

Professional Staff News

News and information for the professional staff of
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota



Professional Staff News is e-mailed monthly to the professional staff of Children's of Minnesota.

October 2007

Notes from Peter Dehnel, MD, Chief of Staff

Supporting Children's mission and vision

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) held its annual convention Sept. 19-21 in Mankato. Commuting 90 miles to and from Mankato gave me time to think about how we, as pediatric professionals, can actively support children in general and Children's specifically. I propose three ways that we can be more actively engaged in this support.

The first way is to more actively participate in medical and professional organizations. There were a total of seven pediatricians in Mankato, representing all of pediatrics to this influential organization. The MMA's annual convention is where the priorities are set for the next year, and a stronger pediatric voice would be extremely helpful. There were unfilled delegate spots for both the Hennepin and Ramsey Medical Societies this year. All it takes is for members of those societies to indicate their willingness to be a delegate and then attend the convention. In 2008, it is scheduled to be held in St. Paul. The Minnesota Chapter of the AAP and its many committees also need our active participation.

The second way is in our community. Participating, as professionals, in everything from your school system to community education opportunities to precinct caucuses are ways to raise awareness of, and support for, issues that affect children and teens. Volunteering for activities where Children's is specifically identified, such as the State Fair, is another opportunity to demonstrate your support.

Finally, as you might expect, financial support is always needed and extremely appreciated. Contributing directly to the Children's Foundation is a great way to directly support our mission. Capital campaign contributions are a way to support the new building initiative directly. Contributing to the professional staff fund is another way to support research and/or education at Children's. Attendance at activities such as the Children's Hospital Association Ball on Nov. 16 in St. Paul is yet another way to support Children's.

Giving great pediatric care is, of course, our first priority and that is what we do best. These other activities can go a long way to support the care that we give, and will help to provide the foundation for even better care in the years ahead. Thank you in advance for your support and participation!

Please contact me at (612) 813-8098 or peter.dehnel@childrensmn.org.



Delivering Next Generation Care

Notes from Phillip M. Kibort, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer

Children's named to Leapfrog's "Top Hospital List" for third straight year

I am delighted to report that Children's of Minnesota was ranked one of the top 7 U.S. children's hospitals in an annual survey of hospital quality and safety. The Leapfrog Group is a national consortium of major employers responsible for purchasing health care coverage for millions of Americans. Its annual survey focuses primarily on a variety of improvements that have been shown to make hospital care better.

This is the third year that the Leapfrog Group has listed Children's as one of the top hospitals in the nation. The results reflect directly on the skill and professionalism of our dedicated staff, along with our strategic commitment to make long-term safety and quality investments. Our patients and their families are the beneficiaries of our continuing efforts to truly deliver next generation care.

Only three organizations in Minnesota were listed as "top hospitals." They were the Mayo Clinic, Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital, and Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

This national ranking is a tribute to the work done by each and every one of you, and should be a source of pride for all of us. Thank you for your continued commitment to Children's.

We are the leaders

Recently the hematology/oncology program at Children's did their yearly quality presentation to the Board of Directors. Among the information shared in that presentation:

- Children's continues to be the market leader in the total number of patients in the region with more than 70% of the new diagnoses.
- Children's has better than average survival results in nine out of ten categories in SEER, a national database covering five-year cancer survival rates for patients diagnosed between 1996 and 2003.
- In actual-to-expected mortality in oncology patients and hematology patients, Children's is within the top three or four freestanding children's hospitals in the United States.
- Children's enrolls 172 patients and is one of the largest children's oncology group sites in the United States.
- In 2006, Children's had more than 852 admissions and more than 8,845 outpatient visits. It has 59.8 percent of the inpatient market share by discharge.

We are truly blessed to have such a great program with more than 13 physicians, 14 nurse practitioners, and a large cadre of researchers and wonderful staff.

Lean as a strategy

Many of you are aware that Children's is utilizing "Lean Manufacturing" as a strategy for improving quality and processes. The Lean process stems from the Toyota Production System and the culture that Toyota has produced in the last 60 years — helping the company rise to the position of the number one car manufacturer in the world. It is not to say that manufacturing cars and health care are the same, but there are many lessons this philosophy and culture can teach us.

Continued

There are five key Lean components that Children's will focus on for all of our improvements.

1. Relentless pursuit of waste elimination.
2. Making value flow using minimum resources. Always look at processes from the standpoint of the patient and family (or customer).
3. Removing barriers to reliability and flow.
4. Creating a culture of never-ending improvement at all organizational levels.
5. Using our minds before money.

If any of you are interested in learning more about this, please feel free to contact Chris Robison, MD, vice chief medical officer, and also the senior director in charge of implementing Lean into the organization.

New ad campaign uses storytelling to demonstrate Children's clinical excellence

Our ranking in the top seven U.S. pediatric hospitals in quality and safety by the renowned Leapfrog Group (see above) is no accident. Nor is being named to "America's Best Children's Hospitals" by *U.S. News & World Report* earlier this fall. It's a direct result of each and everyone's efforts to deliver preeminent care — focused solely on children and their families. This is what Children's is all about. This is "Delivering Next Generation Care."

Recognizing Children's as one of the nation's top providers of pediatric health care won't stop here. This fall, we'll continue to increase awareness about Children's with a number of activities, including advertising on television, in movie theatres, in print, and on the Internet, beginning Oct. 1.

The foundation for the ads is that "we all have a Children's story." And when it comes to how Children's is delivering next generation care, there's no one better to tell that story than the families we serve and the employees and physicians with whom we work closely every day.

Storytelling is a powerful way to demonstrate who and what Children's is all about. It's the compelling stories of children and their families, employees, and physicians that showcase the depth of Children's clinical expertise and family-centered care.

The ads will focus on two stories — one about Allison Feriancek, who was a patient in the cardiovascular lab under the care of Charles Baker, MD, pediatric cardiologist with Children's Heart Clinic. The other tells the story of Sue Thune, a nurse in the St. Paul NICU, whose own daughter was born prematurely in 1974.

At the end of each story, viewers are asked to visit Children's Web site to share their story. Stories will then be posted online.

Call for next generation care examples

Do you have a story to share about the cutting-edge and next generation care you're providing — in the outpatient or inpatient environment? Then I'd like to hear from you. These stories are proof for our professional staff and the public that we truly are delivering next generation care. Please contact me to let me know what you are doing in your fields, (612) 813-6165, (651) 220-6165, phil.kibort@childrensmn.org.

Awards and Accolades

Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, is currently the general editor of *Hospital Pediatrics*, the biannual publication of the AAP Section on Hospital Medicine.

Donald Brunquell, PhD, LP, presented at the conference "Severely Disabled Children and the Limitations of Treatment: The "Ashley" Controversy," in Frankfurt, Germany, in September. His presentation was titled "Growth Attenuation Treatment: Considerations for a Hospital's Systematic Response to Requests from Parents of Children with Profound Developmental Delay."

Timothy Culbert, MD, whose *Be the Boss of Your Body Kit with Pain Book*, was selected by Dr. Toy as one of the 100 Best Children's Products for 2007 and as one of the 10 Best Socially Responsible Products of 2007.

Culbert; Maura Fitzgerald, MS, RN, CNS; Marsha Finkelstein, MS; Anjanette Johnson, MEd, et al.: "The Effect of Gender and Ethnicity on Children's Attitudes and Preferences for Essential Oils: A Pilot Study." *Explore* (Vol. 3, No. 4, July/August 2007, Elsevier Inc., pps. 378-385).

Peter Dehnel, MD: "Don't Hang Up! Charging for Telephone Care." *Minnesota Physician* (Vol. 21, No. 6, Sept 2007, pps. 1, 14-17).

Stefan J. Friedrichsdorf, MD, et al.: "Management of Non-Pain Symptoms in Pediatric Palliative Care." *Medical Principles and Practice* 2007; (Vol. 16, Suppl. 1, pps. 3-9).

Friedrichsdorf, et al.: "Principles of Pediatric Pain Management during the End-of-Life Period." *Medical Principles and Practice* 2007 (Vol. 16, Suppl. 1, pps.10-15).

Laura Gandrud, MD, et al.: "The Medtronic MiniMed Gold Continuous Glucose Monitoring System: An effective Means to Discover Hypo- and Hyperglycemia in Children Under 7 Years of Age." *Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics* (Vol. 9, No. 4, 2007, pps. 307-316).

Christine Koentopp was elected to a two-year term to the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Board.

Timothy Lander, MD; James Sidman, MD, et al.: "Airway Interventions in Children with Pierre Robin Sequence." American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

Manu Madhok, MD, MPH, et al.: "Amanita Bisporigera Ingestion: Mistaken Identity, Dose-Related Toxicity, and Improvement Despite Severe Hepatotoxicity." *Pediatric Emergency Care*. (Vol. 22, No. 3, March 2006, pps. 177-180).

Stephen C. Nelson, MD, Elizabeth McDonough, et al.: "High prevalence of pulmonary hypertension in children with sickle cell disease." *Journal of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology* 2007; (Vol. 29, Issue 5 pps. 334-337).

Nancy Ott, MD: "Trends in Allergy Treatment." *Minnesota Physician* (Vol. 21, No. 6, Sept 2007, pps. 1, 10-13).

Susan Sencer, MD, et al.: "Integrative pediatric oncology." *Minnesota Physician* (Vol. 21, No. 6, Sept 2007, pps. 1, 20-22).

Upcoming Events

Pandemic Influenza in Pediatrics: Justice, Scarce Resources, and Tough Decisions

Westgate Pediatric Ethics Forum 2007

Nov. 16, 2007, Noon to 4 p.m.
Education Center,
Children's – Minneapolis

Children's Professional Staff Annual Meeting

Dec 5, 2007

Second Annual Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference

Feb. 29, 2008

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Minnesota History Center,
St. Paul.

Programs and Services

Rheumatology Program

The pediatric rheumatology program at Children's of Minnesota is staffed by two pediatric rheumatology board-certified physicians with the support of nursing, social work, child life, and infusion room services.

Mona LaPlant, MD, MS, joined the program last year from the faculty of the University of Michigan, where she also completed her pediatrics residency and rheumatology fellowship.

Joyce Warshawsky, MD, a long-time practitioner in the Twin Cities, now sees all of her patients in Children's rheumatology program.

The staff are available for inpatient or outpatient consultations at both Children's - Minneapolis and Children's - St. Paul, covering all of the rheumatic diseases including arthritis, lupus, dermatomyositis, vasculitis, spondyloarthritis, and for the evaluation of fever of unknown origin as well as chronic pain and fatigue.

LaPlant and Warshawsky are happy to take provider inquiries via phone. Rheumatology clinic appointments in either St. Paul or Minneapolis may be made by the family or the provider's office directly by calling (651) 220-6450. Inpatient consultations should be directed to (612) 813-6890 for Children's - Minneapolis or (651) 220-5862 for Children's - St. Paul.

Relocation of Minneapolis data and record services incomplete record office

Data and record services (DRS) relocated the incomplete record office at Children's – Minneapolis from the second floor, adjacent to the professional staff lounge, to the lower level in the main DRS department. This move is designed to make space on the second floor for an NICU parent lounge. The existing parent lounge is being renovated for additional patient beds.

Deb Gervais and several other DRS staff members will be available in the main DRS office, located at the end of the hallway, directly off the main elevators, to assist you with record completion. Deb may also be reached at (612) 813-6454 or via an Ascom phone at (612) 813-8362.

Thank you for your understanding and support of this departmental move.

Chief of Staff, 2007-2008

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