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

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A Newsletter for Physicians Interested in Children’s Health

New Name, New Look, New Focus

Shortly after I began in Syracuse last summer, we initiated a newsletter for our referring physicians, The Oski. This was well received, and seemed to fill a real need in the community. We are now ready to take this concept to the next level.

This is the inaugural edition of KidStuff, a quarterly publication from the Department of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University. It is produced and distributed in collaboration with the University & Marketing Communications Department at Upstate Medical University. KidStuff will focus predominantly on educational and clinical programs which will be of interest to pediatric practitioners in our region. We also expect to introduce some new ideas in diagnosis and treatment which can be applied in the office setting.

We thank you for your interest in the Department of Pediatrics, and are always anxious to have your feedback on our programs and services. Please feel free to contact me any time I may be of help: welcht@upstate.edu.

If you know anyone else who might like to be on the mailing list for KidStuff, please contact Sherri Clarry at 315-464-5451 or clarry@upstate.edu.

Three Outstanding Visiting Professors

The Department of Pediatrics has three prestigious visiting lecturerships, all of which should be of great interest.

The Frank A. Oski Visiting Professorship was established in 1986 to honor the memory of Upstate’s most well known former chair. The mission of the Professorship is purely educational with the lecturer heavily programmed during a three-day stay with presentations to students, residents, faculty, and practitioners.

This year’s Oski Professor is William F. Balistreri, M.D., the Dorothy M. M. Kersten professor of Pediatric Gastroenterology at the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Bill, a long-time friend of Dr. Oski, is internationally known both as a pediatric gastroenterologist and as a pediatric educator. He is currently editor-in-chief of the Journal of Pediatrics, and is past-president of the American Liver Society.

Bill will be in Syracuse from September 29 to October 2. He will be presenting several talks and programs during his visit. Mark your calendars for two of these:

• Onondaga County Pediatric Society: “What’s Hot in Pediatric GI—An Editor’s Perspective,” October 1, 2002, 6:30 p.m., M arley Center, 765 Irving Ave, Syracuse

• University Hospital Pediatric Grand Rounds: “Hepatitis C—The Tip of the Iceberg.” October 2, Room 6500, University Hospital
For those of us in pediatric cardiology who have specialized in the area of cardiac catheterization, the past 20 years have been exciting. The old days of cardiac catheterization as a purely diagnostic tool (in fact the gold standard of diagnosis) are far behind us as the modern day catheterization lab has become a place where children’s congenital heart conditions are treated without the need for open heart surgery. Advanced Doppler echocardiography and MRI imaging now provide diagnosis information, and the cath lab is replete with tools used to treat the heart.

**Plugging Septal Defects**

The latest development in interventional catheterization has been our ability to close mid atrial septal defects with a “plug” called an Amplatzer Septal Occluder delivered through the femoral vein. The occluder device comes in a variety of sizes. The patient can go home the next morning and is followed for a modest period of time similar to the follow-up for surgically repaired defects. The big difference is that there is no scar and a prompt return to normal activity.

**Transvenous Closure of Lesions**

We are also able to offer transvenous closure of most persistent patent ductus arteriosus lesions in the cath lab with a small cath that is inserted across the ductus and induces thrombotic occlusion of the duct. Patients treated in this manner are those typically six months of age or older. They also can have one or more ectopic or dilated coronary arteries.

For a consultation with an Upstate pediatric cardiologist, call 877-404-3868.

**Center for Children's Kidney Disease Opens**

In the coming year, the Department plans to unveil at least four new “centers.” Each of these will address major child health issues with a requirement of multidisciplinary (often multi-departmental) approach, and in which we have a solid record of excellence. The first of these is the new Center for Children’s Kidney Disease, located on the fourth floor at University Hospital. This center brings together physicians and other providers from three departments in the medical center. All have internationally recognized, expertise in the full range of childhood urinary tract disorders.

Staff in this center handle problems ranging from major urinary tract malformations and chronic renal failure requiring dialysis or transplantation to more common disorders such as recurrent urinary tract infections, voiding dysfunction, hypertension, and glomerulonephritis. The physicians also have considerable experience in the management of metabolic bone disease and disorders of mineral metabolism, such as rickets.

The medical director is Scott Schurman, M.D., vice chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Pediatrics. Scott joined Upstate Medical University last September, coming to Syracuse from All Children’s Hospital in Tampa, Florida. He completed his pediatric nephrology fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, and is nationally known for his work in dialysis and the management of children with mineral metabolism disorders. Scott joined J im Im Liumtana, M.D., a nephrologist trained at Boston Children’s Hospital, who has been in Syracuse since 1998, and Sr Narsipur, M.D., a nephrologist with both internal medicine and pediatric board certification, who began training in 1996. Tom Welch, M.D., the chair of Pediatrics, also sees patients regularly in the center. Tom, a pediatric nephrologist, is included in Best Doctors in America, and is known for his clinical and research work in glomerulonephritis.

Kidney transplantation services are provided through the center by Upstate’s Department of Surgery. For more information on pediatric transplantation, contact Dilip Kittur, M.D., the Division’s director, completed his surgical transplantation fellowship at the University of Cincinnati in 1983 and was a transplant surgeon at Johns Hopkins University until he came to Syracuse in 1999. He joined Frank Samale, M.D., the division’s other transplantation surgeon.

The newest member of the center’s physician team is Jyoti Upadhyay, M.D., who joined Upstate M edical University’s Department of U rology this month. Jyoti completed her fellowship in pediatric urology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, one of the major North American centers for child urology. She is assistant professor in both the Department of Urology and of Pediatrics, and has already made herself known to local pediatricians as a valued consultant.

The physicians in the center are joined by an experienced team of other providers and support personnel. Sue Sheffield, P.H. is a nurse practitioner with extensive experience both in pediatric nephrology and urology. Ellen Parker, R.N. and Janis Philpot, R.N. are dialysis nurses who provide training and support services to our pediatric home dialysis program at University Dialysis Center.

With the opening of the Center for Children’s Kidney Disease, Upstate now offers an array of pediatric nephrologic, urologic, and kidney transplant services that is equal to those anywhere in New York State.

References to the center may be made by calling M.D. Direct at 866-543-KIDS.

In most cases, the initialerral would be a referral to one of the nephrologists. For a direct appointment with a transplant physician, call 315-464-8297.

Appointments with Dr. Upadhyay can be made by calling M.D. Direct at 866-543-KIDS.

...Upstate now offers... services equal to those anywhere in New York State...