Overview

The Division continues to provide subspecialty care in allergy, immunology and infectious diseases for neonates, children, and adolescents in the greater Central New Jersey area. Meeting all aspects of the mission of the school, the Division also conducts clinical research activities, community outreach, and undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education programs. The Division is comprised of 29 full and part time members, including 6 full time faculty, 5 voluntary faculty, 3 part time faculty, and 15 staff members. We provide specialty care in infectious disease, allergy and immunology for pediatric inpatients and outpatients at RWJUH, SPUH and JSUMC.

Faculty and Staff

The faculty members include: Aswine Bal, MD, MPH, Sunanda Gaur, MD, Director, RWJ AIDS Program (RWJAP), Helen Skolnick, MD, Clement Maccia, MD, Amisha Malhotra, MD, Roseann Marone, RN, BSN, MPH, Robert Morgan, MD, Mary Jones, RN, Eleanor Peterson, MSW, LCSW, Stanley R. Lane, MD, Andrew Pedinoff, MD, Sudhir Parikh, MD, Michael Fragoso, MD, Luis Acevedo, BSW, Debra Subers, RNC, BSN, Lisa Cerracchio, RNC, BSN, MPH, Program Coordinator RWJAP, Robert Morgan, MD, MPH, and Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD, Division Chief. Drs. Gaur, Malhotra and Whitley-Williams provide specialty care in infectious disease and immunology at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and St. Peter’s University Hospital. Dr. Bal provides pediatric HIV specialty care and pediatric infectious disease consultations at JSUMC. Dr. Maccia provides allergy specialty care in the Division’s weekly Allergy Clinic in Suite I at RWJMS. He also teaches medical students and Internal Medicine and Pediatric residents at RWJMS. Dr. Helen Skolnick provides outpatient specialty care in food allergy in the Clinical Academic Building at RWJMS. She also provides inpatient peanut allergy testing. Dr. Morgan participates in the teaching of medical students and residents at RWJMS and the School of Public Health. His primary responsibilities are nested in the state’s Immunization Program conducted by NJDOHSS.

Our outstanding administrative and support staff, who make up the backbone of our operations and programs include: Margaretanne Murray, BS, Management Assistant, Lorraine Nowicki, Secretary, Regina Moser, Data Manager for RWJAP, and Carol Rayside, Secretary/Clerk.

The Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP), which makes up a significant component of the Division, has been in existence for over 16 years. In addition to the faculty members, our excellent RWJAP team is comprised of: Luis Acevedo, BSW (Social Worker), Gail Burack, PhD (Educational Psychologist), Lisa Cerracchio, RNC, BSN (Study Coordinator) Julie Caruso, APN, (Nurse Practitioner) Blanca Jackson, RN (Nurse Educator), Mary Jones, RN (Nurse Case Manager), Eleanor Peterson, MSW, LCSW (Social Services Coordinator), Amanda Rubio, BS (Network Community Liaison), Debra Subers, RNC, BSN (Nurse Case Manager) and Luz Mercedes Tapia, BSW (Family Health Social Worker).

The Division continues to provide both inpatient and outpatient consultative services in infectious disease to infants, children and adolescents in Central New Jersey. The Division also provides expert consultation to hospitals, clinics, private practices, health professional organizations, and legislators for the purposes of development of policies and
issues of infection control. The Division has played a major role in developing and implementing a perinatal program for HIV infected pregnant women at RWJUH. The Division continues to play a leadership role in setting forth guidelines for the management of specific infectious diseases, such as HIV infection, RSV infection, botulism, hepatitis C infection, Lyme disease, and tuberculosis.

The Division’s faculty and staff continue to provide education for health care professionals and the general public on a local, state and national level, as well as hold memberships on various committees at all levels whose deliberations have an impact on local, statewide and national healthcare policies. The faculty and staff continue to serve as ardent advocates for HIV-infected children, women and their families. The Division continues to take a leading role in developing state and national policies in the areas of HIV/AIDS, child abuse, immunizations and other maternal and child health issues.

The Division educates the public by giving presentations to community based organizations, school children, and conducting educational programs for patients and families in the Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program. The faculty also conduct television, print and radio interviews on important and timely infectious disease topics, such as varicella, influenza, and immunizations. The Division conducts professional education by giving grand rounds and case report presentations at RWJUH, SPUH, Somerset Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, St. Barnabas Medical Center, and JSUMC. The Division members participate on national and state committees, which set policy, and coordinate HIV specialty care within the state as well as set national guidelines for the management of HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants to reduce perinatal HIV transmission.

Division research activities and coordinated services are currently supported by federal and private funds totaling approximately $1,000,000. Research activities include HIV/AIDS clinical trials involving children, and adolescents. Now both women and children have access to state-of-the-art clinical trials as well as to comprehensive multidisciplinary care, including prenatal, perinatal, postnatal, neonatal and pediatric HIV specialty care services. The Division continues to make a significant contribution in disseminating information about HIV infection in children and women nationwide. Division members are actively involved in outreach and community service activities as well.

Clinical Programs

**Outpatient**

Clinics are held during 4 half-day sessions per week at RWJUH in Suite I of the Ambulatory Care Building. Dr. Maccia provides coverage for one half-day session in Allergy/Immunology (there were 203 outpatient consultations). The other 3 half-day sessions include patient services for comprehensive HIV care as well as infectious disease and immunology consultations provided by Drs. Gaur, Malhotra, Whitley-Williams and Ms. Julie Caruso. There were 1,465 outpatient visits. Dr. Bal provides outpatient consultations at JSUMC where there were 600 outpatient consultations of which 250 were HIV and 350 non-HIV. Dr. Helen Skolnick provides coverage for one half-day session in Allergy at the Clinical Academic Building (there were 55 outpatient consultations).

**Inpatient**

The Division faculty members admit their patients to and conduct infectious disease, allergic and immunologic consultations at RWJUH, SPUH and JSUMC. There were 2,079 inpatient visits at RWJUH and SPUH. The Division terminated its medical staff privileges at SPUH and therefore no consults were performed after 2/04. At JSUMC, Dr. Bal had 650 inpatient visits, including 12 short stay admissions for IVIG.

**Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP)**

RWJAP is one of seven sites in the Statewide New Jersey Family Centered HIV Care Network. The program is supported by HRSA’s Ryan White Care Act Titles I and IV, NJ’s Division of Youth and Family Services, and The Foundation of Treatment of Children with AIDS, totaling about $1 million as well as private donations. For the year, RWJAP has served 350 individuals, which includes the case index patient of HIV exposed infants, HIV infected children and youth, and HIV infected women both pregnant and non-pregnant and their family members. RWJAP utilizes a multidisciplinary care team model approach, which includes physicians, nurses and social workers. RWJAP’s patient population includes: 59 HIV infected females ages 2-24 years of age, 36 HIV infected males ages 2-24 years old and 81 HIV infected adults ages 26-64 years old. Each patient/family has a care team that consists of a physician, nurse case manager, and a social worker or a Family Nurse Practitioner and social worker. The care team model provides a comprehensive approach for the patient.

Luz Tapia, BSW, provided on-site social work case management services at the Mercer Area Early Intervention Services Program (MAEISP). MAEISP is a Ryan White Title III program that provides care and
treatment to HIV infected adults. Our efforts included providing intensive case management to HIV infected women both pregnant and non-pregnant. Julie Caruso, our nurse practitioner, facilitated a clinic in Trenton providing on-site care once a month to HIV exposed infants living in Trenton.

Since 2002, RWJAP has partnered with the Perth Amboy based Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) to conduct a program funded by Title IV Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI). JRF administers the School Based Youth Program at Perth Amboy High School where RWJAP’S Nurse Educator, Blanca Jackson provided risk reduction education to the students. The main purpose of the project was to provide HIV testing and case find HIV positive. RWJAP’S Social Work Coordinator provided HIV counseling and testing to the minors. There were 288 youth tested during the year and to date none were identified HIV positive.

RWJAP established its perinatal collaborative team, which includes faculty and nursing from the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division and the Regional Perinatal Center team. RWJAP has provided medical and case management services to HIV positive pregnant women identified at the High Risk OB clinic and the Maternal-Fetal Medicine practice. Pre-delivery support is provided to ensure that the perinatal HIV guidelines are adhered. The entire team meets monthly to review the medical-obstetrical and HIV status of the patients as well as their psychosocial status. The team approach provides a seamless continuum of care for the pregnant woman and her infant.

Mental health services for the HIV population has become a growing need as the perinatally HIV infected youth live longer. RWJAP’s mental health team of Eleanor Peterson, MSW, LCSW, and Gail Burack, PhD, facilitated three psychotherapeutic support groups. The groups consist of three age groups – pre-teen ages 10-12, teen ages 13-18, and transition group ages 18 and above. Each of the groups has a specially designed curriculum to address the specific HIV disease needs as well as a cadre of psychosocial skills. The groups reduce isolation for the clients as well as provide a forum to address life skills that are needed for HIV positive youth. Eleanor Peterson participated in Title IV Network’s special project for transitioning youth. Three youth sensitive workshops were facilitated to address the new and emerging needs of older HIV infected youth. Additionally, the project was presented at the Ryan White All-Titles Conference entitled “Comprehensive Life Skills Trainings for HIV+ Adolescents Transitioning into Adult Services”.

Gail Burack, PhD, coordinates the Adherence Support Program (ASP) program for clients that are having difficulty with their medication regime. The ASP has a special protocol with an evaluation component and behavior modification strategies to improve adherence. Until 12/03 the program was specially funded by the Foundation for Treatment of Children with AIDS (FTCA).

**Medical Education/Curriculum**

*Undergraduate medical education*

The Division faculty members give lectures and serve as group facilitators for case discussions in the Infectious Diseases Course for second-year medical students, as well as give lectures to the third and fourth year students on the Pediatric Clerkship rotation. The faculty teach medical students on the third and fourth year inpatient rotations at RWJUH, JSUMC, and SPUH about patients with infectious diseases, allergic and immunologic disorders. Third-year students rotate through one Infectious Disease clinic each week. Our faculty serve as OSCE examiners for third-year medical students on the pediatric rotation. The fourth-year students rotating through the pediatric ID/Allergy/Immunology elective participate in the inpatient and outpatient clinical services. Dr. Bal is Director of Pediatric Student Education at JSUMC where 3 to 4 RWJMS MS-III students rotate every 8 weeks. The faculty also serve as preceptors for third year students on the Pediatric Clerkship, as well as in the summer Clinical Internships Program.

RWJAP is a rotation site for the third year Family Medicine Clerkship. Roseann Marone provides the students with clinical information on HIV/AIDS and the process of multidisciplinary teams. Each of the medical students works on an HIV clinically related project. RWJAP participates in the Department of Family Medicine Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Summer Assistantship program for health care students. The COPC student, Christine Brown, MSW candidate developed a compendium teaching unit for transitioning youth which was distributed statewide. RWJAP is a community site for the first year HIPHOP students facilitated by Blanca Jackson. The HIPHOP students attend clinic sessions for observation of the client and families.

*Graduate medical education*

Formal resident teaching consists of 20 resident noon lectures on ID/Allergy/Immunology at RWJUH, and as OSCE examiners for the Pediatric residents. Faculty members serve as pediatric resident advisors. About 10 residents per year take our 4-week elective in ID/Allergy/Immunology which provides an inpatient and outpatient experience. The faculty also give 6 lectures per
year to the Neonatology fellows as a part of their fellowship curriculum. The Division offers a one-month elective for visiting fellows from the Division of Adult Infectious Disease. We interact with the infectious disease division in the department of medicine through monthly Regional Infectious Disease Rounds at RWJMS, weekly ID Journal Clubs, monthly Microbiology Laboratory Rounds, and the Infection Control Committee.

Dr. Morgan is Course Director of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology course at the School of Public Health.

Professional, public and community-based education

Faculty and staff participated in many CME activities such as the NJ Family Centered HIV Care Network/Title IV Case Study Days, held at RWJMS on 10/03 and 4/04, which was attended by 100 health care professionals and administrators. Our faculty and staff continue to present at grand rounds and CME conferences at Somerset Medical Center, JFK Medical Center, Muhlenberg Hospital, SPUH, St. Barnabas Medical Center, Raritan Bay Medical Center, Trinitas Medical Center, Capital Health System-Mercer in Trenton, and the AIDS Education and Training Center/UMDNS-JNJMS.

RWJAP’s contract with DYFS includes that RWJAP staff provide education to DYFS workers and foster parents which enhances the follow-up of the DYFS supervised children. Debbie Subers, RNC, BSN and Luis Acevedo, BSW provided training to the contracted district offices. This year Debbie Subers provided training at two DFYS sponsored residential facilities. At one facility, RWJAP collaborated with the RWJMS Counseling and Testing Site and included counseling and testing of the residents. Eleanor Peterson and Blanca Jackson provided training to special adolescent foster parents and their foster children.

Dr. Sunanda Gaur participated in the Maternal to Child Transmission Educational Training for medical providers in South Africa and India providing education about HIV perinatal transmission, care and treatment of HIV infected women and HIV exposed and infected children.

Research

Division research activities include pediatric HIV related clinical studies. RWJAP is a satellite of the FXB Center (UMDNS-JNJMS) for Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (PACTG) funded by NIH/DAIDS (Dr. Gaur, PI). For the year, RWJAP has participated in several research studies for HIV infected children. There are 19 patients enrolled in active clinical trials.

Gail Burack, PhD, psychologist in RWJAP, is the Principal Investigator for a research protocol titled “Cognitive and Behavioral Problems in HIV Infected Children and Adolescents”. A parent survey is scored to evaluate psychosocial problems such as anxiety and depression.

RWJAP collaborated with the Rutgers University HIV Prevention Community Support and Development Initiative entitled “Living Positively” which looked at the perceptions of Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program clients regarding the development of an HIV prevention for positives program (PFP). The Title IV HIV Family-Centered Care Network sponsored several research efforts including a Patient Satisfaction Survey, a Continuous Quality Improvement, and Needs Assessment during the year. RWJAP also participated in a Needs Assessment with the Ryan White Title I Tri-County EMA for patients living in Middlesex, Hunterdon and Somerset counties.

RWJAP collaborated with the Institute for the Study of Child Development for a research project titled “Psychoneuroimmunology and Cognitive Functioning of Pediatric HIV.”

One medical student, funded by IDSA, and supervised by Dr. Whitley-Williams conducted a retrospective study of infants hospitalized for RSV infections. One undergraduate student conducted a research trial on HIV outcomes in children under the guidance of Dr. Gaur. Three pediatric residents conducted research under Dr. Bal’s guidance. Dr. Whitley-Williams was preceptor for Dr. Eberechi Nwaobasi’s research project entitled “The Yield of Positive Blood Cultures in Febrile Neutropenic Patients after an Initial Negative Blood Culture”. Dr. Malhotra also served as preceptor for the summer clinical internship program at RWJMS.

Other investigator driven research efforts included
Evaluation of HIV Disease outcomes in the Post-HAART Period Among HIV Infected Children
Once Daily Gentamicin use in children
Bell’s Palsy and Lyme Disease in Children
Catheter-related Infections
UTI and Resistance Patterns
Antibiotic Use in Children with Fever and Neutropenia
Pneumococcal Surveillance in Urban Clinic Project
Travel Medicine Project
Breast Milk Study in HIV Infection
Emergence of non-type b influenzae invasive infection in children
Community Acquired MRSA
Lipid Profile/OTT in HIV infected children
Longitudinal Study of Perinatal HCV Infection
Outreach Activities

Luis Acevedo, BSW
DYFS In-service and Update to Health Care Professionals, New Brunswick, NJ – 6/04

Aswine Bal, MD
Grand Rounds – JSUMC - Infection in children with Immunodeficiency – 9/03
Grand Rounds – JSUMC – CMV Infection in HIV Infected Children – 6/04

Gail Burack, PhD
Presentation, Integrating Adolescent Development into HIV – Atlantic City, NJ - 7/03

Sunanda Gaur, MD
Vaccines 2003 – Family Medicine Grand Rounds, St. Peter’s Medical Center – 7/03
Pediatric HIV Update: Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, India - 3/04
Care of the HIV Exposed Infant: FXB Center, Vishakhapatnam, India – 3/04
Hepatitis and HIV, a Rehab Perspective: Clinical Rounds, Children’s Specialized Hospital – 5/04
New Jersey Family Centered HIV Care Network – An Overview: New Jersey All Titles Conference, Princeton, New Jersey – 11/04
New Jersey Statewide Family Centered Care HIV Network (Title IV) – Case Study Days – Organizer and Moderator:
  • Unique Challenges in Working with HIV Infected Youth–10/03
  • A Family Centered Approach to Reducing HIV/STD Transmission in Infants, Adolescents, and Women–4/04

Clement A. Maccia, MD
Lectures to PTA Committees – Allergy and Asthma Lecture - Support Group for parents of children with Allergy and Asthma

Amisha Malhotra, MD
Speaker for Student Chapter of American Women’s Medical Association, 1st Annual Conference, 3/04
Speaker for RWJMS International Health Group: AIDS and Africa, Piscataway, 4/4
Speaker for Young Physicians Group for AAPI: “AIDS in India”, 5/04
Infectious Disease Medical Consultant for South Asian Radio Talk Show, 10/03

Roseann Marone, RN, BSN, MPH
Presentation to HealthCare Professionals – “Care of the HIV Exposed Infant” – 8/03

Noon Conference – Pediatric Residents – “HIV 101 Part I” - 8/04
Noon Conference – Pediatric Residents – “HIV 101 Part II” - 9/04
Hip – HOP presentation - 3rd year medical students – Suite I - 9/04
Presentation - 3rd year medical students – HIV Patients and Confidentiality – 2/04
Presentation – Perinatal HIV Guidelines – Title IV Network Education Day – 3/03
Presentation – “Overview of RWJAP/Care and Treatment” – Princeton University Students –3/04
In-service about HIV – Princeton University Students – Suite I - 3/04
Staff Training for Rainbow House – Trenton, NJ – 5/04
DYFS Contract Leadership Forum –Ongoing collaboration between DYFS and RWJAP to enhance HIV infected children’s medical and psychosocial needs; establish priorities for new service needs; to provide ongoing education to DYFS district offices

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD
5th Annual Pediatric Health and Safety Fair, Piscataway, staffed a booth on infectious diseases and immunizations, 5/04
RWJUH Women’s Wellness & Healthcare Connection, workshop speaker, health promotion activity for area high school seniors, 3/04
Kean College, Biology Majors Club, Elizabeth, NJ, “Bioterrorism”, 11/03
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. International Day of Service, community health promotion program focusing on AIDS prevention program in Plainfield, NJ, 3/04

Blanca Jackson, RN
HIV 101 Education -Youth Consultation Services at New Brunswick – 7/03
HIV Training for Foster Parents – Suite I – 9/03
HIV 101 presentation – adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy – 10/03
Presentation, STD – Know the Facts – adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy – 10/03
Interactive Conference -Stress Bingo for Teens – adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy – 10/03
Interactive Conference -STD – adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy – 2/04
Interactive Conference with support group, Playing for your Life, JRF Foundation, Perth Amboy – 2/04
Interactive Conference, Playing for your Life, with teens and adolescents at JRF, Perth Amboy – 3/04
Interactive Conference HIV/STD/Sex Education – adolescents at JRF, Perth Amboy – 3/04
Presentation, HIV 101 – DYFS Foster Parents – Freehold – 4/04
Presentation, Pregnancy Prevention, adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy – 5/04
Health Fair, Perth Amboy High School, 5/04
Career Fair, Perth Amboy High School, 5/04
Interactive Conference, Pregnancy Prevention – adolescents and teens at JRF, Perth Amboy, 5/04

Mary Jones, RN
Presentation, Nursing and Social Updates to nursing students at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, 1/04

Robert Morgan, MD
Lecture, RWJ Medical Students – “Immunizations” – 11/04
Lecture, Essex-Metro Immunization Conference – Irvington, 1/04
Lecture, Central Jersey MCH Conference – “Immunization Registry,” 1/04
Lecture, RWJ Medical Students, 2/04
Presentation to Monmouth/Ocean Medical Society, 2/04
Lecture, RWJ Medical Students – “Immunization,” 3/04
Lecture, RWJ Medical Students – “Physical Diagnosis,” 3/04
Lecture, NJ Hospital Association – “Communicable Disease Surveillance Update,” 3/04
Lecture, Newark Immunization Coalition, 3/04
Lecture, NJ College Nursing Supervisors – “Menigococcal Meningitis Immunization,” 3/04
RWJ Medical Students Physical Diagnosis Lecture at Riverview Hospital, 3/04
Noon Conference at RWJ, “Immunizations in Special Circumstances,” 4/04
Lecture, Children’s Futures Foundation, Trenton, 4/04
Medical Society of NJ, Health Policy, Atlantic City, NJ, 4/04
Lecture, “Immunization Registry,” NJAAPP, Edison, NJ 5/04
NJ Regional Epidemiology Conference, “Influenza,” Mt. Laurel, NJ, 5/04
NJ Infectious Disease Summit, “Influenza” Morristown, NJ, 5/04

Lectures in Infectious Disease Epidemiology Jan-May every Monday at UMDNJ- School of Public Health

Eleanor Peterson, MSW, LCSW
Presentation, Nursing and Social Updates to nursing students at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital, 1/04
Workshop - Learning Day at the Beach – adolescents – Long Branch, NJ – 7/03
Presentation, HIV 101 – DYFS Foster parents – Freehold, NJ 4/04

Debbie Subers, RNC, BSN
SHSP Training to perspective foster care parents, Lawrenceville, NJ- 9/03
Presentation – Interdisciplinary Collaborative Care to UMDNJ Medical Students, Piscataway – 1/04
HIV In-service to Health Care Professionals, Bridgewater, NJ - 4/04
HIV In-service to Health Care Professionals, Woodbridge, NJ - 4/04
The Body and Breast Self-Exam – Rainbow House, Trenton, NJ - 5/04
SHSP Training to perspective foster care parents, Asbury Park, NJ - 3/04

Community Involvement

Aswine Bal, MD
Serves as Medical Director for St. Claire’s Home for Children in Neptune, New Jersey

Sunanda Gaur, MD
Fundraising activities on behalf of Robert Wood Johnson Pediatric AIDS Program; Rutgers Prep Annual Promise Run
Mercy AIDS Ride – Fund Raising Committee

Amisha Malhotra, MD
Director, Pediatric AIDS Reach Out and Read Program
Pediatric Health and Safety Fair Medical Volunteer

Clement Maccia, MD
Asthma/Allergy/Food Support Group
Lectures to PTA Committees on Allergy/Asthma

Roseann Marone, RN, BSN, MPH
Rutgers Prep Annual Promise Run – Fund-raising Committee
Mercy AIDS Ride – Fund-raising Committee
RWJAP Family Advisory Council – facilitate consumer involvement with our program and network sites
Robert Morgan, MD
State overseer for Project Vaccinate
President, Red Bank, New Jersey Regional Board of Education
Vice President, Little Silver, New Jersey Board of Education
Voluntary Medical Director:
- The Parker Family Free Medical Clinic – Red Bank, NJ
- The Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey
- NJ National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD
Member, Girl Scouts of Delaware-Raritan, Women of Distinction Awards’ Program Planning Committee
Member, Jewish Renaissance Medical Center Board
Jewish Renaissance Foundation, International Medical Mission, Havana, Cuba, February, 2004
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Center of New Jersey Advisory Board
Member, Central NJ March of Dimes Program Services Committee
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Central Jersey Chapter, member, Mental and Physical Health Committee, conducted a folic acid and prematurity campaign for African American and Hispanic women

Consumers

Some of our families of HIV infected children have become community advocates at the county and state level in their roles as Title IV Family Advocates and as Co-Chairs of the client caucus of the Ryan White Title I Planning Council. RWJAP has a CAB for its clinical research as well as overall program operation. RWJAP’s CAB meets quarterly to provide information to the families as well as address the family’s needs. Vincenza DiPaolo is a parent with an adopted HIV infected child who is on the national committee for the PACTG. She serves as co-chair for the Community Constituency Group (CCG). She participates in the development of pediatric HIV research protocols. Her other duties include participation in national and international PACTG meetings. She travels to Washington, DC twice a year for the national meetings. Ms. DiPaolo also represented the CCG in Thailand in May. She is a well-informed advocate for the needs of children with HIV. Ms. DiPaolo and other consumers attend the Title IV Family Centered Care Network monthly meetings. RWJAP also hosts the Network’s annual Family Day.

Committees/Hospital

Aswine Bal, MD
Member, Infection Control Committee at Jersey Shore Medical Center

Member, Pediatric Student and Pediatric Education Committees at Jersey Shore Medical Center
Chair, Neonatal ICU Infection Control Committee at Jersey Shore Medical Center

Sunanda Gaur, MD
Infection Control Committees, RWJUH and SPUH
Laboratory Advisory Committee, RWJUH
Pediatric Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Bristol Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital

Amisha Malhotra, MD
Pediatric Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, Bristol Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital
Pediatric Central Line Task Force

Robert Morgan, MD
Riverview Medical Center/Meridian Hospital System
-Medical Executive Board
-Quality Assurance and Improvement
-Utilization Review
-Special Staff Appointments
-Government Affairs
-Ad Hoc Hospital System Merger Coordinating Committee

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD
Pediatric Executive Leadership Committee, Bristol-Myers Squibb Children’s Hospital

Committees/Medical School

Sunanda Gaur, MD
Member, Research Review Committee, Center for Human Development and Developmental Disabilities (CHD3)

Amisha Malhotra, MD
Divisional Director of Student and Resident Education
Pediatric Education Committee
Pediatric Residency Selection Committee
Peer Mentor Program

Roseann Marone, BSN, RN, MPH
Department of Pediatrics – Space/Renovation Committee

Patricia Whitley Williams, MD
Member, Resident Education Committee
Member, Pediatric Residency Selection Committee
Member, Pediatric Residency Evaluation Committee
Member, Department of Pediatrics Appointments and Promotions Committee
Member, Department of Pediatrics Executive Leadership Committee
Co-Chair, Cultural Diversity Subcommittee/Dean’s Strategic Planning Committee
Member, Nominations and Elections Committee
Member, Department of Pediatrics, Ambulatory Policy Committee
Member, Pediatric Leadership Board of Directors, Pediatric Program Committee, BMSCH
Chair, Search Committee, Director of Ambulatory Services, Department of Pediatrics

Local/State/National Appointments and Committees

Aswine Bal, MD
Member, N.J. Drug Utilization Review Board
Member, AAP (NJ) Pediatric Infectious Disease committee

Sunanda Gaur, MD
Chairman, Executive Advisory Committee, New Jersey Statewide Network of Pediatric HIV Regional Treatment Centers
Member, New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners, Medical Expert Panel
Member, Substance Abuse Treatment Working Group – appointed by Commissioner of Human Services, New Jersey State Department of Health
Member, New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services Pediatric Advisory Council

Amisha Malhotra, MD
Faculty Advisor to Student Chapter of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) at RWJMS
Faculty Advisor to Student Chapter of American Women’s Medical Association at RWJMS

Clement Maccia, MD
The American Academy of Allergy & Immunology – Occupational Lung Disease Committee
The American College of Allergy and Immunology – Immunodeficiency Disease Committee
National GOP Chairman for New Jersey HMO Committee

Robert Morgan, MD
Chairman, Public Health: CARE Initiative – Medical Society of NJ and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Chairman, Professional Advisory Committee for the Central New Jersey VNA
Member, VNA of New York Professional Advisory Committee
Chairman, Communicable Disease Control Board of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
President, Monmouth County Tuberculosis Control Board

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD
Department of Health and Senior Services/National Vaccine Program
Office/National Vaccine Advisory Committee, Chair, Coverage Subcommittee
Infectious Disease Society of America, National Immunization Information Network
DHSS/PHS Task Force/Perinatal HIV Guidelines Working Group
National Medical Fellowships, Inc., National Advisory Committee for Fellowship Program in AIDS Care/Selection Committee
National Board of Medical Examiners/USMLE Step 3 Computer-based Case Simulation (CCSC) test Material Development Committee

Roseanne Marone, RN, BSN, MPH
Ryan White Care Act Title IV Network – Executive Committee
DYFS Child Health Advisory Council
Ryan White Care Act Title I – Co-Chair – Priorities Committee
Mercer County Title II Consortium – Women’s Infants, Children and Youth Committee
Rutgers University, Citizen and Service Education (CASE) Program Advisory Committee

Outstanding Awards/Accomplishments

Dr. Sunanda Gaur was the recipient of the Service Award for promoting the health of children in foster care - awarded by Governor James McGreevey at the Fourth Annual Foster Children’s Day Celebration in December, 2003

Dr. Aswine Bal - Best Pediatric Teaching Attending of the Year at JSUMC in 2004.

Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams was the recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Award of Honor, May, 2004

Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams –Cincinnati Pediatric Historical Society Hall of Fame, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio - January, 2004

Dr. Robert Morgan was recognized as “Co-Physician of the Year” in home healthcare by the VNA of Central Jersey

Dr. Amisha Malhotra - Award of Recognition for Services – awarded by Catholic Charities/St. John’s Family Health Center
Publications/Abstracts


Other Divisional Highlights

The Division’s Roundtable series was initiated in May, 2004 where the Division’s full time faculty conducted updates in pediatric infectious diseases for a small group of local pediatricians over dinner. The pediatricians were also encouraged to bring questions and cases to discuss.

One of our community Outreach Projects was to collaborate with one of the local churches to put on a fashion show in which our HIV infected children modeled some of the traditional as well as modern clothing from South Africa. The audience was made up of RWJAP staff, HIV infected children and their families and church members. South African food was served and traditional South African music was sung. A discussion on HIV in South Africa was conducted by some of the church members.

This year we celebrated the high school graduations of six of our patients with perinatal HIV infection. Four of them will be entering college in the fall – an achievement beyond measure. These children faced great odds including the loss of friends of their own age, their parents or other family members to HIV/AIDS, the stigma of their own diagnosis, and sometime the serious illness from the disease itself.

With the opening of the NICU at BMSCH this past year, the HIV perinatal program was expanded to support the identification of HIV-infected pregnant women and access to HIV specialty care and to insure continued and early prenatal care as well as prevention of perinatal transmission.

Future Directions

The Division plans to expand its inpatient consultative services to hospitals affiliated with the RWJUH network. There are also plans to provide outpatient consultation at an off-site location where there is no pediatric infectious disease consultation available, in order to facilitate access to specialty care. There are on-going collaborative efforts to recruit and hire a physician scientist in the field of immunology to support a growing transplant service in children, as well as children diagnosed with complicated immunologic disorders.