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Hospital

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Best Children's Hospitals
2017-18 Honor Roll
Texas Children's Hospital
#4



Above Left: Drs. Bottazzi and Hotez honored (p. 12)

Above Right: Dr. Orange receives special recognition (p. 21)

Below: Michael Phelps visits patients in Hematology/Oncology
Clinic (p. 7)



DEPARTMENT NEWS . . .

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

TCH Ranked #4 in Nation

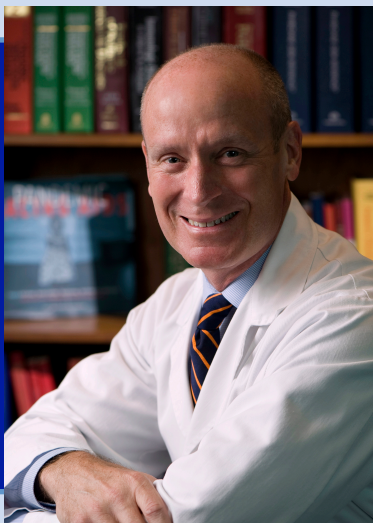
Dr. Mark Kline, Chairman, sent out a congratulatory letter to the faculty and residents, announcing that the 2017-18 *U.S. News & World Report* survey of Best Children's Hospitals, released that morning (June 27, 2017), ranked Texas Children's Hospital #4 nationally among approximately 200 hospitals surveyed.

Only 82 hospitals ranked among the top 50 in at least one of ten specialties. Ten of those hospitals, including TCH, earned a coveted place on the Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18 Honor Roll.

Texas Children's ranked among the top-10 nationally in eight specialties, including

Heart	#1
Pulmonology	#2
Cancer	#4
GI and GI Surgery	#4
Nephrology	#4
Neurology and Neurosurgery	#4
Diabetes and Endocrine	#6
Urology	#6

Neonatology (#11) and Orthopedics (#16) both improved their rankings significantly but landed outside the top-10.



"I am tremendously proud of each and every one of you, as well as of every clinical service here at Texas Children's and in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor. Your commitment to mission, compassion and talent are unequalled. As a consequence, we are on a trajectory as a hospital and department second to none nationally. Thank you for all that you do every day to improve the health and lives of children and families across Houston, Texas, and the world."

Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18 Honor Roll



Boston Children's	#1
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	#2
Cincinnati Children's	#3
Texas Children's Hospital	#4
Johns Hopkins	#5
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	#6
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	#7
Lurie Children's (Chicago)	#8 (tied)
Nationwide Children's (Columbus)	#8 (tied)
Children's National (DC)	#10

Department Continues Its Exceptional Growth

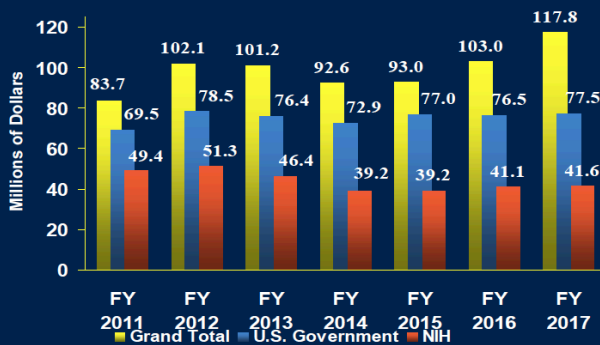
On Thursday, July 22, Chairman **Dr. Mark Kline** shared during the faculty meeting various achievements in the department, including the U. S. News & World Report rankings, various faculty appointments and awards, resident matching, and funding.

Since 2008, the department has demonstrated a 400 percent increase in the number of faculty receiving Norton Rose Fulbright (formerly Fulbright & Jaworski) awards, including almost doubling the number from the previous year. The awards, initiated in 2001, recognize BCM faculty for exemplary educational contributions in four categories: Teaching and Evaluation, Development of Enduring Educational Materials, Educational Leadership, and Educational Research.

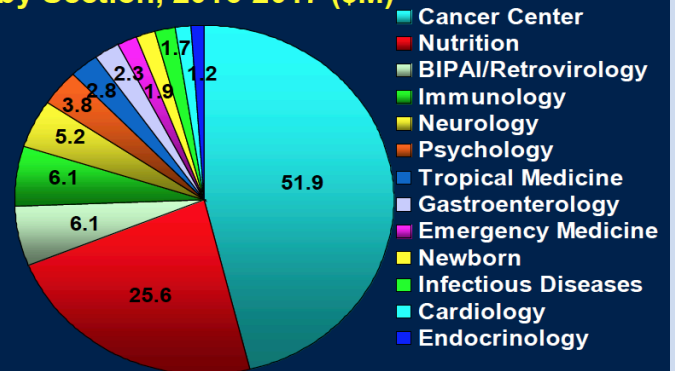
Norton Rose Fulbright (F&J) Awards to Pediatric Faculty, 2008-2017



DOP Grant and Contract Awards



Grant and Contract Awards by Section, 2016-2017 (\$M)



With regard to contracts and grant funding, the department showed a record \$117.8 million for fiscal year 2017, up better than 10 percent from the previous year. U. S. grants accounted for 66 percent of the funding, with the Cancer Center receiving 51.9 percent of the total.

Dr. Kline also gave an update on the \$575 million Legacy Tower, which is scheduled to open in Spring 2018. The tower will have 19 floors, with 640,000 square feet and will boast 130 ICU beds, 12 operating rooms, and a helipad.



Legacy Tower

- 19 floors; 640,000 sq. ft.
- \$575 million
- 130 ICU beds
- 12 operating rooms
- Helipad
- Open Spring, 2018

All slides courtesy of Julie O'Brien



First Annual “#AdulthoodwithT1D” Held in June

In June 2017, the Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology Section hosted its first annual “life after high school” event for older teens (ages 16 and older) with type 1 diabetes and their caregivers, #AdulthoodwithT1D.

The outreach event was an interactive platform that allowed youth and families living with diabetes to engage with clinicians, psychologists, social workers, and other young adults with type 1 diabetes. Topics presented included managing diabetes while in college and/or work, parents’ changing role, and knowing what to expect in adult care. The event drew 54 participants, including teens, young adults, and parents.

Christina Roth, CEO of the College Diabetes Network, was the keynote speaker. In addition, 13 presenters addressed topics about managing type 1 diabetes as a young adult.

Participants Enthusiastically Endorse the Event

“There was a variety of different facilitators, professionals—including patients and parents. A lot of first hand knowledge on the topic.”

“Thank you SO much for hosting this event. This really helped me realize that there is SO MUCH help involved in living with T1D.”

#AdulthoodwithT1D was a huge success, with 90% noting they were “highly satisfied” and that it was a great way to assist teens and families as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives. The Section looks forward to hosting other transition events in the future.

Organizers of #AdulthoodwithT1D were Dr. Marisa Hilliard, Dr. Sarah Lyons, and Kierra Lee MPH, who expressed a special “thank you” to Lensky Endowment for T1D, Curtis Yee, Presenters, Administrative Coordinators, and Volunteers.

More information can be obtained at type1transitions@texaschildrens.org.

Faculty Members Recognized in Various Venues

The Section of Emergency Medicine announces the recognition received by various faculty members, both within BCM and in the local community.



Dr. Shabana Yusuf, Asst. Prof., was interviewed recently for an article entitled "The Cougar Scalpel," which highlighted her interest in research and her journey from her medical residency program in India to her current position at BCM. In India, she and her team identified adenosine deaminase (ADA) as a marker for identifying TB infections. She now is dedicating her research time to the Observation Unit in the ED, an area for patients who are not well enough to return home but not so ill they need to be admitted. She aims to identify the predictors of inpatient admission for the ten most common diagnoses observed in the Unit.

The Section also proudly presents Faculty members who received BCM Faculty Excellence Awards:



Kay Leaming-Van Zandt, MD
Norton Rose Fulbright
Teaching & Evaluation



Dan Lemke, MD
Norton Rose Fulbright
Teaching & Evaluation
Educational Leadership



Rohit Sheno, MD
Norton Rose Fulbright
Educational Research



Brent Kaziny, MD
Early Career



Binita Patel, MD
Star Award for Excellence in
Patient Care

Not Pictured

Deborah C. Hsu, MD, MEd
NRF Educational Leadership

Corrie E. Champitazi MD
NRF Development of
Enduring Educational
Materials

Spencer Greene, MD
Early Career

Pictures and information
provided by Tiaa Bourgeois

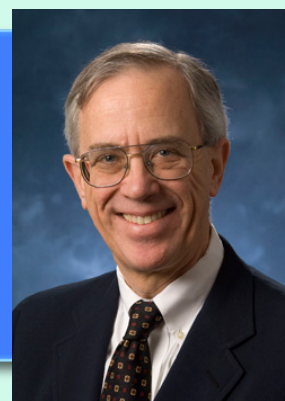
Center Joins in Celebrating World Sickle Cell Disease Day

"Our hope is that there will be a day when the place where a child is born does not determine whether or not they survive this disease." --Dr. Gladstone Airewele, Director of Texas Children's Global Hematology Program.

On June 19, 2017, patients with sickle cell disease and their families joined physicians and other care providers to celebrate World Sickle Cell Disease in the lobby of the Children's Nutrition Research Center. Sickle cell disease is an inherited red blood cell disorder that affects almost 100,000 Americans. The celebration featured an art project created by patients with sickle cell disease, music from a patient involved in TCH's Purple Songs Can Fly, and booths providing educational information from various organizations.

"Sickle cell disease is a condition that affects a large number of people worldwide. It can affect every organ in the body and can cause serious complications if not treated."

- Dr. Donald Mahoney, Jr., Director of Center



As a pioneer in addressing this disease in children, TCH has been screening newborns for the disease for more than half a century and in 2001 created the Texas Children's Sickle Cell Center, where patients receive comprehensive family-centered care. The Center serves more than 1,100 children each year, providing individualized treatment programs that include patient care, education, psychosocial support services, screening, and counseling. In 2011, the program's global efforts were launched in Angola to start screening and treating babies in that area and to date, almost 200,000 infants have been screened. Efforts are also underway in Malawi, Uganda, Botswana, and other areas of Sub-Saharan Africa to screen and treat infants and to train local physicians to do the same.

"We are one of the main centers of clinical research in sickle cell disease. We have a strong research infrastructure and we have a well-organized clinical and research basis, which makes us an attractive research partner both for industry, pharmaceutical companies and for other institutions."

- Dr. Alex George, Co-Director of Center



The Center also focuses on research and is involved in fighting the disease overseas in Africa, where many people are affected by the disease. Faculty members join researchers at other institutions on different projects aimed at creating new medications for patients with sickle cell disease.

Michael Phelps Honored at 12th Annual “Evening with a Legend”

Michael Phelps, who holds an all-time record of being the most decorated Olympian, with 28 medals (23 gold), was honored at the 12th annual “An Evening with a Legend” on May 16, 2017. Almost 650 guests attended the event, held at the Hilton Americas - Houston’s Ballroom of the Americas. The event features an individual who has made an impact on society and raises funds for the Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Centers. This year’s event raised more than \$1.2 million.

Phelps began his day at the Cancer Center, where he visited with patients and offered them words of encouragement, especially emphasizing the importance of pushing forward with endurance and confidence.

This year’s event was co-chaired by Shelley Barineau, Julie Bergen, Ned Torian, and Kathy Zay. Carmen and Butch Mach and Kelli and John Weinzieri were honorary chairs for the event.



“Michael Phelps was a wonderful legend. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to host him and appreciate his support for all that we do.”

Faculty Honored at BCM Alumni Awards and Recognition Dinner

Dr. Susan Blaney and Dr. C. Kenneth Landrum received Baylor College of Medicine Distinguished Faculty Awards at the Alumni Awards and Recognition Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel Houston.

Dr. Blaney has focused her career on the development of new therapies for children with recurrent refractory cancers. She has an extensive background in clinical translational research and is the Vice Chair for the national Children’s Oncology Group, a cooperative effort that comprises 200 of the world’s leading children’s hospitals. She has been a mentor to numerous leaders in the field of pediatric oncology and has appointments to the NCI’s Clinical Trials and Translation Research Advisory Committee and Investigational Drug Steering Committee.



Dr. Landrum has been Chair of the Vannie E. Cook, Jr., Cancer Foundation in McAllen, Texas since 1995. In 2000, he led a major initiative in forming a partnership among the Foundation, BCM, and TCH to create the Vannie E. Cook Jr. Children’s Cancer and Hematology Clinic in McAllen. It is the region’s first pediatric oncology facility, relieving patients of the arduous trip previously need to take to receive lifesaving care.



Newborn Center Dedicates The Butterfly Room

"As thankful as we are for the care we received when Ella passed, it also made us realize the need for a more private environment for parents to be able to say goodbye to their babies. So, when the opportunity presented itself to raise money to open a bereavement room for the Pavilion NICU in Ella's memory, we felt like this was our opportunity to improve bereavement care for other grieving families. We are incredibly grateful we have been able to raise the funds for this room thanks to the generosity of our friends, family, co-workers and our community. We hope this room will bring peace and comfort to other bereaved families for many years to come."

- Kate Hurlbut

Dr. Gautham Suresh, Chief of Neonatology, NICU Nursing Director **Heather Cherry**, and NICU Vice President **Judy Swanson** were speakers at the June 22 dedication ceremony for the Butterfly Room, a vision launched by **Kate Hurlbut**, nurse practitioner at TCH, and her husband **Phillip**. They know first-hand the experience of losing a child and wanted to provide a bereavement room for other parents. Almost two years ago, Kate gave birth to twin daughters, Ella and Anna. When they were only 5 weeks old, Ella developed a widespread bacterial infection and, despite a hard-fought battle, passed away in September 2015. Anna stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit for 83 days before she was allowed to go home to be with her parents and 3-year-old brother Luke.

The parents explained that supporting other grieving NICU families has helped them deal with their own pain as they find healing. They also recognized the need for a dedicated space where parents could have their last moments with their child. The fulfillment of that vision is the new bereavement room, which is designed just like a nursery, with a crib, comfortable seating for family and friends, and a private space in which to say goodbye to their baby. It was named The Butterfly Room.

New Medication Approved to Treat Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Dr. Timothy Lotze, Assoc. Prof. and Clinical Medical Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Care Center at TCH, explained the advantages of a new treatment for patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare genetic disease that affects muscle strength and movement. TCH is among the first pediatric hospitals in the United States to offer a new treatment for SMA. Dr. Lotze noted that before the drug was developed, “we could not offer SMA patients any treatment options, other than supportive care. For the first time, this drug offers the possibility of stopping, recovering and perhaps, even preventing SMA symptoms. It is truly a ‘game-changer’ for these patients.”

“The good news is that in the clinical trials, SMA type 1 patients, who are among the most severely affected from birth, showed significant benefits in motor skills and breathing over placebo control patients. These infants, who would otherwise not be expected to even lift their heads, were rolling over, sitting up, and some even standing on their own. Many of the treated infants did not need breathing support, which is truly amazing for patients with this disease.” - Dr. Timothy Lotze



Caused by a mutation in gene *SMN1*, which produces survival motor neuron (SMN) protein essential to the normal function and survival of motor neurons, SMA is among the leading genetic causes of deaths in infants. When motor neurons are unable to function (or are dead), a progressive debilitating weakness can occur in all muscles of the body, including those needed for breathing. Humans have two versions of the *SMN*: *SMN1* and *SMN2*. The former always produces a fully functional SMN protein, but a defect in the latter (*SMN2*) leaves out a critical amino acid and produces normal SMN protein only 10 percent of the time. Hence, motor nerve cells are dependent on *SMN1*.

In a new DNA-based antisense oligonucleotide therapy, the poor reading of the *SMN2* is corrected such that it produces the SMN protein almost 100 percent of the time that the motor nerve cell uses that code. The drug is marketed as Spinraza and is administered by injection into the spinal canal through a lumbar puncture procedure. The drug reaches the cerebrospinal fluid directly and, hence, has access to the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord. Patients receive four doses in the first 2 months, followed by booster doses every 4 months for life.

The Blue Bird Circle 2017 Fall Luncheon and Speaker

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Houston Country Club

Guest Speaker: Henry Winkler

“The Fonz” – Henry Winkler is an award-winning actor and entertainer, having received two Golden Globe Awards for Best Actor in a Comedy Series and three Emmy nominations. He has a Star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and “Fonzie’s leather jacket and lunchbox are in the Smithsonian. Henry Winkler is also a Best-Selling author of the series of children’s novels.

The Blue Bird Circle supports the TCH Blue Bird Circle Clinic for Pediatric Neurology, the Blue Bird Circle Developmental Neurogenetics Laboratory, and the Blue Bird Circle Rett Center. Volunteers raise more than \$1 million annually and contribute more than 100,000 hours of serve each year in support of neurological research and patient care. For more information, <http://www.thebluebirdcircle.com>

Program Aims to Prevent Child Abuse



Dr. Greeley's analogy to illustrate his point: "Imagine standing by a river and watching kids floating by. You pluck them out of the river to rescue them. But you need to go upstream to find the break in the fence that is allowing the kids to fall into the water. Going upstream to find and correct the cause of problems is the model of public health. We have been spending all of our time scooping kids out of the river, and now we're developing a program, a strategy to start going upstream. We will always take care of these kids, but part of what our team does is focus on socioeconomic factors that place kids and families at risk in the first place."

Dr. Christopher Greeley, Chief of Public Health Pediatrics, the nation's largest and first such section within a children's hospital, leads a program aimed at preventing child abuse. The child abuse program, which has four main areas (see side bar), is one of two initiatives of the section, namely child abuse pediatrics and the Center for the Study of Childhood Adversity and Resilience (CARE). The two components work synergistically to engage the community with regard to risk factors and to improve the trajectory for children of abuse and neglect.

Noting that he is a certified child abuse physician, Dr. Greeley said that he "kept seeing children after they were harmed. It would be a great day if no one were hurt. And the only way for that to happen would be for the health care team to spend more time on prevention." He added that "improving the circumstances that cause adverse childhood experiences is a long-term complex undertaking that must be adapted to fit each community, but the Section of Public Health Pediatrics is ready to do whatever it takes to improve the lives of children."

Emphases of Child Abuse Program

- **Excellence in clinical care:** About 2,500 suspected victims of abuse and neglect are evaluated annually at Texas Children's and the Children's Assessment Center (CAC) in Houston. Care is provided at Texas Children's Main Campus and planned for the new Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands campus. Consultative services are available at Texas Children's Hospital West Campus. The program provides medical support to CACs in Houston and Brazoria County. Because children in the foster care system are at risk of abuse, Texas Children's is developing a foster care clinic.
- **Training and education:** Baylor and Texas Children's have three doctors in training in an accredited fellowship in child abuse pediatrics. Besides education for medical students and the greater Houston medical community, a training program is being developed for post-doctoral public health practitioners. An outreach program trains members of the community on signs and symptoms of child abuse.
- **Scholarship and new knowledge:** Clinical research varies from early recognition of abuse to improving mental health services for children in foster care.
- **Community presence:** The program's interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers and public health practitioners help primary care physicians and nonprofits who care for abused and neglected children and are available to civic groups, church groups and YMCAs.

CARE Cares for Families in the Community

The main focus of CARE, the other component in the Section, is community level research to identify, promote, and implement strategies for preventing adverse childhood experiences. Research focuses on poverty, violence, inequality, and homelessness, as well as difficulties accessing mental health care, education, and nutrition.

"As a transformative figure in the Department of Pediatrics, Greeley will inspire a generation of public health-oriented pediatricians-in-training who, in turn, will populate programs across the country. His program is a prime example of the things that we are doing that other pediatrics departments in the U.S. can replicate."

-- Dr. Mark W. Kline, Chairman

One effort designed to improve communication between parents and their children, as well as to enhance children's outcomes, is the upWORDS program at TCH. It teaches parents how to improve the quantity and quality of verbal communication with their children, as the amount of exposure to language has been shown to affect brain development and future potential.

Another important aspect involves networking and strategizing with nonprofit organizations in the communities, city, and county to develop partnerships that can help families cope with other public health issues such as violence, postpartum depression, food insecurity, and hunger.

Research Nurse Featured on Foundation Program

"We [Future of Nursing] Scholars have also received additional training in leadership development, because influencing policy is also one of the most important things we can do to push change. If we don't approach it in these ways, we're not going to move the ball at all."

Cary Cain, a nurse in the Section of Public Health who is working on her PhD., was featured in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars program for her work on child abuse and associated stress. As a trauma care nurse, she witnessed numerous instances of stress, noting that "injuries are the leading cause of death in children, and many of the severe injuries I saw were intentional. Most of the families were overcome by the stress in their lives; they weren't monsters." She sought to address the risk factors that are associated with child abuse and is now testing a program that helps parents engage with their children, thereby promoting resilience and a secure primary relation. She returned to school to find answers to how to systematically ask hard questions such as how to measure risks, protective factors, and outcomes, noting that being involved in research helps her motivate others and focus on her passion. Her research and studies are changing how she approaches problems, helping her to step back and evaluate who needs to be involved in solving them. As a Future of Nursing Scholar, she emphasizes that research depends on a variety of skill sets and on partnerships with numerous sectors.



Leaders Recognized at 2017 Carlos Slim Foundation



Drs. Maria Elena Bottazzi and Peter Hotez with Carlos Slim

"Fundación Carlos Slim has done an incredible job in leading the way in philanthropy in Mexico and Latin America...Not only in the realm of public health, but also in education, employment, and other areas." -- Dr. Maria Bottazzi

By Nathaniel Wilder Wolf

Dr. Peter Hotez and **Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi** were special guests at this year's 10th annual Carlos Slim Foundation Awards in Mexico City. Dr. Hotez, alongside prominent leaders in Global Health including the Carter Center and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, received a Special Recognition Award.

During the visit Dr. Hotez also gave a presentation at the Instituto de Diagnóstico y Referencia Epidemiológicos (INDRE) titled "The Emergence and Re-emergence of Zika, Chagas, and Other Neglected Diseases in a Globalized World."

The Carlos Slim Foundation has been working in collaboration with BCM and Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development as well as other organizations in Mexico to develop a vaccine against Chagas disease. The goal is to develop a therapeutic vaccine which would prevent the disease and which would also prevent or slow its progression in those who are already infected. Because Chagas is mostly asymptomatic for many years after infection, it is hard to know how many people have the deadly disease, but it is estimated there are between 8 and 12 million cases around the world.

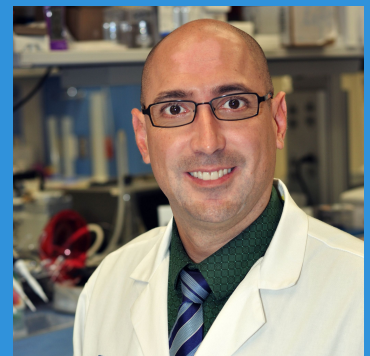
Researchers Publish on War Against Hookworm Infection



By Nathaniel Wilder Wolf

A group of recent articles by Tropical Medicine's **Dr. Rojelio Mejia** and his co-authors highlight several new findings about hookworm infection, a debilitating condition that affects an estimated 400 million around the world.

"A novel, species-specific, real-time PCR assay for the detection of the emerging zoonotic parasite *Ancylostoma ceylanicum* in human stool," published in July in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, illustrates a novel PCR diagnostic technique that allows for a higher level of parasite species detection. "*Ancylostoma ceylanicum* has always been considered a zoonotic disease, but here we showed it may have a lot higher presence in humans than previously thought, thanks to our unique PCR testing," said Mejia.



Also being published in August in *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene* is "Human Intestinal Parasite Burden and Poor Sanitation in Rural Alabama," which describes the results of an important study by Mejia and his team in Lowndes County, Alabama.

Another related finding by Mejia's team was published in May in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* in a paper titled "Hookworm infection is associated with decreased CD4+ T cell counts in HIV-infected adult Ugandans," which shows that HIV/AIDS immune activation and recovery is limited in those infected with hookworm species, even those with low burden of disease.

Baylor-Romania Hosts Texas A&M Bush School of Public Service Graduate Capstone

Graduate students at Texas A&M University traveled to the **Baylor Romania Center of Excellence in Constanta, Romania** to conduct research with patients, providers, government and other non-profit organizations, with the aim of developing a national public advocacy plan for Hepatitis B and C testing and treatment. Meetings included interviews with the newly appointed Minister of Health, AbbVie pharmaceuticals, and the



Infectious Diseases Hospital of Constanța. The professor and project leader was TCH Board Member Ambassador **Eduardo Aguirre**. The effort was the result of a sponsorship by TCH CEO Mark Wallace at the Bush School of Public Policy at Texas A&M University. The class was called “Capstone Project” and involved “Lessons From the Field: From a community viral hepatitis program to a National HCV Prevention, Screening, Care, and Treatment Plan in Romania.” The students also presented their findings to a select group of BIPAI leadership in Houston in May. The study and its findings are being shared with key government leadership in Romania. For additional information please watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcFx3iM2XwA>

First Global Health Innovation Grants Awarded

Pediatric faculty were awarded grants of \$13,000 each by TCH, which were reviewed by faculty from different departmental sections and led by co-chairs Dr. Jim Thomas and Ms. Diana Gross. The review committee received a total of 21 letters of intent and selected 11 applications to apply for the grants. A total of 7 grants were awarded during the first cycle. The grants were awarded to the following:

- **Dr. Amy Sanyahumbi, Cardiology:** “Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Prevention in Malawi, Africa: Step 1 Building a Clinical RHD Registry” will help establish a baseline for RHD in Malawi.
- **Dr. Andrew DiNardo, Infectious Disease:** “Piloting an Innovative, Low Cost, Feasible and Highly Sensitive Stool-Based Diagnostic Test for Children with Presumptive Pulmonary TB” will expand the Global TB program partnership at the Baylor-Tanzania Center of Excellence.
- **Dr. Monika Gadhia and Dr. Gregory Valentine, Neonatology:** “Neonatal Needs Assessment in Lilongwe, Malawi at Kamuzu Central Hospital - Development of an International Neonatology Partnership” will help lay the groundwork for a neonatology training program in Malawi.
- **Dr. Alexander Kay, Global & Immigrant Health:** “Developing Sustainable and Effective Diagnostic Testing Algorithms for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Adolescents Living with HIV in Swaziland” will enhance the services offered to adolescents at the Swaziland COE.
- **Dr. Anna Mandalakas, Global & Immigrant Health:** “Improving outcomes for Colombian Children affected by Child TB” will provide much-needed training for healthcare workers through Baylor-Colombia in La Guajira.
- **Diane Nguyen, PharmD:** “Bridging International and Local Global Health through a Global Pharmacy Network Conference” will bring together pharmacists from across the BIPAI network for education, sharing best practices and to explore academic and program collaborations.
- **Mr. Bert Gumeringer:** “Texas Children’s Facility Management Targeted Technical Training” to implement best practices and better equip BIPAI Facility Managers at each Center of Excellence around the world.

Global Health Organizes Maternal and Child Health Pre-Conference

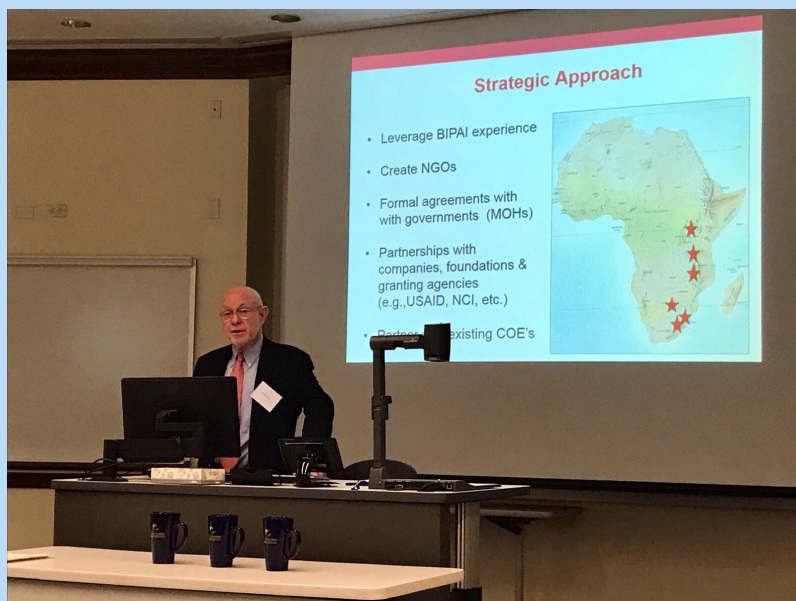
Department of Pediatrics faculty and BIPAI Executive Directors presented 13 lectures at a 1.5 day Child and Maternal Health Pre-Conference at the Houston Global Health Collaborative: Sustain 2017 Conference. Topics included future directions in global child, adolescent and maternal health, as well as hot topics such as impacts of the new U.S. executive administration proposed budget on global health funding and uses of social media in global health programs.

Highlights included **Dr. David Poplack** discussing the Global HOPE (Hematology-Oncology Pediatric Excellence) program as well as **Dr. Saeed Ahmed** from Baylor-Malawi discussing technical assistance to PEPFAR through the USAID-funded TSP and Tingathe projects. More than 120 participants attended the conference, and they were eligible to receive up to 6.5 hours of CME credit.

A poster session was included during breakouts and lunch. Keynote Speakers at the conference included BIPAI partners and supporters, including Dr. Rick Hodes, who partnered with BIPAI in Ethiopia to expand medical services for children and families in the city of Gondar; Mr. Jeff Richardson, former Vice President of the AbbVie Foundation, who has been a longtime advocate for BIPAI's work in Romania and sub-Saharan Africa; Mrs. Cris Daskevich, Senior Vice President at Texas Children's Hospital; and Mr. Michael Mizwa, BIPAI's SVP & COO and Director of Global Health at TCH.

Also in attendance and moderating several sessions were the Executive Directors of the BIPAI Network of NGOs (Uganda, Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana, Tanzania, Romania and Colombia), who were in Houston for the annual BIPAI Executive Directors Meeting. **Ana-Maria Schweitzer** of Baylor-Romania spoke on the Romania experience with government partnership and building sustainable relationships, and **Dr. Adeodata**

Kekitinwa of Baylor-Uganda discussed future directions in global adolescent health by sharing best-practices and lessons learned from the implementation of Teen Clubs in Uganda for HIV affected teens.



Around the World...

Consortium of Universities for Global Health



Headquarters

Dr. Keith Martin, Executive Director of CUGH (Consortium of Universities for Global Health) visited Houston to explore expanding partnership opportunities with Baylor and Texas Children's and met with key Global Health leadership.



Colombia

The Infant Welfare Institute's nutrition grant to implement the "1,000 Days Strategy" in the municipality of Manaure kicked off and Baylor-Colombia has expanded to include 33 new employees to support this initiative.



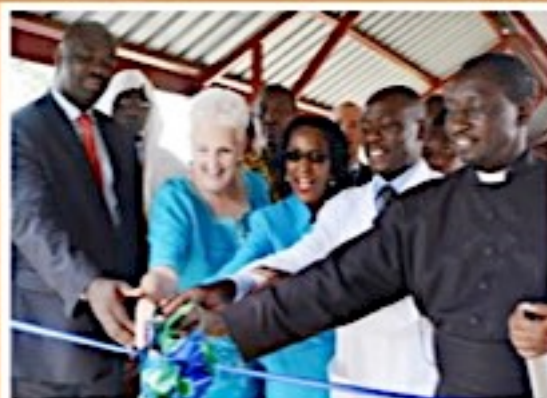
Argentina

The newly appointed Executive Director of Baylor-Argentina visited BIPAI HQ for a week-long orientation and planning session. The new program, based in Anelo, Neuquen, will address critical training needs in pediatric and maternal health.

...with Global Health



Texas Children's
Hospital®



Uganda

Baylor-Uganda, in partnership with local district governments in Western Uganda, hosted the US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac, who commissioned the Kyarusozo maternity unit in Kabarole district and the laboratory in Kyenjojo Hospital, both of which were refurbished by Baylor-Uganda with funding from U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). The Ambassador recognized Baylor-Uganda's work in scaling up comprehensive HIV care, treatment, and prevention.



Botswana

Botswana-Baylor hosted the 10th H3Africa Consortium meeting in Gaborone. The Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) Initiative aims to facilitate a contemporary research approach to the study of genomics and environmental determinants of common diseases with the goal of improving the health of African populations. Participation included more than 150 delegates from over 25 countries.



Malawi

The Malawi Government approved a public-private partnership agreement with Baylor Malawi to construct an obstetric surgical theater at the Area 25 Health Center in Lilongwe. The project is a significant expansion of existing care and training programs in Malawi and is funded by a significant donation from Jan Duncan.

Website Enhances Patients' Care

Dr. Joan Shook, Professor and Chief Safety Officer, explained the new safety and outcomes website created at TCH for parents. The information is organized into five nationally recognized categories of quality measures (see sidebar), and is accessible directly from the TCH main page. Among information that parents can access is how TCH compares to other children's hospitals in the United States in these categories, as information is available. When comparisons cannot be made, the website provides comparisons of TCH's performance in the past and the extent to which it is measuring up to its own goals.

"By tracking what we do, we learn about what happens to our patients, and we also learn about our performance as a health care delivery organization. We know we can always do better and must continue to strive toward excellence in health care delivery." -Dr. Joan Shook



Topics that can be researched include hand-hygiene compliance, catheter-associated blood-stream infections, surgical-site infections, deaths and complications with 30 days of surgery, patients' experiences, the third-next available appointment, patients leaving emergency care, and transfer denials. More topics will be added in the future.

For each measure, the website provides information on how parents can help TCH deliver the highest quality pediatric care and includes links to evidence-based guidelines.

Nationally Recognized Categories of Quality Measures

- **Safe:** Avoiding harm to patients from the care that is intended to help them.
- **Effective:** Providing services based on scientific knowledge. This category also measures the outcomes of the care we provide.
- **Patient-centered:** Providing care that is respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs and values and ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions.
- **Timely:** Reducing wait times and harmful delays for both those who receive and those who give care.
- **Efficient:** Avoiding waste, including waste of equipment, supplies, ideas and energy.

Center Offers New Publications for Policy & Advocacy



The Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy announced the development of a series of publications, "Policy Terms for Pediatricians," that define policy and advocacy terms in the context of the current health care environment (sample on right). Under the direction of **Dr. Jean L. Raphael**, Assoc. Prof., the Center serves as a catalyst to impact legislative and

regulatory action on the behalf of vulnerable children at local, state, and national levels. It strives to deliver innovative, multi-disciplinary, and solutions-oriented approaches to child health. The Center's mission is to advance policy and advocacy strategies to impact legislative and regulatory action on the behalf of vulnerable children in the areas of patient care, education, and research. The vision of the Center is to transform child health such that underserved children have every opportunity to lead healthy, high quality, and productive lives. The Center is located within TCH, which strives to deliver innovative, multidisciplinary, and solutions-oriented approaches to child health in a vastly evolving health care system and market place. It currently has seven faculty members and three staff who have expertise in medicine, law, health economics, public policy, sociology, health services research, biostatistics, and advocacy. Projects encompass early childhood development, childhood obesity, health disparities, behavioral health, telehealth, social determinants of health, and children with special healthcare needs. For more information, you can access the website at <https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/center-child-health-policy-and-advocacy>

Policy Terms for Pediatricians

Given the dynamic landscape of health and health care policy, pediatricians may feel challenged in understanding and responding to the major issues that impact children. The Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy created Policy Terms for Pediatricians (PTP) to empower pediatricians invested in improving child health through policy and advocacy.

BLOCK GRANTS and PER CAPITA CAPS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN

MEDICAID: a public health insurance program for low-income individuals that is funded by both federal and state governments but managed at the state level. Funding for Medicaid is open-ended and need-based. It is a federal entitlement program meaning it must be funded in the budget and anyone who qualifies can enroll. Block Grants and Per Capita Caps have emerged as possible ways to control federal spending / generate federal savings while allowing states to design and tailor their Medicaid programs.

BLOCK GRANTS: Each state would receive an annual fixed amount of funding (spending cap) based on current state and federal Medicaid spending in that state. If state expenditures exceed the federal spending cap due to increased enrollment or rise in health care costs, the state is responsible for the remainder of costs and may have to pay more, decrease enrollment, or limit services.

PER CAPITA CAPS: Each state receive a set amount of federal funding per enrollee (per capita cap). The per capita caps might be the same for all enrollees, or might be calculated for different Medicaid subgroups (e.g. children, individuals with disabilities). The caps adjust for enrollment from year to year, allowing states to receive more funding if Medicaid enrollment changes (e.g., economic downturn, natural disasters). They do not address increases in health care spending putting the state at financial risk for any spending above the per capita cap.

WHY DO WE CARE

70 million MEDICAID

33 million MEDICAID

As the largest source of public health coverage in the U.S., Medicaid covers nearly 70 million Americans including 33 million infants and children. State Medicaid programs must provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits to children under age 21.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Book Helps Support Camp Hope

Anna Grove, grants manager in the Department of Pediatrics - section of tropical medicine, has published a book called "Faces of Service," a pictorial tribute to veterans, which includes a foreword by President George H.W. Bush, himself a WWII veteran.

The coffee table-sized book includes images of veterans as well as brief narratives. When purchased online (<https://www.annagrovephotography.com/shop/faces-of-service-book>) proceeds support Camp Hope, an outreach of the PTSD Foundation of America.



DEPARTMENT NEWS . . .

FACULTY & STAFF FEATURES

A Fond Farewell from the Chairman....

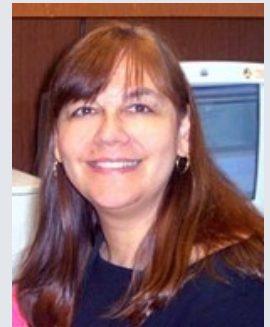
Dear Faculty:

With mixed emotions, I am writing to announce the retirements from the Department of Pediatrics of three iconic figures: **Edward Mason, Ph.D.**, **Celine Hanson, M.D.** and **Barbara West, M.D.**

Dr. Mason is retiring after 45 years as the founding director of the Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory, located on the Feigin Center's 11th floor. During that time he has facilitated and collaborated on literally hundreds of scientific publications and mentored dozens of infectious diseases fellows, myself among them. Ed is known and admired nationally by the pediatric infectious diseases community and is one of the nicest and most generous individuals one ever could hope to meet. In honor of his many years of service, the laboratory on Feigin 11 has been renamed the "Dr. Edward O. Mason, Jr. Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory."



Dr. Hanson is retiring after 35 years of service with Allergy/Immunology (now Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology). Along with Dr. Bill Shearer, Celine helped to found the pediatric HIV/AIDS service at Texas Children's Hospital in the late 1980s. She has been a cornerstone element of our programs in allergy and primary immunodeficiency disease, as well, and played a pivotal role in the adoption by the State of Texas of newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiency disease. Celine has legendary status as an allergy/immunology clinician and educator.



Dr. West is retiring after 28 years of service, most of it spent in pulmonary medicine. Barbara has been instrumental in all of our efforts around asthma education, prevention, community outreach and treatment. She has personally evaluated more than 4400 new patients in the pulmonary clinic since 1995.



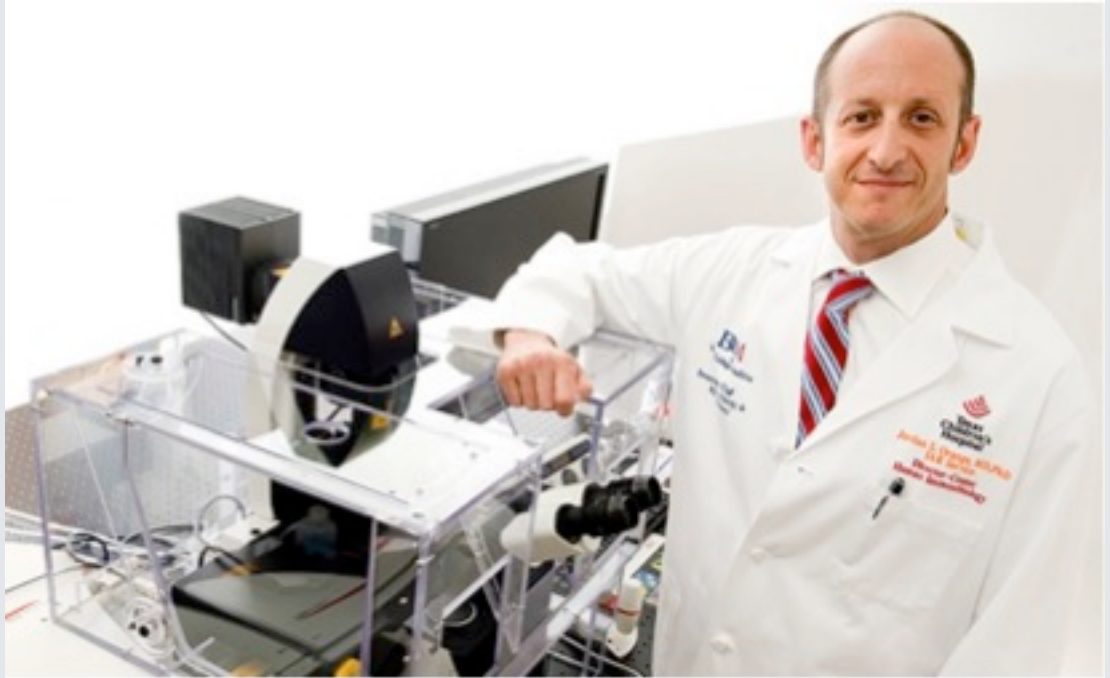
I know I speak for the entire Department of Pediatrics when I say that it has been an honor to work alongside colleagues of the caliber of Drs. Mason, Hanson and West. They have made us better as a department and hospital and improved the lives of thousands of children, families and colleagues. We offer our sincere gratitude for their service to the Department of Pediatrics and Texas Children's Hospital and wish each of them the best of good health and greatest happiness in retirement.

Best wishes always,

Mark

Dr. Orange Receives Prominent Research Award

Dr. Jordan Orange, Professor and Chief of Immunology, Allergy and Rheumatology and Director of the Center for Human Immunobiology, received the prestigious **Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., Excellence in Research Award**, given annually to BCM faculty who have made substantial contributions to clinical or basic biomedical research during the previous three years.



Dr. Orange was nominated by Drs. Emily Mace, Lisa Forbes, and Tiphany Vogel on the basis of his seminal contributions to the fields of clinical immunology, basic immunology, and cell biology. Among his achievements are the discovery, along with colleagues, of COPA syndrome, a rare, autosomal dominant autoimmune syndrome that leads to arthritis and interstitial lung disease; validation of the genetic discovery was done in Dr. Orange's laboratory, and the published article received the 2015 Lee C. Howley, Sr., prize for the most outstanding paper of the year, given by the Arthritis Foundation. He is also a recognized pioneer in the field of primary NK cell deficiency, for which he wrote one of the first descriptions, in 2003. Recently, he led an international team that discovered that biallelic mutations in the transcription factor IRF8 are a novel cause of NKD, ending a decade-long quest to identify the cause of the original published case of NKD. He also is a leader in the field of NK cell biology, using highly quantitative microscopy and image analysis to probe deeply into their function. In an article published in January 2017 and featured on the cover of *Journal of Cell Biology*, he and colleagues described the purpose of NK cell lytic granule convergence, a mechanism that NK cells use to direct their cytolytic machinery to mimic an NK cell microenvironment.

Dr. Zoghbi Awarded 2017 Switzer Prize



Dr. Huda Zoghbi, Professor and Director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Institute at TCH, has been awarded the **2017 Switzer Prize** from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA for excellence in biological and biomedical sciences research. The award, which recognizes discoveries in basic research in the biological and biomedical sciences, is awarded annually to an investigator whose recent research "has revealed new paradigms, illuminated biological processes or pathways, or explained the origins of pathologies or diseases." It is named for Irma and Norman Switzer. Dr. Zoghbi will deliver the Switzer Prize lecture at UCLA in February 2018.

Dr. Gill Recognized for Excellence in Education



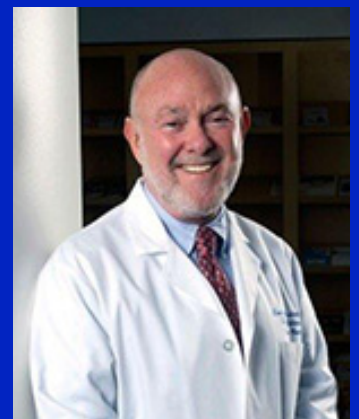
From left: Corbin J. Robertson, Jr., Dr. Anne Gill, Dr. Anita Deswal, Will Robertson, and BCM President Dr. Paul Klotman

Established in 1999, the **Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education** recognizes faculty members who have made long-standing, consistent, and highly valued contributions to the educational mission of the College. Recipients become members of the Baylor Society of Presidential Educators and receive a crystal award and \$10,000. The 2017 recipients of the Robertson Presidential Award were **Dr. Anne Gill**, Assoc. Prof., and Dr. Anita Deswal, Professor of Medicine and Chief of Cardiology at the Michael E. DeBakey Veteran Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Gill became Assistant Dean for Interprofessional Education on July 1. A research nurse, she began her tenure at BCM in 1994 and joined the faculty in 1999. She has been recognized with numerous teaching awards, including this year's RIITE Role Model for Teamwork Award and the Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award for Educational Leadership (2004, 2015), Teaching and Evaluation (2007), Enduring Materials (2010) and Educational Research (2011).

Grant Will Help Expand Passport for Care

Passport for Care, an entity developed by Texas Children's Cancer Center and BCM's Center for Collaborative and Interactive Technologies, received its third grant from the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas, in the amount of \$1.5 million. **Dr. David Poplack**, Professor and Director of the TCH Cancer Center, was a co-developer of Passport for Care, which was launched in 2008 with the intent of ensuring that survivors of childhood cancer receive quality on-going health care specific to their individual needs.

Texas has more than 35,000 survivors of cancer they had as children, adolescents, or young adults. The late effects of cancer treatment, which may include infertility, additional malignancies, and cardiac failure, impact their quality of life and may even be life-threatening. Unfortunately, many survivors face obstacles in receiving appropriate care, often due to their own and/or their primary care physicians' lack of knowledge about risks of late effects and what follow-up screenings are needed. Passport for Care was designed specifically to address this gap in patient care by launching a clinician website that uses an algorithm to generate a survivor's potential late effects, based on the treatment history, and to provide a corresponding set of follow-up screening recommendations. A patients' site allows survivors to access their treatment information and screening recommendations. The grant will allow for Passport for Care to launch a social media campaign to expand and target additional cancer centers and survivors.



in brief...

Dr. Dennis M. Bier, Professor, was awarded the Atwater Lectureship by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was presented at the Experimental Meeting in Chicago.

Dr. Lindsay Buragge, Assistant Professor, was honored as a top physician-scientist by Burroughs Wellcome Fund, with the highly competitive **BWF Career Award for Medical Scientists**. The award provides \$700,000. It will support her research on impaired glycogen metabolism and chronic liver disease in urea cycle disorders.

Dr. Hsiao-Tuan Chao, Resident, was one of the inaugural recipients of the highly competitive **Child Neurology Career Development Program Award** based at the Hugo Moser Research Institute at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

Dr. Bruno Chumpitazi, Associate Professor, was elected to the American Gastroenterological Association Research Advocacy Subcommittee within the Government Affairs Committee.

Dr. Jonathan Davies, Assistant Professor, and **Dr. Geoffrey Preidis**, Fellow, were two of three recipients of the **2017 BCM Chao Physician-Scientist Awards**, which provide funding for young investigators who are beginning their independent research careers.

Dr. Douglas Fishman, Associate Professor, was appointed to the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Stands of Practice Committee.

Dr. Sanjiv Harpavat, Assistant Professor, was elected to the Executive Committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition.

Dr. Helen Heslop, Professor, was named President of the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy for 2017-2018 at this year's annual ASGCT conference.

Dr. Peter Hotez, Professor, was named one of Fortune Magazine's "34 Leaders Who Are Changing Health Care."

Dr. Lisa Kahalley, Assistant Professor, and **Dr. Elisabeth Wilde**, Associate Professor, were awarded a \$2.1 million RO1 grant from the **National Cancer Institute** to study white matter toxicity and neurocognitive outcomes in pediatric brain tumor patients treated with proton beam radiation therapy vs. other treatments.

Dr. Jordan Orange, Professor, received a 3-year, \$405,000 grant from the **Arthritis Foundation** for his project on targeting cellular stress points and immune priming to relieve symptoms associated with COPA Syndrome, an autoimmune disease characterized by a combination of severe lung disease and arthritis.

Dr. Alexis Frazier Wood, Assistant Professor, was elected a Fellow of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Amber Yates, Assistant Professor, was selected for a three-year term as a content expert for the American Academy of Pediatrics/American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Policy Review Work Group in the area of nonmalignant hematology.

DEPARTMENT RESEARCH . . .

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

Study on Iron-Deficiency Anemia Yields Surprising Results



Dr. Jacquelyn Powers, Asst. Prof., and her team published results of a clinical trial that compared low doses of the tradition treatment for iron-deficiency anemia (ferrous sulfate) with low doses of an iron polysaccharide complex preparation that was designed to have a more pleasant taste and be better tolerated. Designed to determine which approach was more effective, the researchers divided 80 children, aged 9 to 48 months, with iron-deficiency anemia into two groups: one received one daily low dose of ferrous sulfate, and the other received the same daily dose of the iron polysaccharide complex. At the end of 12 weeks, the researcher compared the levels of hemoglobin between the two groups and got unexpected results: contrary to their expectations that the complex would yield better results, the ferrous sulfate was more effective, and there were no differences between the two groups in the expected adverse gastrointestinal effects, such as abdominal pain, constipation, vomiting, diarrhea.

Other contributors to this work include George R. Buchanan, Leah Adix, Song Zhang, Ang Gao and Timothy L. McCavit. The authors are affiliated with one or more of the following institutions: Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Children's Health and Cook Children's Medical Center.

Parents Benefit from Children's Genome Sequencing



A study led by **Dr. Sharon Plon**, Professor (left); **Dr. Will Parsons**, Assoc. Prof. (right); and **Dr. Amy McGuire**, Director of the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, reveals that genomic sequencing information may be more valuable for families of pediatric patients with cancer than previously thought. Incorporating whole exome sequencing into the clinical care of children newly diagnosed with cancer can reveal information about the genetics of the child's tumor, as well as identify genes that family members may have that are associated with cancer or other conditions requiring immediate clinical attention. The results from



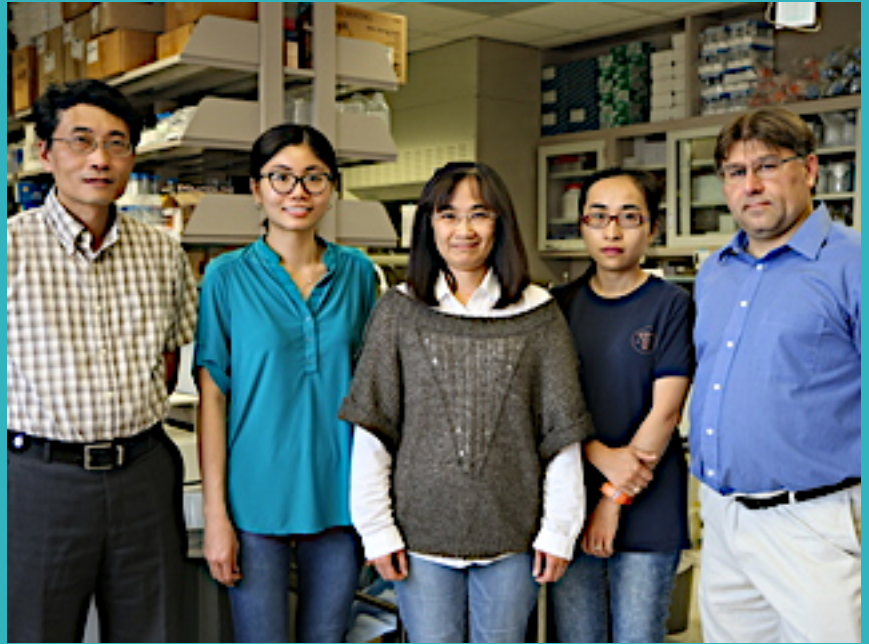
the Baylor Advancing Sequencing in Childhood Cancer Care (BASIC3) study, published in *Journal of Clinical Oncology: Precision Oncology* (first author, Dr. Janet Malek), revealed that most of the parents in the study also wanted to find out if they or their child had a gene for a disease that could be passed to future generations. The research team interviewed more than 60 parents to elicit their responses after receiving their child's exome sequencing results and found a wide range of responses on the value of having the information. The parents were especially hopeful that the sequencing would lead to cancer treatment tailored to their child's specific cancer, but also found other benefits. When parents discovered that their child had a genetic risk of cancer, they reported that the knowledge could help their child make future reproductive decisions, and some opted to have other children tested. Other benefits were related to being relieved of guilt and concern when parents learned that their child's disease was *not* caused by a known cancer-related gene.

Other contributors to this work include Dr. Melody Slashinski, Jill Robinson, Amanda Gutierrez, and Dr. Laurence McCullough.

Studies of Brown Fat in Mice Have Implications for Humans

“I am most excited to bring this model to scientists in the field so they can use it to study brown fat. This model is the first step to improve our understanding of the role of human brown fat in metabolic processes. The model offers the possibility of carrying out studies that might result in treatments to reverse or prevent diseases such as type 2 diabetes and obesity.” – Dr. Chen

From left: Dr. Qiang Tong, Giang Hoang, Dr. Miao-Hsueh Chen, Xin Guo, and Dr. Eric Jaehnig



Dr. Miao-Hsueh Chen, Asst. Prof., is senior author on a report published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight* that helps explain how brown fat performs its functions in both health and disease, based on a mouse model. In collaboration with Dr. Kristin Stanford, of Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, she and her research team studied effects of brown fat experiments in mice. They found that mice have brown fat deposits similar to the largest amount found in humans, a discovery that may lead to new ways to use the brown fat to address metabolic conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Brown adipose tissue (brown fat) produces the heat that helps the body maintain normal temperatures when exposed to cold. It also plays a role in how the body uses glucose and fat. Brown fat contains adipocytes, which use fat and glucose as sources of energy. In mice, when the brown fat is activated to produce heat markedly, it affects the energy balance, and when it is dysfunctional or absent, the mice decrease their energy expenditure and become obese.

Previously, researchers have questioned the reliability of using mice to study brown fat with regard to humans because the deposits are in different locations: in mice, they are on the back, between the shoulder blades, whereas the main deposits in humans are above the collar bones and deep in the neck. However, Dr. Chen and her colleagues analyzed mouse embryos and found brown fat was surrounded by muscles in the neck and included a fat deposit located above the collar bone, the same as humans. This location had not been described before their finding. Dr. Chen noted that adult mice also have brown fat above the collar bones, which is important because most studies will be performed using mostly adults, and that mouse brown fat in the collar bone is morphologically similar to human brown fat in the same location.

Dr. Stanford added that she had developed a transplantation model several years ago, and that they had been looking at the effects of increasing brown fat above the shoulder blades in mice; they found dramatic improvement in metabolic health. When the researchers transplanted additional brown fat above the collar bone into healthy mice, they found an improvement in the animals' glucose tolerance, indicating that it could be metabolically beneficial. The study shows the importance of this tissue in humans.

Other contributors to this work include Qianxing Mo, Jordan Salley, Tony Roshan, Lisa A. Baer, Francis J. May, Eric J. Jaehnig, Adam C. Lehnig, Xin Guo, Qiang Tong, Alli M. Nuotio-Antar, Farnaz Shamsi Yu-Hua Tseng.

Study To Focus on Neurologic Effects of Zika Virus

Dr. Flor M. Munoz, Assoc. Prof., is principal investigator for a study aimed at studying neurological effects of Zika virus in children. The Vaccine Treatment and Evaluation Unit (VTEU) at BCM will be conducting an observational study on the virus among children who are infected in early childhood. The study is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of NIH. It will be performed in the rural southwestern coast coastal areas of Guatemala, known to be endemic for dengue and chikungunya viruses, with approval from the local Ministry of Health. All three viruses are transmitted by the same mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti*.



Dr. Munoz will be working collaboratively with colleagues from the University of Colorado Department of Pediatrics, their affiliate FUNSALUD clinic in Guatemala, and Emory University's VTEU research laboratory.



"Our concern is that a developing brain in early life can be impacted significantly," she said. "It's an important question to address not just for children that live in the endemic areas, but also for children who travel to these areas."

Although the Zika virus is known to affect babies in utero when the mother is infected, little is known about what happens to infants infected early in life, a concern that the study hopes to address. The study population will be recruited through an infrastructure of the Fundacion para la Salud integral de los Guatemaltecos, which is affiliated with the University of Colorado's Department of Pediatrics and School of Public Health's Center for Global health. In addition to 500 infants younger than 3 months of age and their mothers, the study will enroll 700 children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Of the older population, 300 children will be known to have been exposed to dengue or Zika viruses while participating in a previous dengue study at the site, and the other 400 children will be siblings of the infants participating in the study.

The research will involve testing volunteer subjects periodically and evaluating them for symptoms of flavivirus-like illness to determine if they have been infected by one of the three endemic viruses. The children will undergo serial neurologic examinations, and developmental milestones will be monitored to determine any associations between the viruses and specific neurologic or developmental changes. In addition, families of the participating children will receive education about preventing mosquito-borne illnesses, such as removing standing water, properly using mosquito nets and insect repellents, and wearing protective clothing.

Grant to Aid Development of Vaccine for River Blindness



Dr. Maria Bottazzi, Professor, and Dr. Bin Zhan, Assoc. Prof., will be involved in the development of the production process for *Ov-103* and *Ov-RAL-2* vaccine formulations using previously developed quality-control assays.



A 5-year, \$3.6 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of NIH, to researchers at BCM's National School of Tropical Medicine and TCH's Center for Vaccine Development, will be used to collaborate with a team at the New York Blood Center for research and development on a vaccine for river blindness.



Known as *onchocerciasis*, river blindness is a disease of the skin and eyes transmitted to humans through the bite of a blackfly.



The blackfly breeds in fast-flowing rivers and streams and poses a serious threat to those who live nearby. It is most prevalent in Africa, but has been found in six countries in Latin America and in Yemen. In humans, the adult female worm produces thousands of larvae, which migrate to the skin and eyes. The death of the larvae is extremely toxic to skin and eyes and produces extreme itching and other eye manifestations, including lesions that lead to irreversible blindness and disfigurative skin disease.

The grant makes possible the continuation of TOVA (The Onchocerciasis Vaccine for Africa), an international initiative composed of 13 world-renowned scientists and centers aimed at developing recombinant protein-based vaccines to support the efforts to eliminate river blindness in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Photos:

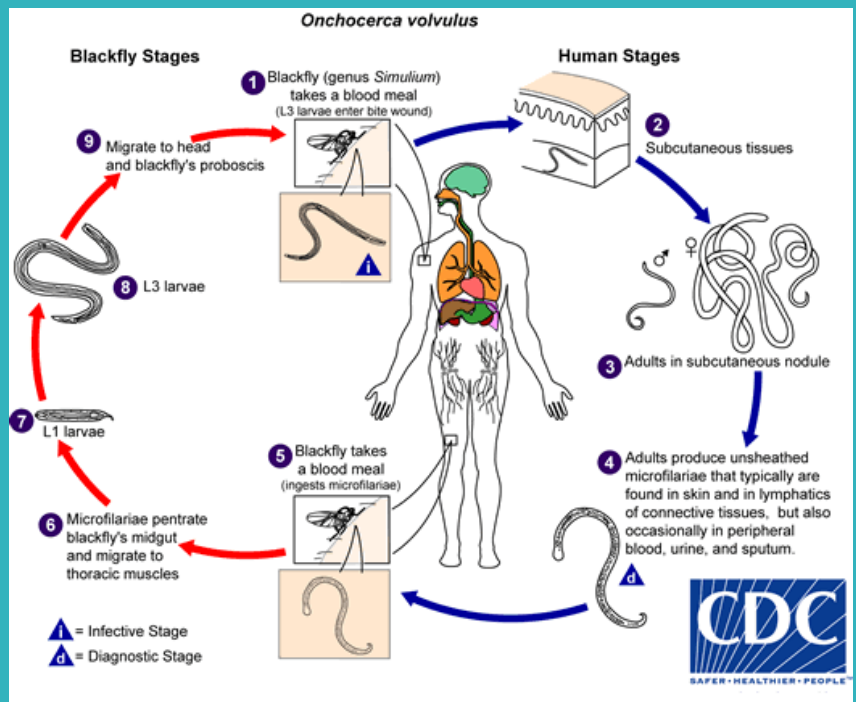
Top: adult blackfly taking bloodmeal on human skin, courtesy of WHO/TDR/Stammers

Bottom: photomicrograph of onchocerca volvulus, courtesy of WHO/TDR/OCF

Right: life cycle, courtesy of CDC

"A vaccine to combat river blindness could greatly accelerate the timetable to eliminate river blindness in Africa, compared to current methods focused only on mass drug administration."

– Dr. Peter Hotez, Dean, National School of Tropical Medicine, BCM



Other collaborators on the project include Dr. Sara Lustigman of the New York Blood Center, Dr. Ben Makepeace of the University of Liverpool and Dr. David Abraham of the Thomas Jefferson University.

ECLS Center Receives Gold Level Award



ECMO team at The Children's Hospital of San Antonio

(from left) Kristin Mattingly, RN, BSN; Elumalai Appachi, MBBS, Chief, Pediatric Critical Care; Misty Glorioso, RN, BSN, CCRN; Richard Owens, CCP, LP, Perfusion Manager; Jazmin Delgado, RN, BSN, CCRN; Michael Northrop, MD, Critical Care; Karen Weaver, RN, BSN, CCRN, Pediatric ECMO Coordinator.

Pediatric Intensive Critical Care Unit (PICU) was awarded the *Gold Level* ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization. The ELSO Excellence in Life Support Award recognizes ECLS programs around the world that are distinguished with regard to their processes, procedures and systems and that provide excellence and exceptional care in extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. A designated Center of Excellence has demonstrated extraordinary achievement in promoting the mission activities, and vision of ELSO; including the highest quality measures, processes, and structures based upon evidence; and in training, education, collaboration, and communication supporting ELSO guidelines that contributes to a healing environment. The award is valid for a 3-year period, September 2017-2020. The Award Ceremony will be held at the 28th Annual ELSO Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Assistant Dean of Education Announced

Dr. Michelle Barajaz, Asst. Prof., has been appointed Assistant Dean of Education at The Children's Hospital of San Antonio (CHoSA), effective July 1, 2017. She will oversee all aspects of the continuum of education at CHoSA and be the liaison for educational matters with BCM.



Dr. Barajaz is on faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and in the Section of General Academic Pediatrics at CHoSA. She graduated from the University of Texas Medical Branch and completed her pediatric residency training at Phoenix Children's Hospital/Maricopa Medical Center in 2000. She came to San Antonio from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center. She was recruited to BCM - CHoSA based on her outstanding leadership skills and was appointed the first BCM-CHoSA Pediatric Residency Program Director in October 2013. In five short months, she helped build and obtained initial ACGME accreditation for this program. She is also the recipient of \$4.3 million in grant funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board to prepare doctors in training for a career in general pediatric primary care. In recognition of this remarkable achievement, she received the 2015 BCM Department of Pediatrics Award for Achievement in Educational Innovation. She has published in the peer-reviewed literature a step-by-step guide for institutions, hospitals, and program directors interested in starting a new residency program.

She has been closely involved in the development and oversight of the entire spectrum of educational programs at ChofSA. Locally, she worked diligently to expand the undergraduate, graduate, and fellowship training programs at the institution and to prepare faculty members in their roles as educators. At a national level, she has given several educational workshops on various topics pertinent to medical education and was a participant in the LEAD (Leadership in Educational and Academic Development) Certificate program of the Association for Pediatric Program Directors (APPD). She is a member of the Education Committee of the Academic Pediatric Association and serves on the Research and Scholarship Task Force of the APPD.

[Ed note: information extracted from announcement letter sent by Dr. Jennifer Christner, Dean, School of Medicine, Interim DIO]

Faculty Receive "Health Care Heroes" Award

Among the winners of the *San Antonio Business Journal's* 2017 Health Care Heroes Awards are two outstanding physicians at ChofSA, **Dr. Cody Henderson** and **Dr. Ali Mumtaz**.

Dr. Henderson is the medical director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit's ECMO program. He possesses medical expertise in a highly complex subspecialty that saves babies' lives. Dr. Henderson also takes time to communicate effectively with new parents to make sure they understand their babies' condition and prognosis.

Dr. Mumtaz, cardiothoracic surgeon, is known among his peers as always going above and beyond by taking on the most difficult cases: circumstances in which parents were told by other providers that there was nothing that could be done to fix their child's congenital heart defect or that surgery was too risky. Dr. Mumtaz takes on those cases and has outstanding results.

MAKE A NOTE . . .

UPCOMING EVENTS



Center For Research, Innovation and Scholarship (CRIS) Announces 7th Annual Educator Orientation

September 8, 2017

8:30 – 9:30 Grand Rounds

Dr. Alicia Monroe, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs for Baylor College of Medicine.

10 – 10: 55 Concurrent Sessions

“How to Succeed as a Clinician-Educator...Going Beyond Being a Great Teacher”

- Dr. Gordon Schutze, (TCH Grand Rounds Auditorium)

“How to Give a Dynamite Presentation” - Dr. Zaven Sargsyan, (Feigin Center 1A)

11:00 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

“How to be a Star Bedside Teacher” - Dr. Lee Poythress (TCH Grand Rounds Auditorium)

"Pathways to Promotion" - Dr. Nancy Moreno (Feigin Center 1A)

12:15 – 1:00 Educational Awards Ceremony (TCH Grand Rounds Auditorium)

For more information:

Contact Remy Elizondo at CRIS@texaschildrens.org or Dr. Geeta Singhal at grsingha@texaschildrens.org

September 16 – 19, 2017

AAP National Conference

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)'s 2017 National Conference & Exhibition (pre-conference sessions and events begin on Friday, September 15) in Chicago. Experience over 350 educational sessions including practical hands-on learning and networking in addition to the largest pediatric technical exhibit of its kind.

September 29, 2017

BCM Annual Showcase of Distinguished Educators

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

Dr. Mark Kline, Editor-in-Chief
Dr. B. Lee Ligon, Managing Editor & Graphics Designer
Dr. Gordon Schutze, Consulting Editor
Julie O'Brien, Copy and Content Editor

The next deadline is
OCTOBER 5, 2017