Division Spotlight: Pediatric Pulmonology

The Pediatric Pulmonology Division cares for children with a wide range of acute and chronic lung, chest wall and airway diseases and also sleep-related disorders at both Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine. The division consists of a team involving pulmonologists, mid-level practitioners, nurse specialists, respiratory therapists, nurses, nutritionists, social workers, staff assistants and sleep professionals. In addition, the division is actively involved in the teaching of medical students, residents in pediatrics and family practice, and ancillary care such as respiratory therapy and physician assistant programs. We have an active fellowship program with three fellows who are undergoing subspecialty training in Pediatric Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine.

At any one time, a portion of this team is involved with rounding on the inpatients at both hospitals and the remainder is involved in outpatient care. Clinics are held at Children's Hospital, Nebraska Medicine, Spring Ridge in Omaha and at the Children's Pediatric Clinic in Lincoln. In addition, two special clinics for cystic fibrosis patients are held annually in North Platte.

The division has a number of subspecialty care clinics that are well developed. We have run the Nebraska Cystic Fibrosis Center for well over 30 years and care for approximately 180 children with this genetic disease. The multi-specialty Center follows all aspects of the disease in children from the newborn period through to late adolescence, and we are closely involved with the transition of care to the adult cystic fibrosis team. The center also is very active in clinical research studies related to cystic fibrosis and has approximately 10 studies running concurrently. We also have a well-developed Aerodigestive Clinic, run by Dr. Heather Thomas in close collaboration with our colleagues in gastroenterology, otorhinolaryngology and the feeding specialists. In the last two years, a Pulmonary Hypertension clinic was developed by Dr. Paul Sammut in pulmonology and Dr. Scott Fletcher in cardiology in which all patients are seen concurrently by both physicians in the clinic and on the wards. The Sleep Disorders Clinic also collaborates with a sleep psychologist, Dr. Brett Kuhn for management of behavioral aspects of sleep disorders. We share office and clinic space with the division of Allergy and Immunology and hold joint conferences with them.

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Upcoming Events

- **Sept 19** | 12PM
  Pediatric Writing Group
  UNMC UT 5151

- **Sept 22** | 7AM
  Pediatric Faculty Meeting
  UNMC Private Dining Room

Resident Conferences
(Journal Club & Patient Management Conferences)
Email Twyla Moore for monthly updates at twylamoore@unmc.edu.

Grand Rounds
A complete schedule for the month is located at www.unmc.edu/Pediatrics

Contact Us
Gary Beck Dallaghan, Ph.D.
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402-559-7351

Newsletter Back Issues
Previous issues are available on the UNMC Pediatrics website (Link).
The Sleep Laboratory has developed rapidly under the care of Dr. Casey Burg and now well over 800 studies are carried out annually. Studies from other centers are also sent to our division for interpretation by Drs. Burg and Wilson. The most recent member of our physician staff is Dr. Luke Noronha who moved back from full-time intensive care duty to spend the majority of his time in pulmonology.

**Pediatric Pulmonology Research**

- **Optimize**: Phase 3 of tobramycin solution for inhalation with and without azithromycin. OPTIMIZE-IP-12. This study is taking place at multiple care centers across the U.S. It will compare the effects of treatment of tobramycin solution for inhalation with and without azithromycin. It is for people with CF who have their first isolation of Pseudomonas aeruginosa from respiratory culture.

- **IGNITE**: Safety and effectiveness of gallium nitrate in adults with cystic fibrosis. GALLIUM-IP-13. This study is taking place at multiple care centers across the U.S. It will look at the safety and effectiveness of IV gallium nitrate in adults with cystic fibrosis who are chronically infected with Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

- **Phase 4 TOBI Podhaler observational study.** Novartis CTBM1001C2407. This study is taking place at multiple care centers across the U.S. It will look at the effectiveness and long term safety of the TOBI Podhaler and other FDA-approved inhaled antipseudomonal drugs.

- **Porcine Viral Antibody Point Prevalence Study in People with CF Taking Pancreatic Enzymes.** AbbVie JSSP-12-01. This is a point prevalence study conducted entirely in the United States (US) to establish the prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis E virus (HEV) and other selected porcine viruses in people with cystic fibrosis (CF) receiving pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT) for pancreatic insufficiency compared with matched (age and region of residence) control patients unexposed to PERT.

- **Vertex-VX14-661-100.** This is a Phase 3 Open-label, Rollover Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Long-Term Treatment With VX661 in Combination With Ivacaftor. Subjects rollover from 661-107, 661-109.

- **Vertex-VX15-809-110.** This is a Phase 3, Rollover Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Long-term Treatment with Lumacaftor in Combination With Ivacaftor.

- **EPIC Observational (Years 11-15).** Longitudinal Assessment of Risk Factors For and Impact of Pseudomonas aeruginosa Acquisition and Early anti-Pseudomonas aeruginosa Treatment in Children With CF.

- **Autophagy and the ATG16L1 Gene Variant.** PI Initiated Study-Role of Autophagy and the ATG16L1 Variant in
Cystic Fibrosis Lung Disease; blood draw.

- Aerovanc.
  Placebo controlled study to assess safety and efficacy of AeroVanc in patients chronically infected with MRSA.

- CFF-OB-11
  This is a Long-Term Prospective Observational Safety Study of the Incidence of and Risk Factors for Fibrosing Colonopathy in U.S. Patients With Cystic Fibrosis Treated with Pancreatic Enzyme Replacement Therapy.

Other Highlights: UNMC Pediatric Pulmonology was chosen as a benchmarking center from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for our transition protocols.

Pediatric Pulmonology Programs

- **CF Ed Day:** Annual Education Day held at UNMC for parents and friends of CF patients cared for at our center. Speakers are brought in from around the country providing updates on CF.
- **Midwest Consortium:** 22 accredited CF Centers from the Midwest gathered August 26-27 to share best practices and hear from regional experts in the field of CF. Hosted by the Nebraska Regional CF Center.
- **Sib Day:** Day of fun and activities sponsored by CF Family Advisory Board of the Nebraska Regional CF Center. Siblings of patients with CF get together to have fun and talk about being a sibling with someone with CF.
- **CF Quarterly Education Nights:** CF Education Nights held every 3-4 months. Parents and friends of CF patients cared for at our center gather in the evening to discuss two specific topics presented by members of the CF team.
- **CF Parent Advisory Board:** CF Family Advisory Board made up of 10 parents of children cared for at our center. They meet every other month to discuss ways to improve processes of care with CF Coordinator.

Pediatric Pulmonology Faculty and Staff

**Faculty**

- Paul H. Sammut, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics
- John L. Colombo, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics
- Heather M. Thomas, M.D., Associate Professor
- Mark Wilson, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics
- Casey A. Burg, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
- Luke Noronha, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Fellows**

- Aisha Baig, M.D.
- Matthew Dennis, M.D.
- G. Gray Still, M.D.

**Mid Level Practitioners**
• Toni A. Blazek, APRN-NP
• Jamie Protaskey, APRN-NP
• Sara Capps, APRN-NP
• Amber Widstrom, PA-C

**Health Care Staff**

- Barbara Bice, Dietitian
- Kris Foley, Dietitian
- James Melson, RT, RN - Research Coordinator
- Lisa Houdesheldt, BA - Research Coordinator
- Jill Fahner, BA - Research Coordinator
- Stacy Millikan, RN
- Sue McCarville, RN
- Amie Mascarello, RN
- Ruth Johnson, RN
- Kristie Schwab, RN
- Diane Workman, RN
- Michel Veit, RT
- Heather Bohan, RT
- Pat Stevens, RT
- Winnie Dupree, RT
- Ruth Schake, RT
- Trish Chandler, RT
- Danielle Bazzle, RT
- Megan Black, RT - Sleep Lab Supervisor
- Mandy Batenhorst, Sleep Tech
- Rusty Byrd, Sleep Tech
- Sue Cortese, Sleep Tech
- Robyn Forsyth, Sleep Tech
- Cathy Graeve, Sleep Tech
- Melissa Kreikeeier, Sleep Tech
- Karol McBride, Sleep Tech
- Terri Oliver, Sleep Tech
- Morgan Pedersen, Sleep Tech
- Nya Chuar, MA
- Terrie King, MA

**UNMC Lab**

- Tim Hallberg, MS

**Social Workers**

- Laura Romero, MA
- Sara Haller, MA

**Clinical Coordinator**

- Dee Acquazzino, BA

**Administrative Staff**

- Carla M. Pospisal - Fellowship Director - UNMC
- Sarah Iwanski - Office Assistant - UNMC
- Jeannie Fields - Medical Secretary - Children's
- Patty Heaston - Secretary - Children's
- Glennette White - Sleep Coordinator - Children's
- Tina Mach - Office Supervisor - Children's
Summer Undergraduate Research Program

Each summer there are 80-100 positions available for undergraduate students in the UNMC Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP). These full-time research positions are with faculty researchers where students work with team members on an ongoing research project. Pediatrics takes part in the SURP program. This year, 11 Pediatrics faculty took on 15 students who worked on varied research projects which were then presented as posters on August 11th, 2016. Students who participated along with their project title and mentors are listed below:

- Sofia Rahamanzai. Outcomes of Early Transition from Intravenous to Oral Antimicrobial Treatment in Pediatric Osteomyelitis. Mentors: Kari Simonsen, Jessica Snowden, Charlie Treinen, Dele Davies.
- Harriet Appeah. Socioeconomic Effects on Omega-3 Fatty Acid Intake of Pregnant Women. Mentors: Corrine Hanson, Ann Anderson Berry.
- Morgan Harris. Pro-inflammatory responses to S. epidermidis CNS catheter infection are regulated by IL-10 in macrophages. Mentors: Matthew Beaver, Gwenn Skar, Kathryn Woods, Jessica Snowden.

Applications open on October 1st, 2016 for 2017 Summer program participants. Interested faculty should contact Vicky Nakibuuka-Muli at vmuli@unmc.edu. She will make sure you are on the list to receive applications for consideration.

SURP Poster Session Photos

Michael Eller presenting research he conducted with Dr. Robert Cusick.
Heather Gosnell presenting her research conducted with Dr. Eric Rush.

Brooke Zerbian presenting research she conducted with Drs. Paul Sammut and Heather Thomas.