The year 2013 witnessed a remarkable growth and expansion in our research enterprise
Chair’s Summary

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I’m extremely proud to share with you the milestones achieved by our combined faculty and staff in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. As you will see throughout this report, my first as Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief, 2013 was simply an outstanding year for our faculty and the Department of Pediatrics. In this document, we also celebrate and congratulate the exemplary contributions by our colleagues in Surgical Specialties, Anesthesiology and Radiology.

The report highlights the extraordinary accomplishments of an exceptional group of division chiefs and their faculty and staff, our combined leadership in undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate pediatric education, and our team of researchers. Their remarkable achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering leadership and foresight of my predecessor, Dr. Paul Dworkin, who in partnership with our senior executive teams at Connecticut Children’s and the UConn School of Medicine, spearheaded the unification of pediatric clinical services and pediatric academic programs. Their foresight has moved us closer to achieving our goal of making Connecticut children among the healthiest in the nation. To be sure, in 2013, six divisions – four medical (Endocrinology, Neonatology, Pulmonary and Gastroenterology) and two surgical (Orthopedics and Urology) – were recognized by *US News & World Report* for their excellence in clinical care and quality, education, and research. The year 2013 also saw rapid growth in our teaching programs and our research enterprise.

In light of our advances and expertise in clinical care and growing national recognition for excellence in care, Connecticut Children’s continues to be a highly desirable destination for first-rate clinicians, academicians and researchers. As you will see in this report, in 2013 we recruited new faculty members to several medical divisions including Nephrology, Cardiology, General Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, Emergency Medicine, and Hospital Medicine. This increase in pediatric faculty and expertise has allowed us to significantly expand our portfolio of clinical services throughout Connecticut and more recently to Massachusetts and New York State.

Our residency program, under the distinguished leadership of Dr. Ed Zalneraitis and his team, continues to recruit terrific young graduates from top schools in the United States and abroad. Many of our graduates stay in Connecticut following their graduations and practice primary care in private practices and community health centers, while others move on to complete fellowships in the most competitive programs in the nation. As a testament to our faculty’s commitment to excellence in pediatric education, in 2013, 20% of UConn’s graduating medical student class chose Pediatrics as their primary residency. Also in 2013, we witnessed the expansion of a number of fellowship programs. The number now includes Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Pulmonology, Genetics, Pulmonology, and

“In 2013, six divisions were recognized by *US News & World Report* for their excellence . . .”
Chair’s Summary


The year 2013 also witnessed a remarkable growth and expansion in our research enterprise. Our combined faculty in Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgical Specialties secured over $4.5 million in direct funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and more than $7 million in overall external funding for research. Of particular noteworthiness, Dr. Jeff Hyams, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases, Hepatology and Nutrition, continued his outstanding and nationally recognized multicenter research in inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Michelle Cloutier, Professor of Pediatrics and founding member of the Center for Community Research (C3R) and Head of the Asthma Center at Connecticut Children’s, received several lines of funding to continue her ground-breaking work in population-based asthma treatment, prevention and outcomes, and secured a new NIH award to study obesity prevention. Several multi-disciplinary research programs, in collaboration with our colleagues at the UConn School of Medicine, UConn Storrs, and the newly established Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, secured external and internal funding to conduct research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, Anthracycline-induced cardiomyopathy, the Newborn Microbiome and its association with neurodevelopmental outcomes and necrotizing enterocolitis, and the beneficial effects of breast milk on premature infants. Faculty in Infectious Diseases, Pain and Palliative Care, and Pulmonary Medicine, to name a few, also obtained federal funding for their work in Lyme disease and syphilis, sickle cell disease, genomics of pain, and the ontogeny of asthma and allergic disease in the young. Most impressively, our combined medical and surgical faculty presented their findings at multiple regional, national and international venues, published their work in over 150 peer-reviewed journals and produced several book chapters.

We could not have done any of this without the unwavering support from Academic Leadership at the UConn School of Medicine and UConn Storrs, our CEO, Marty Gavin, and the Executive Management Team, and most certainly the Board of Directors at Connecticut Children’s. I also want to recognize and express my personal gratitude to several individuals in Academic Administration at UConn and at Connecticut Children’s, in particular, Susan Duckworth, Esperanza Lesmes, Rachel Cunningham, Laurie Papacs and Theresa George, for everything they do, day in and day out, for the Department of Pediatrics and our children’s hospital. Lastly, I want to express my sincere thanks to Gigi Burke, PhD, who directs the Department of Research at Connecticut Children’s and her team; Lisa Benson, Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs and her team; and Justin Radolf, MD, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Senior Scientific Advisor at Connecticut Children’s; for their combined energy, steadfast support and mentorship of our faculty, and stewardship of our research enterprise.

Congratulations to all for a year of high achievement.

Sincerely,

Juan C Salazar, MD, MPH, FAAP
Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Physician-in-Chief, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Chair’s Summary
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we present the fifth annual inaugural report from the Department of Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and the first combined report with the Department of Pediatrics. This report reflects the strong alignment between surgery and pediatrics and the continued multi-disciplinary growth of combined surgical and pediatric programs at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

Over the last year, the surgical services have continued to experience tremendous growth, performing procedures on over 11,000 children. We continue to aggressively pursue our vision to bring the very best surgical care to the children of the region while simultaneously building on our two other core missions: research and education.

**Highlights from the past year include:**

The opening of our new ambulatory surgery center, an 18,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility, located in Farmington. This facility provides outpatient surgical and specialty services for children and families.

In addition, we have seen expansion of our full-time faculty through the successful recruitment of some of the “best and brightest” in their respective fields. Successful recruitments were completed in General Surgery and Otolaryngology – the candidates were recruited from among the most prestigious training programs in the nation.

Discovery through research is integral to the mission of the department, as well as to the recruitment and growth of a top-flight faculty. We continue to focus efforts in children with solid tumors, premature lung disease, injury prevention, and sports-related injuries. Several federal grants were submitted this year focusing on these diseases. Through the continued growth of programs like these we hope to discover novel methods to treat the children of our community.

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center remains the exclusive site for pediatric surgical subspecialty training for the University of Connecticut School of Medicine surgical residency programs. Annually dozens of residents from the University of Connecticut and other institutions receive their required pediatric surgical experience at Connecticut Children’s. In July 2013, Pediatric General Surgery and Pediatric Urology both welcomed new fellows embarking on their training. In addition, the new Pediatric Orthopaedics program welcomed their fellow. Connecticut Children’s is committed to training the future leaders in healthcare for our children.

The services and procedures provided by our dedicated doctors, nurses and other health care professionals across the subspecialties range from the routine to the most complex. Over the last year, we have seen the implementation of several pioneering programs including a fertility preservation program for females undergoing chemotherapy. We look forward to continued growth of innovative programs and remain focused on providing the highest quality, state-of-the-art care for children of the region.

Sincerely,

Fernando Ferrer, MD
Division Chief, Pediatric Urology,
Surgeon-in-Chief,
Executive Vice President for Clinical Affairs,
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center
Six divisions – Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Neonatology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pulmonology, and Urology – were named among the best in the nation by the 2013 U.S. News Media Group’s Best Children’s Hospitals rankings.

Dr. Juan Salazar, MD, was named Physician-in-Chief and Chair of Pediatrics, taking the helm from Paul Dworkin, MD, who assumed leadership of a pioneering new effort, the Office of Community Child Health (OCCH).

Nine members of the Anesthesiology division, Drs. Biello, Bonanni, Bouchard, Cortland, Daggett, Garrison, Indelicato, Mathew and Rutkowski, received the first-ever subspecialty certification in Pediatric Anesthesiology awarded by the American Board of Anesthesiology.

The Division of Pain & Palliative Medicine was one of the first four programs in the world certified by ChildKind International, a global effort to improve pain care in children.

The Division of Digestive Diseases, Hepatology & Nutrition remains the Clinical Coordinating Center for a $10.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the PROTECT Study: Predicting Response to Standardized Pediatric Colitis Therapy. This five-year effort coordinates the resources of 28 leading pediatric IBD centers in North America to study newly diagnosed children with ulcerative colitis.

The Endocrinology Division serves as a site for two NIH-sponsored multicenter studies in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and participates in a total of six clinical trials in Types 1 & 2 Diabetes and growth/growth hormone therapy and in 16 investigator-initiated additional IRB-approved clinical or translational studies.

The Children’s Center for Community Research (C3R) implemented an NIH-funded grant titled Early Childhood Obesity Prevention; Building Healthier Families and Communities.
The Division of Developmental & Rehabilitation Medicine undertook a multidisciplinary “ARC” initiative between Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, UConn Health Center and the Jackson Laboratory: Neuronal Synaptic and Circuit Dysfunction in the Autism Spectrum Disorders funded by Institute for Systems Genomics. Dr. Ann Milanese is one of the principal investigators.

The Division of Pediatric Surgery is a participant in the American College of Surgeons’ Pediatric National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), the first multi-specialty program designed to measure and improve the quality of children’s surgical care.

The Division of Transplant Surgery was recognized by UNOS and underwent a successful comprehensive review of the Kidney Transplant Program.

The Pediatric Residency Program revised its curriculum to include the new requirement for an individualized, transitional six rotation-equivalent curriculum to help residents transition from residency to practice or fellowship. At the same time, they engaged the Next Accreditation System, employing milestone-based assessments of resident competence.

Two new fellowship programs, Pediatric Orthopaedics and Urology, were added, and several others expanded to bring the total number of programs to nine with a total of 20 fellows.

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery successfully implemented the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Cardiac Surgery database. It includes more than 94% of the hospitals performing pediatric cardiac surgery, thus providing a powerful tool to benchmark results.

Medical Advances

The Division of Pediatric Surgery successfully launched a new program aimed at preserving fertility for young girls undergoing chemotherapy. This initiative, led by Dr. Christine Finck, Dr. Eileen Gillan, and Shefali Thaker, enables young females about to embark upon chemotherapy that will result in infertility, to participate in a trial, led by Northwestern University and the University of Connecticut, to harvest and save their ovaries.

In collaboration with General Surgery, the Endocrinology Division helped launch the interdisciplinary Thyroid Center at Connecticut Children’s.

Dr. Zev Davidovics performed Connecticut Children’s first fecal transplant procedure for a child with refractory Clostridium difficile infection.

Working closely with the faculty from the Division of Neurology, the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery completed the Medical Center’s first functional hemispherectomy and frontal resection for intractable seizure control.

The Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery’s relationship with the Jackson Laboratory’s Avatar program has opened the way to study the genomics and chemotherapy responses of malignant tumors.

The Hospitalist Division has expanded its Clinical Pathways program with new pathways for neonatal fever, urinary tract infection, and community acquired pneumonia.
The Division of Hematology-Oncology is a member of two national consortiums (Sunshine Project and Neuroblastoma Medulloblastoma Translational Research Consortium) bringing novel Phase 1 and Phase 2 treatments to children with relapsed and refractory cancers. Drs. Ferd Ferrer, Christine Finck, Eileen Gillan, Andrea Orsey, Michael Isakoff, Kerry Moss, Nehal Parikh and Olga Salazar all received large grants this year to expand Connecticut Children’s work in cancer research and care.

Dr. Elizabeth Brownell established the Center for Human Milk Research, an interdisciplinary collaborative to collect and analyze detailed, systematic information on use of human milk in the neonatal ICU and associated infant outcomes.

**Individual Achievements**

- Dr. Christopher Carroll of the Division of Critical Care was appointed to the Program and the Planning Committee of the American Thoracic Society and to the LearnICU Committee. He was also appointed to the Multidisciplinary Critical Care Knowledge Assessment Program Committee of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. He was awarded the Alfred Soffer Research Award for outstanding original scientific research at the American College of Chest Physicians International Meeting, Chest 2013, and received an award from the American Thoracic Society Pediatric Assembly for Highlighted Abstract at the American Thoracic Society International Conference.

- Dr. Francisco Sylvester assumed the chairmanship of the PRO-KIIDS Network, Pediatric Resource Organization for Kids with Intestinal Inflammatory Disorders, which is funded by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America. Dr. Sylvester also received a MIST award (Molecular and Integrative Signal Transduction) from the NIH to study intestinal gamma delta T cell mucosal response in Crohn’s disease.

- Pediatric Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Kristan Pierz was named editor of the POSNA resident review, an important educational asset for surgeons-in-training.

- Sylvia Öunpuu, director of research for the Division of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery, was cited as authoring one of the “100 classic papers of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery” in an article that appeared in September 2013 in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

- Renee Manworren, RN, PhD, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.

- Dr. Mick Connors received the Joseph Cravero Leadership Award from the Society of Pediatric Sedation.

- Dr. Francis DiMario received a Didactics Teaching Award, For Excellence in Resident Teaching, Department of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut, 2013. He was elected as Fellow in the American Neurological Association.

- Dr. Edwin Zalneraitis was selected for the Milton Markowitz Award for Outstanding Contribution to Residency Education.
Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Training for Care Providers

Rebecca Beebe, PhD
Research Scientist,
Injury Prevention Center
Training Consultant,
Domestic Violence Professional
Education and Consultation Project

Susie DiVittorio
Research Scientist
Injury Prevention Center
Training Consultant
Domestic Violence Professional
Education and Consultation Project
With faculty based at multiple institutions, administration of the Department of Pediatrics is comprised of centrally managed academic functions and decentralized business and research management functions.

The Office of Academic Administration, in cooperation with the Chair’s Office, staffed at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, manages academic appointment and program activities, merit tracking for in-residence faculty, academic faculty contracts, and it produces the Department of Pediatrics Annual Report, the Connecticut Children’s Surgical Sub-specialties Annual Report, and the Faculty Resource Guide.

As an academic teaching hospital, Connecticut Children’s strives to encourage, support, and recognize the academic activities of its faculty. This year, we developed and implemented an academic merit tracking tool to recognize and reward the academic productivity of our faculty and to report academic activity throughout the institution.

The Office of Academic Administration is staffed by Susan Duckworth, Director of Academic Administration and Administrator, Department of Pediatrics; and Esperanza Lesmes, Academic Operations Program Manager; with assistance from Deborah Hornblow, per diem editor. It includes the following areas:

**Continuing Medical Education:** The Office of Continuing Medical Education, supported by Deirdre Palmer, Diane Mouradjian, and Dr. Kenneth Spiegelman, accredited a total of 459 hours of instruction to 1,623 individual participants for a total of 10,676 contact hours.

**Fellowships:** Veronica Tomlinson, Caley Eagan, and Kathleen Mikulak, supporting nine pediatric subspecialty fellowships and 20 fellows, worked to begin implementation of the ACGME Milestones and to prepare for Connecticut Children’s first CLER site visit.

**Maintenance of Certification:** Lisa Jordan, Maintenance of Certification Program Manager, collaborated with faculty and community partners to develop four new MOC activities. Two internal and six community-focused MOC activities promote quality improvement efforts within the hospital and serve as a bridge to the community to disseminate the hospital’s excellent quality improvement work to community practitioners. A generous gift from United Healthcare enabled the office to begin development of a comprehensive database in support of its MOC activities.

**Medical Photography:** Connecticut Children’s medical photographer, Michael McCarter, supports patient care, research, legal documentation, and public relations efforts with high quality photographic images that enhance our website, publications, research articles and medical records.

**STAFF**

**Susan Duckworth**
Director

Laurie Papacs
Administrative Officer, Department of Pediatrics
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Theresa George
Administrative Fiscal Assistant
Department of Pediatrics
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Esperanza Lesmes
Academic Operations Coordinator
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Diane Mouradjian
Continuing Medical Education Coordinator

Deirdre Palmer
Continuing Medical Education Coordinator

Veronica Tomlinson
Fellowship Coordinator

Kathleen Mikulak
Fellowship Coordinator

Caley Eagan
Fellowship Coordinator

Lisa Jordan
Maintenance of Certification Program Manager

Michael McCarter
Medical Photographer
Adolescent Medicine

The missions of the Division of Adolescent Medicine are to provide comprehensive healthcare to adolescents between the ages of 13 and 24, to educate health and mental health providers regarding the needs of adolescents, to promote adolescent health in the community, and to advance adolescent health through clinical research.

The clinical services provided by the division include the following:

- **Section of Adolescent Medicine at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center (SFHMC):** Full-time primary care and referral adolescent health and mental health services are provided at SFHMC.

- **Detention Health Services: General adolescent health services are provided at three facilities:**
  - Broad Street Detention Center, an 88-bed locked facility for both males and females,
  - Washington Street Detention Center, an 18-bed locked facility for females,
  - Grace House, an 8-bed unlocked facility for females.

- **Reproductive Health Consult Service at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center:**
  Reproductive health consult services are provided one half-day per week at the Primary Care Center.

- **Adolescent Health Supervision for Group Homes:**
  Consultations and direct health services are provided to nine group homes.

The Division of Adolescent Medicine works with the Hartford School System School-Based Health Centers at Weaver High School, Hartford High School, and Bulkeley High School to promote primary care health services to adolescents.

The division offers an Adolescent Medicine Selective, a one-month ambulatory experience for all second-year pediatric residents. A special adolescent medicine experience is tailored to the needs of the community health providers by request.

The division’s areas of research interest are early identification of depression, pregnancy and parenthood, violence exposure, substance use and abuse, adolescent gynecology, and sexually transmitted diseases and early identification of obesity. Research experiences also are made available to health professionals in training.

**Faculty**

Elaine Yordan, MD
Jennifer Paul, PhD
Nine members of the division, Drs. Biello, Bonanni, Bouchard, Cortland, Daggett, Garrison, Indelicato, Mathew and Rutkowski received the first-ever subspecialty certification in Pediatric Anesthesiology awarded by the American Board of Anesthesiology.

The year 2013 was the busiest on record for the division. The opening of Connecticut Children’s Ambulatory Surgery Center in Farmington has expanded the services provided by the division. Dr. Cortland is the medical director at Farmington. We have provided anesthesia services for all surgical subspecialties including cardiac and neurosurgery. We also provide services for radiologic procedures including MRI, MRA CT scans and interventional procedures. For pediatric patients requiring services at Hartford Hospital, we provide anesthesia for nuclear medicine, cardiac MRA and radiation oncology.

The division is working with Dr. Connors and the sedation team to make their Center of Procedural Excellence (COPE) a reality. Dr. Rutkowski and his regional anesthesia team provide support for our sports medicine program both at the main campus and in Farmington. Dr. Archambault is working with Dr. Kavanaugh in the division of Otolaryngology and the Simulation Center to provide scenario training for residents in both divisions. Dr. Biello is working with Dr. Hyams in Gastroenterology on a research project to define optimal doses of propofol in pediatric patients during upper endoscopy.

The divisions of Otolaryngology and Anesthesiology are now participating in a monthly joint airway conference where the most challenging cases are discussed. Dr. Garrison is working on the project looking at acupuncture and its benefit in surgical patients. Dr. McIsaac continues his work on medical devices for austere environments including a surgical cooling vest, chemical protective garments, and a field-deployable fluid generation device. He also serves on the American Society of Anesthesiologists Committee on Trauma and Emergency Preparedness and is the task force chair. Drs. Rossetti, Kuntz and Kernisan again participated in multiple mission trips this past year.

PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY

Craig Bonanni, MD, FAAP, Division Director
Anil Mathew, MD, FAAP
Michael Archambault, MD
Christina Biello, DO
Amy Bouchard, DO, FAAP
Edward Cortland, MD, FAAP
Deanne Daggett, MD
John Garrison, MD
Mark Indelicato, MD, FAAP
Gregory Kernisan, MD
Richard Kuntz, MD
Carole Lin, MD
Joseph McIsaac, MD, MS
Gerald Piserchia, MD
Valerie Rossetti, MD, MPH
Gregory Rutkowski, MD

NEW FACULTY

Jessica Bland, MD
Marrian Club, MD
Patricia Stepleton, MD
The Division of Cardiology at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center continues to be a leader in the delivery of cardiac care to the children and adults of Connecticut and the surrounding area.

The Division of Cardiology and the Department of Cardiac Surgery have successfully collaborated on many initiatives over the past year. With the expansion of our cardiac surgical services and the presence of more complex in-patients with congenital heart disease at Connecticut Children’s, we have focused our energies on the growth and safety initiatives in our busy inpatient services. We have rearranged our physicians so we now have a dedicated team of cardiologists who care for all of the in-patients on the cardiology and cardiac surgery service. In this way, we have streamlined the care of these patients to further our commitment to patient safety and a family centered care model. In our non-invasive imaging division, we have made a number of changes in preparation for national certification through ICAEL. Our echocardiography management system has recently been upgraded, and we now have enhanced capability for 3-dimensional imaging with all of its potential improvements for our patients before and after heart surgery. With the rejuvenation of the cardiac surgical program, the cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology labs also have grown to provide the much-needed local access for our families to these high-tech procedures.

The number of cardiac MRI examinations has greatly increased over the past several years. Under the leadership of Drs. Olga Toro-Salazar and Michael O’Loughlin, the program currently performs over 200 exams each year. This distinctive non-invasive advanced imaging modality allows detailed evaluation of not only cardiac structures, but also physiologic parameters such as assessment of blood flow and quantitative data to assess chamber size and cardiac function. In addition, the comprehensive 3-D images produced by CMR offer unparalleled graphic detail specially suited for the surgical planning of pediatric and adult patients with congenital heart disease. The number of CMR studies required to meet the demands of our adult congenital heart program are expected to reach 400 studies by the year 2015. As the diagnostic capabilities of CMRI have expanded we also have been able to expand our services to pediatric patients with cardiomyopathy as well as to pediatric survivors of childhood cancer who may be at risk for chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity.

This past year’s highlights include the successful recruitments of Drs. Brooke Davey and Shailendra Upadhyay to complement the expertise of the division. Dr. Davey’s experience in noninvasive imaging and fetal cardiac ultrasound expands our capacity for the evaluation and coordination of care of families whose children have been identified with a congenital heart defect. Dr. Upadhyay’s expertise is in the care of the adult with congenital heart defects and the care of children with dysrhythmias.

Connecticut Children’s and the Division of Cardiology have greatly expanded the focus on research. Dr. Olga Salazar has led the way with her publication in Circulation involving early markers of myocardial dysfunction after cancer chemotherapy. She continues to have external funding for her crucial research on myocardial performance measures. Dr. Wu has recently collaborated with Dr. Campbell from our Department of Surgery on the follow-up of neonatal patients after PDA ligation. Dr. Upadhyay has had an abstract accepted for presentation at the Adult Congenital Heart meetings, and Dr. Salazar had a poster presentation at the Society for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scientific Session.

The division is dedicated to increasing local access to cardiac services for our patients. We have greatly expanded our presence in the western part of Connecticut as we have worked collaboratively with our partners at Danbury Hospital. Drs. Obayashi and Leopold provide 24/7 consult services for inpatients and NICU patients at Danbury Hospital. We have an outpatient presence in Western Connecticut and see patients one day per week at the Danbury Hospital Satellite office at 79 Sandpit Road in Danbury. We also see patients regularly in the Glastonbury, Farmington, and Shelton satellite offices, and have staffed a regular schedule at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT.

We have successfully launched our CTACH (Connecticut Adult Congenital Heart) center. We have worked to collaborate with all our adult cardiology colleagues to help provide services for these complex patients. The growing population of adults with congenital heart defects now exceeds our pediatric population as so many of our patients have grown to adult age. This unique group of patients has many cardiac needs that differ from adult cardiology patients. The outcome of adult congenital heart disease patients is clearly better at an adult congenital heart center versus care in a pediatric or adult cardiac center.
PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY

Harris B. Leopold, MD, Division Head
Frederic Bernstein, MD
Felice Heller, MD
Seth Lapuk, MD
Derek Obayashi, MD
Olga Toro-Salazar, MD
Alicia Wang, MD
Amy Carlucci Wu, MD
Leon Chameides, MD, Professor Emeritus

NEW FACULTY

Brooke Davey, MD
Shailendra Upadhyay, MD
The section of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery has continued to develop and grow over the past year. Our goal has been to maintain high quality patient outcomes while improving our ability to benchmark our program against national standards.

The pediatric cardiac surgery service succeeded in recruiting Jill Sullivan, PAC, a highly experienced Physicians’ Assistant, from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Ms. Sullivan brings a wealth of experience and skill to augment our growing service.

Another major achievement for the service was the implementation of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Cardiac Surgery database. This database includes more than 94% of the hospitals performing pediatric cardiac surgery, thus providing a powerful tool to benchmark our results.

Dr. Mohsen Karimi also initiated a blood conservation protocol in collaboration with the divisions of Anesthesia, Critical Care, and Cardiology designed to minimize blood product exposure for our patients.

The goal of our section remains expansion of services and coverage so as to allow for the care of any patient with congenital cardiac disease at Connecticut Children’s.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

Paul Kirschbom, MD, *Division Chief*

Mohsen Karimi, MD
The Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry remains a highly vibrant resource within the Department of Pediatrics at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Its tripartite mission is: providing the highest quality of mental health care for children/adolescents and their families in the Greater Hartford area, providing the highest quality of mental health education to trainees and community providers, and expanding the research base within the field of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

At Connecticut Children’s, the division’s services include: a consultation/liaison service that provides inpatient and outpatient evaluation and treatment services of children and adolescents with co-morbid psychiatric and medical conditions; emergency psychiatric assessment, triage and disposition services within the Connecticut Children’s Emergency Department; and psychological services including assessment and psychotherapy, through the Divisions of Urology, GI, Endocrinology, Obesity and Weight Management, and Hematology/Oncology.

At the Institute of Living, (IOL), clinical services include: individual, group, and family therapies; pharmacotherapy; and diagnostic evaluations. These services are provided through: inpatient units from children and adolescents; the Child and Adolescent Rapid Emergency Services (C.A.R.E.S) unit, a very short-term setting interfacing directly with Connecticut Children’s Emergency Department that focuses on the assessment, stabilization, and disposition of children and adolescents in acute behavioral crisis; the Grace Webb School, a therapeutic educational setting for children and adolescents with co-existing psychiatric and learning difficulties; an outpatient child and adolescent clinic; an Extended Day Treatment Program (TOPS), for older school-aged children; a partial hospital program for children and adolescents; and an Autism Consultation Service.

We are hopeful of becoming one of the hubs for the upcoming ACCESS-Mental Health CT program. And, we have embarked on a descriptive study of our Eating Disorder protocol while also implementing a somatic symptom disorder clinical pathway.

Connecticut Children’s and the Institute of Living remain highly active teaching sites for many trainees: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry fellows; General Psychiatry residents; Psychology fellows; Pediatric residents and medical students.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Witt ST, Stevens MC. The role of top-down control in different phases of a sensorimotor timing task: a DCM study of adults and adolescents. Brain Imaging Behav. 2013. PMCID: 3743949.


**FACULTY**

**Robert Sahl, MD**  
Division Head  
J. Craig Allen, MD  
Michal Assaf, MD  
Sudeshna Basu, MD  
Eric D. Cohen, MD  
Yuli Fradkin, MD  
Julie Goslee, MD  
Mirela Loftus, MD  
Daane Logsdon, DO  
Salma Malik, MD  
Lynn Mangini, MD  
Lisa Namerow, MD  
Jonathan Raub, MD  
Francisco Ripepi, MD  
Kenneth Robson, MD  
Carlos Salguero, MD  
Rosemary Coratola, PsyD, LMFT  
Jessica Guite, PhD  
Mary Gratton, PhD, LCSW  
Robert Katz, JD  
Matt Malouf, PhD  
Barbara Rzepski, PhD  
Melissa Santos, PhD  
Michael Stevens, PhD  
Kevin Tsang, PsyD
This past year, the Children’s Center for Community Research (C3R) welcomed its new Director, Dr. Christine McCauley Ohannessian, PhD. C3R also implemented an NIH-funded grant titled Early Childhood Obesity Prevention; Building Healthier Families and Communities. The Children’s Center for Community Research (C3R) is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of children and families by conducting community-based collaborative research and programs. In doing so, C3R works to encourage, facilitate, and provide a mechanism for program dissemination and outcomes assessment of clinical, behavioral and translational research conducted by investigators with and in community settings including schools, homes, community organizations, hospitals and ambulatory practice settings. C3R is committed to the training of investigators and community stakeholders in community-based research.

In the area of asthma, the Asthma Center in C3R increased enrollment in the Easy Breathing© program in Connecticut to more than 120,000 children and adults. With support from Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT), Easy Breathing targeted children with poorly controlled asthma and referred them to Intensive Case Managers. Thanks to its effectiveness in improving asthma outcomes and cost-effectiveness in Connecticut, three new states have implemented Easy Breathing this past year – Ohio, Kentucky, and Vermont. The Asthma Center is in its second year of partnership with National Jewish Health and GlaxoSmithKline on a school-based asthma program titled Building Bridges. The goal of this program is to improve academic performance in children with asthma by reducing absences and improving asthma control. This is being done by building bridges of communication between school nurses, primary care pediatricians, and families in Hartford schools.

In the area of childhood obesity prevention, C3R received funding from NICHD to test the initial efficacy of a multi-level intervention using mothers as agents of change and a behavioral approach to enhance an existing, statewide home visitation program (Nurturing Families Network, NFN). Project implementation for Early Childhood Obesity Prevention; Building Healthier Families and Communities (ECHO), began in November, 2013. The Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance, a cross-sector group of 45 partners from across the Greater Hartford community dedicated to reducing childhood obesity, has been an active member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Childhood Obesity, and the Connecticut Coalition Against Childhood Obesity to help inform related policy discussions at the municipal and state levels.

In June of 2013, Connecticut Children's Medical Center welcomed Dr. Christine McCauley Ohannessian, previously at the University of Delaware, as the new C3R director. In welcoming Dr. Ohannessian, C3R also entered a new area of community research, adolescent health and development. The Adolescent Adjustment Project (AAP), and its follow-up Early Adulthood Transition Study, are C3R’s inaugural projects in this area. AAP was designed to examine the adjustment of youth prior to the development of psychological and substance use problems, and to follow these youths across time so that psychosocial variables associated with changes in adolescent adjustment can be assessed. Currently, follow-up data are being collected from participants (n=1,360) now that they are entering early adulthood.

This past year, C3R continued to expand its collaborations with multiple external partners including the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland, Utrecht University in the Netherlands, the University of Connecticut Health Center, the University of Connecticut at Storrs, the Center for Health, Intervention and Promotion, the City of Hartford Department of Health & Human Services, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Community Health Network of CT.

**PUBLICATIONS**


FACULTY

Christine Ohannessian, PhD
Director

Michelle M. Cloutier, MD
Director, Asthma Center

Jessica Hollenbach, PhD
The Division of Community Pediatrics is the largest division at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. There are 25 active, 20 courtesy, and 86 refer-and-follow members.

The division is concerned with issues regarding the advocacy and delivery of healthcare to children in community-based settings and institutions such as office-based practice, community health centers, schools, camps, foster-care adoptive services, etc. Our members provide ambulatory pediatric care to most children from the Greater Hartford area.

Members of the division serve as preceptors for medical students and residents for ambulatory care matters. In addition to providing a rich and varied clinical experience, members educate students and residents about external issues that influence child health care, such as delivery care models, working with consultants and other professionals to address health care plans for children, coding and other business problems in community pediatrics, and time and personal health management. We seek to identify innovative practice styles in health care delivery, especially as they influence improved patient education and health outcomes.

Pediatricians in the division consult with local school systems to address public health and sports medicine issues. Our members serve on a variety of hospital committees, and they provide neonatal care at John Dempsey Hospital, Hartford Hospital, Manchester Memorial Hospital, and Saint Francis Hospital. Members are interviewed by public media including radio, television and newspapers on a wide variety of pediatric and public health care issues of local and national interest, including childhood obesity, school safety and bullying, vaccine advocacy, and changes to guidelines for cold and cough care for young children.

Division members provide instruction and supervision for student and resident continuity practices as well as the pediatric ambulatory rotation for third year students.

Members engage in many collaborative programs within broader department- and state-based initiatives to provide better care for children. These include the Easy Breathing© Program, which has led to improved health practices and better outcomes for children with asthma; the Medical Home initiative, to help coordinate care for children with special health care needs; and the creation of collaborative practice models/co-management guidelines, including migraine headaches, Lyme disease, voiding dysfunctions, premature adrenarche, and concussions.

Members are actively involved in ongoing education through Grand Rounds and evening lecture series in pediatrics and child mental health, to promote topics of interest to the community physicians as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants and school nurses who care for children in the community setting.

The division sponsors a lectureship in honor of Christopher O’Connor, MD, that addresses topics of concern to community-based pediatrics.

**FACULTY**

**Douglas MacGillip, MD**
co-Division Head

**Larry Scherzer, MD**
co-Division Head

**Clinical Professors**
Jasmine Abbosh, MD  
David L. Brown, MD  
Leon Chameides, MD  
Jeffrey M. Factor, MD  
Louis Mendelson, MD

**Associate Clinical Professors**
Delbert Hodder, MD  
Carol Leicher, MD  
Judith Meyers, PhD  
Chitralekha Ramanan, MD  
Jay E. Selcow, MD  
Robert Zavoski, MD  
Barbara Ziogas, MD

**Assistant Clinical Professors**
Robert S. Adamenko, MD  
Meredith Barrows, MD  
Amy Baumer, MD  
Thomas Binder, MD  
Nancy B. Brown, MD  
William Brownstein, MD  
Della Corcoran, MD  
J. Michael Curi, MD  
Louis DiMauro, MD  
Leo DiStefano, MD  
Allyson N. Duffy, MD  
Parvin Fadakar, MD  
Dia Flanagan, MD  
John Fote, MD  
Lana Friedman, MD  
Traci Friedman, MD  
Thomas Fromson, MD  
Richard W. Geller, MD  
Gregory S. Germain, MD  
Susan Glasser, MD  
Thomas Gorin, MD  
Marshall P. Grodofsky, MD  
Richard Harvey, Jr, MD  
Elizabeth Herz, MD  
Janice Johnston, MD  
Brad Jubelirer, MD  
Anjum Khera, MD  
Michelle Kleiman, MD  
Jaye Ladinsky, MD  
Deepa Limaye, MD  
Asha Manaktala, MD  
John Mathews, MD  
Bruce McDonald, MD  
Debora Mihaley-Sobelman, MD  
Margaret O’Neil, MD  
Kathy Pae, MD  
Hemant Panchal, MD  
Vandana Sacheti, MD  
John F. Siraco, MD  
Candra Smith-Slatas, MD  
Daniel Spada, MD  
Kenneth Spiegelman, MD  
Martha Sternberg, MD  
Carrie Streim, MD  
Kerline A. Vassell, MD  
Christopher Veale, MD  
Rachna Walia, MD
Community Pediatrics

Ramindra Walia, MD
Harry Weinerman, MD
Allison Whitaker, MD
Felicia Wilion, MD
Richard Young, MD
Sophia Zervas-Grant, MD

Clinical Associate
Brenda Balch, MD
Lucia Benzoni, MD
Brendon L. Graeber, MD
(Eastern)
Evelyn Hessing, MD
(Middlesex)
Brian Holland, MD

Silvia Nash, MD

Clinical Instructor
Luis Alonso, MD
Robert M. Bedard, MD
Lucia Benzoni, MD
Tamika T. Brierley, MD
Carolyn Clark, MD
Sachin Dhingra, MD
Julie Eapen, MD
Cecile Freilich, MD
Dyan Griffin, MD
Karyn Hughes, MD
Peter J. Jannuzzi, MD
Gubbana S. Kumar, MD

Jacqueline P. Kirby, MD
Natalie Komaiszko, MD
Sydney Ladenheim, MD
Jerome Lahman, MD
Christine Lamoureux, MD
John Lavalette, MD
Jennifer Rae Lovin, MD
Maury Luxemburg, MD
Stephen J. Maddox Jr., MD
Linda Mathew, MD
Donald Mordavsky, MD
James O’Connor, MD
Christine Patterson, MD
Elizabeth Pericat, MD

Ishrat Quadri, MD
Cynthia Roque, MD
Viviann Rubin, MD
Kweku Sam, MD
Jennifer Schwab, MD
Aliya Shamsi, MD
Amisha Shah, MD
Neil Stein, MD
Charles Thompson, MD
Robert Toscano, MD
Richard Uluski, MD
Jayashree Venkatesh, MD
Matthew S. Warren, MD
Foong-Yi Lin, MD
The Division of Pediatric Critical Care is dedicated to the delivery of state-of-the-art child and family centered care for critically ill and injured children.

The division's mission is accomplished by a collaborative group that champions a multidisciplinary approach to care, the incorporation of best available evidence into clinical practice, and acquisition of new knowledge through clinical research. Attention to patient safety, continuous performance improvement, and education of physicians, nurses, and other care team members is paramount.

Major awards and academic accomplishments among the division members include important contributions to several national societies and both internal and external collaborations:

Dr. Christopher Carroll continues in leadership roles in major medical organizations

■ Associate Editor of two journals: Chest and Journal of Asthma

■ Serves as Chair of the Pediatric Network, Chair of the Scientific Presentation and Awards Committee, and Social Media Editor of the American College of Chest Physicians

■ Appointment to the Program and the Planning Committee of the American Thoracic Society and to the LearnICU Committee

■ Appointment to the Multidisciplinary Critical Care Knowledge Assessment Program Committee of the Society of Critical Care Medicine

Dr. Carroll was awarded the Alfred Soffer Research Award for outstanding original scientific research at the American College of Chest Physicians International Meeting, Chest 2013, and received an award from the American Thoracic Society Pediatric Assembly for Highlighted Abstract at the American Thoracic Society International Conference.

Dr. Adam Silverman continues his leadership of our Global Healthcare program. He developed and initiated a new educational Global Healthcare Educational Pathway for pediatric residents and organizes the activities of Connecticut Children's Medical Center staff members who travel to developing countries to help improve the healthcare of children. We send multiple groups each year to Hospital Bernard Mevs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and are currently developing collaborative educational activities between Connecticut Children’s and the pediatric medical and surgical residency programs at Justinien University Hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. In the past year, Dr. Silverman began serving at the American Academy of Pediatrics as both the SOICHPix Coordinator for the Section on International Child Health and the Membership Chairperson.

Dr. Heather Schlott continues activities in the American College of Chest Physicians Pediatric Chest Medicine Network Steering Committee. She also has been the division leader of our extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) program, in partnership with Pediatric Surgery and Neonatology physician colleagues, as well as nursing, respiratory therapy, and perfusion team members. This technology provides state-of-the-art heart and lung support for our most critically ill and injured patients. The program has grown and been extremely successful, with outcomes that exceed national benchmarks. She also led the development and implementation of our chronic renal replacement therapy (CRRT) program, which has grown with excellent clinical results. These capabilities are key components of modern PICU care and specifically crucial to the expansion of our Cardiac Surgery program.

In further regard to the Cardiac Surgery program, Dr. Kenneth Banasiak has taken a lead role in clinical, educational, and performance improvement aspects of the multidisciplinary process in collaboration with our Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery colleagues. He also has created a new Critical Care Physiology course for pediatric residents.

Dr. Daniel Fisher continues his work with colleagues in the Divisions of Otolaryngology and Pediatric Surgery to refine the activities of the Critical Airway Response Team, which responds to life-threatening emergencies in children with upper airway obstruction. In addition, for almost five years, he has been one of the most influential physicians in the design of the hospital's entirely new electronic medical record, which was implemented over the past year and will have a huge impact on the quality of daily patient care, safety improvement, and clinical research.

Dr. Leonard Comeau continued his activities to improve the comfort and quality of care for our patients, both in the PICU and hospital-wide. He is a leader of our developing comprehensive palliative care program. He participates in care delivered by the Sedation Service, and also serves as
the leader of the quality and safety oversight activities of the Sedation and Analgesia Committee. In the past year, he became the Chair of the hospital Ethics Committee, which deals with issues related to the appropriateness and decision-making regarding health care for some of our most complicated patients.

Dr. Allison Cowl continues her clinical research collaborations with the Pediatric Acute Lung Injury and Sepsis Investigators (PALISI) international network, focusing on various aspects of the management of sedation and pain during the care of critically ill children. She worked with counterparts at Hartford Hospital to help them develop guidelines for the management of young adult patients who have sustained critical brain injuries.

Drs. Rosanne Salonia and Aaron Zucker are among leaders of a hospital-wide group that has implemented a new "early warning system" to focus attention on patients at risk of clinical deterioration and thereby improve patient safety. Dr. Zucker is the Chairperson of the Peer Review Committee, which oversees the Medical Staff’s evaluations of individual physician’s clinical performance and patient outcomes in pursuit of the best and safest care for our patients.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

**Aaron Zucker, MD**, *Division Head*

Kenneth Banasiak, MD
Christopher Carroll, MD
Leonard Comeau, MD
Allison S. Cowl, MD
Daniel Fisher, MD
Rosanne Salonia, MD
Heather A. Schlott, MD
Adam Silverman, MD
The Division of Pediatric Dentistry provides a full range of primary and specialty dental services for children. Significant expertise is available in the areas of dentofacial growth and development, craniofacial and dental anomalies and pathology, behavior management associated with dental treatment delivery, dental care for children with special health needs, prevention of dental diseases, and dental public health issues affecting children.

Services available include restorative dentistry, surgical treatment of oral and perioral hard and soft tissue pathology, dental treatment with procedural sedation, oral rehabilitation under general anesthesia, and treatment of minor orthodontic problems. The division provides quality oral health care in a timely and caring manner. Emphasis is placed on assisting other specialty divisions within Connecticut Children’s Medical Center manage their patients’ overall health care needs by preventing and treating oral disease.

The division also is committed to supporting research activities consistent with the Connecticut Children’s and University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine institutional missions.

The division is currently comprised of 38 members of the dental staff, 26 active, 8 courtesy, and 4 consulting. There are 35 pediatric dentists, 1 orthodontist, 1 oral pathologist, and 1 prosthodontist. Dr. Richard Skinner serves as the Director of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry. During 2012-2013 members of the division completed 488 oral rehabilitation cases in the operating rooms at Connecticut Children’s.

The UConn School of Dental Medicine’s Division of Pediatric Dentistry, headed by Dr. Mina Mina, operates a full-service dental clinic at Connecticut Children’s. Dr. Skinner serves as the Clinic Director. The dental clinic is the principal clinical site for the UConn School of Dental Medicine’s Advanced Education Residency Program in Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Bina Katechia serves as the Residency Program Director. On June 1, 2013, Dr. Jorge Rabat was appointed Assistant Residency Program Director. Five residents completed the program in June 2013. All five challenged and successfully completed the Qualifying Examination of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) that same month. All five residents made presentations at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in May 2013. The current combined first- and second-year resident classes, for the first time, have a total of 10 residents. This is a reflection our continued residency program expansion, facilitated by a 5-year $1.8 million HRSA Title VII Grant. In 2012-2013, the Connecticut Children’s dental clinic provided 8,499 outpatient clinical visits. Over 19,940 dental procedures were completed in the clinic and 44 oral rehabilitation cases were completed in the Connecticut Children’s operating rooms under general anesthesia. A total of 336 patients received procedural sedation during the delivery of dental services in the clinic. In July 2013, the renovation of a dental treatment room to facilitate the use of nitrous oxide sedation was completed. This renovation project was supported by a $119,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, and it will double our capacity to provide this much-needed adjunct to dental treatment for our patient population.

The dental clinic also provides a site for the clinical education of UConn Dental Students, UConn Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residents, Tunxis Community College (CC) Dental Hygiene students, Tunxis CC Dental Assistant students, Prince Regional Vocational Technical School Dental Assistant students, and Porter and Chester Dental Assistant students.

In addition to Drs. Katechia, Mina, Rabat and Skinner, three full-time UConn Pediatric Dentistry faculty serve as attendings in the clinic, including Dr. Deborah Redford-Badwal, the Dental Director of the Connecticut Children’s Craniofacial Disorders Team. The clinic is additionally supported by 7 part-time UConn attending faculty. Oral Surgery support for the clinic is provided by residents and attending faculty from the UConn Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program directed by Dr. David Shafer.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Several members of the division received a variety of honors and accolades over the past year.

Dr. Richard Skinner continued to serve as a Consultant to the Examination Committee of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Ira Greene was elected President of the Connecticut Society of Pediatric Dentists, and Dr. Cristina Santos-Tomas was re-elected Vice President of the Society.
PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY

Richard Skinner, DMD, Division Head
Joanna Douglass, BDS, DDS
Bina Katechia, DDS, MSc
Glenn Koehler, DDS
Mina Mina, DMD, MSD, PhD
Lawrence Lee, DDS
Antonio Lepore, Jr, DDS
Jorge Rabat, DDS
Deborah Redford-Badwal, DDS, PhD
Moises Y. Salas DDS, MPH
Cristina Santos-Tomas, DDS
Gary Schulman, DDS
Yu-Hsiung Wang, DDS, PhD
Paulete Chung, RDH

NEW FACULTY

Cristian Brutten, DDS
The division’s mission is: 1) to provide comprehensive and compassionate diagnosis and management for children with developmental and behavioral problems that range from normative deviations to rare disorders; 2) to teach healthcare professionals about these problems; 3) to add to existing knowledge by researching relevant questions in the field; and, 4) to offer advocacy and to support public policy development.

The Division of Developmental and Rehabilitation Medicine, formerly known as Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (DBPeds), is a clinically oriented division composed of a diverse faculty who reside at a number of sites throughout the Greater Hartford area. The name of the division was changed in January 2012 to reflect an expansion of mission and staffing that was actualized with the successful recruitment of our first Pediatric Physiatrist (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation – PM&R).

Pediatric Physiatrist Edwin Cruz-Zeno, MD, joined the division October 1, 2012. The addition of Pediatric Physiatry has allowed for expansion of our core mission. It will promote broader collaboration with our colleagues in Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Orthopedics, as well as supporting the work of the rehabilitation departments and the intensive care units.

Geneticist Robert M. Greenstein joined the division in July, 2012. He directs a comprehensive Down syndrome program that provides consultation to primary care providers, pediatric subspecialists and families on the overall health and developmental needs of children with Down syndrome.

Clinical services occur in a number of settings – outpatient, inpatient, and community-based (e.g., schools and agencies). We provide direct consultation and clinical care, and programmatic leadership to a number of multi-disciplinary teams at Connecticut Children’s.

The division is actively involved in medical and graduate medical education.

The division’s research includes:

- Multidisciplinary “ARC” initiative between CT Children’s Medical Center, UConn Health Center and the Jackson Laboratory: Neuronal Synaptic and Circuit Dysfunction in the Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Milanese is one of the principal investigators. 2013-2018. Funded by: Institute for Systems Genomics

FACULTY

Ann Milanese, MD, Division Head
Fred Bogin, MD
Aarti Chandawarkar, MD
Edwin Cruz-Zeno, MD
Thyde Dumont-Mathieu, MD
Paul Dworkin, MD
Mark Greenstein, MD
Robert M. Greenstein, MD
John Pelegano, MD
Sarah Schlegel, MD
The Division of Digestive Diseases, Hepatology, and Nutrition is committed to cutting edge and innovative clinical care of infants, children and adolescents; pioneering clinical, translational, and basic research; and the education of the next generation of physicians.

In 2012-13, the division, small by the standards of other children's hospitals, was a leader on both the national and international stages. It was named among the best in the nation by the 2013 U.S. News Media Group’s Best Children’s Hospital’s rankings for gastroenterology. We are the Clinical Coordinating Center for a $10.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to support the PROTECT Study: Predicting Response to Standardized Pediatric Colitis Therapy. This five-year effort coordinates the resources of 28 leading pediatric IBD centers in North America to study newly diagnosed children with ulcerative colitis. PROTECT, along with the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) RISK stratification study of 1,200 newly diagnosed children with Crohn’s disease, has squarely placed Connecticut Children’s at the epicenter of pioneering research in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease. During the same period, Dr. Francisco Sylvester assumed the chairmanship of the PRO-KIIDS Network, Pediatric Resource Organization for Kids with Intestinal Inflammatory Disorders. PRO-KIIDS, funded by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, is designed to help coordinate research and educational missions of the CCFA as they pertain to children and adolescents. Collaborative efforts between the division and the Department of Immunology at UConn Health Center have continued as Dr. Sylvester received a MIST award (Molecular and Integrative Signal Transduction) from the NIH to study intestinal gamma delta T cell mucosal response in Crohn’s disease. Dr. Wael Sayej of the division has worked with the Immunology Department to begin studies in a vexing new disorder, eosinophilic esophagitis. Dr. Zev Davidovics performed our first fecal transplant procedure for a child with refractory Clostridium difficile infection.

Our Multi-Disciplinary Intestinal Rehabilitation Team (IRT) is the only one of its kind in the state. Co-directed by Drs. Karan Emerick and Zev Davidovics, this group focuses on the care of children with intestinal failure of all causes. Our Center for Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease, the largest program in the region between Boston and New York, currently provides care to over 600 children with Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

Our fellowship program has benefited from the recruitment of highly qualified graduating pediatric residents who spend three years receiving their sub-specialty training. The great depth in our pediatric surgical and radiology programs as well as the great variety of clinical disorders and the intimate involvement of our faculty in education makes our fellowship program particularly attractive.

**PUBLICATIONS**


BOOKS

BOOK CHAPTERS

Zeisler B, Hyams J. Are there new classes of IBD therapies about which I should be aware? In: Curbside consultations in pediatric gastroenterology. SLACK; 2013. p. 203-05.


FACULTY
Jeffrey Hyams, MD, Division Head

Zev Davidovics, MD  Francisco Sylvester, MD
Karan Emerick, MD  Bella Zeisler, MD
Franziska Mohr, MD  Donna Zeiter, MD
Wael Sayej, MD
The Division of Emergency Medicine is committed to providing the highest quality medical care for any who seek it, while continuing to improve our efficiency and the safety of our healthcare delivery system.

In the calendar year of 2013, 54,485 patients sought care at the Emergency Department of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The greatest clinical challenge is the increasing number of behavioral health patients. The census of behavioral patients is approaching 300 patients per month, and because of the shortage of inpatient beds, some patients stay in the Emergency Department under constant observation for days to weeks awaiting placement. The daily census of behavioral patients can top 16, overwhelming our department, which has only 28 rooms, and occupying up to 50 percent of our bed capacity. We keep safe patients who are deemed to be too violent for an inpatient psychiatric unit. The security presence has been augmented with a security officer assigned to the Emergency Department. A new safety risk protocol has been established, which included the hiring of a Safety Officer whose responsibilities include identifying those behavioral health patients who are at risk of endangering themselves or others and de-escalating their behavior. This approach has succeeded in decreasing the number of restraints required. A plan was developed to add seven additional beds designed to provide a safer environment and decreasing the risk of self-injurious behavior. The completion for this remodel is expected by the end of 2014. The process for evaluating the behavioral patient has been redesigned, and a social worker has been hired to determine which patients are low risk and can therefore forego a full evaluation. This has greatly decreased the length of stay of patients evaluated by this social worker.

Our faculty has been joined by Lana Friedman, MD, who came onboard after having completed a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical Center. She has an interest in ultrasound and medical education. Jesse Sturm, MD, joined us from Emory University after having completed a fellowship there and working as an attending. In his short career, he has already established a track record in research and has an interest in procedural sedation. Members of the Division of Emergency Medicine continue to be highly involved in leadership and committees at Connecticut Children’s with participation by the division in over 22 hospital groups. Dr. Jim Parker is the Chairperson for EMS-C for the State of Connecticut and vice chair of the North Central Region Medical Advisory Council. On a national level, Dr. Steve Rogers has transitioned from AAP Emergency Medicine Section Program Chair to the Chairperson of the AAP Emergency Medicine Committee for the Future.

Education and research continue to be part of our mission. The faculty taught and mentored pediatric residents, emergency medicine residents, family practice residents, medical students, and advanced practitioner students. Our fellowship program currently has the capacity for four positions and has successfully recruited talented fellows. The program will seek expansion to two fellows per year. An undergraduate research assistant program that was developed and taught by our faculty supports the research productivity of our division. Research projects are ongoing covering violence prevention, concussion, ultrasound, CT utilization, nutrition and asthma and involve collaborations with 12 other divisions.

Trauma services now are provided as part of the Trauma Institute with the approval of the Department of Public Health for designation as a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center. The Emergency Department is seeking to have all Level I Trauma patients be transported to and evaluated directly at Connecticut Children’s.

**PUBLICATIONS**


BOOK CHAPTERS


FACULTY

John Peng, MD
Division Head
Meredith Barrows, MD
John C. Brancato, MD
Zoe Casey, MD
Christine Cornachio, MD
Andrew Heggland, MD
Sandra C. Johnson, MD
Matt Laurich, MD
Katherine McGowen-Hesse, MD
Sylvia Nash, MD
Joseph Newell, MD
James Parker, MD
Carla Pruden, MD
Steven Rogers, MD
Adam Silverman, MD
Sharon Smith, MD
Michael Soltis, MD
Kristin Welch, MD
James Wiley, II, MD

NEW FACULTY

Lana Friedman, MD
Jesse Sturm, MD
Named among the best in the nation by the 2012 & 2013 U.S. News Media Group’s Best Children’s Hospital’s rankings for endocrinology, the division remains most proud of and excels in its collaborative, integrated, team-centered, and innovative approaches to care delivery, learning, and discovery. Galvanized by a more rapid expansion of our faculty over the past year and a half, Endocrinology is poised to reach new heights.

Dr. Rebecca Riba-Wolman joined the division as an Assistant Professor in October 2012. She was recruited to help transform, in collaboration with Oncology, the STAR Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Clinic into a multidisciplinary care program to better address the endocrine needs of survivors of childhood cancer. Progress to date includes the implementation of a process and tools to identify all newly identified patients with endocrine late-effects and assure their timely endocrine management. Dr. Christine Trapp, who joined the division as Assistant Professor in January 2013, was recruited to build a translational research program in pediatric obesity prevention under the mentorship of Dr. Michelle Cloutier within the Children’s Center for Community Research. She was accepted into the University of Connecticut Masters of Science Program in Clinical and Translational Research starting in the fall of 2014. Dr. Nancy Dunbar, who joined Endocrinology as an Assistant Professor in January 2013 as an established expert in metabolic bone disease, was recruited to assume the medical leadership of Connecticut Children’s Center for Bone Health. In close collaboration with Radiology, she is introducing strategies to improve the type and quality of bone density measurements for immobile and medically fragile children, and as a result, Connecticut Children’s soon will become the only site in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts to offer a bone density measurement relevant to this high risk population.

Endocrine faculty members have received national recognition through their invited participation in a broad range of important national activities. Dr. Estrada successfully completed her term as Co-chair of the Treatment sub-group at the Children’s Hospital Association (CHA) FOCUS for a Fitter Future Task Force. Melissa Santos, PhD, was invited to join the AAP/American Psychological Association Virtual Office Workgroup to design online materials to help primary care providers manage patients with childhood obesity. Dr. Palma-Sisto was invited to develop the Adrenal section for the Endocrine Society’s Board Review Course and to serve as editor for the Medical Student Education in Pediatrics.
COMSEP newsletter. Dr. Rubin continues to serve as the elected Treasurer of the PES, was an invited participant and contributing editor of the CHA Bundled Payment Project for T1D, Cystic Fibrosis, and Renal Failure, and was selected for the Diabetes & Endocrinology Workgroup for the 2014-15 Best Children’s Hospital Project.

All endocrinology faculty and fellows are actively engaged in research. The division serves as a site for two NIH-sponsored multicenter studies in Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and participates in a total of six clinical trials in Types 1 & 2 Diabetes and growth/hormone therapy and in 16 investigator-initiated additional IRB-approved clinical or translational studies. The division’s faculty-mentored fellow research includes the investigation of local transplantation as an effective model for cell delivery in the Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) murine model, circulating endotoxin and lymphocyte toll-like receptor 4 expression in T1D youth, and immune modulation in autoimmune diabetes by VR-1-ligand capsaicin in a murine model. The division takes special pride in the high caliber of fellows’ faculty-mentored research as evidenced by invitations to present their work at oral platform presentations at the annual PES meeting and acceptance of the OI research in a peer-reviewed journal in 12/13.

PUBLICATIONS


BOOK CHAPTERS


FACULTY

Karen Rubin, MD, Division Head
Susan K. Ratzan, MD
Cem Demirci, MD
Elizabeth D. Estrada, MD
Paola Palma Sisto, MD
Priya Phulwani, MD
Melissa Santos, PhD

NEW FACULTY

Nancy Dunbar, MD
Christine Trapp, MD
Rebecca Riba-Wolman, MD
The Division of General Pediatrics is committed to fostering the health and well-being of children, families and communities.

To realize this mission, we provide exceptional clinical care in partnership with families, teach evidence-based clinical pediatrics to the next generation of pediatric health care providers, and pursue original research and vigorous advocacy around issues important to children, families and the public. All of our activities place emphasis on caring for children with special health care needs, including disadvantaged children, children growing up in low-income families, and children with complex and chronic medical conditions.

The Division of General Pediatrics continues to provide the majority of pediatric primary care to Hartford’s children through the ambulatory and primary care clinics at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and the Burgdorf/Bank of America Health Center. Members of the division provide ambulatory care to infants, children and adolescents, and inpatient care for newborns and children with lead poisoning and suspected abuse or neglect. Our ambulatory services include health supervision, behavioral health care, chronic disease management, and urgent care using a Medical Home model. The division houses innovative, community-wide clinical programs such as the Hartford Regional Lead Treatment Center, the Reach Out and Read literacy program, and the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program. Division faculty have gained regional and national prominence for clinical research, education, and program development in the fields of injury epidemiology and prevention, child behavior and development, culturally effective health care, emergent literacy promotion and development of Medical Home-based systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs.

In 2012, the division successfully recruited two new faculty; Dr. Jennifer Haile to the Primary Care Center at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, and Dr. Christina Cefaloni to St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center Primary Care Center.

Under the direction of Nina Livingston, MD, the SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect) program provides medical and social work diagnostic consultations for concerns of child abuse and neglect to all Connecticut Children’s inpatient services. Outpatient and telephone consultations also are available when there is concern for possible child abuse or neglect.

Faculty members at division sites play a central role in education in the University of Connecticut system by providing the majority of pediatric primary care and newborn nursery educational experiences for medical students and residents in the region. Other rotating learners from UConn and other institutions include dental residents, child psychiatry fellows, and students from nurse practitioner, physician assistant and medical assistant programs.

Members of the SCAN program also are highly involved in educational efforts within the UConn system, including required and elective resident rotations, lectures, Grand Rounds, and community provider education. Division members serve on a wide variety of hospital, university and state committees. Membership on national committees includes the National Center for Culture Competence Advisory Group (Alberto Cohen-Abbo, MD) and the Society for Pediatrics Dermatology Education Committee (Keri Wallace, MD).

Patricia Joyce, MD, continues her work with the REACH (Resident Education in Advocacy and Community Health) pathway, working in collaboration with such programs as the Center for Children’s Advocacy, Connecticut Voices for Children, Office of the Child Advocate, Help Me Grow, Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, Child Health Development Institute, and the Connecticut Children’s Office of Government Relations. Residents enrolled in the REACH pathway were again awarded a Resident CATCH Grant to support their project called Healthy Habits for Healthy Hartford Children. This project will help transform the Community Longitudinal Experience for all residents.

Melissa Held, MD, and Patricia Joyce, MD, continue to modify aspects of the Ambulatory Pediatrics Clerkship (MAX Pediatrics) to further improve upon this highly regarded experience. Through the use of brief structured clinical observations during the clerkship, every medical student is directly observed and receives feedback from a faculty member about his or her clinical skills a minimum of six times.

Research interests in the division include health literacy, cultural competence, immunization, obesity, and quality of life measures in children. Division members collaborate in the Asthma Center’s Easy Breathing© program, the Steps to Growing Up Healthy study (obesity prevention for 2-to 4-year-olds) and the co-management pilot protocols.
with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center pediatric subspecialists. Grael O’Brien, MD, serves as site director for the CORNET (Continuity Clinic Research Network) of the Academic Pediatric Association. Dr. Scheiner continues her work on a grant from the Child Health and Development Institute to support a co-management of Psychotropic Medication in Primary Care Initiative.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

*Catherine Wiley, MD*

*Division Head*

Anton Alerte, MD  
Rebecca Beebe, PhD  
Frederick Bogin, MD  
Christina Cefaloni, MD  
Alberto Cohen-Abbo, MD  
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH  
Richelle deMayo, MD  
Susan DiVietro, PhD  
Susan Glasser, MD  
Jennifer Haile, MD  
Patricia Joyce, MD  
Jaye Ladinsky, MD  
Nina Stuart  
Livingston, MD, FAAP  
Margaret McLaren, MB, B Ch  
Lisa Menillo, MD  
Joseph Newell, MD  
Grael O’Brien, MD  
Chitraleka Ramanan, MD  
Laurie Scheiner, MD  
Molly Senn-McNally, MD  
Hilda Slivka, MD  
Elizabeth C. Smith, MD  
Jody Terranova, DO  
Nancy Trout, MD  
Keri Wallace, MD  
Jessica Zimmerman, MD
We are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Meghna Misra, who joined the division in September 2013. Dr. Misra comes to us after completing her fellowship at Oregon Health Sciences University. Her area of interest is chest wall anomalies, including Pectus Excavatum corrective procedures. In addition, we welcomed Dr. Anthony Tsai, who started his pediatric surgery fellowship with us in July 2013.

The Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery continues to grow, and it performs the full range of clinical services for patients from newborns to young adults, and includes prenatal consults, the treatment of congenital anomalies, enteral access, pediatric gynecology, and surgical oncology. Connecticut Children’s is an American College of Surgeons-verified Level I Pediatric Trauma Center. We currently have satellite offices in Farmington and Danbury.

The mission of the division is to continue to provide the highest quality of care for children in Connecticut. This includes easy patient access for subspecialty consultation as well as enhancing care of children through innovative surgical techniques and instrumentation. In addition, significant emphasis has been placed on academic growth as the division strives to be a recognized leader both regionally and nationally in the care of children.

EXCITING INITIATIVES: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Connecticut Children’s is pleased to announce its participation in the American College of Surgeons’ Pediatric National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), which is the first multi-specialty program designed to measure and improve the quality of children’s surgical care. NSQIP’s data collection protocols are dynamic tools by which we can accurately and objectively evaluate our performance in areas of surgical safety, and compare our outcomes with other American children’s hospitals. Dr. Brendan Campbell is the Surgeon Champion for the NSQIP Program, and the Medical Director of the Trauma Program.

The Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery has participated in the development of several multi-disciplinary services aimed at facilitating and improving patient care and experience. One such program, the Multidisciplinary Thyroid Group, enables children with thyroid diseases to be evaluated simultaneously by a surgeon as well as an endocrinologist. The coordinator for the program, Kelly Henri, APRN, facilitates the scheduling of appointments as well as review of pertinent radiologic and laboratory information.

Another exciting multidisciplinary program successfully launched by the Division of Pediatric Surgery is aimed at preserving fertility for young girls undergoing chemotherapy. This initiative, led by Dr. Christine Finck, Dr. Eileen Gillan, and Shefali Thaker, enables young females about to embark upon chemotherapy that will result in infertility, to participate in a trial, led by Northwestern University and the University of Connecticut, to harvest and save their ovaries. While this is experimental and without guarantee, it is the only option possible, and it is an important step in recognizing the value of fertility preservation for families.

PUBLICATIONS


**BOOKS & CHAPTERS**

**Campbell BT.** Meckel's diverticulum and other omphalomesenteric duct remnants. In: Pediatric Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease. 5th ed. Elsevier.

**FACULTY**

Christine Finck, MD, FACS, Division Head

Michael Bourque, MD, FACS
Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH, FACS
Donald Hight, MD, FACS
Meghna Misra, MD
Christine Rader, MD
Richard Weiss, MD, FACS
The members of the Division of Gynecology at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center continue to provide state-of-the-art pediatric and adolescent gynecology consultative services in office, operating room, emergency room and in-patient settings.

The clinical services provided include specialty care in all areas of medical and surgical gynecologic care. These include reproductive health issues, vulvar and vaginal infections in children and adolescents, management of abnormal uterine bleeding and pelvic pain, adolescent endometriosis, congenital abnormalities of the reproductive tract, ovarian cysts and masses, and adolescent hormonal and contraceptive issues. Our team of gynecologists provides 24/7 coverage of the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Emergency Room, Operating Room, and patient floors.

Office evaluations of pediatric and adolescent patients are done at Gynecology and Obstetrics Division of Physicians of Women’s Health by Dr. Frederick Rau, Division Director, and Drs. Emily Rosenbush, Kerrie Henry, Catherine Graziani, Kelly Sturrock, and Elizabeth Purcell at locations in Hartford, Farmington, Glastonbury and Rocky Hill. Our extensive range of physicians has improved significantly our pediatric and adolescent provider community’s access to age-appropriate gynecology care.

Drs. Rau and Sturrock attended the annual meeting of the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology in April 2014 in Philadelphia, PA. This international meeting highlighted the latest clinical and research topics that benefit the care of our patients.

Our physicians collaborate at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics residents and medical students for in-patient, emergency room and operating room patient care.

Our physicians emphasize a supportive and minimally intrusive strategy while seeing children, adolescents and families.

For 2014-2015, the division will maintain and improve our patient’s access to superior specialty care in pediatric and adolescent gynecology to promote reproductive health and wellness for our community’s children and teenagers.

**FACULTY**

**Frederick J. Rau, MD**
*Division Head*

Catherine Graziani, DO
Kerrie Henry, MD

Erin Pickett, MD
Elizabeth Purcell, MD
Ellen Robinson, MD
Emily Rosenbush, MD
Kelley Sturrock, MD
We improve the lives of children with cancer and blood disorders by delivering high quality family-centered academic healthcare. We continuously improve what we do through discovery and partnerships. We have three broad areas of focus: Quality & Safety, Service & Access, and Research & Teaching.

We have continued to excel in our ability to provide the highest quality of care with our focus on standardized approaches when appropriate. We encourage the development of specific areas of expertise among our faculty, and we are supported by a talented group of advanced practitioners and nurses as a key component of our care delivery. This past year, we continued the expansion of our nursing and advanced practitioner staff, and we will continue to integrate our inpatient and outpatient activities to make care more efficient, timely, patient-centered, and coordinated. In the upcoming year, our biggest initiative will align the organization's focus on effective and safe care, as we develop a care team model to set national standards for patient safety and coordinated care delivery in pediatric hematology-oncology.

We are humbled by our high commendations from patients and families, a testament to our continued striving for a family-centered approach to care delivery. We are supported by our two active family advisory boards for Sickle Cell Disease and Cancer Care. We provide comprehensive care using a team approach to treat children and young adults with cancer, including recurrent and refractory cancer, hemostasis and thrombotic problems, red cell disorders, and other hematological diseases. Our comprehensive Advanced Cancer Care Program is continuing to expand with increased regional, national and international referrals to our Center for Advanced Therapeutics Program for the Phase 1 and 2 therapies. Our Palliative Care and Supportive Care programs are recognized at regional and national levels for their expertise in guiding standards for palliation and supportive care in our patient population.

This year we recruited one of our former pediatric residency graduates, after she finished her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Boston Children's. Dr. Natalie Bezler finished her fellowship training in June 2013. Her primary interest is well aligned with our goal of research expansion in the area of non-malignant hematology.

Our research efforts continue to expand. Our Children's Oncology Group participation, under the leadership of Michael Isakoff, MD, is one of the highest in the country. Division Head Nehal Parikh, MD, has developed the Center for Advanced Therapeutics into a program of national significance through local and national collaborations. We are members of two national consortia (Sunshine Project and Neuroblastoma Medulloblastoma Translational Research Consortium) bringing novel Phase 1 and Phase 2 treatments to children with relapsed and refractory cancers. Drs. Ferd Ferrer, Christine Finck, Eileen Gillan, Andrea Orsey, Michael Isakoff, Kerry Moss, Nehal Parikh and Olga Salazar all received large and prestigious grants this past year in order to expand our great work in cancer research and care. Under the leadership of Dr. Michael Isakoff, the Adolescent and Young Adult Program has collaborated and provided consultation for young adults at Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Medical Center, and UConn Health Center. Dr. Orsey is leading the way in implementing an exercise program to improve the quality of life for children undergoing cancer treatments. Dr. Boruchov's expertise with our sickle cell patients has guided regional standards for exceptional care. Drs. Gillan and Finck have jointly developed a research program for ovarian cryopreservation and fertility. Finally, our teaching on the inpatient service as well as in the outpatient area has greatly improved under the leadership of Drs. Moss and Orsey.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

**Michael Isakoff, MD**  
Interim Division Head

**Nehal Parikh, MD**  
Interim Division Head

Arnold J. Altman, MD  
Professor Emeritus

Donna Boruchov, MD  
Eileen Gillan, MD  
Kerry Moss, MD  
Andrea Orsey, MD  
Katherine Steven, MPH
The Division of Hospital Medicine is dedicated to continual improvement in the inpatient setting through collaboration, a family centered focus, innovative education, and the delivery of increasingly high value care.

Pediatric Hospital Medicine is the fastest growing specialty within Pediatrics and our division has continued to grow at a breathtaking pace. We provide general inpatient pediatric care at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford, as well as at our 12-bed satellite unit at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, CT. Our patient volume has grown 102 percent in the past five years (2008 to 2013), with 15 percent of that growth occurring in 2013, largely due to a new robust consult service. We continue to partner with primary care groups to assume the care of their inpatients – 96 percent of general pediatric inpatients are now cared for by the hospitalist service. This year we welcomed Marta Mieczkowska, MD, and Kathy Kalkbrenner, MD, to the division. We also continue to oversee a productive group of APRNs and PAs who aid in the care of our inpatients and who have led development of many of our new clinical pathways.

Clinical highlights during the past year include development of a new system of early recognition and response for worsening clinical status in the inpatient setting. Using a standardized score called the PEWS (Pediatric Early Warning Score), a PICU-based team is called to the bedside when the warning is triggered. Our new co-management model, in which our hospitalists consult on complex surgical sub-specialty patients, increased dramatically, with consults increasing 19-fold in 2013. Our division has the inpatient units in returning to Family Centered Rounds, in which we engage families in decision-making during daily multi-disciplinary discussions at the bedside. We continue to track discrete quality metrics in the division. Our physicians called the primary care provider at discharge 93 percent of the time and completed a full asthma home treatment plan over 92 percent of the time.

Our Clinical Pathways program has continued to grow. We have developed new pathways for neonatal fever, urinary tract infection, and community acquired pneumonia. These pathways reflect the most recent national guidelines and help to drive best practice. Our next frontier is to partner with our surgical colleagues to develop pathways for appendicitis, tonsillectomy, and orbital cellulitis in the coming year.

Education of the next generation of pediatric providers remains an important part of our mission. Our faculty members oversee the inpatient general pediatric education for the medical students and residents of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. The number of trainees has increased with the recent expansion of the medical school class and with the addition of a new Family Medicine program. The inpatient rotations continue to be among the top rated experiences in medical student evaluations.

Members of the division continue to share their work on a national level. Division Head Dr. Anand Sekaran presented a talk on clinical pathways at the 2013 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition. The Medical Director of the St. Mary’s unit, Dr. MacDara Tynan, joined the Chief Operating Officer in a presentation for the Children’s Hospital Association. Dr. Christine Skurkis, Associate Residency Program Director, led a workshop on development of new education curricula at the Pediatric Hospital Medicine national meeting. Our work on neurosurgical co-management was presented by Dr. Cathy Sullivan in a platform session also at the Pediatric Hospital Medicine conference. At the Connecticut Children’s Illuminations conference on quality, Dr. Sullivan won an award for outstanding poster for this work. Our APRN group was nationally visible as well, as Jill Herring presented her work on a hyperbilirubinemia pathway at the National Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Annual Meeting. We take great pride in sharing our work and in helping others to improve along with us.

As hospitalists, we continue to re-shape how we practice, how we educate trainees, and how we continue to measure our performance against regional and national standards. This past year can be seen against that backdrop of constant growth and change. Yet even as we continue to evolve and grow, we strive to maintain our core value of putting patients and families first in all we do.

PUBLICATIONS
http://www.igi-global.com/book/cases-educational-technology-implementation-facilitating/72158
Hospital Medicine

**FACULTY**

*Anand Sekaran, MD,*  
*Division Head*  
Kate Humphrey, MD  
Richard Johnson, MD  
David Marcello, MD  
Chris McDermott, MD  
Christine Skurkis, MD  
Catherine Sullivan, MD  
MacDara Tynan, MD  
Ilana Waynik, MD

**NEW FACULTY**

Kathy Kalkbrenner, MD  
Marta Mieczkowska, MD
The mission of the Division of Human Genetics is to provide high quality, timely and state-of-the-art genetic consultations, counseling, and treatment for patients from the prenatal period throughout childhood and into adulthood.

This care over the lifespan is provided by clinical geneticists, genetic counselors and a metabolic dietician (2.0 FTE clinical geneticists, 2.2 full-time prenatal genetic counselors, 1.8 hereditary cancer genetic counselors, 1.0 “teratogen” counselor, and 0.4 metabolic dieticians) over three campuses, including the clinical/administrative/academic offices at UConn Health Partners, 65 Kane St, West Hartford, where children and adults are seen; prenatal and hereditary cancer counseling at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington; and clinical offices for children only at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, 100 Retreat Ave., Hartford.

A full-service cytogenetics laboratory run by Dr. Peter Benn at John Dempsey Hospital provides testing for internal and external patients.

Patients with metabolic disease identified through the DPH Newborn screening program, as well as children diagnosed at a later age are seen in our Kane Street office in conjunction with our metabolic dietician.

There have been no major changes in the scope of patients seen at the three campuses. However, availability of new non-invasive prenatal genetic testing has increased the number of patients being seen by the prenatal service and additional test offerings for patients with hereditary cancers has increased the patient numbers being seen and evaluated by the hereditary cancer counseling program. The CT Pregnancy Exposure Riskline recently became part of the national teratogen counseling service, MotherToBaby, and is now called MotherToBabyCT.

Collaborations with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Department of Public Health Newborn Screening Program, UConn’s Maternal–Fetal-Medicine program and Neag Cancer Center are robust and active. A $225,000 Department of Public Health annual contract helps to support the newborn screening/metabolic and MotherToBabyCT programs.

The educational mission begins in the first year of medical school and goes through postgraduate fellowship. We have an active medical genetics fellowship, including a two-year post-residency fellowship and one of only 16 combined pediatric-medical genetics residency programs nationally. There are also resident, student and fellow learners who spend a month’s rotation in genetics. Our most recent fellow completed her training in 2013 and is now a biochemical genetics fellow at Yale.

NEW COLLABORATIONS

Sally Rosengren, MD, is a co-investigator for an Affinity Research Collaborative project, whose goals are to look at specific clinical, historical, genetic, and functional aspects of autism. This project was funded in July 2013 by the Institute for Systems Genomics for five years. Other agencies participating in this ARC include CT Children’s Medical Center and Jackson Laboratories.

Robin Schwartz and Jennifer Stroop, CGCs, are both collaborating investigators in the CICATS project, “Determining clinical significance of mismatch repair variants” with PI Chris Heinen, PhD.

Drs. Rosengren and Joseph Tucker are active members of the GUPPE program, and along with the Urology, Psychiatry, Psychology and Endocrinology divisions at Connecticut Children’s, they provide multidisciplinary care for children with disorders of sexual development.

PUBLICATIONS


**Human Genetics**


**FACULTY**

**Sally Rosengren, MD**,  
Division Head

Peter Benn, MD  
Joseph Tucker, MD  
Alicia Craffey, MS  
Sharon Lavigne, MS  
Ginger Nichols, MS

**FACULTY EMERITUS**

Robin Schwartz, MS  
Brittany Soderholm, MS  
Jennifer Stroop, MS

Stephen H. Clark, PhD  
Robert Greenstein, MD
The division has seen significant changes in 2013, most notably with the addition of two new faculty members and new clinics, both of which significantly expanded our capacity to diagnose and treat children with primary immune deficiencies. The division is under new leadership. We are proud to say our former Medical Director, Dr. Juan Salazar, was named Physician-in-Chief and Chair of Pediatrics this year. Dr. Nicholas Bennett has assumed the role of Medical Director to manage the day-to-day needs of the division while Dr. Salazar remains the academic Division Head. Despite the state of flux, the division has seen growth in outpatient clinic consults, and continues to grow year-on-year.

Dr. Hillary Hernandez-Trujillo and Dr. Gavin Schwarz are board-certified pediatric immunologists who joined us in 2013, making a total of 8 physicians now working with the division. In collaboration with the Connecticut State newborn screening program and the immunology department at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Connecticut Children’s is now recognized as a location where newborns can be evaluated for severe immune deficiencies that might be detected on the newborn screen, saving many families a trip to a less-accessible center. We even changed our name – to include immunology and reflect the expanded capabilities and work of the division. We have begun a co-management initiative with the craniofacial, ENT, genetics and cardiology clinics to assess and manage patients with possible or confirmed 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (DiGeorge, velocardiofacial syndrome).

Our HIV program continues to prove its worth, with what felt like a steady stream of new referrals for HIV-infected youth this year. The community outreach programs and peer-counseling initiatives developed by the committed team of social workers and case managers have been recognized at the national level for their innovation and resourcefulness. We continue to provide comprehensive care, supported by the Ryan White program, for HIV-infected youth and HIV-exposed children and neonates.

The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, led by Dr. Bennett and Jennifer Giroto, PharmD, facilitated the publication of an empiric antibiotic guide for residents and mid-level providers to complement the pathways and guidelines for various infections. We were able to demonstrate significant reductions in targeted antibiotic usage, and in particular a dramatic improvement in the antibiotic management of community-acquired pneumonia. This latter success was due in large part to a collaboration with the Division of Hospital Medicine, which helped develop a formal clinical pathway and education materials.

The division continues to publish cutting-edge research, funded by NIH R01 and R03 grants held by Dr. Salazar, as well as clinical reports and reviews. Looking ahead into the next 12 months, we foresee an opportunity to consolidate our gains in providing clinical services and add to our scholarly output as we further cement our position as an academic subspecialty division.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Cervantes J, Hong B. The role of Next Generation Sequencing in understanding the interactions between human papillomavirus and the cervical microbiome. Gynecol Obstet Invest. 2013 May 22.


**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Salazar J, Bennett N. Endemic Treponemes including yaws and other spirochaetes. In: Manson’s tropical diseases. 23rd ed. Elsevier; p421.

**ACTIVE GRANTS**

R0-1 AI090166 NIAID – Phagosomal signals shape inflammatory responses to Borrelia burgdorferi. Direct amount per year $315,000. (Active: 07/15/11- 6/30/16) PI: Dr. Juan Salazar.


Colciencias Grant (Colombian National Institute of Sciences) – Natural Killer cells in syphilis infection. (Active 2/1/2013-12/31/2014) Co-PI: Dr. Juan Salazar.

**FACULTY**

Juan C. Salazar, MD, MPH, Division Head
Nicholas Bennett, MBChir, PhD
Andrea Benin, MD
Jill Bernstein, MD
Alberto Cohen-Abbo, MD
Henry M. Feder, Jr., MD
Melissa Held, MD
Melissa Caimano, PhD

**NEW FACULTY**

Hillary Hernandez-Trujillo, MD
Gavin Schwarz, MD
The Division of Neonatology directs one of the largest and most diverse clinical services in New England and once again received recognition as a top Neonatology program nationally in the 2013 U.S. News & World Report ranking.

The Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine includes faculty at five major sites: Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (Hartford), Connecticut Children’s Medical Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC)/John Dempsey Hospital (JDH), St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center (SFHMC), the Hospital of Central Connecticut (THOCC), and Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN). Faculty members work collaboratively across the sites to achieve goals in quality of care, education and training, and research.

As the regional perinatal center, the division provides significant clinical leadership and outreach education for northern Connecticut. A new neonatal transport program was launched in June 2013 and integrated within Connecticut Children’s Critical Care Transport. Neonatal transports are performed by NICU-specific staff providing service to referring hospitals throughout Connecticut. The neonatal follow-up program expanded regionally and now provides neurodevelopmental follow-up for high risk infants from all NICUs in the region including THOCC, SFHMC and ECHN.

The division and its members received several awards and honors. The Neonatology program and Drs. Marilyn Sanders and Victor Herson were honored by the March of Dimes with its first annual Mission Triangle Award for leadership in the 39-week campaign and newborn screening for critical congenital heart disease. Drs. Leonard Eisenfeld and Herson were named “Top Doctors” in U.S. News & World Report. Dr. Eisenfeld also received the Gold Prize for Innovation by the Connecticut Hospital Association for development of an Electronic Stethoscope System for Monitoring Neonatal Bowel Sounds. Dr. Kathleen Marinelli became Chair of the United States Breastfeeding Committee.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Alexander M, Garbus H, Smith AL, Rosenkrantz TS, Fitch RH. Behavioral and histological outcomes following neonatal HI injury in a preterm (P3) and term (P7) rodent model. Behav Brain Res. Epub 2013.


BOOK CHAPTERS


BOOK REVIEW


IPHONE APPS

Vidwans A. NICU nutrition calculator. Automatically calculates energy, protein, and fat intake from IV and oral nutrition for neonates; 2012.

Vidwans A. Glucose infusion rate calculator. Automatically calculates glucose infusion rate (mg/kg/min) from IV infusions. 2012.
Neonatology

FACULTY

Victor C. Herson, MD, Interim Division Head
Jose Arias-Camison, MD
Tina Rita Bafumi, MD (Middlesex)
Fadel Balawi, MD (SFHMC)
Hema deSilva, MD
Leonard I. Eisenfeld, MD

James Hagadorn, MD
Bernadette A. Hillman, MD (THOC)
Naveed Hussain, MBBS, DCH
Carla Jacobson-Kiel, MD
Shabnam Lainwala, MD
Kathleen Marinelli, MD
Adam Matson, MD

Arpana Mohnani, MD (THOCC)
Sandra Motta, MD
Indira Panthagani, MD
Marianne Pappagallo, MD
John R. Raye, MD
Ted S. Rosenkrantz, MD
Saritha Salikooti, MD
Marilyn Sanders, MD

Shikha Sarkar, MD
David Walker Sink, MD
Jennifer Trzaski, MD
Aniruddha Vidwans, MD
Leslie I. Wolkoff, MD
Rebecca Beebe, PhD
Jacqueline McGrath, PhD
The division of Nephrology provides care to infants and children with a wide range of renal and urologic diseases. The division began the year with one full-time physician and ended the period with two full-time and one part-time physicians (FTE 2.5).

There was a successful recruitment of junior faculty as well as the addition of a full-time physician assistant. The division also is bolstered by a full-time nurse coordinator, social worker, and part-time dietician with specialty in childhood renal disease. Dr. Cynthia Silva was appointed Interim Division Head Medical Director of the division. There continues to be both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis services within the hospital as well as on an outpatient basis. Additionally, the division is aligned with Hartford Hospital’s transplant program and engaged in performing living and deceased donor renal transplants.

The division continued to maintain care for more than 2,000 outpatient visits despite change in clinical coverage. The visits were comprised of pre-transplant, post-transplant, inpatient and outpatient consults as well as acute and chronic dialysis. The division continues to work with the ICU on a regular basis to provide continuous veno-venous hemodialfiltration for our sickest patients.

All members remain committed to teaching of residents, students and colleagues with multiple lectures given inpatient, out-patient and Grand Rounds. Dr. Mason was invited to lecture at Bridgeport Hospital Pediatric Grand Rounds, and Dr. Silva won the resident didactic teaching award in August 2012.

Goals for the upcoming year include expansion of Nephrology services to other parts of the state of Connecticut, while maintaining the highest quality of care for children with renal and urological diseases. Creation of a Nephrology-Urology service line where children with these diseases can be co-managed in a joint multidisciplinary setting with Nephrologist, Urologist, social work and dietary support.

We are looking to recruit a third full-time Nephrologist with a strong clinical background to continue to build the division.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


**FACULTY**

Cynthia Silva, MD, *Interim Division Head Medical Director*

Sherene Mason, MD

Majid Rasoulpour, MD, Professor Emeritus
The main mission of the Division of Neurology is to provide the best available care for children with various neurological diseases.

We utilize current standard of care guidelines and practice parameters that are generally followed by many other centers across the U.S. The expert faculty participate in national and/or international (Australia, Japan) child neurology conferences, many times as invited speakers or teaching faculty, and they give Grand Rounds at local and out-of-state institutions. Another important aspect of our work is to educate pediatric, neurology and psychiatry residents, as well as medical students. The division is actively involved in clinical research in autism, tuberous sclerosis, and neuromuscular diseases.

Major Accomplishments
The division had a steady growth with simultaneous improvement in patient access. Drs. DiMario and Acsadi were invited speakers at the International Child Neurology Meeting held in Australia, and Dr. Acsadi was a visiting faculty at a neuromuscular teaching conference in Tokyo.

Dr. DiMario received a Didactics Teaching Award, For Excellence in Resident Teaching, Dept. of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut, 2013. He was elected as Fellow in the American Neurological Association.

Dr. Zalneraitis was selected for the Milton Markowitz Award for Outstanding Contribution to Residency Education.

Recruitments
Dr. Louisa Kalsner, MD, a neurogenetician was recruited as an assistant professor faculty in September of 2012.

Expansion
Our outpatient volume has increased to more than 11,000 patients for the past 18 months.

The diagnostic services (EEG, inpatient EEG monitoring and EMG) have continued to increase the number of tests provided.

We have started a new clinical site in Danbury with two days per month. Dr. Kalsner has started a neurogenetic clinical program.

Collaborations
Dr. Kalsner and Dr. Acsadi are co-investigators in a collaborative research program on autism founded by the joint UConn and Jackson Laboratory ARC Program. Dr. DiMario conducts a multicenter clinical study on Tuberous Sclerosis. Dr. Acsadi has a collaboration with Sylvia Ounpuu of the Center of Motion Analysis to evaluate the gait patterns of CMT patients. Dr. Acsadi participates in the Tone Management program that helps to treat patients with spasticity.

Dr. Madan Cohen has a collaboration with Neurosurgery and the Hartford Hospital's adult epilepsy program to evaluate patients with intractable focal epilepsy for epilepsy surgery.

PUBLICATIONS


Held M, Zalneraitis EL. Pediatric residency program hand-over: before and after the ACGME requirement. Academic Pediatrics. [in press]

BOOK CHAPTERS
DiMario FJ. Faculty resource guide for the Department of Pediatrics. 3rd edition revised. 2013 Sept.


FACULTY

Gyula Acsadi, MD, Division Head
Francis J. DiMario, Jr, MD
Carol R. Leicher, MD
Christian Ionita, MD
Louisa Kalsner, MD
Jennifer Madan-Cohen, MD
Richard Young, MD
Edwin Zalneraitis, MD
Our Pediatric Neurosurgery program has continued to expand over the last year. We will be joined in August 2014 by Dr. Marcus Bookland who is currently completing his fellowship training in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Bookland brings considerable experience in basic science brain tumor translational research. His clinical area of specialization is the comprehensive management of brain tumors.

Our multi-disciplinary programs continue to expand. These include comprehensive management of cranio-facial malformations and spina bifida, surgical management of spasticity, and our care of children with cranial-cervical deformity. We have improved coordination with the oncologists from the Division of Hematology-Oncology. More children are enrolled in chemotherapy trials than in previous years. The relationship with the Jackson Laboratory’s Avatar program has been an extraordinary and unique opportunity to study the genomics and chemotherapy responses of malignant tumors.

Our operating room remains fully equipped with an intraoperative CT scanner, neuro-physiological and EEG monitoring, CO2 laser, and navigation image guidance.

We participated in a multiple institutional prospective study of children who undergo reconstruction for craniosynostosis. We identified improved long-term neuro-cognitive development with more aggressive cranioplasties performed at less than 6 months of age.

Working closely with the faculty from the Division of Neurology, we completed the Medical Center’s first functional hemispherectomy and frontal resection for intractable seizure control.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

Paul Kanev, MD, MS  
*Division Director*  
Jon Martin, MD  
Izabella Tarasiewicz, MD
The Orthopaedic Division continues to grow both clinically and academically. An all-star team ranging from surgeons to sports trainers to engineers provides quality care for the full spectrum of orthopaedic conditions to improve the quality of our community’s health.

The Orthopaedic Division consists of three services: the pediatric orthopaedic service, a sports medicine service (Elite Sports Medicine), and the Center for Motion Analysis (CMA). The pediatric orthopaedic service has six fellowship-trained pediatric orthopaedic surgeons, two physicians’ assistants, and one advanced-practice registered nurse. Dr. Sonia Chaudhry joined the team in October 2013 and has proven to be a valuable asset. Together, our services provide the full spectrum of care for children with orthopaedic conditions such as scoliosis and spinal deformities, limb deformity, congenital dislocated hips, clubfeet, children’s fractures, as well as neuromuscular conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscle diseases.

Journal clubs for the entire clinical staff keep the team up-to-date on the latest literature, and promote a cohesive environment for the care team. Departmental and interdisciplinary conferences promote resident education and multi-specialty collaboration. Dr. Kristan Pierz now serves as editor of the POSNA resident review, an important educational asset for surgeons-in-training.

The sports medicine service (Elite Sports Medicine) continues to grow under the guidance of four physicians, two physicians’ assistants, and two athletic trainers. This group provides outstanding care for young athletes with injuries and oversees impressive sports injury prevention and concussion programs.

The Center for Motion Analysis continues to expand its scope of practice, both clinically and in the area of research. In a September 2013 article in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Sylvia Öunpuu, the director of research, was cited as authoring one of the “100 classic papers of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery” for her article “Three Dimensional Lower Extremity Joint Kinetics in Normal Pediatric Gait.” It appeared in 1991 in the Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics.

Our research program, under the direction of Matthew Solomito, has been increasingly busy. Our three services have well over 47 active IRB studies underway. Collaboration in multicenter studies gives us access to the latest protocols for difficult diseases. Grants from Major League Baseball, Centers for Disease Control, and POSNA help us provide evidence-based guidelines for topics such as ideal pitching mechanics and return-to-play after ACL reconstruction. Summer research programs educate college and medical students on the scientific process.

The Orthopaedics Division continues to benefit from the generosity of Geno Auriemma’s “Fore the Kids” charity golf tournament, which is co-chaired by Mr. Brien Beakey and Mr. Joe Campanisi. This year we expect another successful tournament, which will result in over one million dollars being raised over ten years.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Lee MC, Solomito M, Patel A. Supine MRI Cobb measurements for idiopathic scoliosis are linearly related


Diduch DR, Scaneli J, Tompkins M, Milewski MD, Carson EW, Ma SY. Tissue anchor use in arthroscopic glenohumeral
Orthopaedic Surgery


FACULTY

Jeffrey D. Thomson, MD  
Division Head  
John V. Banta, MD  
Sonia Chaudhry, MD  
Imran Hafeez, MD  
Mark C. Lee, MD  
Philip W. Mack, MD  
Matthew D. Milewski, MD  
Carl W. Nissen, MD  
Kristan Pifer, MD  
David Wang, MD  
Janet Zahradnik, MD  
Bruce E. Bowman, PA-C  
Sylvia Ounpuu, MSc
Otolaryngology is the evaluation, and medical and surgical treatment of head and neck disorders. Valerie Cote, MD, joined the division in April 2013 with special skills in cleft lip, cleft palate, and mandibular distraction to augment the existing craniofacial team. She has a special interest in evaluation and management of hypernasality.

The field of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery – has expanded widely over the past decade with improvements in surgical care, refinement and miniaturization of instrumentation, use of minimal incision surgery, and advancement of endoscopic techniques replacing traditional open surgical techniques. This has revolutionized management of sinus disease and airway disorders. Technologic advancements in cochlear implantation have enabled children who are deaf to develop excellent speech and integrate into mainstream society.

Currently, the division has thriving sub-specialty clinics in voice and swallowing disorders, and cochlear implantation. In collaboration with the divisions of Pulmonary Medicine and Digestive Diseases, we have expanded the scope of the multidisciplinary Connecticut Children’s Airway Team. Patients and families appreciate the improved time efficiency of combined office appointments and operative procedures.

The division has grown rapidly to six attending faculty, one APRN, and two PAs.

In addition, the division is involved in two new collaborations: MIT Spectroscopy Laboratory and UConn Computer Science Department.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**FACULTY**

Scott Schoem, MD  
Division Head

Christopher Grindle, MD

Katherine Kavanagh, MD

Nicole Murray Posner, MD

Tulio Valdez, MD

**NEW FACULTY**

Valerie Cote, MD, FRCSC
Our mission is to utilize our multidisciplinary expertise to alleviate pain and stress in children afflicted with acute, chronic or terminal illness.

Highlighting our year has been the addition of new faculty members Mick Connors, MD, and Jessica Guite, PhD. Dr. Connors joined us after spending 13 years in private practice and brings his leadership expertise as a past president of the Society of Pediatric Sedation. Dr. Guite, a pediatric psychologist, came to us from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and will augment our efforts in clinical care and research.

Our division and its members received several important awards and honors. The division was one of the first four programs in the world certified by ChildKind International, a global effort to improve pain care in children. Renee Manworren, RN, PhD, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Connors received the Joseph Cravero Leadership Award from the Society of Pediatric Sedation. Dr. Ana Verissimo was named editor of the AAP-Section of Integrative Medicine Newsletter.

PUBLICATIONS


Baxter AL, Ewing PH, Young GB, Ware A, Evans N, Mix A.


FACULTY

William T. Zempsky, MD, Division Head
J. Michael Connors, MD
Kim Kempner, APRN
Ana Maria Verissimo, MD
Jessica Guite, PhD
Renee Manworren, APRN, PhD
In 2013, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine continued its mission of providing the highest quality laboratory services through excellence, innovation, integrity and concern for quality care provided to patients.

Drs. Marilyn Kritzman and Donna Rose were added to the department in the past year to address Hartford Pathology Associates recent contract with Women’s Health in CT. Women’s Health opened its own laboratory in Rocky Hill to provide its patients with routine clinical laboratory testing, surgical pathology and cytopathology. Due to limitations from certain third party payors, some of the Clinical Pathology and Anatomic Pathology testing will continue to be provided by Clinical Laboratory Partners in Newington and in Pathology at Hartford Hospital. Clinical Laboratory Partners also will provide esoteric testing for the West Hartford Lab. Drs. Kritzman and Rose were hired for their experience and expertise in GYN pathology and cytopathology. They will provide services in the Hartford Hospital and West Hartford labs.

Dr. Bela Mandavilli, formerly serving as a hematopathologist in the Hartford Hospital Lab, rejoined the department in the fall to provide part-time coverage in Hemepath.

Although the majority of the members within the department provide services in Anatomic Pathology, there is a wide range of subspecialization within that division of the department. The current MD/PhD staff in Anatomic Pathology have subspecialization in neuropathology (3), cytopathology (8), pediatric pathology (1), molecular pathology (1), and dermatopathology (1). Additional members within Anatomic Pathology have specialty skills in organ systems for which there is no board certification. These include breast pathology, GI pathology, GU pathology, GYN pathology, pulmonary pathology, head and neck pathology and soft tissue tumors. Additionally there are six members of the department board certified in hematopathology providing support in Hematology and Hematopathology. Two staff members provide support in Transfusion Medicine. One is board certified in Transfusion Medicine, and the other has specialty expertise in Coagulation. There is one PhD board-certified member in each of the following disciplines: microbiology, chemistry, molecular pathology/cytogenetics and immunopathology.

There is an increasing volume of molecular pathology and cytogenetic applications as molecular studies for the diagnosis and treatment of disease are expanding. There is a continued general decline in GYN pathology due to changes in the indications for annual Pap smears. Otherwise, surgical pathology has shown a modest increase annually. More recently this increase is due to cases being referred in from the outpatient area. Clinical Laboratory Partners acquired ownership of Anatomic Pathology within Hartford Hospital in October 2010, and this has had a further impact on the volume increase as Clinical Laboratory Partners’ sales force has marketed outpatient Anatomic Pathology services.

The department has an active Quality Improvement Program. There is a Quality Council composed of representatives throughout the laboratory that meets monthly and reviews performance on numerous quality indicators that are monitored in each division of the laboratory. The indicators include items within the pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical components of laboratory activities. As part of its Quality Improvement Program, the department is involved in an extensive proficiency testing program involving analytes provided by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The department also participates in Q Tracks and Q Probes provided by the CAP. These provide information on trends and benchmarking with other laboratories participating in the CAP programs.

The department’s residencies and fellowships continue to be filled with highly qualified individuals. Graduates of the Educational Program have continued to be successful in obtaining highly desirable fellowships on completion of their residency training program in Pathology at Hartford Hospital or have gone on to find attractive positions in the clinical practice of Pathology. The residency program continues as a Hartford Hospital-only program that is not integrated with the University of Connecticut. The program does rely on the university, however, for training residents in renal pathology and electron microscopy. Now that the department has recruited a dermatopathologist, the program no longer relies on training in dermatopathology at the university.

**PUBLICATIONS**


**Cartun RW**. Diagnostic IHC. ADVANCE for Administrators of the Laboratory. 2013 Apr; 22(4);16-21.


Murphy M, **Elaba Z**. Potential utility of mutant oncogene-specific antibodies in melanoma. Am J Dermatopathol. 2013 Jul 2; [Epub ahead of print].


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


**FACULTY**

**William T. Pastuszak, MD**  
Department Chief

Jaber Aslanzadeh, PhD  
Margaret Assaad, MD  
Fabiola Balarezo, MD  
Richard Cartun, PhD  
Thomas Ciesielski, MD  
Richard Muller, MD  
Andrew Ricci, MD  
Peter Shen, MD  
Bradford Sherburne, MD  
Terry Voytek, MD  
Rebecca Williams, MD

Saverio Ligato, MD  
Gregory Makowski, PhD  
Srinivas Mandavilli, MD  
Laila Mnayer, MD  
Richard Muller, MD  
William Rezuke, MD  
Andrew Ricci, MD  
Dean Uphoff, MD  
Terry Voytek, MD
**Plastic Surgery**

*Dr. Charles Castiglione is President of the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Dr. Alan Babigian is the Secretary/Treasurer of the NESPRS, and Dr. Orlando Delucia is the President of the Connecticut Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.*

The Plastic Surgery Department provides clinical services at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and at Hartford Hospital. Our surgical volume has remained stable, and it includes all types of plastic and reconstructive procedures. Our plastic surgeons frequently collaborate with other surgical specialists, providing state-of-the-art multidisciplinary surgical care. Common surgical procedures performed include: complex wound closures including flaps and grafts, craniofacial reconstruction, craniofacial fracture repair, cleft lip/palate reconstruction, breast surgery/reconstruction, body contouring, skin/soft tissue tumor excision/repair, upper extremity/hand surgery/reconstruction, and cosmetic surgery/non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

The multidisciplinary Craniofacial Team at Connecticut Children’s, co-directed by Dr. Charles Castiglione of Plastic Surgery and Dr. Paul Kanev of Pediatric Neurosurgery, remains a center of excellence. The team provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment for patients of all ages with congenital or acquired deformities of the head and neck. Active team members come from many disciplines including Plastic Surgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Pediatric Otolaryngology, Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Pediatric Development, Social Work, and Speech and Language Pathology. Surgeries for cleft lip and palate are most common. Craniosynostosis reconstruction, performed by Dr. Castiglione of Plastic Surgery and Dr. Kanev and Dr. Jonathan Martin of Pediatric Neurosurgery, are also common. In addition, the multidisciplinary Craniofacial Trauma Team, under the leadership of Drs. Norman Cavanagh and Castiglione, provides cutting edge treatment for all cranio-maxillofacial injuries at both Connecticut Children’s and Hartford Hospital.

Four plastic surgeons, Drs. Duff Ashmead, Alan Babigian, David Bass, and Steven Smith, are fellowship-trained hand surgeons, and perform all types of upper extremity and hand surgery. This includes trauma surgery and reconstruction for acquired and congenital deformities. These surgeons also provide the majority of coverage for hand call at Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children’s.

Plastic surgeons are very involved in volunteer activities including surgical mission trips. Drs. Babigian and Castiglione are consultants for Iraq Star, providing surgical care to injured veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Dr. Bass continues to make frequent mission trips to South America. Drs. Babigian and Castiglione travelled to Coca, Ecuador, and performed many surgeries, including burn reconstruction, hand surgery, ear reconstruction and cleft lip/palate surgeries. Finally, Dr. Castiglione serves on the Medical Advisory Board of the Jorge Posada Foundation, a foundation supporting the treatment of congenital craniofacial deformities.

Education is a large component of the Plastic Surgery Department’s activities. Residents from General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Urology, ENT, OMFS (UConn and St. Raphael’s), and Emergency Medicine rotate on the service. Medical students also elect rotations on Plastic Surgery. Active teaching occurs during daily patient rounds, in the clinic/office setting, in the ER, in the OR, and during planned teaching conferences. Several residents and medical students have expressed interest in a career in Plastic Surgery, and one resident and one medical student matched at plastic surgery residency programs this year. Several residents and medical students are involved in research projects with Drs. Babigian and Castiglione. Drs. Babigian and Castiglione have had several publications this year, and have presented papers locally, regionally, and nationally. Dr. Castiglione is the Plastic Surgery editor for *Connecticut Medicine: The Journal of the Connecticut State Medical Society*, and a reviewer for both *The American Journal of Cosmetic Surgery*, and *Craniomaxillofacial Trauma & Reconstruction*.

Some department members are involved in local, regional and national professional societies. Dr. Castiglione serves on the executive council of the Hartford Medical Society. Drs. Castiglione and Delucia are members of the executive council of the Connecticut Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, and Dr. Delucia is President-elect. Drs. Babigian and Castiglione are members of the executive council of the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Dr. Castiglione is now the Society President, while Dr. Babigian has become the Secretary/Treasurer.

Dr. Castiglione graduated this year from the Quinnipiac
University School of Business with an MBA in Health Care Management, and was elected to the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society for collegiate schools of business.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Fortier JL, **Castiglione C.** Skin grafting. Tech Orthop. 2012 Dec;27(4): 244-9.


**FACULTY**

*Charles L. Castiglione, MD, MBA, FACS, Division Head*

Duffield Ashmead, MD
Alan Babigian, MD
David Bass, MD
Alex Cech, MD
Orlando Delucia, MD
Steven Smith, MD
The Division of Pulmonary Medicine was named among the best in the nation by the 2013 U.S. News Media Group’s Best Children’s Hospitals’ rankings for pulmonology. It strives to be a comprehensive regional resource for pediatric pulmonary disease, with commitments to expert patient care, professional and patient education, and clinical and basic research. This year’s highlights include recruitment of Dr. Tregony Simoneau, re-accreditation of our Cystic Fibrosis Center, expansion of our fellowship program, and the impending opening of a new Pediatric Sleep Center.

The Division of Pulmonary Medicine provides care for infants, children and adolescents with a variety of pulmonary diseases including asthma, apnea, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung disease, neuromuscular disease, respiratory sleep disorders, and chronic respiratory failure. The division oversees a state-of-the-art pulmonary function laboratory that is capable of performing spirometry, body plethysmography, impulse oscillometry, methacholine challenge, cardiorespiratory adaptation, and exercise provocation testing in children. Simple spirometry and bronchodilator assessment also are performed at our satellite clinics. A pediatric sleep laboratory offers services to over 350 children with respiratory sleep disorders per year. A new and expanded Sleep Center will open in Farmington early in 2014. With recruitment of a board-certified sleep specialist, we also will be able to provide evaluation and treatment for children with non-respiratory sleep problems, including insomnia, sleep parasomnias, and restless legs syndrome.

Dr. Tregony Simoneau joined the division this year after completion of her fellowship in Pediatric Pulmonology at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Simoneau is continuing her fellowship research involving supplemental oxygen administration in infants with chronic lung disease of prematurity, and vitamin D metabolism in children with lung diseases.

Based on combined pulmonary and nutritional outcomes, our Central Connecticut Cystic Fibrosis Center continues to be one of the Top 10 CF centers in the country. In 2013, our CF Center, led by director Dr. Craig Lapin and co-director Dr. Melanie Collins, received a full 5-year re-accreditation from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Dr. Lapin continued to serve as the Pediatric Program Directors’ Representative to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Center Director Committee. He remained a member of the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference Planning Committee and a member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Guidelines Steering Committee.

Our Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship program, directed by Dr. Anita Bhandari, was expanded to two pediatric pulmonary fellows in 2012. Our two fellows received three resident teaching awards: two for didactic teaching and one for teaching on inpatient service. Members of the division contribute to the education of medical students and residents, respiratory therapists, and nursing APRN students from Yale. In addition, Dr. Craig Schramm continued to serve on the Pediatric Chest Medicine Network Steering Committee of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Schramm also participated in the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Clinical and research collaborations include a Sickle Cell Pulmonary Clinic with Hematology-Oncology, an Aerodigestive Clinic with ENT and Gastroenterology, clinical obesity research with Endocrinology, clinical asthma research with Intensive Care Medicine, and basic science research with the Department of Immunology and the School of Allied Health at Storrs. Clinical research projects conducted over the past year include studies of bronchodilator responsiveness in infants with severe bronchiolitis, and participation in multi-center trials involving levofloxacin, meropenem, ivacaftor, and lumacaftor in children with cystic fibrosis. In addition, quality improvement projects have addressed adherence problems in patients with cystic fibrosis, EKG monitoring in patients on chronic azithromycin therapy, comparison of albuterol doses in establishing bronchodilator responsiveness, and use of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines in recommended populations.

**PUBLICATIONS**


FACULTY
Craig Schramm, MD
Division Head
Anita Bhandari, MD
Melanie Sue Collins, MD
Umit Emre, MD
Craig Lapin, MD
The Division of Radiology has added two new fellowship-trained radiologists in MR imaging and neuroimaging.

The division recruited Dr. Michael Baldwin to head up Body and Musculoskeletal MR services. Dr. Baldwin completed a Pediatric Radiology fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital and a Musculoskeletal imaging fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He also did a specialized Body MR mini-fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He will oversee Body and MSK MR imaging and also bring expertise in musculoskeletal imaging procedures including diagnostic and therapeutic joint injections as well as therapeutic injections of many other soft tissue sites.

Dr. Gregory Wrubel has joined the Radiology Department to head up Neuroradiology. Dr. Wrubel completed a fellowship in Neuroradiology and Head and Neck Radiology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Boston Children’s Hospital and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute in 2013.

The Division of Radiology provides a full spectrum of imaging services as well as minimally invasive image-guided therapy to all clinical divisions at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The department is an “Image Gently” facility using strategies to minimize radiation to our patients while utilizing best practice standards and appropriateness criteria to best evaluate children.

Imaging modalities range from computed radiography and digital radiography to complex magnetic resonance imaging. The department is accredited through the American College of Radiology in Ultrasound, CT and MRI. Nuclear Medicine services are provided through collaboration with Hartford Hospital. Image-guided therapies are provided through collaboration with physicians from Jefferson Radiology and Hartford Hospital in Interventional Radiology and Interventional Neuroradiology. With collaboration and support from the Divisions of Anesthesia and Sedation Services, more image-guided procedures are being performed on site at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center allowing for less disruption of care in a safer environment.

The Department of Radiology has seen major replacements and upgrading of imaging equipment. In 2013, a new digital radiography room was installed for the Emergency Department, which allows better plain film imaging with approximately 40% dose reduction. Three new Siemen’s ultrasound units were purchased and put into service allowing for superior imaging in a modality that is well suited to our pediatric population. A new Siemen’s flat panel fluoroscopy unit was purchased allowing for significant radiation dose reduction. These upgrades support the philosophy of the department as an “Image Gently” and “Step Gently” facility to provide appropriate imaging while reducing the effects of ionizing radiation as much as possible. Video goggles were provided by a donor through the Foundation. They can be worn by a child in the MR unit who can watch a movie while having a lengthy imaging procedure with less dependence on sedation.

Dr. Moote is collaborating with Dr. Hyams in the Division of Digestive Diseases to support multicenter grant-funded research evaluating the impact of MR imaging of children with inflammatory bowel disease.

Dr. Moote also is collaborating with Dr. Martin in Neurosurgery to evaluate plain film imaging of cervical spine instability, and Dr. Rader in surgery to evaluate imaging assessment of pectus excavatum.

Dr. O’Loughlin is collaborating with Dr. Olga Salazar to look at cardiac MR analysis of microscopic fibrosis in Tetralogy of Fallot and its impact on cardiac function.

The Division of Radiology provides resident education in pediatric radiology to radiology residents from the University of Connecticut Health Center, Hartford Hospital and the Hospital of St. Vincent’s in Bridgeport, CT. Pediatric residents and medical students from the University of Connecticut attend elective rotations in the department. The radiology attendings provide didactic lectures to the radiology residents as well as case review sessions. Teaching and clinical care conferences are held in collaboration with the Divisions of Pulmonary Medicine, Digestive Diseases, Endocrinology, General Surgery, Hematology-Oncology, Orthopaedic Surgery, and Urology as well as the NICU and PICU. Work conferences are provided weekly to the Pediatric House Staff.

**Publications**


FACULTY
R. Timothy Brown, MD, Division Head
Frederick U. Conard, MD
Douglas Moote, MD
W. Steven Poole, MD
Margret Szerejko, MD

NEW FACULTY
Michael Baldwin, MD
Gregory Wrubel, MD
**Research**

Division members, assisted by an expert group of master’s prepared research associates and managers, collaborate with Pediatric and Surgical faculty to conduct high quality research and advance the research enterprise of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

More than 30 professional, non-faculty members now support clinical/translational research and clinical trials for the institution. The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, led by Lisa Benson, provides comprehensive administrative guidance and support and sound financial management. The division also manages a unique Investigator Support program for new and established investigators that has yielded 6 NIH Mentored Scientist (K) awards and a 60% R01 funding rate.

This year’s highlights include Dr. Elizabeth Brownell’s establishment of the Center for Human Milk Research, an interdisciplinary collaborative to collect and analyze detailed, systematic information on use of human milk in the neonatal ICU and associated infant outcomes.

**PUBLICATIONS**


FACULTY

Georgine Burke, PhD, Division Director
Elizabeth Brownell, MD
Trudy Lerer, MS
Kathleen McKay, PhD
Jill Popp, PhD
Zhu Wang, PhD
The Division of Rheumatology is the largest such program in Connecticut, taking pride in our ability to be accessible to all corners of the state. In 2013, referrals were received from 151 of the 169 towns in Connecticut.

The division is looking to expand and to increase its academic standings. With that in mind, the division recruited an outstanding young physician, Dr. Heather Tory, who will be splitting her time between rheumatology and patient safety/quality, which will include ongoing research as well. Rheumatology is also excited about recruiting a senior scientist, Dr. Virginia Pascual, who has an international reputation in the field of genomics in autoimmune disease, such as systemic lupus, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and Kawasaki disease. She has demonstrated that blood gene expression profiling is a valid approach to understanding the pathogenesis of human systemic autoimmune diseases.

The mission of the division is to provide the best clinical care possible to children with rheumatic disease, teach trainees the basics of the field, and to enroll patients in clinical trials or collaborative research projects when applicable. The addition of Dr. Pascual will herald a new era of basic science research at the University of Connecticut in the division of pediatric rheumatology.

We continue to run a high-volume practice; during 2012-13, we saw the following number of patients:

1) New outpatients - 805 (additional 47 new patients at Shriner's satellite)
2) Follow-up visits – 1,850 (additional 194 follow-up patients at Shriner’s)
3) Inpatient admissions - 27
4) Inpatient consults - 37
5) Joint aspirations - 82

Rheumatology collaborates with the sedation service around procedures, orthopaedics for overlapping disorders, GI for infusions and drug toxicities, hematology for disorders that span both specialties, nephrology for lupus and vasculitis, infectious disease for Lyme disease, and the pain service for children with amplified pain disorders, such as fibromyalgia. The division fully utilizes the resources of the hospital, since many of the patients have multi-system disease or complex psycho-social problems.

The division provides critical education to trainees, since the outpatient rotation is often the only exposure pediatric residents have with rheumatic disease. Twelve of the 13 blocks were subscribed by pediatric residents or fourth-year medical students on elective. Space permitting, we occasionally accommodate outside residents, third-year medical students, and even physician assistant students. We have an arrangement with the Division of (adult) Rheumatology at the University of Connecticut Health Center to provide their fellows with pediatric training.

PUBLICATIONS


FACULTY

Lawrence Zemel, MD, Division Head

Barbara Edelheit, MD
This year has been a very busy and productive one for the Division of Transplant at Connecticut Children’s. Working closely with the Division of Nephrology, the pediatric kidney transplant programs continue to grow, and successful kidney transplants have been performed. The program is recognized by UNOS and recently underwent a successful comprehensive review of the Kidney Transplant Program.

**FACULTY**

Patricia Sheiner, MD, FACS, *Division Director*

Anne Lally, MD

Matthew Brown, MD

Caroline Rochon, MD
U.S. News & World Report chose Connecticut Children’s Medical Center as one of the 50 top-ranked centers for children with serious urological conditions.

Our ACGME-accredited fellowship program in pediatric urology consistently draws top candidates from across the country. We currently match 1 fellow annually into our 2-year program.

Our first fellow, Miriam Harel, will be spending the next year in our NIH-funded laboratory focused on cancer and injury and inflammation, working collaboratively with Dr. Linda Shapiro, PhD.

After completing her clinical year of training, our second fellow, Liza Aguiar, will be obtaining a master’s degree in Translational Medicine at the University of Connecticut.

Paul Smith is our newest fellow, and he will begin in July 2014. He comes from the Penn State urology residency. He will spend his first year focused on clinical care.

Beyond the division’s presence in Hartford and Farmington, all of our pediatric urologists see patients in either the Fairfield or Shelton satellite offices. Pediatric urology was one of the first services to perform operations at the new Farmington Surgical Center, and we continue to increase the volume of cases performed there.

Our division performed 1,300 operative cases and had over 10,000 outpatient visits. We continue to strengthen our presence at satellite locations. We routinely perform the most complex genitourinary reconstructive and minimally invasive procedures. We have specialized programs in extrophy complex, robotic and laparoscopic surgery, continence issues, and pediatric stone disease, as well as routine urologic and surgical conditions.

The Department of Urology continues to evolve our combined service line with Pediatric Nephrology. We initiated two new specialty clinics with combined care. Specifically, we have a Posterior Urethral Valve (PUV) clinic and a kidney stone clinic. The ROCKS clinic (Reduction of Children’s Kidney Stones) focuses on stone prevention and surgical treatment.

The Division of Pediatric Urology strives to provide the best and most advanced urologic care for our patients and families. Simultaneously, our nationally recognized faculty continues to advance clinical care and basic research. We have a strong focus on the satisfaction of patients and referring providers. We continue to expand the scope of care through our combined service line of Pediatric Urology-Pediatric Nephrology and increasingly see patients referred from the northeastern region.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Li MH, Hla T, **Ferrer FA**. FTY720 inhibits tumor growth and enhances the tumor suppressive effect of topotecan in neuroblastoma by interfering with the sphingolipid signaling pathway. Ped Blood Cancer. 2013 Sep;60(9):1418-23.


**FACULTY**

Fernando Ferrer, MD, **Division Head**

Jill Bernstein, MD
Christina Kim, MD
John H. Makari, MD
Eric Nelson, MD
The Pediatric Residency Program revised its curriculum to include the new requirement for an individualized, transitional six rotation-equivalent curriculum to help residents transition from residency to practice or fellowship. At the same time, they engaged the Next Accreditation System, employing milestone-based assessments of resident competence. The program continued to successfully recruit high quality residents, and the graduates again obtained outstanding positions for the next steps in their careers.

With the revised Requirements for Training in Pediatrics implemented July 1, 2013, there was an extraordinary faculty and resident collaboration, in 2012-2013, designing and implementing the changes needed to be in compliance with the new expectations. The most exciting change involved structuring the curriculum to include the six rotation-equivalent transitional experience to promote resident career preparation for both the spectrum of possibilities and the flexibility to meet the time frame for career decisions. This was presented nationally at the Association of Pediatric Program Directors by Drs. Christine Skurkis, Sharon Smith and Ed Zalneraitis, and it was very well received.

The individualized curriculum is structured with four concentrations in Primary Care (community practice, academic general pediatrics), Acute Care (Emergency Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Critical Care, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine), Subspecialty Care (other 13 pediatric medical subspecialties not in Acute Care), and Population Health (Advocacy, Global Health). Each concentration includes the pathways noted in parenthesis. Dr. Adam Silverman has initiated the Global Health pathway, and Dr. Sharon Smith has created formal choices in research as a resource to the pathways. The success of these changes will be highlighted in next year’s report.

The revised requirements resulted in a new governance structure for the program that includes a Program Evaluation Committee (PEC) of core faculty leaders and elected residents to assess the program and make recommendations to the Program Director and Chair regarding changes for the program. This group is charged with oversight of a quality improvement process that determines the success of prior improvement efforts and new needs, and next steps to be recommended. The PEC is lead by Co-Chairs, Associate Program Directors Drs. Skurkis and Smith.

The other “new” committee is a revised version of the Selections and Promotions Committee named by regulators as Clinical Competence Committee (CCC). The CCC is charged with recruitment activities, and regular review of resident progress in the new milestone-based assessment of resident performance for the identified key areas of sub-competence. The CCC began by restructuring the evaluation forms and working with faculty on their application, and by a trial of CCC milestone assessments in December 2013. There were lessons learned, for which changes are being implemented for the coming academic year. We will be pleased to report on their success next year. Dr. Mark Greenstein is the Chair of the CCC, and the Associate Program Director responsible for remediation efforts.

The program first-attempt pass rate on the American Board of Pediatrics certifying examination has increased once again, and it is safely above average in meeting the required rate for accreditation. Participation in quality improvement continues in both in resident continuity experience and in the fabric of Connecticut Children’s quality and safety efforts. Resident participation research continues to increase as well, and we expect even more participation with the new opportunities related to pathway requirements for research.

RESIDENTS

Pl-1s
Jennifer Berrick, MD
Jennifer Dorr, DO, MPH
Rebecca Frontz, DO
Serwa Gyamfi, MD
Frank Han, MD
Lauren Jeffries, DO
Leila Kashani, DO
Thomas Kennedy, MD
Paula Lucuara Revelo, MD
Rena Luger, MD
Smith Madhavarapu, DO
Laurie Malia, DO
Nicholas Matarazzo, MD

Pl2s
Wallis Molchen, DO
Molly Naples, MD
Christine Pulice, DO
Aaaron Slaiby, DO
Gennie Taylor, MD
Carolyn Vitale, MD
Christen Vogel, MD

Corinne Althauser, DO
Ruby Bartolome, DO
Kelly Broekema, DO
Francois Coutu, MD
Marie De Alwis, MD
Paul Fadakar, MD
Residency

Mina Farkhondeh, MD
Victoria Grossi, DO
Ashima Gulati, MD
Karl Hellstrand, MD
Kendall Johnson, MD
Prachi Kothari, DO
Ottar Kristinsson, MD
Mallory Logsdon, DO
Jessica Markham, MD
Dor Markush, MD
Clare O’Keefe, DO
Susan Schmidt, DO
Anar Shah, DO
Candice Sheldon, MD
Karen Tang, MD
Katherine Gregersen, DO
Einar Hafberg, MD
Samareh Hill, MD
Karyn Hughes, DO
Kamilla Josefesdottir, MD
Vineetha Joseph, DO
David Kram, MD
Leana May, DO
Christopher Nitkin, MD
Richard Pierce, MD
Amisha Shah, MD
Ranjini Srinivasan, MD
Sarah-Jo Stimpson, MD
Richard Uluski, MD

PL-3s
Heidi Anderson, MD
Vidya Anegundi, MD
Alyssa Bennett, MD
Christine Chaput, DO
Cassidy Foley, DO

Chief Residents
Patricia Garcia, MD, MPH
Kirsten Morrissey, MD
Arlene Tyler, MD
The common theme in the University of Connecticut School of Medicine-sponsored graduate medical education programs at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, specifically the post-residency fellowship programs in pediatric specialties, has been growth. With two new programs, and expansion of the programs to include additional fellows, the fellowships have successfully mentored excellent and well-trained future pediatric subspecialists and researchers. The success of their research pursuits is evident in the grants awarded to complete their research, the numerous accepted presentations at national scientific meetings, and the travel grants and awards they have received.

**Endocrinology**

Led by Dr. Elizabeth Estrada, the program has grown from one to three fellows since 2012. Fellows have had a 100% pass rate at first attempt on the pediatric endocrinology board. They also are engaged in meaningful research experiences mentored by well-published, NIH-funded investigators in basic and translational research. The quality of their research productivity is evidenced by the research awards they have received, oral and poster presentations at the Annual Pediatric Endocrine Society meetings, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Penelope Pauley (formerly Armada) received the 2013 McNeill Teaching Award, chosen by the pediatric residents at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, for excellence in teaching and dedication to resident education in addition to the 2012 Community Service Award issued by the Capital Area Health Consortium for employees who volunteer in their community above and beyond their Residency/Fellowship commitment. She has received travel awards to attend national conferences to present her work. Sponsored by the Research Council of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, she, along with five other fellows from different divisions at Connecticut Children’s, received the first annual Fellows Research Award in 2012. She has one first author publication on the subject of her work involving Osteogenesis Imperfecta in the mouse model. Dr. Hector Granados was invited to give two CME presentations with faculty support in local hospitals. He also has received travel grants to national meetings to present his research. He was the recipient of Fellows Research Award in 2013, which awarded a $5,000 prize for research-related use from the Research Council of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center for his work on “Type 1 Diabetes, Gut Bacteria and Immune Connections.”

All of the Endocrinology graduates have joined academic institutions to further their careers.

**Emergency Medicine**

Led by Dr. John Brancato, the Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship is now finishing its 13th year. The program has matched two excellent candidates to begin this fall: Kathryn Kasimire, MD, who will join Connecticut Children's from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, and our own resident Karl Hellstrand, DO.

Two of the program's current fellows, Henry Chicaiza, MD, and Talia Brooks, MD, presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Vancouver and at the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research. Dr. Chicaiza's two posters were on the use of KOH as an alternative reagent for the modified Apt test and physical exam and patient historical factors associated with pneumonia. Dr. Brooks presented on features of patients who present to the Emergency Department with back pain.

Dr. Chicaiza will join another of our recent graduates, Jeffrey Chen, MD, at Stony Brook University on Long Island this fall.

Nationally, Dr. Brancato has been working with a subgroup of the pediatric EM fellowship directors’ group to explore ways of increasing fellowship pursuit by Emergency Medicine residency graduates.

**Urology**

Led by Dr. Christina Kim, the Pediatric Urology Fellowship opened in 2012 and has successfully matched a fellow in each year of participation. This summer, they welcome Paul Smith III. He is completing his residency training at Penn State. Their second-year fellow, Miriam Harel, spent the past year in Dr. Ferrer’s laboratory investigating renal tumor growth in mice. Her lab experience has been so intriguing that she is extending her lab experience to do another year.

This year, Miriam presented Connecticut Children’s nine-year experience in surgical treatment of urinary reflux at the national Pediatric Urology Fall Congress meeting in Las Vegas. She also presented multiple posters at the New England American Urological Association meeting in Hartford.
Fellowship

Liza Aguiar, MD, will complete her clinical fellowship year this summer. In her second year of fellowship, she will complete a Masters program in Translational Medical Research.

**NICU**

Led by Dr. John Hagadorn, the fellowship program in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine continued its track record of academic accomplishment and scholarly productivity. Senior fellows DonnaMaria Cortezzo and Jeff Bartlett are on track to complete the fellowship program successfully. Dr. Cortezzo published her fellowship research in the *Journal of Perinatology*, and has accepted a one-year Palliative Care fellowship position at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center starting in the fall. Dr. Bartlett is supervising completion of 2 Cochrane Systematic reviews in collaboration with colleagues locally as well as in New York and Wisconsin. Junior fellows Arvin Bundhoo and Soji Varghese presented their research to the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research in Philadelphia; Dr. Bundhoo presented as well to the New England Perinatal Society, while Dr. Varghese presented at the annual BYCONN (Brown/Yale/UConn) meeting. Meanwhile, first-year fellow Tristan Lindberg passed his Pediatric boards and is now board-certified in that specialty. The program’s graduates continued our 100% pass rate for NPM boards. Lastly, the program welcomes two excellent incoming fellows this July: Kunal Sawale, MD, who is completing a Pediatric chief resident year at Syracuse and has a strong interest in neonatal immunology, and Kendall Johnson, MD, from Connecticut Children’s residency.

**Orthopaedics**

Led by Dr. Mark Lee, the Orthopaedics fellowship is relatively new and was just accredited in 2013. Their first fellow, Ali Maziad, has been part of the program since 8/2013 and will be going on to an additional spine fellowship in August. He is currently completing 2 research projects on operating room efficiency for elbow fractures and pelvic fixation in neuromuscular scoliosis. Ali also received a first place award for case presentations at the IEP (Spine Interactive Educational Program) Fellows & Young Surgeons’ Annual meeting in November 2013. The program has filled the 2015 spot and Dr. Lee and his colleagues are excited to train another Pediatric Orthopaedist for future practice.

**Gastroenterology**

Led by Dr. Francisco Sylvestre, the fellowship program in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition has had a 100% match rate since it started 4 years ago. The program graduated its first fellow, Dr. Johanna G. Palmadottir, in June 2014. Dr. Palmadottir has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Dr. Palmadottir presented her work on the effect of colitis in muscle stem cells at Digestive Diseases Week, the annual meeting of the American Gastroenterological Association in May 2014 in Chicago. Dr. Palmadottir won first prize in the CCMC Fellows Research competition in 2013.

**Pulmonology**

Led by Dr. Anita Bhandari, the Pediatric Pulmonary fellowship was cited as “truly outstanding in quality and oversight” by Dr. Jacqueline Nissen (Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education and the Designated Institution Official at the University of Connecticut) and was recommended as a model of excellence for other fellowships at Connecticut Children’s. The program has 2 fellows and between them they received 3 resident teaching awards, 2 for didactic teaching and one for teaching on inpatient service. Dr. MacLaughlin, the program’s current first-year fellow, presented at the American Thoracic Society meeting in May of 2013 on “Does Dose Change Bronchodilator Response?”

**Surgery**

Led by Dr. Christine Finck, the fellowship program in Pediatric General Surgery began in July 2011 and their first fellow, Dr. Kimberly Ruscher, successfully began practicing in Eugene, Oregon. She had several presentations during her fellowship and was responsible for developing congenital diaphragmatic hernia surgical guidelines. The program’s new fellow, Dr. Anthony Tsai, has a strong interest in innovation and minimally invasive surgery.

**Genetics**

Led by Dr. Joseph Tucker, the Pediatric Genetics fellowship, which was first accredited in 1997, has graduated two fellows. The most recently graduated fellow, Jennifer Gannon, completed her fellowship training in June of 2013. Future development of the program involves plans to expand to allow for a 4-year combined pediatrics and genetics training program.
## Fellowship

### Fellows

#### Endocrinology
Penelope Armada, MD  
Hector Granados, MD  
Sasi Penukonda, MD

#### Emergency Medicine
Jeffrey Chen, MD  
Henry Chicaiza, MD  
Talia Brooks, MD

#### Genetics
Jennifer Gannon, MD

#### Gastroenterology
Johanna Palmadottir, MD  
Ajay Rana, MD  
Jasmeet Mokha, MD

#### Neonatology
DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD  
Jeffrey Bartlett, DO  
Soji Varghese, MB BS  
Arvin Bundhoo, MD

#### Orthopaedic Surgery
Ali Maziad, MD

#### Pulmonary
Michael Blechner, MD  
Anne McLaughlin, MD

#### Surgery
Kim Ruscher, MD

#### Urology
Miriam Harel, MD
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<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Award Title</th>
<th>Funding Source (Primary/Secondary)</th>
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<th>Year# of # of Award Years</th>
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<td>Public Health Surveillance for the Prevention of Complications of Bleeding and Clotting Disorders</td>
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<td>A Phase I/III Open-label, Multicenter, Crossover Safety, Efficacy and Pharmacokinetic Study of Recombinant Coagulation Factor VIII (FVIII) Compared to Recombinant Human Antihaemophilic Factor VIII (fVIII; INN: octocog alfa) in Subjects with Hemophilia A, and a Repeat PK, Safety and Efficacy Study (Part 3)</td>
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<td>Building Bridges: Advancing Education by Improving Asthma Management in Inner City Children</td>
<td>Glaxo Smith Kline (National Jewish Health)</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
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<td>Using Payer Portals to Increase Easy Breathing Adoption</td>
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<td>Sedation Management in Pediatric Patients with Acute Respiratory Failure</td>
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<td>Dworkin, Paul</td>
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<td>Brighter Futures Initiative Office for Community Child Health Planning Grant</td>
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<td>Improved Understanding of the Biology and Use of TNF inhibition in Children with JIA</td>
<td>DHHS/NIH/NIAMS (Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center)</td>
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<td>Clinical Accuracy Evaluation of the CAS Model 740 Non-Invasive Blood Pressure Monitor (Intra-arterial method). Neonatal /Infant Study.</td>
<td>CASMED</td>
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<td>Emerick, Karan</td>
<td>Evaluation of Pharmacokinetics, Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of Entecavir in Pediatric Subjects with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Who are HB3AG-Positive</td>
<td>Bristol Myers Squibb</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<td>A Comparative Study of the Antiviral Efficacy and Safety of Entecavir (ETV) Versus Placebo in Pediatric Subjects with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection</td>
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<td>Colesevelam Oral Suspension as Monotherapy or Add-On to Metformin Therapy in Pediatric Subjects with Type Diabetes Mellitus</td>
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<td>Sphingosine-1-Phosphate Pathway Based Therapy for Neuroblastoma</td>
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<td>Hagstrom, Nathan</td>
<td>Identify Adults with Sickle Cell Disease &amp; Trains &amp; Assuring Linkages with a Medical Home and Support Services - 2012-2013</td>
<td>CT/DPH (Hospital for Special Care)</td>
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<td>Hussain, Naveed</td>
<td>A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-blind, Multi-Center Study to Compare the Efficacy and Safety of Micafungin Versus Amphotericin B Deoxycholate for the Treatment of Neonatal Candidiasis</td>
<td>Astella Pharma Global Development</td>
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<td>Development of the Pediatric IBD Behavioral Health Registry</td>
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<td>Predicting Response to Standard Pediatric Colitis Therapy: The PROTECT study</td>
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<td>180627</td>
<td>Hyams, Jeffrey</td>
<td>A Multicenter International Observational Study of the Long-Term Safety of Infliximab (Remicade)</td>
<td>Centocor, Inc.</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<td>Hyams, Jeffrey</td>
<td>BD Registry CO168Z02</td>
<td>Centocor, Inc.</td>
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<td>Results - UC Long Term (A Multicenter International Study of the Long-term Safety of Infliximab (REMICADE) in Ulcerative Colitis; RESULTS UC: REMICADE Safety Under Long-term Study in Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>Centocor, Inc.</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<td>Investigative Natalizumab through Further Observational Research and Monitoring Phase IV Registry</td>
<td>Elan Pharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>180756</td>
<td>Hyams, Jeffrey</td>
<td>Risk Stratification and Identification of Immunogenetic and Microbial Markers of Rapid Disease Progression in Children with Crohn's Disease</td>
<td>CCFA (Emory Univ.)</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<td>Phase 2, Open-Label, Multicenter Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Certolizumab Pegol in Children and Adolescents with Active Crohn's Disease</td>
<td>UCB, Inc.</td>
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<td>A Multidisciplinary Human Study on the Genetic, Environmental, and Microbial Interactions that Cause IBD</td>
<td>CCFC (Mt. Sinai Hospital)</td>
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<td>Quantitative mRNA Assays to Identify IBD and Anti TNF Therapy Response</td>
<td>Centocor, Inc.</td>
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<td>A Phase 1, Multicenter, Open-label Study to Determine the Safety and Pharmacokinetics of MMX Mesalamine Following Administration in Children and Adolescents With Ulcerative Colitis</td>
<td>Shire Pharmaceuticals Inc</td>
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<td>Pediatric Philadelphia Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia</td>
<td>Bristol-Myers Squibb/Children's Oncology Group (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)</td>
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<td>A Phase II Study of Sunitinib in Recurrent or Progressive Brain Tumors in Pediatric and Young Adult Patients</td>
<td>Children's Oncology Group (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)</td>
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<td>Lainwala, Shabnam</td>
<td>Inhaled Nitric Oxide for the treatment of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) in Pre-term Infants Requiring Mechanical Ventilation or Positive Pressure Support on Days 5 - 14 After Birth</td>
<td>INO Therapeutics, LLC</td>
<td>7/1/12</td>
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<td>A Phase 3, Multi-Centered, Multinational, Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo Controlled Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of MP-376 in Stable Cystic Fibrosis Patients</td>
<td>MPEX Pharmaceutical Inc</td>
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<td>A Phase 3, Open Label, Randomized Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of MP-376 Inhalation Solution (Aeroquin) Versus Tobramycin Inhalation Solution (TIS) in Stable Cystic Fibrosis Patients</td>
<td>MPEX Pharmaceuticals Inc</td>
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<td>A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Ivacaftor in Subjects with Cystic Fibrosis who have the R117H-CFTR Mutation</td>
<td>Vertex Pharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>Lapin, Craig</td>
<td>A long-term prospective observational safety study of the incidence of and risk factors for fibrosing colonopathy in US patients with cystic fibrosis treated with pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy</td>
<td>Seattle Children's Hospital</td>
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<td>A Phase 3, Two-arm, Rollover Study to Evaluate the Safety of Long-Term Ivacaftor Treatment in Subjects 6 Years of Age and Older with Cystic Fibrosis and a Non-G551D CFTR Mutation</td>
<td>Vertex Pharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>An open label study to assess the population pharmacokinetics, safety, and practicality of administering meropenem as a prolonged infusion to cystic fibrosis children admitted with an acute pulmonary exacerbation</td>
<td>Hartford Hosp</td>
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<td>Quality Improvement Program REACT (Re-education of Airway Clearance Techniques)</td>
<td>Pharmaxis, Ltd</td>
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<td>A phase 3, randomized, double blind, placebo controlled, parallel group study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of lumacaftor in combination with ivacaftor in subjects aged 12 years and older with cystic fibrosis, Homozygous for the F508del-CFTR Mutation</td>
<td>Vertex Pharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>A Point-Prevalence Study to Evaluate the Prevalence of Antibodies to Selected Porcine Viruses in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis Who Are Receiving Porcine-Derived Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy: A Harmonized Protocol Across Sponsors</td>
<td>Registrat-Mapi</td>
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<td>Short Term Outcomes of Interventions for Reproductive Dysfunction</td>
<td>DHHS/NIH/NICHHD (Univ of Oklahoma)</td>
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<td>Pilot Study to Advance Personalized Medicine: Pre-operative identification of children at risk for post-operative pain and adverse analgesic effects</td>
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<td>Maternal Influence on the Development of Allergy in Offspring</td>
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<td>Milewski, Matthew</td>
<td>Motion Analysis Assessment of Return to Play Functional Criteria after ACL Reconstruction in adolescent Athletes 2013-14</td>
<td>Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America</td>
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<td>An Open-Label, Multicenter Study of the Safety of Twice Daily Oxycodeone Hydrochloride Controlled-Release Tablets in Opioid Experienced Children from Ages 6 to 16 Years Old</td>
<td>Purdue Pharma LP</td>
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<td>A Multi-Center, Prospective, open-label, Clinical Trial to Assess the Safety and the Efficacy of a New Intravenous Immune Globulin (IGIV31 Grifols 10%) in Patients with Idiopathic (Immune) Thrombocytopenic Purpura</td>
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<td>Prospective Cohort Study of Severe Bronchiolitis and Risk of Recurrent Wheezing</td>
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<td>A phase 4, 6-week randomized, double-blind, multicenter, active-controlled trial to evaluate the effects of Celecoxib (Celebrex) or Naproxen on blood pressure in pediatric subjects with JIA.</td>
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<td>Evaluation of Web-based Management of Adolescent Pain in Youth with Sickle Cell Disease</td>
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Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children’s hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Named among the best in the nation for two of its pediatric specialties in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Children’s Hospitals” rankings, Connecticut Children’s is the only free-standing children's hospital in Connecticut that offers comprehensive, world-class health care to children. Our pediatric services are available at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford and at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, with neonatal intensive care units at Hartford Hospital and the University of Connecticut Health Center, along with a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center, five specialty care centers and 11 other locations across the state. Connecticut Children’s has a medical staff of nearly 1,100 practicing in more than 30 specialties.

*For more information, visit*

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