

News and Current Events

Department of Pediatrics

PEDS R US

Arnold Rabson, MD one of Four Rutgers Professors Named Fellows of American Association for the Advancement of Science

Four Rutgers University professors have been named fellows of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#), an honor bestowed by their peers for scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance human knowledge.

One of the honorees, **Arnold B. Rabson, MD** is representing Rutgers University–New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS), will be presented with official certificates and gold and blue rosette pins – the colors representing science and engineering – at the Feb. 17 AAAS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Arnold B. Rabson, MD Director of the Child Health Institute of New Jersey and Professor of pharmacology, pediatrics and pathology and laboratory medicine, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, at RBHS. Rabson's research has focused on the molecular pathogenesis of cancer and of human retroviral diseases. His laboratory discovered fundamental mechanisms controlling HIV latency and activation, mechanisms of regulation of a second pathogenic human retrovirus, the human T cell leukemia virus type 1, and the roles of transcriptional regulators in human cancer. He has also significantly contributed to the growth of biomedical research at Rutgers, including major roles in the development of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and most recently, the Child Health Institute of New Jersey.

The association cited Rabson for "outstanding academic leadership and distinguished contributions to the fields of human retrovirology and cancer, particularly elucidation of mechanisms of retroviral infection and NF-kappaB regulation."



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Volume 1, Issue 2, April 2018



**Because babies don't come with owner's manuals—
Vicki Hoefle**

In this Newsletter

Department Highlights

Emergency Medicine
Gastroenterology
General Pediatrics
Allergy, Immunology & Infectious Diseases
Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD)
Medical Genetics
Neonatology

**New Faculty
Recognition, etc.**

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Emergency Medicine



Ernest G. Leva
Division Director

The Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine is comprised of specialty trained pediatric physicians with expertise in pediatric emergency medicine. These specialists staff the emergency department at the Bristol Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The division is charged with caring for the most severely injured and sick children as well as those with minor problems. The division orchestrates the teaching program for the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Emergency Medicine and Department of Family Practice. First, second, and third year residents rotate through the Emergency Department, as well as medical students from RWJMS. Educational opportunities are also offered to residents from other programs and medical students who wish to partake in the educational activities of the division.

Dr. Uchechi Azubuine has taken on the responsibilities of educational direction. Under her tutelage all aspects of education has been coalesced. Most notably Dr. Azubuine has just won an educational award for her incorporation of electronic learning tools into the curriculum. The award is referred to as OAT, Open Affordable Textbook Program.

Physician Assistant students and nursing students are also offered educational opportunities in the Pediatric Emergency Department. The division is intimately involved in research and academic pursuits pertinent to pediatric emergency medicine.

Express Care Medicine Program

The section in Express Care Medicine offers the opportunities of patients with minor illnesses and injuries to be quickly attended to by board certified pediatricians at the busiest time of the day. Dr. Racheal Grieco, Section Director, has initiated endeavors that have expedited the care of these patients and significantly decreased their time spent in the emergency department.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Emergency Medicine cont'd

Telemedicine Program

The Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine has developed a section of Telemedicine. Under the direction of Dr. Richard Brodsky, expertise in pediatric emergency medicine is offered to other emergency departments in central jersey through tele technology. In doing so our academic and clinical expertise is able to be shared with our colleagues, facilitating children's care and offering the ability for patients to be transferred to our hospital and emergency department.

Pediatric Point of Care Ultrasound

Under the guidance of Dr. Marinelle Quim, Director Point of Care Pediatric Emergency Ultrasound, the division now incorporates the newer ultrasound capabilities for use by our physicians. Through the addition of ultrasound techniques, the emergency physicians are able to quickly diagnose problems, acting to reduce costs and time spent in our emergency department. Dr. Quim has won a grant from the "R' Baby Foundation" in which she will be incorporating the newest computer technology to teach 18 learners per year over the next 3 years techniques in point of care.

Dr. Quim has won acceptance to the, OASIS, Women in Leadership Program. This program will be orchestrated by Rutgers University to help prepare beginning female faculty members for leadership positions.

Emergency Medical Service Program

The section of Emergency Medical Services is involved in the establishment and oversight of pre-hospital care for children in Central Jersey. Dr. Ernest Leva has been the Chair of Emergency Medical Services for Children's Committee of the State of New Jersey for many years, and now acts as its Vice Chair. Under his guidance, Dr. Minh-Tu Do now leads the section in assuring the best possible care for the pre-hospital pediatric patient.

The Division also affords to pediatricians in Central Jersey an Office Preparedness course. The course consists of mock code scenarios performed in physician's offices to access and help in the preparation of significant problems that could take place in an office setting. After the course, there is a feedback session in which equipment and physician knowledge is updated to meet the practice's needs.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Gastroenterology



*Soula Koniaris, MD
Division Director*

The division of Pediatric GI and Nutrition consists of four full time pediatric gastroenterologists, and a full complement of nutritionists, nurses, social worker and support staff. We fully evaluate and treat pediatric patients with intestinal, hepatobiliary and nutrition related disorders.

We routinely treat children with conditions such as complicated inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, dysphagia, feeding disorders, chronic diarrhea, constipation/encopresis, failure to thrive, abdominal pain, vomiting, gastroesophageal reflux, eosinophilic disorders, food allergies, hepatitis, portal hypertension and short bowel syndrome.

Specific attention is paid to nutritional requirements through the full assessment of patients with chronic illnesses so that normal growth and development may be achieved. A team approach, including physicians, specialized pediatric nutritionists and social worker is used. Education materials and instruction are provided to the patient and their families. There are multidisciplinary clinics in dysphagia/feeding disorders, failure to thrive, inflammatory bowel disease, as well as an aerodigestive conference held monthly. (Participants include pediatric gastroenterology, pulmonology, otolaryngology, nutrition, speech pathology and social work)

There are three full time pediatric nutritionists in the division. As part of interdisciplinary team, the nutritionists continue to provide medical nutritional therapy to infants, children and adolescents with a wide array of acute and chronic diseases including gastrointestinal diseases, neuromuscular disease, developmental disabilities and pulmonary diseases including cystic fibrosis and bronchopulmonary dysphagia. In addition, nutritionists also help manage patients with home parenteral and enteral nutrition, eating disorders, food allergy, short gut syndrome, hyperlipidemia, celiac disease, feeding disorders, renal disease, diabetes, and obesity.

Procedures available include: esophagogastroduodenoscopy; colonoscopy; capsule endoscopy; rectal suction biopsy; removal of foreign body and polypectomy; liver biopsy; 24-hour esophageal pH probe/impedance testing; hydrogen breath testing; total parenteral nutrition; enteral tube feeding and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) placement.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Gastroenterology cont'd

Research Interests – Our division cares for many children with special medical needs such as gastrostomy feeding tubes (G-tubes). Given recent interest in blenderized tube feedings (BTF), which are pureed table foods that can be given via G-tubes, our division has been involved in on-going research projects evaluating the efficacy and safety of this nutritional option. This nutritional option is individualized and done under the supervision of a gastroenterologist and nutritionist. Our group has completed a retrospective study of 35 children followed by the pediatric gastroenterology division with G-tubes who were transitioned from standard formula diets to BTF. Our results demonstrated greater than 50% of the children had improvement in GI symptoms such as GERD and constipation and about 50% of children were able to wean or stop GI related medication for these conditions. We are continuing to pursue further research regarding this nutritional option in hopes of understanding, which children may benefit from BTF.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

General Pediatrics



The division of Academic General Pediatrics is vibrant and diverse. Our mission is to provide primary care for children at our faculty practice at One World's Fair Drive and at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. And to provide hospitalist services for babies in the term nursery and acute care for typical and complex children in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The division is primarily responsible for teaching the medical students and residents the field of general pediatrics. It is involved in all aspects of teaching including scholarship, quality improvement, advocacy and its members hold leadership positions in medical education. Our goal is to model community service, compassion, humanism and humor when caring for both sick and well children.

*Dayla Chefitz, MD
Division Director*

Please meet our division members in alphabetical order:

Indira Amato, MD:

Dr. Amato is a faculty supervisor as a pediatric hospitalist and our core pediatric residency program director and Treasurer, of NJ Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. Ever conscious of the continuously changing accreditation requirements, Dr. Amato keeps the residency program ahead of the curve with an emphasis on an individualized curriculum, an advocacy curriculum and resident wellness.

Kandy Bahadur, MD:

Dr. Bahadur is serving both as a chief resident and as junior faculty. She is seeing patients and teaching at the faculty practice and as a hospitalist.

Kristen Bryant, APN:

Ms. Bryant is teaching and providing inpatient care to babies and children admitted to BMSCH. She has a background in pediatric cardiac ICU.

Michelle Buentempo, APN:

Ms. Buentempo is teaching and providing inpatient care to babies and children admitted to BMSCH. She has a background in both pediatric emergency medicine and cardiology.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

General Pediatrics cont'd

Dalya Chefitz, MD:

Dr. Chefitz is the division director and faculty supervisor for hospitalized patients. She is involved in quality improvement for hospitalized children and has a special interest in medically complex children.

Janice Cato Varlack, MD:

Dr. Cato Varlack is a faculty supervisor as a pediatric hospitalist and is a long-time teacher of first and second year medical students in the Patient Centered Medicine course. She is a mentor to both medical students and residents.

Pankaj Doshi, MD:

Dr. Doshi is a pediatric hospitalist at RWJUH at Somerset where he supervises family medicine trainees.

Jacqueline Fleming, MD:

Dr. Fleming is the director of the pediatric section of Eric B. Chandler Health Center. She is a role-model and a mentor for students and residents as she teaches and cares for the underserved. She serves a long-standing mentor for minority undergraduates interested in medicine.

Elizabeth (Beth) Goodman, MD:

Dr. Goodman is the co-director of the pediatric clerkship for third and fourth year medical students. She runs the pediatric interest group for medical students and is an integral part of the resident education committee. She is a faculty supervisor both in the faculty practice and as a hospitalist.

Shunli Hou, MD:

Dr. Hou is a pediatric hospitalist at RWJUH at Somerset where she supervises family medicine trainees.

Aazim Hussain, MD:

Dr. Hussain is a faculty supervisor teaching and caring for children in the newborn nursery and in the inpatient units at BMSCH.

George Kaliyadan, MD:

As a recently graduated chief resident, Dr. Kaliyadan continues teaching and mentoring as a faculty member based at the faculty practice but also in the hospital. He is involved in resident recruitment.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

General Pediatrics cont'd

David Krol, MD:

Dr. Krol is a pediatrician who has been mentoring and teaching in the primary care setting. He is a national expert on pediatric oral health and is interested in pediatric obesity. He has been named the Medical Director of the New Jersey Healthy Kids initiative at the Rutgers Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health.

Aimee LaRiviere, MD:

Dr. LaRiviere is a faculty supervisor teaching and caring for children in the newborn nursery and in the inpatient units at BMSCH.

Amanda Lee, APN:

Ms. Lee is teaching and providing inpatient care to babies and children admitted to BMSCH. She has a background in pediatric endocrinology.

Emanuel Lerner, MD:

Dr. Lerner is the director of the faculty practice at 1 World's Fair Drive. Under his leadership, the faculty practice has grown and is now supervising more than half of the pediatric residents for their continuity experience. His practice is regularly involved in NJ American Academy of Pediatric quality improvement activities. Recently together with resident advocates, he implemented a Reach Out and Read program in the office. He specializes in the outpatient care of medically complex children.

Shilpa Pai, MD:

Dr. Pai is a faculty supervisor at the Eric B. Chandler Health Center and an American Academy of Pediatrics District III CATCH (Community Access to Child Care) Facilitator. She is the director of the resident advocacy longitudinal rotation and is a local and national expert on food insecurity. She is interested and has AAP grants for community health. She is supervising a number of residents in their scholarly projects with regional poster presentations.

Usha Ramachandran, MD:

Dr. Ramachandran is faculty supervisor at the Eric. B. Chandler Health Center. She is an advocate for children from all backgrounds and has expertise in the health issues of South East Asians. Her interest is in obesity and she has part of a multi-center grant studying childhood obesity and nutrition. She is the curator of the Reach out and Read program at EBCHC.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

General Pediatrics cont'd

Joseph Raviola, MD:

Dr. Raviola is serving both as a chief resident and as junior faculty. He is seeing patients and teaching at the faculty practice and as a hospitalist.

Elsie Roca-Piccini, MD:

Dr. Roca-Piccini is a faculty supervisor at the faculty practice. She is involved with the Reach Out and Read Program, quality improvement projects through the AAP and is a role model for creating a medical home for underserved and complex children.

Dawn Thompson, MD:

Dr. Thompson is the medical director of the pediatric hospitalist program at RWJUH at Somerset. In addition to teaching Family Medicine residents there, she also is a faculty supervisor for pediatric residents in the faculty practice and as a hospitalist at BMSCH.

Alan Weller, MD:

Dr. Weller is the associate director of the division and medical director of the newborn nursery and the adolescent unit. He is a faculty supervisor on the hospitalist service. He is involved in many quality improvement programs including being the co-director of the Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee and the pediatric representative on the hospital's Information Technology Steering Committee. In addition to supervising the pediatric residents in their Journal Club presentations and their scholarly activities, he is the president-elect of the NJ Chapter of AAP, where he spearheads statewide advocacy for children.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Allergy, Immunology & Infectious Diseases



Patricia Whitley-Williams
Division Director

The Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases currently, has 7 full time faculty, 1 part-time faculty, 4 volunteer faculty, and 9 program and administrative support staff. Two of our full-time faculty work at JSUMC - Dr. Aswine Bal (100%) and Dr. Anna Petrova (40% at JSUMC). Clinical subspecialty services and consultations in Pediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases are conducted at the ambulatory site at CHINJ by Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams, Dr. Sunanda Gaur and Dr. Amisha Malhotra, and the Allergy/Immunology services are provided by Dr. Clement Maccia at 1 Worlds Fair Drive 2 days a week. Our inpatient services are conducted at BMSCH. Examples of ambulatory consults are: chronic HIV infection; EBV infection; chronic fatigue, HIV perinatal, non-occupational or occupational exposure; Lyme disease, FUO, periodic or recurrent fevers; MRSA infections; recurrent infections, and TB/LTBI.

The Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP) which serves central has as its mission to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary, coordinated, family-centered services to HIV infected individuals, especially the youth, women and children. The Medical Director is Dr. Sunanda Gaur and the Program Coordinator is Roseann Marone. Team members include Donna Fong (Public Health Rep), Coleen Whelan, PNP, Judy Kenny, RN (just retired), Katharine Anatale RN (new hire), nurse case manager, Fatima Corona, MCT, Vanessa Rios (grants manager), Devangi Shukla (data entry), Dr. Whitley-Williams and Dr. Amisha Malhotra. The program has served over 1,300 patients and families and is part of the NJ Statewide Family Centered HIV Care Network which is administered by NJ DOH, Division of Family Services Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services since 1988 which provides Ryan White Part D funding. The network consists of seven sites in NJ which individually provide care and treatment in a medical home model framework for HIV infected persons. Through this comprehensive and integrated care model, morbidity, mortality and perinatal transmission rates have been drastically reduced in NJ. RWJAP Grant Funding from Ryan White funding, SCHS, and DOH totals over a \$1,000,000. Through this funding, the program has been successful in maintaining consistent viral load

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Allergy, Immunology & Infectious Diseases cont'd

RWJAP in coordination with Central Jersey Legal Services, sponsored a Medical –Legal symposium entitled, “Is There a Lawyer in the House?” at CHINJ on April 20, 2018. The symposium focused on how access to legal services can improve outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic medical conditions. Gail Burack, Ph.D., Child Psychologist, RWJAP and Roseann Marone, BSN, RN, MPH (RWJAP) have served as supervisors for several RWJMS students as part of their Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) project. The project was initiated in 2015. Seven RWJMS medical students have served as mentors to RWJAP patients and worked with the patients to address the psychosocial burdens of growing up with HIV.

Education: The division conducts a one month long elective for both medical students and residents in pediatric infectious diseases of which one week is spent in the Allergy Clinic. The residents also spend a day in the Microbiology and PCR labs at the RWJUH. Some of our research interests include medication and medical care compliance, immunizations The Division continues to participate in and conduct many community service activities. Community outreach activities include educating young people about HIV/AIDS, offering counseling and HIV Rapid Testing, and participating in community health fairs.

Examples of institutional contributions by Division members:

Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams – Associate Dean for Inclusion and Diversity

Dr. Amisha Malhotra – Director of the Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship Program

Dr. Sunanda Gaur – Director of the Adult CRC and the Pediatric CRC; Director of SATHI

Dr. Anna Petrova – member of IRB; Director of EBM for pediatric residency program; Research Day Committee; member of DIR (Distinction in Research) Committee

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD)



Michael Lewis, PhD
Distinguished Professor
Division Director

The Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD) has as its goals: 1) research designed to understand the processes leading to healthy children, 2) translation of research findings into useful products and services, and 3) education.

Research

Health of children and families involves their emotional, social, and psychological functioning, as well as their physical/medical well being. For a complete understanding of children's health, research is necessary at all levels of functioning, from the molecular processes underlying behavior to the behavior of the whole child. In addition to understanding the different levels of functioning, it is important to measure the environmental context in which the child is raised. Indeed, to understand development at any level of functioning, from the molecular to the whole child, understanding the role of environment is critical to understanding the developmental process itself. The understanding of the environmental context in which the child is raised involves for the Institute not only the measurement of the social environment, but also the physical environment, including environmental toxins. Ultimately, it is the underlying belief that the study of children's development will lead to innovative intervention strategies that will benefit children in their everyday lives.

In order to accomplish the research goals of the Institute, studies necessarily must include multiple levels of analysis. These levels range from characterizing the environment, whether it be the physical environment of toxins or the social environment of caregivers, to studying the relation between brain and behavior using brain-imaging technology. Our current research work includes studies of behavioral teratology, as well as studies of the long-term effects of drugs and other toxic exposures during pregnancy. It includes identifying factors that affect the behavioral and physiological reaction to stress and the capacity to cope with stress, including measures of the autonomic nervous system, such as heart rate and heart variability, as well as the study of children's adrenal cortical functioning.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD) cont'd

Research also includes the impact of deviant caregiving and traumatic events, such as maltreatment or sexual abuse, that occur in the child's life, and how these experiences affect the development of the child's emotions and cognitions and, therefore, mental health, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorders. In addition, the Institute studies the emergence of consciousness - the development of the mental representation that the child comes to have about itself - and the ability to utilize that knowledge in forming social relationships. Moreover, the study of the emergence of the self-conscious emotions of embarrassment, shame, pride, and guilt, something that occurs in the first three years of life, affects both normal and atypical cognitive, social, and emotional development. Longitudinal studies of abused and neglected children provide the opportunity to explore the emotional development of children living in toxic environments. The Institute's work also has focused on emotional regulation and inhibitory control, two processes that have serious impact on the child's social and emotional development, as well as on its peer relationships and school performance. It is the underpinning of clinical problems such as ADHD, LD, and ASD.

Product Development

As part of the mission of the Institute, we are interested in developing materials and instruments useful in measuring children's social-emotional development.

Collaboration with the Cochlear Implant Center at BMSCH

We have developed and are using intersensory integration procedures to examine the development of language in children who have received cochlear implants. Such laboratory techniques have been introduced into the clinical setting and help determine how language development is progressing in these children.

EARLYThree App

With a Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, Tara Matthews, MD, we have developed and copyrighted an app called EARLYThree which pediatricians and parents can use to detect developmental delays in children from eight months to three years of age. This app is in the process of being evaluated and the agreement between parents and pediatricians has been good: 85% for sensitivity and 95% for specificity.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD) cont'd

Methodological instruments

Methodologies now widely used in the study of autism have been developed, including the mirror self-recognition task, a laboratory and now clinical procedure to determine whether self-recognition is present by 24 months of age. The failure to demonstrate self-recognition has been related in studies to the delay in cognitive development in Down syndrome, ASD, and preterm infants.

Education

The Institute is committed to education within the Department of Pediatrics, RBHS, and Rutgers University wide students.

In the past two years students have been taught about research with children and have been involved in studies of children with ASD and ADHD, as well as typical development. A 20 year longitudinal study on the effects of prenatal cocaine exposure on development provides a broad platform for specific studies, as does our 10 year longitudinal study of abused and neglected children's social and emotional development.

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Fellows

Inna Miroschnichenko, M.D.

Kirin Suri, M.D.

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Students

Ifeoluwa Aridegbe, 2nd Yr

M. Emily Janhofer, 1st Yr

Mofei (Murphy) Lu, 4th Yr

Paul (Sungbae) Park, 1st Yr

Nicole Yoon

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD) cont'd

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Students (Capstone Program)

Sana Fasihuddin
Riddhima Issar
Matthew Keeler
Alan Mallouhi
Dipthi Ranganathan

Pediatric Psychology & Social Work Practicum Training Program

Stephanie Laila Anismatta, Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Patrese Beckford, Rutgers School of Social Work
Teddy Chattah, Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Sheva Cohen-Weiss, Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Ashley Dauphin, Rutgers School of Social Work
Samantha Goldberg, Rutgers School of Social Work
Hongmarie Martinez-Carter, Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Tamara Quezada, Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Sinnamon Shelton, Rutgers School of Social Work

As part of the activities of the Fellowship Program in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, the Institute has directed the Research Section. Research activities have included studying facial recognition in children with ASD (Dr. Tara Matthews), self-recognition and self-referential behavior in children with ASD (Dr. Matthews and Dr. Lavinia Stoicescu), cortisol response to stress as a function of prenatal cocaine exposure and home chaos (Dr. Stoicescu), effects of fetal cocaine exposure on risky sexual behavior (Dr. Inna Mirosh-nichenko), and the effects of shame on the adjustment of siblings of children with ASD (Dr. Kirin Suri).

A master's level course in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (Neurons to Neighborhoods - Human Development in Context: Rethinking Nature vs. Nurture) has been taught for the last three years. In addition, plans are proceeding for a Rutgers wide course in Child Health and Development which will be taught by members of the Faculty of the Pediatrics Department.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Institute for the Study of Child Development (ISCD) cont'd

A practicum course (Pediatric Psychology & Social Work Practicum Training Program) for psychology and social work students has been developed and in effect for three years, where these graduate students are assigned to both outpatient units as well as inpatient hospital units. Students from the School of Social Work and Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology have been learning about Pediatrics and at the same time helping in the clinics and hospital units.

Faculty and Staff

Michael Lewis, PhD, University Distinguished Professor and Director, ISCD

Jason Gold, PhD, Assistant Professor, ISCD

Margaret W. Sullivan, PhD, Professor Emeritus

David Bennett, PhD, Professor, Drexel University College of Medicine

Michael MacKenzie, PhD, Associate Professor, Rutgers School of Social Work

John Worobey, PhD, Professor, Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

Louis Matzel, PhD, Professor, Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences

Malia Beckwith, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship Program Director, RWJMS

Barbie Zimmerman-Bier, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, RWJMS

Nicholas Minar, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, ISCD

Stacey Napoli, BA, Research/Administrative Assistant, ISCD

Website: http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/departments_institutes/pedspweb/Divisions/ins_childdev/index.html

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Medical Genetics



Susan Brooks, MD
Division Director

The Division of Pediatric Medical Genetics provides comprehensive genetic evaluation, counseling and risk assessment to patients and their families across the lifespan.

Our Team:

The genetics team consists of a board-certified medical and biochemical geneticist: Dr. Susan Sklower Brooks; licensed genetic counselors Christina Botti and Sara Welner; and advanced practice nurse Dr. Sharon Anderson. Drs. Brooks and Anderson serve on NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) Newborn Screening Advisory Committees. The division is the recipient of a Genetic and Newborn Screening service grant from the NJ DOH.

Our Programs:

Birth Defects and Hereditary Disorders

The Clinical Genetics Program is a comprehensive and caring resource for patients of all ages with birth defects, chromosome abnormalities and genetic conditions. Specialized genetic laboratory testing is arranged as necessary and services are coordinated with a complete range of specialists. The program provides recommendations for medical care with ongoing long-term follow-up, referral to appropriate community resources, evaluation of at risk family members and coordination with the primary care provider for optimal patient management.

Newborn Screening and Genetic Services for Inborn Errors of Metabolism

The Clinical Genetics Program works with the New Jersey Department of Health to provide follow-up assessment and testing of newborns with an abnormal newborn screen, suspected to have an inborn error of metabolism. Evaluation and ongoing treatment is available for infants and children with inherited metabolic diseases identified through newborn screening or later in life.

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Medical Genetics cont'd

Our Process:

Most patients are referred by their primary care provider or a specialist who has raised concern for a possible genetic condition. Because of the complexity of a genetic diagnosis, the patient's records are requested and reviewed prior to scheduling the visit. The goal of the visit is to establish a specific diagnosis through exam and/or specialized testing to institute appropriate treatment and anticipatory guidance; to counsel the family regarding reproductive risks and options; to communicate complex information to the family; and to refer families to support organizations.

Some indications for visit include:

- Abnormal newborn screen
- Autism
- Birth Defects
- Cardiac conduction or cardiomyopathy
- Chromosome disorder
- Connective tissue disorder
- Developmental Delay
- Dysmorphism
- Epilepsy

- Family history of a genetic disorder
- Inborn Error of Metabolism
- Intellectual disability
- Neurocutaneous disorder
- Neuromuscular disorder
- Other (hematologic, renal, respiratory, etc)

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Neonatology



*David Sorrentino, MD
Division Director*

Life is always better in the NICU! Our NICU at BMSCH continues to lead the pack in patient safety and Quality we have been CLABSI free for almost 3 years (3 years in October), we have been among the highest units in the hospital (Adult and Pediatric) in terms of hand hygiene compliance over the last 2 years. With the improved hospital acquired infection data to show it! Our quality data when benchmarked against national data is excellent and our patient outcomes reflect this. Our Press Ganey data consistently places us at the 95% for patient satisfaction. All of these good things are a result of the hard work of all of our care providers. We have excellent Nursing care and paraprofessional staff. The residents and fellows all are passionate about the care we provide and they are led by an enthusiastic Attending Staff.

Over the last 2 years we have initiated a few fledgling programs; Neonatal ECMO, a fetal evaluation service, an infant cuddler program, and most recently the SIDS center has developed a SIDS application for the general population. In development we have a breast milk scanning system and we plan to grow out a neuroscience and lung center.

Our fellows, the only neonatal fellows in the state, continue to actively research new topics in conjunction with our colleagues in CHI and other sites. They help staff a neonatal developmental follow up clinic in partnership with Children's Specialized Hospital. They are constantly looking for new ways to aid in quality improvement in the NICU and have run many QI projects to improve our unit commitment to quality. Our fellows are committed to participating in the educational experience for our residents. We look forward to the three new fellows starting next year!

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Pediatric Neonatology cont'd

We are also happy to have in our ranks a few non clinical providers, Dr Barbara Ostfeld who works with in the SIDS center with Dr Hegyi and our resident epidemiologist Dr Nancy Reichman! They are both great contributors to the department and patients in the region and state.

Meet our Clinical Attending Staff and paraprofessional support staff:

Dr. Swapna Borole
Dr. Danitza Velazquez
Dr. Wassem Akhter
Dr. Tom Hegyi
Dr. Arun Kashyap
Dr. Rajeev Mehta
Dr. Surasak Puvabandisin
Dr. David Sorrentino
Ellen Leone APN
Puja Kalia PA

Meet our current fellows:

Dr. Omer Choudry
Dr. Sadia Haleem
Dr. Emad Hanna
Dr. Amanda Hedges
Dr. Karen Hussein
Dr. Aditya Joshi
Dr. Rupinder Kaur
Dr. Joseph Mariduena
Dr. Kavya Rao



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Age of Patients seen in the Peds ED

The Pediatric Emergency Department cares for all patients up to their 21st birthday. Patients often seek our care in late adolescence and are referred to adult sub specialists.

All patients up to their 21st birthday will be referred to and cared for by our faculty. Our faculty not only deliver care with extreme expertise, but the manner in which patients are treated is very different than your adult counterparts. When problems are outside your level of expertise, adult like, the emergency de partment faculty will do their best to direct care in the direction. This is a major improvement and the "Kids" will benefit tremendously.

Please send questions to [Ernest Leva, MD](#)





Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Psychological Services Available

Childhood illness, especially chronic illness, is a family matter. Stress, anxiety, fear, and behavior affect how a children and families cope and can influence the child's overall health outcomes. Children's Specialized Hospital in New Brunswick now offers psychological services to address these needs. **Dr. Rachel Modiano** has worked in health psychology for many years. As the psychologist on the Children's Specialized Hospital's inpatient brain injury and pain programs, she developed programs to treat patients and support families facing chronic illness. She is available to provide outpatient mental health services at the Plum Street Location and can be reached at (732) 258-7254 or rmodiano@childrens-specialized.org.

What is an "Integrated Approach?"

Integration of healthcare means that a child is cared for by a team of medical and mental health professionals who work together to treat your child and collaborate with your family. Medical teams often find that supporting and maintaining good mental health is a crucial part of a child's health and well-being. Most patients and families need some extra help in order to adapt to the many emotional and behavioral changes that go along with the diagnosis of a chronic medical problem. It's NORMAL to have these needs. By working together and communicating about your child's needs, medical professionals can do the best job of supporting a child's healing.

What can a mental health professional offer my child?

Common treatment goals include:

- Adjusting to and understanding the diagnosis
- Improving coping skills
- Learning to recognize and cope with the feelings that often come with chronic illness, such as sadness, worry, or fear
- Increasing motivation to engage in self-care, especially for conditions like diabetes
- Identifying challenges that can get in the way of self-care
- Helping children and parents identify and build on personal strengths
- Finding ways to keep up with daily activities such as schoolwork, family events, and spending time with friends



Psychological Services Available



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

What kinds of Chronic Illnesses are addressed?

- EndocrinereLATED respiratory issues
- Cardiology – Disorders of the heart and circulatory system
- Gastroenterology
- Nephrology
- Disorders
- Rheumatology – Chronic pain, fibromyalgia, arthritis, Lupus
- Pulmonology – Asthma and Hematology/Oncology
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Adolescent Medicine

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

New Faculty

January—April 2018

Waseem Akhter, MD, Instructor—Neonatology

Indira Kommuru, MD, Instructor- Neurology



Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Events

Department of Pediatrics Annual Research Day

Thursday, June 7, 2018 8 a.m.—11 a.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Wayne W. Fisher, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

H.B. Munroe Professor of Behavioral Research

Munroe-Meyer Institute

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Topic: Applied Behavior Analysis as Treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Department of Pediatrics

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Recognition, Congratulations

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson AIDS Program (RWJAP) New Brunswick campus donated holiday presents to all of our program Families in December. RWJAP would like to extend a special **THANK YOU** to the Green Therapy Rx Charity. Kristen Sardis is the co-founder and student director of this charity. The charity's mission is to help abused and special needs children using green or natural therapies.. Their hard work and generous support to the Robert Wood Johnson AIDS program made this holiday season a little brighter for our program families.

Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD, professor of pediatrics, chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, and associate dean for Inclusion and Diversity, was featured on News 12 Jan. 18 discussing this year's flu epidemic. According to the feature, titled "Health Officials Advise Disinfecting Spaces Amid Flu Outbreak," the United States is currently in the midst of an unprecedented flu outbreak, with nearly 3,200 New Jersey residents who have contracted the flu. Dr. Whitley-Williams shared a tip on how to know when you've washed your hands long enough, which is a key in flu prevention. She explained, "It usually takes about 15 to 20 seconds to sing...the 'Happy Birthday' song. So if you if you sing it while you're washing your hands, then by the time you end, it should be about 20 seconds."

Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD, professor and executive director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, 2018 recipients of the Clement A. Price Human Dignity Award, which recognizes outstanding individuals or groups that have demonstrated extraordinary achievement and commitment to promoting and practicing diversity and inclusion at Rutgers University and/or in partnership with the broader community. The award was presented by The Committee to Advance Our Common Purposes, (CACP), a diversity and inclusion initiative of the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. CACP was founded in 1987 and has a long history of recognizing excellence in diversity, inclusion and equity.

[Got questions about how to keep your baby alive and well while sleeping? There's an app for that](#) --**Barbara Ostfeld, PhD**, and **Thomas Hegyi, MD** -- *nj.com*

The American Health Council named **Maya Ramagopal, MD**, Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonology as a "Leader in Medicine" in New Jersey. The award is reserved for individuals who have exhibited exemplary conduct in their field. These doctors and medical educators serve as the guiding light for advancement from the classroom to the consultation room to the operating room. Congratulations, Dr. Ramagopal!