SUNY Upstate Medical University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

SUNY Upstate Medical University designates this continuing medical education activity for 1 credit hours in Category 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. Physicians should claim only those hours of credit that they actually spent in the educational activity.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:
Planning for Children’s Hospital Moves Forward

This has been an exciting three months from the standpoint of our children’s hospital developments. As you have likely heard already, Governor Pataki’s budget message included the necessary bonding authority for the long-awaited vertical expansion of the east wing of University Hospital. With a supplemental request on top of the original amount, it now appears that Upstate Medical University is in line for about $86 million in funding for this project. The centerpiece of this project is the children’s hospital on the top two floors of this construction. Additional monies for enhancements and programmatic features will be raised philanthropically.

Shortly after the announcement of the budget message, a press conference was held at University Hospital to announce the naming of Mary Ann Shaw as chair of the Children’s Hospital Steering Committee. Upstate Medical University President Gregory Eastwood introduced Ms. Shaw, who currently serves as an associate in the office of the Chancellor of Syracuse University. In her role as chair, Ms. Shaw will have overall responsibility for coordinating the multitude of efforts which must move forward for the project to succeed. Involvement of the community in such an important undertaking is a unique development for Upstate. President Eastwood sees this as the start of a public-private partnership which symbolizes the direction of the hospital.

Ms. Shaw is uniquely qualified for this responsibility. Since arriving in Syracuse about a decade ago, she has made a name for herself as an effective and passionate advocate for children’s issues. She is, for example, a driving force behind the very successful “Success by Six” program. She was active in garnering support for a children’s hospital here several years ago, but the requisite community and institutional support was not yet in place. Before coming to Syracuse, she played a similar role in the development of a children’s hospital at the University of Wisconsin.

We all welcome Mary Ann to our team. She soon will have an office staff at University Hospital, and is already becoming a “regular” in the Department of Pediatrics. With her leadership and the enormous reservoir of support in our community, my goal of moving into the children’s hospital in 2006 should be achieved.

Thomas R. Welch, MD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pediatrics

Questions? Comments?
Contact Thomas Welch
MD, Department of Pediatrics, 315-464-5451
or weilcht@upstate.edu

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Calendar

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m., Room 6500 University Hospital, Syracuse

April 2003:

April 16
Jerry Winkelstein, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Medicine, and Pathology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. “Clinical Implications of Host Defense Against the Pneumococcus: A Story of Mice and Men”

Note: the following is a Thursday grand rounds at 8:30 a.m., Medical Alumni Auditorium, 1st Floor, Weiskotten Hall:

April 24th
A.C. and Hilda Freeman Silverman Memorial Lecture
Laurie Garrett, science writer for New York Newsday, a leading authority on communicable disease, a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and author of several books, “The Betrayal of Trust”.

This is a combined medicine/pediatric grand rounds. Please note the change in daytime and location.

Dr. Thomas Welch and Mary Ann Shaw, newly-named chair of Children’s Hospital Steering Committee.

www.upstate.edu/peds/
Pediatric Diabetes Moves to the Joslin Center

A major change in the way we provide care to children and adolescents with diabetes mellitus has been inaugurated at Upstate Medical University in April.

About seven years ago, the Joslin Diabetes Center opened at University Health Care Center (UHCC) as a project of the Department of Medicine. At the time, care of children with diabetes remained within the endocrinology clinic in the Department of Pediatrics. For several reasons, we have decided that now is the time to make this change.

First of all, the epidemiology of diabetes mellitus in children is undergoing a major shift. Type 2 diabetes, almost unheard of in children a decade or more ago, is now being recognized commonly both nationwide and here in central New York. This is a disorder with which the Joslin staff has considerable experience and expertise. In fact, the Joslin physicians are part of a major, National Institutes of Health-funded multicenter study of this disease in children.

Secondly, the Joslin Center also has access to a wide range of support services, protocols, and personnel which can all enhance the care and education of children with diabetes and their families. In fact, as they grow into adulthood, many of the diabetic children for whom we care have transitioned to the Joslin Center.

Pediatric services in the Joslin will be under the direction of Roberto Izquierdo, MD. Dr. Izquierdo, who has had a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics for the past seven years, is a board-certified pediatrician and internist, who is also board-certified in both pediatric and adult endocrinology. The practitioners, nurses, educators and other support staff from the pediatric diabetes program will move to Joslin as well, to help ensure a smooth transition for the more than 500 children with diabetes for whom we care.

Dr. Izquierdo will also be assuming the position of head of the section of endocrinology in the Department of Pediatrics and head of the section of pediatric endocrinology in the Department of Medicine’s Division of Endocrinology. Pediatric endocrinology, in our new model, will become a joint program with the Department of Medicine. When further space becomes available in the University Health Care Center in the coming year, non-diabetes endocrinology will also move into the Joslin Center. The program will be near to our large University Pediatric and Adolescent Center at UHCC, so children will be seen in a facility which is already oriented to pediatric care.

For appointments and further information toll free 866-545-KIDS (5437).

University Hospital offers Pulmonary Function On-site Testing for Children and Adolescents

While peak flow meters are often used in doctors’ offices for patients with asthma, a device called a spirometer is considered by experts to be the most advanced and proven technology to accurately determine pulmonary function.

University Hospital’s Pulmonary Function On-site Testing program (PFOST) is providing spirometry testing to children and adolescents through requesting physicians offices and community and school-based health clinics. Ran Anbar, MD, director of University Hospital’s Pediatric Pulmonary Center, serves as medical director and initiator of this community outreach health service.

According to Dr. Anbar, the PFOST program can help determine whether a young person has lung disease, document whether a patient under treatment for asthma is optimally controlled, and gauge the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions in the management of patients with asthma. PFOST Program Coordinator Jancy Mathews says that many private physicians currently use peak flow meters in their practices to detect improper lung function. However, this device only measures airflow in the large airways, and asthma is a disease primarily of the small airways. “Spirometry measures airflow in both the large and small airways and is a much better indicator of pulmonary function for a child with asthma,” said Mathews.

To test children who are suspected of pulmonary abnormalities, PFOST uses portable spirometric equipment that looks like a hand-held cylinder chamber connected to a small computer-like device. The testing can be performed in an exam, treatment or consultation room by a licensed respiratory therapist who has been trained to work with children at University Hospital’s Pediatric Pulmonary Center. The testing takes approximately 40 minutes and requires the patient to exhale into a mouthpiece. The computer-like device graphically shows pulmonary function as the child is being tested. At the request of the health provider, the respiratory therapist will review asthma signs and symptoms and medication side effects with patients and their families.

Written interpretation of the spirometric testing and recommendations by a pediatric pulmonologist are available to the physician by fax and/or mail on the business day after testing.

For more information about PFOST or to schedule a session of the program in an office or clinic, contact University Hospital’s Pediatric Pulmonary Center at 315-464-7525.

Pulitzer prize winner Laurie Garrett to present Grand Rounds April 24

Laurie Garrett, an authority on communicable diseases and the only author ever to have been awarded a Peabody, Polk (twice), and Pulitzer, will present SUNY Upstate’s A. Clement and Hilda Silverman Lecture during the combined Medicine/Pediatric Grand Rounds Thursday, April 24 at 8:30 a.m. in the Weiskotten Hall Medical Alumni Auditorium. Her presentation is titled “The Betrayal of Trust.”

Garrett has been honored with two honorary doctorates from Wesleyan Illinois University and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

She is the author of The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance and Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health. She is a medical and science writer for Newsday. She has also written about infectious diseases for many publications, including Foreign Affairs, Esquire, Vanity Fair, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and Current Issues in Public Health and has appeared frequently on national television programs.

Note: This replaces the regularly scheduled Grand Rounds on Wednesday.