants’ crying and enhance parents’ knowledge and understanding of their newborn infant.

The effort to bring the program to Houston has led to partnerships with eight community hospitals delivering more than 20,000 births annually. This program is also currently being implemented through our Pavilion for Women, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, The Centers for Children and Women, and the Texas Children’s Health Plan.

For more information about the Period of PURPLE Crying program, please visit the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome website at www.purplecrying.info.

**Partner Hospitals:**
Columbus Community Hospital
Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
Houston Methodist West Hospital
Matagorda Regional Medical Center
Memorial Herman Southeast Hospital
Memorial Herman The Woodlands Hospital
St. Luke’s The Vintage Hospital
St. Joseph’s Medical Center
In March, the Cardiology team applied for and received a $3,000 Star Achievement Series® for up to 15 administrative assistants, from Office Dynamics International. The award includes materials for four full-day workshops based on the four main components of the Star Achievement Philosophy.

The Star Achievement Series® has been the industry standard for administrative training and is a staple at some of the world’s most respected organizations. According to its website, it is “an elite training program for administrative and executive assistants, secretaries, and administrative support staff . . . . [It] solidifies performance and teaches the how’s and why’s of a new way of processing work and life.” The program is recognized for having a groundbreaking approach, comprehensive curriculum, and enduring relevance, such that it has gained international acclaim and is considered the resource for administrative and executive assistant training and development.

Cardiology proudly announced that they had completed the 4-day course on October 5!

"Star Achievers synergize these four components into their everyday professional performance and, over time, fully develop as leaders who exhibit confidence at work, at home and in the community."*

**ATTITUDE**
Achieving and sustaining a positive attitude about your employer, your coworkers, your clients and yourself.

**SKILL**
Developing new and enhancing current intangible skills that are vital to workplace success.

**TEAMWORK**
Being a part of and contributing to various team relationships, both internal and external to the organization.

**STRATEGY**
Setting goals and cultivating enriching relationships to actualize your professional

* https://officedynamics.com/star-achievement-series/
Faculty Members Receive National Recognition

Dr. Carol J. Baker, Professor, was selected to receive the 2016 Alexander Fleming Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. The award is granted to a member or fellow the Society in recognition of a career that reflects major contributions to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about infectious diseases. It was presented at IDWEEK 2016 held October 26-30 in New Orleans. Dr. Baker’s research is focused on neonatal infections and vaccine preventable diseases. She also presented the 2016 Jeryl Lynn Hilleman Endowed Lecture "Vaccines for Pregnant Women: A Long Time Coming" at the National Immunization in Atlanta on September 13. This endowed lectureship, the first permanent endowment of the CDC Foundation, was presented by the Merck Co. Foundation in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CDC and the 25th anniversary of the first combination vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella. The lecture has become an important and popular component of the CDC's annual National Immunization Conference.

Dr. Joan E. Shook, Professor and TCH Deputy Chief System Quality Officer and Chief Safety Officer, received the Jim Seidel Distinguished Service Award, given by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Emergency Medicine (SOEM). The award was established in 1988 initially as a biennial award and then in 2006 as an annual ward. It recognizes members who have provided exceptional service to the Section and to the field of pediatric emergency care. Dr. Shook was Chair of the AAP Section on Emergency Medicine from 2004-2006 and most recently served as Chair of the AAP COPEM (2012-2016).

Dr. Huda Zoghbi, Professor, is the recipient of the inaugural 2016 Mechthild Esser Nemmers Prize in Medical Science from Northwestern University. The award is one of several given annually to recognize works of lasting significance in various disciplines (mathematics, economics, music composition, and medical science). It carries with it a prize of $200,000.

She was also honored by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook’s chief executive, and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan. They announced a bold new biomedical research initiative and pledged $3 billion towards an ambitious goal of preventing, curing, or managing all diseases by the end of the century. Dr. Zoghbi was recognized as one of the invaluable members of the Scientific Advisory Board for this initiative. The first project of this initiative will be the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub, which will bring together engineers, computer scientists, biologists, physicists, chemists, and others to design means of tackling some of the deadliest diseases.
Susan Kirk, Physician Assistant, was recently honored with the Dr. Marilyn Hockenberry Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice, Education and Research. The award, established in 2012, recognizes an advanced practice nurse and/or physician assistant who has made exemplary contributions to the education of clinical fellows, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, or nurse, or has completed a clinical practice improvement project that has significantly impacted patient care in the TCH Cancer Center.

Dr. Sharon Plon, Professor and Director of the TCH Cancer Center’s Cancer Genetics and Genomics Program, was elected to the American Society of Genetics Board of Directors for 2017. The ASHG is the primary professional membership organization for human genetics specialists worldwide. The board supports the Society’s mission to advance human genetics in science, health, and society through research, education, and advocacy.

Dr. David Poplack, Professor and Director of TCH’s Cancer Center, recently received the Hyundai Hope on Wheels Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented for his incredible contributions and dedication to pediatric cancer research for more than 40 years. He is a founding member of the Hope on Wheels Medical Advisory Committee and continues to make significant impacts in the field.

Daisy Tran, Lead Coordinator for the food allergy program, received the Clinical Research Award for the third quarter 2016. The award, established by the Clinical Research Center in collaboration with the Research Resources Office, recognizes and honors individual contributions to protecting the best interest of the research subjects and compliance with applicable rules and regulations. Her research focuses on food allergic disorders, diagnosis and treatment of eosinophilic esophagitis, and atopy patch testing.

2016 Alkek Award Recipients Announced

The Alkek Award for Pilot Projects in Experimental Therapeutics supports preclinical translational research necessary for developing promising therapeutic targets, devices or diagnostic assays for clinical applications. The award is made possible through a generous gift from the Alkek Foundation. The 2016 award recipients and their projects are Dr. Debananda Pati, Assoc. Professor (pictured, left), for "Novel separase inhibitors to treat neuroblastoma"; Dr. Ghanashashyam Acharya, Assoc. Professor of ophthalmology, for "Stick-on nanowafer therapeutic to treat eye injuries"; and Dr. Fong Lam, Asst. Professor (pictured, right), for "The role of soluble recombinant human vimentin to improve acute lung injury in experimental sepsis." Dr. Pati will receive funding to support his research project, and support to Drs. Acharya and Lam will support explorations of commercialization opportunities for their previously funded research projects.
New Test Detects Biliary Atresia Earlier

“Biliary atresia is a particularly devastating disease and is the most common reason why children need a liver transplant. We know that diagnosing and treating biliary atresia earlier with an operation called the Kasai portoenterostomy could help children delay or even avoid transplant. However, we also know that biliary atresia is very challenging for clinicians to identify early.”

–Dr. Sanjiv Harpavat

Dr. Sanjiv Harpavat, Asst. Professor, and Dr. Benjamin Shneider, Professor and George Peterkin Endowed Chair, and Chief of the Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition service at TCH, have designed a simple way to screen infants for biliary atresia in the first 2 to 3 weeks of life. Biliary atresia is a life-threatening disease of the liver and bile ducts and is difficult to detect. From 2005 – 2014, it accounted for approximately 60 percent of liver transplants in infants younger than one year of age. The new test allows for earlier diagnosis and treatment, which has the potential to reduce the number of infants requiring liver transplantation. The initial population screened included all infants born in four hospitals around Houston during a 15-month period; the research was expanded to 10 hospitals in Houston and South Texas. The screening is based on newborn direct or conjugated bilirubin measurements. The study revealed that direct or conjugated bilirubin levels are elevated in all newborns with biliary atresia, rather than starting in the first few weeks of life as earlier thought. The infants identified as having bilirubin concentrations exceeding the 95th percentile were rescreened either at or before they had reached their first birthday. The researcher group, which included Dr. Joseph A. Garcia-Prats, Professor, worked closely with primary care pediatricians throughout the city and offered guidance and education for patients who tested positive initially. The research, supported by the Cade R. Alpard Foundation for Pediatric Liver Disease, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Jan Albrecht Clinical and Translational Research Award and Baylor College of Medicine Junior Faculty Seed Award, was reported in the August issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.
Study Uses Adaptive Therapy to Target Solid Tumors

Dr. Andras Heczey, Assoc. Professor and Director of the TCH Liver Tumor Program, and colleagues systematically evaluated a series of chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) to determine which achieved the greatest anti-tumor activity when genetically engineered into T cells. Their study was based on adoptive-cell therapies in which a patient’s own immune cells are used to recognize and target tumors; these therapies have shown some success for certain B-cell malignancies but not for solid tumors. The researchers engineered CAR T cells targeted the molecule glypican-3 (GPC3), which is expressed in many solid tumors, and compared several versions of GPC3-specific CARs. They then examined how the CAR T cells functioned in preclinical models of different solid tumors, including hepatocellular carcinoma, hepatoblastoma, and malignant rhabdoid tumors. The results revealed that CAR containing the 41BB endodomain endows T cells with superior proliferative potential and potent antitumor activity. These findings, according to Dr. Heczey, justify further development of this CAR as an immunotherapy for GPC3-positive solid tumors. He also emphasized that systematic testing and optimization of chimeric antigen receptors is required for effective treatments against tumors. The next step will involve testing optimized GPC3-specific CAR in adults and children with GPC3-expressing solid tumors. Their study, which was supported by NIH/NCI grants (K12 CA090433 to AH; RO1 CA116548 to LM) Pablove Foundation Research Award and the Pediatric Pilot Award of Baylor College of Medicine, was published online in Human Gene Therapy.

Others who contributed to this research include Wenpeng Li, Linjie Guo, Ekaterina Marinova, Xiuhua Gao, Stephen Gottschalk and Leonid Metelitsa of Baylor, the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy and Texas Children’s Cancer Center; Meng-Feng Wu and Hao Liu of Baylor’s Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Gianpietro Dotti of the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Researchers Discover Mechanism that Regulates Obesity

Dr. Makoto Fukuda, Asst. Professor, and colleagues have discovered a new mechanism in the mouse brain that regulates obesity, and they have found that it can potentially be targeted to treat obesity. They studied the mouse Rap1 gene, which is expressed in various tissues including the brain, where it affects functions such as memory and learning, to determine if it had a role in energy balance. They selectively deleted the Rap1 gene in a group of neurons in the hypothalamus. Using two groups of mice, one genetically engineered to lack the Rap1 gene and the other a control group with functional Rap1, they watched the results of feeding both groups a high-fat diet in which 60 percent of the calories came from fat. As they expected, the control mice gained weight, but the mice lacking the Rap1 gene had markedly reduced body weight and less body weight. Another interesting result was that when both groups were fed normal diets, they showed similar weights and body fat. They then did additional research to determine why the mice lacking the Rap1 gene had not gained weight despite eating a high-fat diet and found that they were not more physically active but they ate less and burned more body fat than did the control group. Dr. Fukuda noted that these observations “were associated with the hypothalamus producing more of a hormone that reduces appetite, called POMC, and less of hormones that stimulate appetite, called NPY and AgRP.” The study also focused on whether leptin changed in mice lacking Rap1, as leptin helps regulate body weight by inhibiting appetite and leptin resistance is a hallmark of human obesity. Mice that lacked Rap1 and ate a high-fat diet did not develop leptin resistance, were able to respond to leptin, and had lower blood levels. The researchers further tested the effects of inhibiting the Rap1 gene with inhibitor ESI-05 instead of deleting it on mice on a high-fat diet, with the result that their sensitivity to leptin was restored to a level similar to that in mice eating a normal diet. The mice ate less and lost weight. Dr. Fukuda noted that “This new mechanism involving Rap1 in the brain may represent a potential therapeutic target for treating human obesity in the future. The study, which was supported by USDA CRIS 6250-504 51000-055, AHA-14BGIA20460080, NIH-P30-DK079638 and NIH R01DK104901, AHA-505 15POST22500012 and the Uehara Memorial Foundation 201340214, was reported in Cell Reports.

Other contributors to this work include Kentaro Kaneko, Pingwen Xu, Elizabeth L. Cordonier, Siyu S. Chen, Amy Ng, Yong Xu and Alexei Morozov.
Dr. Huda Y. Zoghbi, Professor, and her laboratory at the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Institute (NRI) at TCH and BCM have reported finding identical abnormalities in neural circuits that may underlie similar features in two distinct genetic syndromes. Further, deep brain stimulation (DBS) reversed the circuit malfunctions in mouse models of Rett syndrome, for which Dr. Zoghbi’s team discovered the cause in 1999, and of MECP2 duplication syndrome. That finding in 1999 that loss of MECP2 function causes Rett syndrome was a watershed moment. A few years later, researchers found that extra copies of this gene result in a related but distinct neurodevelopment disorder, called MECP2 duplication syndrome.

Although the structural and functional properties of different neurons are different in the two entities, patients with these conditions suffer from similar learning and behavioral deficits such as autism and intellectual disability. To monitor the hippocampal circuits in mouse models of Rett syndrome and MECP2 duplication syndromes, researchers developed transgenic mice with fluorescently labeled calcium sensors that light up in neurons that are actively firing. Optimal function of the hippocampal circuit in the brain of a normal individual relies on asynchronous and sparse firing of individual neurons, which may account for their adaptability to new information. The neural circuits are maintained through a fine balance of excitatory and inhibitory neurons.

Contrariwise, the neural circuits in mice models of Rett syndrome or MECP2 duplication syndrome had increased hypersynchrony, a result of dysfunctional inhibitory neurons that were unable to dampen excitation. Excessive synchrony in the hippocampal circuit is known to interfere with normal processing of information, to disrupt circuit dynamics, and to hinder learning.

More recently, Dr. Zoghbi and collaborators demonstrated that applying DBS, a nonsurgical treatment whereby a specific region of the brain is stimulated, to a specific region of the hippocampus improves learning and memory in mouse models of Rett syndrome. Although the aim of DBS is to regulate abnormal activity and is being used increasingly for different movement disorders, it was unclear how it restored normal brain activity.

In this current study, led by Dr. Hui Lu, postdoctoral researcher at BCM and lead author, the researchers demonstrated that hippocampal DBS reversed the circuit abnormalities in mouse models of Rett syndrome, providing insights into how DBS improves learning, memory, and cognition. Dr. Zoghbi noted that the study “raises the possibility that other autism and intellectual disability syndromes could, perhaps, also result from excessive synchrony in specific circuits . . .”

“Electrical circuits in a house can be damaged in many ways – by lightning during a thunderstorm, by frayed or improperly wired cables or if the system is overburdened with too many appliances – leading to a common outcome, electrical fires. Similarly, this study shows that different genetic mutations may disrupt neural circuits in distinct ways, but eventually, they all result in clinically comparable outcomes.” –Dr. Huda Zoghbi.
The BCM - CHoSA Pediatric Residency Training Program, under the leadership of Dr. Michelle Barajaz, Dr. Sarah Denniston, and Dr. Adam Wolfe (pictured top to bottom), has been granted continued accreditation status following the recent American College Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) site visit. BCM serves as the sponsoring institution for CHoSAs pediatric residency program—a unique model that allows the Hospital to tailor programs specifically to the needs of the patients and of the residents.

This accreditation moves the program off initial accreditation and represents the ACGME’s certification as a “full-fledged” accredited program. It is truly remarkable that this has been achieved in just over a two-year period.

A 5-day pediatric board review course was opened by a welcome and introduction by Dr. Mark Gilger, Pediatrician-in-Chief, and Elias Neujahr, CEO and President of CHoSA. Day One covered Pediatric Cardiology, taught by Drs. Richard Lorber, Nitin Madan, Harinder Singh, and Justin Weigand, and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, taught by Drs. Jendi Haug and Elizabeth Yust. The second day covered Pediatric Endocrinology, taught by Drs. Luisa Rodriguez and Rebecca Schaub; Pediatric Hematology and Oncology taught by Drs. Nadia Cheek, Sheila Thampi, and Adam Wolfe; Pediatric Gastroenterology, taught by Dr. Ruchika Kaushik; Pediatric Nephrology, taught by Drs. Bandana Paudyal-Nepal and Rachana Srivastava; Pediatric Neurology, taught by Drs. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox, Maria Pierce, and George Powers. The sessions for Day Three were Pediatric Nephrology, taught by Drs. Bandana Paudyal-Nepal and Rachana Srivastava; Pediatric Neurology, taught by Drs. Sanjuanita Garza-Cox, Maria Pierce, and George Powers. The final day was devoted to Board Review Questions, facilitated to Drs. Elumalai Appachi, Luis Castagnini, Crystal Davenport, Sarah Denniston, and Adam Wolfe.
Dr. Elumalai Appachi was named a 2016 Health Care Hero by the San Antonio Business Journal. The awards recognize outstanding achievements by individuals in the local health care industry. Nominated by Pediatrician-in-Chief Dr. Mark Gilger, Dr. Appachi was one of two recipients of the “Outstanding Physician - Hospital-Based” award. The awards were presented at an awards dinner and presentation on October 12.

"Dr. Appachi is the epitome of a gentleman and a scholar. In addition to the outstanding care he brings to the bedside of each critically ill or injured child, he has played a strong role in establishing a new culture of leadership at The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio. This culture has permeated not only the pediatric intensive care unit where he serves as chief, but set the bar very high for all those involved in the Hospital’s transformation into a world-class children’s hospital.”
—Dr. Mark Gilger

CHofSA Part of Tri-Institute Research

Dr. Vivienne Marshall has been designated as the site Principal Investigator of a CPRIT (Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas) Grant entitled “The Adolescent and Childhood Cancer Epidemiology and Susceptibility Service (ACCESS) for Texas.” The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio will be one of three participating regional repositories, which will include Texas Children’s Hospital and University of Texas Southwestern.

The purpose of the grant is to identify novel genetic risk factors and gene-environment interactions important in understanding cancer susceptibility among children and adolescents, particularly among the diverse patient population in Texas. The three sites will collect data and samples that will facilitate the conduct of family-based studies for common and rare childhood and adolescent cancers.

The Principal Investigator is Dr. Michael Scheurer, Assoc. Professor, and the lead site is Texas Children’s Hospital. The total grant award is $10 million over the course of 5 years. The total amount to CHofSA and Dr. Marshall is approximately $1M (including indirect costs).
On 30 September 2016, CHoFSA held its second annual Research Symposium, with the primary goal of helping participants identify opportunities to follow their clinical passions and inquiries through to disseminated scholarly products. We had additional goals of highlighting scholarly work being conducted within the Children’s Hospital, and forming networks with other academic pediatricians in the San Antonio community.

The event was planned jointly by Dr. Adam Wolfe, Assistant Residency Program Director and Assistant Professor of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, and Dr. Vivienne Marshall, Clinical Research Director at the Voelcker Clinical Research Center.

The day began with our hospital Grand Rounds, with guest speaker Dr. Norman Fost, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (pictured, left). He reflected on five clinical cases he witnessed during medical school, training, and his faculty career that shaped his career, one of the first in pediatric bioethics.

Following Grand Rounds, we offered a 3-hour workshop on Scholarly Writing in the Medical Profession, to meet our primary goal of “Bridging the Gap from Inquiry to Scholarship.” The workshop was given by three members of the Department of Pediatrics, Center for Research, Innovation and Scholarship (CRIS), Baylor College of Medicine: Dr. B. Lee Ligon (pictured, left), Dr. Satid Thammasitboon (pictured, below right), and Rachelle Weinstein, M.S.W. The workshop, which began with a 2-hour interactive didactic presentation followed by a 1-hour discussion/facilitation session, was repeated in the afternoon. Topics of the first portion were: Preparing to Write: Know the Playing Field; Gaining Expertise: Learn New Strategies; and Participating: Score the Touchdown!

The workshops were attended by 43 faculty and residents. Participants left with a host of resources for preparing and disseminating scholarly products in pediatrics, including a notebook provided courtesy of CRIS that provides templates for formulating different types of manuscripts, and a completed outline for a new or ongoing project with peer and expert feedback on project design and implementation. Feedback from all the sessions was excellent.
The call for abstracts yielded 56 submissions, which included basic science projects, clinical studies, clinical case reports, pharmacology studies, physician and nursing quality improvement initiatives, educational interventions, advocacy projects, and also included several projects by trainees. To exhibit the broad array of scholarly work being conducted at CHoFSA and within San Antonio, all 56 abstracts were invited for presentation.

Four abstracts were selected for 15-minute oral presentations: “Quality Improvement in Primary Care Clinic Efficiency and Patient Wait Time” (Jesse Banales, MD; Danielle Ramirez, MD; Amanda Phan, MD; and Meg Harline, MD), “Safety and Efficacy of Endoscopic Assisted Push Gastrostomy Using Gastropexy Technique Compared to Percutaneous Gastrostomy Tube Placement” (Javier Monagas, MD and Lauren Del Bosque, PA-C), “Surgical Site Infections in Children Following VEPTR Surgery” (Jonathan Crews, MD), and “How Healthcare Professionals Are Affected by Modern Day Slavery” (Kim Hoang, MD). More than 80 members of our faculty, residency, and other clinical staff attended.

After the oral abstract presentations, we introduced a new format for oral presentations of our many excellent clinical conundrum and case abstracts, entitled “2 minutes, 2 slides, 2 questions,” in which each presenter was given a maximum time of two minutes to present the case and learning point on up to two electronic slides. Each speaker then answered up to two questions from the audience. We covered eight complicated cases during this 30-minute session, and the feedback from the audience and presenters was universally excellent. We plan to continue and expand this session for next year’s symposium.

This Symposium was made possible in part by generous funds allocated by The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio Foundation, which supported costs for our out of town guests, meals, and materials used throughout the day. We are grateful for their ongoing support of our academic mission. We are looking forward to next year’s Symposium, and anyone from the BCM community is welcome to join us.
February 5, 2017 - DEADLINE for submitting Letter of Intent - CRIS
The purpose of the TCH Educational Scholarship Awards is (a) to promote educational scholarship among faculty members and (b) to encourage collaboration around education among programs/sections within, and beyond, the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

February 18-20, 2017 – APA Southern Regional Meeting, New Orleans, LA
This meeting offers a unique opportunity to learn from and network with other clinician educators from APA regions 7 and 8. http://www.academicpeds.org/regions/region_7cfm

The 2016 conference, in addition to showcasing many of the current ACGME initiatives (such as the full implementation of the Next Accreditation System, the Milestones, the Clinical Learning Environment Review, and the ACGME self-study program) will offer dedicated sessions based upon quality improvement and patient safety, the latest on competency-based medical education assessment, and a report on the ACGME’s efforts to improve resident and practicing physician well-being.

March 24, 2017 – DEADLINE for submitting Proposal for CRIS Education Scholarship Award

March 29, 2017 - Pediatric Research and Fellows’ Symposium
This event will be comprised of a keynote scientific address, a keynote scholarship presentation, fellows’ workshop on "Finding Joy in Academia", as well as presentations of featured abstracts. A moderated poster session will broadly feature trainee pediatric research conducted at Texas Children's Hospital. There will also be prizes for the most meritorious submissions/presentations across a number of categories.

March 30 – April 2, 2017 – APPD Spring Meeting, New Orleans, LA
APPD is a community of pediatric educators, with a GME focus. The meeting theme of deliberative practice, working in teams, and innovations in medical education promises to provide a wealth of experiences and exposures.

April 11 - 14, 2017 Master Class on Writing Research for Publication, Montreal, Canada
This is an intensive, four-day course on scholarly writing. This vibrant and picturesque city will provide a unique opportunity to step away from day-to-day distractions, be inspired by new surroundings, and focus on your scholarly writing.

April 22, 2017 - DEADLINE for Pilot Award Applications, Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition

Pedi Press is a quarterly publication of the Department of Pediatrics. Articles and other items should be submitted to Dr. Lee Ligon at bligon@bcm.edu.

The next deadline is JANUARY 4, 2017.