Year of Accomplishments in Pediatrics

In the academic calendar, Summer is a time of transition. Here are some highlights:

**Education:** Last May, UNMC graduated the Class of 2016, with 12 entering pediatrics or medicine/pediatrics. This summer, we began our third year of the Honors Pediatrics program, with 17 new 4th year students participating in the program.

In June, we graduated 12 pediatric residents, 2 med/peds residents and 2 fellows. In July, our residency program increased to 13 per year, and next July we will increase to 14 residents per year. Our residency includes structured tracks in Academic Medicine, Rural Medicine, and a new Global Track. Our new residents have successfully started, and we look forward to an outstanding year. We currently have ACGME approved fellowship programs in Infectious diseases, gastroenterology, cardiology, pulmonary and hematology/oncology, and we are working on fellowship programs in several additional areas. This July, we have a record 13 fellows, in Cardiology, GI, Pulmonology and Pediatric Surgery.

**Faculty Affairs:** This year, **Dr. Peter Coccia** retired from the department, after many years of service. He will be particularly missed for his leadership in hematology/oncology, and for his dedication and commitment to faculty development. He chaired Promotions committee for the College of Medicine for 20 years. He has transitioned to Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics.

From a faculty perspective, the department has undergone significant growth over the last year. Last year, we added 17 physicians in the Department of Pediatrics. We also added 7 pediatric physicians in other departments. Recruits in pediatrics provide much needed depth in Neurology, Endocrinology, GI, Neonatology, critical care and cardiology. In the new academic year, 11 additional pediatric sub specialists will join us in summer 2016.

Last year, we promoted **Dr. Heather Thomas** to Associate Professor, promoted **Dr. Cynthia Ellis** to Professor and awarded Tenure to **Dr. Anji Yetman**. We also promoted 2 Adjunct faculty, **Dr. Kimberly Allen** to Adjunct Assistant Professor/Clinician, and **Dr. David Rowher** to Adjunct Assistant Professor/Clinician.
**Research:** The Department has been very active in research. Our Research Committee has been very busy under the leadership of **Dr. Bill Rizzo**. Our research programs have continued to grow, with external funding increasing to about $9.5 million last year, up from about $6 million 2 years ago and ~$3 million 8 years ago. Several faculty obtained significant new funding last year, including **Dr. Jessica Snowden** and **Dr. Shelby Kutty**. Our Pediatric Research Office continues to support clinical / translational research projects. Last year, the PRO touched 215 clinical research protocols, up from 7 protocols in 2007 and 155 in 2015.

Last fall, Children's announced the formation of the new Gary A. Perkins Pediatric Research Institute. The new PRI will be the organizing force in support of pediatric research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Children's and the College of Medicine are now working actively to develop the financial, administrative and operational plans for the growth and support of our pediatric research enterprise for the years to come. Stay tuned - this is an important and exciting new effort for Children's, the medical school and the department of pediatrics.

**Clinical:** Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics currently provide clinical services in general pediatrics and across a full range of 20 pediatric subspecialty areas. We will be adding another specialty in September, as we welcome **Dr. Meaghann Weaver**, who is formally trained in palliative care. Our faculty practice at Children's, Nebraska Medicine and a variety of other settings in Omaha and across Nebraska.

**Relationships:** The Department of Pediatrics maintains important relationships in its many activities. We are formally affiliated with Children's and Nebraska Medicine, our main clinical and academic partners. We have important academic relationships with the Munroe-Meyer Institute and the Cancer Center, and with the other Colleges that comprise UNMC. We also have important relationships with our friends at Creighton University, with whom we share clinical and educational programs. Finally, we greatly value our relationships with our volunteer faculty, and thank them for being part of our family and for teaching our students.

Last year we saw the transition of leadership at Children's to **Dr. Richard Azizkhan**, from **Mr. Gary Perkins**, who led Children's for many years. This academic year, we welcome **Dr. Dan DeBehnke**, the new CEO of Nebraska Medicine, and we welcome **Dr. Karoli Mirnics**, the new Director of the Munroe Meyer Institute. We look forward to working with our new leaders, towards improving the lives of children.

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**Welcome New Faculty**

Faculty who started July 1st
Additionally, Shannon Hardy, M.D. and Danita Velasco, M.D. joined the faculty and are co-chief residents. Zeljka Korade, Ph.D. started on July 15th in the Division of Inherited Metabolic Diseases.

Faculty starting August 1st include the following:

- Sarika Aggarwal, M.D.; Gastroenterology
- Alison Miller, M.D.; Critical Care
- Eric Peeples, M.D.; Neonatology
- Emille Reyes-Santiago, M.D.; Hepatology

Congratulations on Promotions

The following faculty were promoted or received tenure beginning July 1st:

- Kimberly Allen, D.O.; Adjunct Assistant Professor (Clinician)
- David Rohwer, M.D.; Adjunct Assistant Professor (Clinician)
- Heather Thomas, M.D.; Associate Professor
- Cynthia Ellis, M.D.; Professor
- Angela Yetman, M.D.; Professor with Tenure

Congratulations to all of the faculty on their accomplishments!

Resident Faculty Awards

The Pediatric Residency Program would like to honor select faculty members for their dedication to the residency program and taking the additional time to teach residents. On a monthly basis residents vote for
one community and one academic faculty member who they felt went above and beyond expectations to improve their education.

**May 2016** recipients are:

- Don Coulter, M.D.
  Academic Faculty Award
- John Vann, M.D.
  Community Faculty Award

**June 2016** recipients are:

- Chelsea Bloom Anderson, M.D.
  Academic Faculty Award
- Rachel McCann, M.D.
  Community Faculty Award

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to our program and bettering the future physicians of our community.
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