Pediatric News
An electronic newsletter from the Department of Pediatrics

November 2012

Division Spotlight - Pediatric Rheumatology

The Division of Pediatric Rheumatology provides Nebraska with the state’s only Board-certified pediatric rheumatologist. The Division offers evaluation and treatment for most of the estimated 2,000 children in Nebraska with rheumatological problems, as well as services for many children in South Dakota, western Iowa, and northeastern Kansas.

Care focuses on rheumatic disorders such as juvenile idiopathic arthritis, lupus, mixed connective tissue disease, scleroderma, dermatomyositis, vasculitis, morphea, uveitis, autoinflammatory fever syndromes and other rare inflammatory disorders.

The Division also seeks to educate the community on how to diagnose and treat other common general pediatric musculoskeletal disorders such as hypermobility arthralgias, and benign nocturnal pains of childhood.

Pediatric Rheumatology Faculty & Staff

Adam Reinhardt, M.D.
Assistant Professor and Division Chief

Natalie Andreasen, MSN, APRN-NP

Kareen Stanek, R.N.

Janet Edwardson
Clinic Module Scheduler

The Division of Pediatric Rheumatology is extremely pleased to announce the hiring of Natalie Andreasen MSN, APRN-NP. Over the next year Natalie will complete additional training and then join Dr. Reinhardt as a second provider. Recruitment for a second full time pediatric rheumatologist also remains a focus of the Division.

Pediatric Rheumatology Patient Care

The Division currently sees outpatients at the Children's Specialty Pediatric Center (Mon a.m., Tues, and Thurs) and once a month at Children's
Specialty Pediatric Clinic in Lincoln.

Inpatients are seen at Children's Hospital and Medical Center and UNMC. The Division also oversees many patients who receive infusions through the Infusion Center at The Children's Hospital and Medical Center.

**Pediatric Rheumatology Education Programs**

The Division has a strong presence in trainee education. Monthly rotations exist for pediatric residents and senior medical students. Junior medical students and adult rheumatology fellows rotate weekly. We also frequently welcome M1 and M2 students along with nursing and nurse practitioner trainees. In addition, regularly scheduled didactics are provided to medical students, residents, and adult rheumatology fellows as part of their core curriculum.

The Division has been recognized for its effort in resident and student education:

- 2010 Outstanding Academic Faculty Member Teaching Award - Pediatric Residency Program Education
- 2010 Faculty Clerkship Teaching Award - Medical Student Education
- 2012 Faculty Clerkship Teaching Award - Medical Student Education
- 2012 Hobart E. Wiltse, M.D., Ph.D. Excellence in Medical Education Award

**Pediatric Rheumatology Grants & Clinical Trials**

Thanks to the strong efforts of the Pediatric Research Office the Division is actively participating in several research endeavors.

- **Cost of Care of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA):** Multicenter registry trial to formally examine the direct and indirect costs incurred by patients and families during the care of children with JIA. This project hopes to combine healthcare utilization information with disease measures to determine methods to reduce economic impact while improving the outcomes of patients with JIA.
- **Effect of Simvastatin on Temporomandibular Joint Inflammation in Growing Rats:** The UNMC College of Dentistry is spearheading an exciting pilot study examining the use of intra-articular injections of statins in a rat temporomandibular joint (TMJ) arthritis model. TMJ arthritis remains a very challenging manifestation of JIA leading to significant morbidity and functional issues. This study provides evidence that statins reduce joint inflammation at least as effectively as local steroids while being potentially less damaging to the growing mandible. Manuscript is currently submitted for publication.

Industry Sponsored Trials:

- Multicenter trial evaluating the safety of VIMOVO in adolescents with juvenile idiopathic arthritis.
- Multicentered trial evaluating the effect of Celecoxib or Naproxen on blood pressure in pediatric patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

**Pediatric Rheumatology Programs**
JIA Camp Spirit
The Division participates in a yearly week-long camp sponsored by the local Arthritis Foundation. The camp takes place in late summer in conjunction with YMCA Camp Kitaki. Over the past three years with wonderful efforts of the Arthritis Foundation, this camp has grown to include patients from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Illinois, and Missouri.

Congratulations
The following individuals were awarded Cheryl Ann Lozier Memorial Research Funds:

- **Arwa Nasir, M.D.**, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- **Chris Shaffer, Pharm.D.**, Department of Pharmacy Practice
- **Jessica Snowden, M.D.**, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Dr. **Shaija Shelby**, second year GI fellow, received the Poster of Distinction Award at the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, on October 20, 2012. The poster title was "Comparative Efficacy of Maternal Skimmed Breast Milk and Alternative Low-Fat Formula in Post-Surgical Chylothorax."

Announcements
**Dwight Jones, M.D.** is a board certified surgeon who joined UNMC's Department of Otolaryngology in July 2012 as their new Chairman. Dr. Jones did his internship and residency in general surgery at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. He then completed his otolaryngology residency at UNMC. Following residency he did a pediatric fellowship at Children's Hospital Boston. Dr. Jones served on the Harvard Medical School's faculty for 24 years before moving back to Nebraska. "I'm proud to be back in the program that gave me so much in my training and career," stated Dr. Jones. As a pediatric otolaryngologist, his areas of research and clinical expertise include sinonasal disorders, cystic fibrosis and tonsillectomy complications. Dr. Jones will be seeing patients in his clinics at The Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Hospital and Medical Center.