

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.

December 2009

Notes from Gigi Chawla, MD, Chief of Staff

Be the change!

This year, for the professional staff annual meeting and holiday party, I used Gandhi's quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," as the theme to demonstrate the many changes that Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota and the Children's health care community have undergone in 2009.

We've seen buildings grow out of the ground, departments created, and clinics and entire wards move to new spaces. It has been equally exciting to see new programs developed in the last year:

- CPOE
- pediatric acute behavioral health committee
- neurocutaneous syndromes clinic
- sports medicine clinic
- fetal surgery
- hemophilia/thrombosis center
- cardiac ICU
- vascular anomalies clinic
- pediatric gynecology
- infusion center
- single peer review
- velocardiocardiac clinic
- fetal echocardiography clinic
- hospitalist program
- the beginnings of a trauma program

It has also been amazing to see the new care innovations to improve quality health care:

- Wayzata Children's Clinic initiating an obesity management program
- HealthEast clinics opening walk-in acute pediatric care
- Pediatric Surgical Associates providing minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery
- Central Pediatrics/Priority Pediatrics with extended hour walk-in acute care, as well as evening and weekend care
- Pediatric and Young Adult Medicine/I.EM.PHIT offering an exercise medicine clinic for children with obesity and chronic health conditions
- Metropolitan Pediatric Specialists with extended hours over lunchtime and evenings
- Allina Med/Peds hospitalists offering coordinated care for pediatric patients transitioning to adulthood
- Partners in Pediatrics using electronic prescribing, improving medical home in their practice, and streamlining access to behavioral health services
- Aspen adopting Epic electronic health record



Delivering Next Generation Care

- South Lake Pediatrics creating an asthma registry, studying newborn readmission rates, and developing a safety committee
- Children's leading the state in health care home, offering coordinated diabetes care, MCRC teaching others through telemedicine, and pain and palliative care educating all providers on pain management

Congratulations to all of you for advancing pediatric care in 2009.

2009 Children's annual awards

Board Quality Awards

- 1) **Patrick Carolan**, MD, for contributions in Education. In a collaborative project with the MDH, Dr. Carolan has offered education to students, providers, families, and newborn caregivers in the prevention of SIDS for 20 years.
- 2) **Adrienne Thornton**, RN, for contributions in Quality. Ms. Thornton, Dr. Kurachek, and two nurses: Ms. Melanie Kuelbs and Ms. Bridget Sturtevant, have created a new culture and standard in the care of central venous lines to prevent bloodstream infections.
- 3) **Rod Tarrago**, MD, for contributions in Care Innovation. Dr. Tarrago has spent two years organizing and implementing CPOE safely for Children's.
- 4) **Nancy Mendelsohn**, MD, and **Yoav Messinger**, MD, for contributions in Science. Drs. Mendelsohn and Messinger have successfully offered immunosuppressive treatment for patients with Pompe disease who make antibodies against standard therapy.

Blanton Bessinger Child Advocacy and Policy Award

Mary Braddock, MD, has contributed to educating legislators, representatives, and senators both at the state and federal level about the unique concerns of children's health and the concerns of Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota.

Clinician of the Year 2009 Award

Voted by the professional staff, **Dick Patterson**, MD, radiologist/neuroradiologist, works to help other clinicians solve medical problems. His efforts and the manner in which he conducts himself are exemplary.

Mitch Einzig Teachers of the Year 2009 Award

Voted by residents and students, **Mani Mokalla**, MD, (Minneapolis campus) and **Jim McCord**, MD, (St. Paul campus) are devoted teachers and mentors.

H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccination

H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccination is required for all professional staff. They will be offered as supplies and availability allow. Please do not forget to self report your vaccine status online. Call Margo Dempsey at (612) 813-6123 if you are having difficulties reporting your status.

Beginning in mid-December, wearing a mask will be required for those professional staff members who remain un-vaccinated against H1N1 and seasonal influenza and who work in patient care areas.

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

Director of safety and medical director for quality and quality outcomes announcement

I am very pleased to announce that after a national search to find a replacement for our past director of patient safety, Glenn Billman, MD, we have found two excellent internal candidates to provide leadership in patient safety and quality. We firmly believe that these two candidates combine the best skills, attributes, and attitudes to lead Children's in the next decade in a market that is requiring new and different levels of expectations in the fields of safety and quality.

The new director of patient safety is **Tamara Johnson**. Tamara will take on this role in addition to her directorship of risk management. As the senior director of patient safety, her primary responsibility will be to continue to move Children's toward our goal of becoming a high-reliability organization. Tamara will oversee Children's safety learning reports, assume responsibility for focused event reviews, collaborate on FMEAs, monitor any adverse health events, and oversee implementation and accomplishment of all goals set by the National Patient Safety Forum, AHRQ, and those required by the state.

Tamara joined Children's five years ago and in that time has built a highly respected risk-management program. Tamara's experience before joining Children's included more 18 years of consulting experience in risk management and patient safety with health care clients around the country. Since joining Children's, Tamara has demonstrated a strong commitment and passion to patient safety in all areas. We believe Tamara will continue to lead us in the journey we started ten years ago to make Children's one of the safest hospitals in the nation. In her role as director of patient safety she will report directly to me. In her role as director of risk management she will continue reporting to general counsel, Maria Christu.

Nathaniel (Rob) Payne, MD, is our new medical director for quality and quality outcomes. In this role, Rob will have the responsibility and accountability for helping Children's attain top-decile outcomes in our cornerstone and other clinical programs. He will partner with chief nursing officer Ginger Malone, MSN, RN, and Mari Akre, RN, PhD, for outcomes work in nursing.

We believe that changes occurring in health care now, both at the government and payer level require that we prove our outcomes. This will also be the focus within health care reform. Rob has great experience in delivering as well as understanding outcomes work and measurements as manifested by his VON database studies in the NICU. He recently completed an NIH-sponsored one-year fellowship at Michigan State University in perinatal epidemiology. Rob's focus is measuring and improving quality of health care. His commitment to improving his own knowledge is quite impressive. He is a well-respected clinician and has years of experience in dealing with clinical data and national databases.

Tamara and Rob will work in our quality and safety department alongside Tracey Miller, our director of accreditation and quality improvement. Please congratulate Tamara and Rob and give them your best wishes. Together I believe we are ready to move on to the next level of great clinical care.

Children's mock survey findings

As an important component of our ongoing readiness program, Children's periodically invites surveyor consultants to review our care practices. We held an unannounced mock survey on Oct. 8 and 9. The surveyor team expressed many positive remarks from their tracer experiences and discussions with staff and leadership. They complimented our professional staff, noting the delivery of safe, quality care with complex patients, and evident demonstration of family-centered partnership. At the same time, recognizing our commitment to continuous improvement, surveyors identified several areas of opportunity. The following deficiencies related to the professional staff were cited:

- Date, time, and authentication of all manual entries in the medical record
- Documentation of post anesthesia assessments
- Consistent hand hygiene practice and proper use of personal protective equipment
- Clear and complete medication orders for administration of prn medications with same indication for use (e.g., Tylenol and Ibuprofen for mild pain)

Your ongoing assistance to correct and sustain improvements is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to be in full compliance with all Joint Commission and CMS standards at all times. Our expectation is that we will identify any problems before the Joint Commission does, as part of our commitment to provide the best possible care for our children and families.

Interim ED directorship

Robert Sicoli, MD, and David Hirschman, MD, have been appointed as interim co-directors of pediatric emergency services at Children's. They will jointly direct the activities of the emergency departments in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Woodbury. Dr. Sicoli has been the lead physician for the pediatric emergency group at Woodwinds, and Dr. Hirschman is the director of trauma services for Children's. Given Drs Sicoli's and Hirschman's combined experience and expertise, Children's looks forward to strong leadership as the department moves into the new facility in Minneapolis and the remodeled area in St. Paul. Meanwhile, Children's will continue the search for a director to lead the department of emergency services to even stronger clinical capabilities and research efforts in the future.

Physician alignment

For the past two years, we have discussed improving physician alignment at Children's. The board of directors has approved this as part of our growth strategy of continuing to be the market leader. In general, physician alignment is broken down into four areas. We will:

- A. first focus on primary care followed by specialty relationships,
- B. expand beyond the option of what the CPN (as an IPA) offers to the community,
- C. our direct relationships will be focused in on 1) EMRs 2) professional service agreements and 3) possibly acquisitions, and
- D. Children's will move toward a separate ambulatory division for the organization. Our EMR choice is eClinicalWorks (eCW) for the ambulatory world, where we can help cover 85 percent of the implementation and licensing costs for groups who have not already obtained an EMR.

Latest "Reflections on Patient Safety"

The importance of the patient-safety principle commonly known as "situational awareness" is the subject of "**Stroke,**" the latest "Reflections on Patient Safety." Please review the most recent installment of this important patient-safety tool that is designed to help close the loop on lessons learned from Focused Event Reviews.

Programs and Services

Children's Skin integrity/ Wound Ostomy Continence (WOCN) consultation resource

Sandra Oehlke, RN, CNP, CWOCN, is a pediatric nurse practitioner who joined Children's in 2008 as part of Children's Skin Integrity Initiative. The multi-disciplinary initiative is aimed at assuring consistent and high-quality attention is given to pediatric skin-care issues, including mitigation of risk for hospital acquired pressure ulcers, management of pediatric ostomies, and select wound-care management.

Assessment and maintenance of skin integrity and prevention of pressure ulcers has not frequently been recognized as a pediatric issue. However, Children's evidence-based skin initiative research confirmed that pediatric patients are indeed at risk for pressure ulcer development. Pressure ulcers can lead to permanent damage, systemic infection, scarring, alopecia, pain, prolonged hospitalization, and added medical expenses.

The addition in 2008 of pressure ulcers as one of the 27 Minnesota "never events" and heightened clinical awareness of some signal cases led Children's clinical executive leadership to determine that it was essential to provide a more robust internally based program for overall skin integrity. This decision necessitated the pursuit of a well qualified advanced practice prepared nurse.

Because prevention of pressure ulcers is much easier than treating them, one of the goals of Children's Skin Integrity Initiative is to raise clinical staff awareness about evidence based risk factors and preventative measures.

Sandra is a first-call skin-integrity/WOCN resource

Sandra is an active member of the Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Society and the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society. She carries a nursing dermatology certification, a clinical research certification, and case management certification. She received her certification training in wound, ostomy, and continence nursing care from MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston.

Each day after reviewing the Patient at Risk for Harm (PARFH) report and Cerner consult list Sandra meets with the clinical staff (RNs and RCPs) and families of those patients at greatest risk. At any given time roughly 10 percent of patients on the PARFH report are identified as at risk for skin integrity concerns. She works with Children's professional staff members to help them identify interventions to support skin integrity and prevent pressure ulcers. She also treats wounds, including wound vacs, and minor skin irritations, such as diaper dermatitis or incontinence associated dermatitis and provides ostomy management services.

Consult requests ordered via PowerKids ordering will send the consult request to Sandra for Skin/wound/ostomy consultation and management. If you have questions or to set up a consultation please page Sandra at (612) 740-1860.

A quick look: The General Pediatric Clinic at Children's - Minneapolis

The General Pediatric Clinic at Children's - Minneapolis provides primary care as well as complex care for almost 12,000 unique patients and has more than 32,000 clinic visits each year. Approximately 30 percent of the patients are non-English speaking and require the use of interpreters. The clinic has been involved with the State Medical Home project and continues to find new ways to implement Medical Home initiatives for all its patients. The clinic also cares for a large number (approximately 400-500) of extremely complex patients, many of whom are also cared for by multiple other specialists. For more information, please contact Sheldon Berkowitz, MD, medical director, pediatric clinic, at (612) 813-6107.

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Topics in Pediatric Emergency Medicine Perspectives in Pediatric Trauma Management

Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Minnesota History Center
St. Paul, Minn.

Spring Pediatric Update School failure: The role of primary care in promoting academic success

Thursday, May 13, 2010

John Nasseff Medical Center
255 North Smith Avenue
On the Children's - St. Paul campus

Information about these conferences and other upcoming events will be posted on Children's Web site, www.childrensmn.org.

Awards and Accolades

Laurel Edinburgh, PNP, was awarded \$60,000 from the Minnesota Juvenile Advisory Committee for a Title II grant for the Runaway Intervention Program (RIP). RIP provides direct services to primarily minority status offenders and their families, intervening early in the cycle of runaway, truancy, and sexual exploitation. The overarching goals of RIP are to build resiliency, improve protective factors, increase family/school connectedness, reduce future risk, reduce contact with law enforcement, and instill a positive development trajectory among runaway girls who have been or are being sexually abused/exploited.

Tamara Pozos, MD, et al. "Tuberculous Granuloma Induction via Interaction of a Bacterial Secreted Protein with Host Epithelium," published online Dec. 10, 2009 *Science* DOI: 10.1126/science.1179663.

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