Emergency Medicine

Research Descriptions:

Joseph Y. Allen, M.D.
Dr. Allen has published a manuscript on the efficacy of ketamine in the management of asthma in pediatric emergency department patients. His current interests are investigating parental attitudes toward research in the pediatric emergency department. He also is interested in research involved with improving the care for children with asthma and bronchiolitis. Other interests include medical student, resident, and faculty education.

Pamela Bailey, M.D.
Dr. Bailey is involved in the development and utilization of practice guidelines for the Emergency Department management of fever in children with sickle cell disease. She also is interested in pediatric trauma and medical student education.

Alison Chantal Caviness, M.D., M.P.H.
Dr. Caviness is involved in departmental clinical research activities, including the supervision of pediatric emergency medicine fellow research projects. She is a PhD candidate in Epidemiology with minors in Health Care Economics and Statistics at the UT School of Public Health. She has been a co-investigator in a Texas Department of Health funded project to establish pediatric injury surveillance in Houston and is currently co-investigator of a Robert Wood Johnson funded project for pediatric asthma surveillance in four area emergency departments. She has also published an article referring to a retrospective review of serious bacterial infections in infants who are 0 to 36 months of age and have influenza A infection.

David de Lemos, M.D.
Dr. de Lemos is in charge of medical student education and evaluation in the Texas Children's Hospital Emergency Department. His personal interests include trauma. He is currently involved in a prospective study comparing methods of foreign body retrieval from the nose.

Erin Endom, M.D.
Dr. Endom’s research interest involves chest pain in pediatric emergency department patients. Her other interests include disaster and terrorist attack management.

Deborah Hsu, M.D.
Dr. Hsu is in charge of the pediatric emergency medicine fellowship curriculum and her research interest lies in educational research as it pertains to the education of medical learners. She is starting a new project on the development of a patient perspective survey to be used for evaluation of resident physicians and pediatric emergency medicine fellows working clinical shifts in the emergency department. Her past activities include a written a manuscript on her prospective study on clinical predictors of abnormal chest X-rays in patients who present to the Emergency Center with chest pain. In addition, she is involved in a prospective study on the use of probiotics for the treatment of acute diarrhea in pediatric patients.

Andrew Kienstra, M.D.
Dr. Kienstra’s research interests are directed at improving sedation in children. He currently is working on a project comparing radiation exposure due to CT scanning in sedation vs. non-sedated patients.

Rana Kronfol, M.D.
Dr. Kronfol research interests include: Evaluation of the health care provider intervention module in TEDAS; and analysis of the reasons patients leave the ER without being seen.

Michelle A. Lyn, M.D.
Dr. Lyn is involved in a 5-year retrospective study of outcome measures and characteristics of patients with myocarditis. She also is involved in a prospective study evaluating the effects of education on decreasing the incidence of near drowning. Her latest area of interest is child abuse.
Charles G. Macias, M.D.
Dr. Macias’ research focuses on pediatric asthma. He is currently involved in several projects that provide Emergency Department asthma surveillance for Southeast Texas (13 county region). Beyond research on the public health level, this asthma research extends into several clinical projects investigating the use of emergent rescue therapies for acute asthma exacerbations. As Director for Research for the Section of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Macias is also involved in the design and implementation of several other projects that investigate the role of analgesics in appendicitis, wound repair, and cultural disparities in health care delivery systems. Dr. Macias also coordinates a Phase 3 trials group for Pediatric Emergency Department studies that seeks to advance the pediatric pharmaceutical treatment options for children.

Donna Mendez, M.D.
Dr. Mendez is investigating cerebral pressure in children. Dr. Mendez is a co-investigator on two studies involving the outcomes of children who have sustained head injury.

Milton Nirken, M.D.
Dr. Nirken continues to evaluate temporal artery temperature probe for patient acceptability, accuracy and cost benefit to the Emergency Department. He is involved in a pilot study with Renal Services to enable correlation of Dynamat automatic blood pressure and manual cuff blood pressure. He continues to evaluate differential viral cause of gastroenteritis and bacterial agents in infants.

Aderonke Ojo, M.D.
Dr. Ojo is interested in emergency room management of headaches in children and CPR training of the primary care takers for the pediatric emergency room patients. She also participates in a study looking at the role of chest X-rays in the verification of ETT placement in the pediatric emergency department.

Rohit Shenoi, M.D.
Dr. Shenoi’s research interests include: the use of a community outreach education program for primary care pediatricians to improve pre-hospital emergency care; evaluation of the epidemiology of injury surveillance.

Joan E. Shook, M.D., Head
Dr. Shook’s research focuses on the healthcare finance and medical outcomes in the Emergency Department. She also is interested in childhood injury prevention including airbag and car seat safety for children. She is involved in Texas Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC).

Paul Sirbaugh, D.O.
Dr. Sirbaugh’s research and interest are focused on the prehospital emergency care of the pediatric patient. Current research projects include: the effect of a pediatric emergency medicine specialist on achieving prehospital return of spontaneous circulation in pediatric cardiopulmonary arrest; demographics and outcome of pediatric patients whose care givers refuse transport to the emergency department; the outcome of pediatric patients intubated by prehospital personnel; and the demographics, epidemiology, management, and outcome of pediatric cardiopulmonary arrest. He also is very active in the local chapter of the American Heart Association and is involved in a project focused on the implementation and outcome of the expanded public access to automated external defibrillators.

Hannah Smitherman, M.D.
Dr. Smitherman has recently finished a retrospective review of serious bacterial infections in infants with influenza A infection. She also enjoys investigating tools and technologies that make practicing emergency medicine safer and more efficient; for example, the Katz Extractor™, a transcutaneous bilirubin monitor that may prove useful as a triage tool to improve the safety and efficiency of treating neonates with jaundice.

Mark A. Ward, M.D.
Dr. Ward is interested in the management of children with infectious diseases seen in the emergency department. Recent research has included studies of children presenting with prolonged fever, fever and incidentally discovered neutropenia, and clinical signs and symptoms of influenza in children. He also is interested in the use of computers and electronic medical records in the care of children.