With the August sun high in the sky many parents are preparing to send their children back to school. For medical students, they have put one month behind them already. It's an exciting time for both the third and fourth year medical students.

The junior clerkship at UNMC continues to be a well-structured and dynamic learning experience for the students. They all have two weeks of inpatient service at either Children's Hospital & Medical Center and/or The Nebraska Medical Center. The students who stay in Omaha for the entire clerkship have two weeks in a general pediatrics clinic, many of which are in private clinics which we are very grateful for their generosity. The students who have the opportunity to go to sites across Nebraska are there for four weeks. We are extremely grateful to those preceptors as well since we know students can lengthen the course of a clinic day. The students also spend time on specialty services for a week (or two), which has become extremely popular.

It is from these experiences that we have been able to consistently recruit about 10 percent of the class to go into pediatrics or medicine/pediatrics. We continue offering high quality advising meetings to the students at different times throughout the year. One of the sessions is held in March to help guide them in preparing a senior schedule. The next is held in July, which focuses on how to prepare residency application materials. These continue to be well attended and the students have stated how useful the sessions are.

The Undergraduate Medical Education program in Pediatrics has been
successful because of the incredible team I have working with me. Dr. Gary Beck was a vital link managing the programs from 1997-2013. He continues to assist with medical student activities even though he is now heading up the College of Medicine Curriculum and Education Research Office. Ms. Joy Higgins took over for Dr. Beck last year and has done an excellent job continuing the work he started.

**Pediatric Interest Group**

Medical students in the first and second year have little exposure to pediatric medicine. The Pediatric Interest Group works hard to provide students with opportunities to learn about the profession as well as participate in volunteer activities with pediatric patients.

One of the volunteer programs they have run for more than 15 years is the House Calls for Kids Program. Students volunteer to give presentations at local pre-school locations to explain what the kids can expect when they go for a Kindergarten physical. The Child Life Specialists at TNMC train the medical students on how to explain to the children in a way that is fun as well as informational.

The Buddies Program was started a few years ago with the help of a UNMC medical student. Monthly activities are arranged by the Child Life Specialists. During the visit, medical students are expected to read books, play games, do craft activities, and even accompany the patient to different procedures. This is done in a strictly supportive manner.

In addition to these activities, the students schedule monthly informational sessions. They invite faculty from the department to talk about their particular specialty area. These sessions are well attended and students appreciate hearing about pediatrics and all of the specialty areas.

**Education Staff - New Faces**

Joy Higgins has worked in the Department of Pediatrics for the Joint Division of Newborn Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center for 27 years. Prior to that she worked in the Department of Family Medicine as Undergraduate Curriculum Secretary for 5 years. Upon completion of her masters degree in counseling in 2010 she began working with Dr. Gary Beck in the education office. This gave her renewed interest in education. In October of 2012 she became Undergraduate Curriculum Coordinator for
Joy enjoys working with the medical students and feels that a large part of her job is advocating for the students making sure their pediatric clerkship rotation is not only educational but enjoyable and as stress-free as possible.

Victoria Nakibuuka-Muli is a native of Uganda who migrated to the USA in 2001. In 2008, she completed her graduate education in Public Administration (Healthcare Administration) from UNO/UNMC. Upon graduation, Victoria joined the Omaha Area Health Education Center (AHEC) as the Resource Development Manager. In 2010, she joined Metropolitan Community College as the Program Manager for Project Bridge, a program that worked with internationally trained healthcare professionals (ITHPs) seeking licensure in the USA. Victoria worked with individuals from 49 different countries over the course of three years covering professions like Medicine, Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery, Dentist and many others. The program won a Community Partner of the Year award from the United Way of the Midlands in 2011.

In May 2013, Victoria joined UNMC Department of Pediatrics as the Education Programs Coordinator. She is excited to be a part of the department and is looking forward to working across divisions, departments and other colleges within and outside the UNMC network. Victoria utilizes her skills in working with people from diverse backgrounds, networking and her work within the community as a mentor to two teenage girls and volunteer at different community agencies.

Victoria is married with two sons, ages 10 and 8, loves to read and travel and to help others.
Summer Undergraduate Research Program

The UNMC Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) provides summer opportunities for undergraduate students to become members of research teams and discover first-hand the broad spectrum of research activities occurring at UNMC. Each summer different divisions within the Department of Pediatrics sponsor SURP students. Listed below are students who participated this summer and the projects they presented at the SURP poster presentation in August.

Kent Blatchford, Freshman at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Mentor: Shahab Abdessalam
Project: The Re-Feeding Experience: A Retrospective Review

Kelly Dean, Senior at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
Mentor: Arwa Nasir
Project: The Young Infant in the Emergency Department: Characterizing the Clinical Profile of Infants 28-90 Days Old

Ben Dethlefs, Sophomore at UNL, Lincoln, NE
Mentor: Ken Azarow
Project: Does Transfer Success for Patients with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Depend on Distance?

Allison Fisher, Sophomore at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Mentor: Heather Thomas
Project: Vitamin D Transport Differences Across Placentas of AGA and SGA term infants

Laura Newton, Sophomore at St Olaf College, Northfield, MN
Mentor: Bob Cusick
Project: Stabilization of Nasoenteric Feeding Tubes Using AMT Nasal Bridle System in Pediatric Patients

Derek Opp, Junior at Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA
Mentor: Howard Hsu
Project: A Novel Report on a Patient with Trichorhinophalangeal Syndrome and Mitral Prolapse with Mitral Regurgitation

Ashley Schlaeper, Junior at Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Year in School: Junior
Mentor: Ann Anderson Berry
Project: Vitamin D Transport Differences Across Placentas of AGA and
SGA term infants

**Katelyn Sturdivant**, Senior at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Mentor: Mark Law
Project: Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) analysis for counties in the state of Ohio, supporting the Ohio Equity Institute project

**Shelby Travis**, Senior at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE
Mentor: Heather Thomas
Project: Comparing outcomes (BMI, FEV1) of children with cystic fibrosis diagnosed with and without newborn screening

**Announcements**

- The Nebraska Medical Association has re-accredited Children's Hospital & Medical Center's Continuing Medical Education program, granting 'accreditation with commendation.' This designation demonstrates their compliance not only with the 16 required criteria, but recognizes that they go above and beyond by being engaged with the community and overall hospital environment. This comes with a 4-year accreditation term! Special thanks to **James Harper, M.D.** and **Sara Olsen, M.Ed.** for their work on this.

- **Paul Larsen, M.D.** has been named Vice Chair of Education in the UNMC Department of Pediatrics.