

# Interim Chair's Commentary

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Dear Colleagues,

Without research, there can be no brighter tomorrows for the children we treat today. The care we deliver will only be as good as our current outcomes — and that simply isn't good enough. Jessica Kandel, section chief of Pediatric Surgery, has brought a new research focus to Comer with her work on tumor angiogenesis — her previous studies contributed to the development of bevacizumab used to manage metastatic colorectal, lung, and kidney cancers — and she has enthusiastically mentored medical students, residents, and fellows here on a range of research projects related to tumor modeling.

To encourage and support translational and clinical research by pediatrics faculty, the department will be awarding three grants to faculty members in 2015. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued by the department on December 1, 2014. Applications to this departmental research initiative will be reviewed by our new departmental Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of faculty members charged with enhancing education and research in pediatrics. The three grants — one \$50,000 award and two grants of \$25,000 each—can be applied to any area of basic, translational, clinical, or health-outcomes research. The closing date for applications is January 5, 2015.

Also in early December, the department will announce a competitive program that provides residents and fellows with funds to offset the clinical research costs of their self-initiated projects. Susan Cohn and the Pediatric Clinical Trials Office will be working with the residency and fellowship programs to ensure the maximum use of this opportunity.

These endeavors, and those of many others in the department, will be critical in coming years as we enhance the types, depth, and impact of research carried out by faculty, fellows, residents, and trainees. We are at a particularly important juncture in pediatrics research with the decline in federal funding. This change emphasizes the need to identify foundational and philanthropic sources of support, such as recent gifts to the department. Importantly, the Institute of Medicine recently stressed the need to increase funding for child health. It is likely that this recommendation will be reflected in the next round of Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), funded by the NIH. We must ensure that our research efforts as a Department reach the greatest number of children in our community.

Sincerely

John



# CHICAGO PEDIATRICS MONTHLY

## **UChicago Pediatrics in the news**

Each month, faculty and their work are featured in dozens of local, national and international news stories. Here's a round up of recent mentions.

Read more:  
<http://bit.ly/1vNAMkd>

## **Certificate of Need for Labor and Delivery Modernization Approved**



The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board unanimously approved the University of Chicago Medicine's application to modernize and move the labor and delivery (L&D) unit to Comer Children's Hospital.

Read more:  
<http://bit.ly/1rtTgWG>

## **To Be So Honored**

A round up of awards, grants, publications and presentation from across the UChicago Medicine Pediatrics community.

Read more:  
<http://bit.ly/1rtTsVS>

## **UChicago Sleep Experts Featured in National Geographic Documentary**

David Gozal and Eve Van Cauter are among the leading sleep researchers to be featured in a new documentary aimed at drawing attention to the health consequences of sleep deprivation. The documentary, *Sleepless in America*, premieres on the National Geographic Channel on Sunday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m. CT.

## **Clinical Trials Office Paves the Way for Pediatric Research**



Pediatric hem/onc fellow Mark Applebaum has found the Pediatric Clinical Trials Office (CTO) a helpful resource. Melissa Zeilner is one of seven clinical research associates on hand to help investigators keep track of the many regulatory requirements for human research.

The most elegantly designed clinical trial study can easily go awry and even get shut down if investigators slip up on complying with the complex and ever-changing rules and regulations of clinical research. "I've seen investigators inadvertently enroll in trials patients who haven't properly signed the consent form or who were determined not to be eligible subsequent to an audit," says Susan Cohn, Dean for Clinical Research and acting chief of the section of Hematology/Oncology.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/1HFSZu8>

## **"Can We Make the Care Better? The Answer is Always Yes."**



Jessica Kandel has an adventurous streak that seeks out the hard stuff. At 25, she lived for a year in the hills of Papua New Guinea, one of 11 doctors in the entire country; as a "house doctor," she provided medical care to tribal people, including cannibals. An internationally recognized authority in the surgical treatment of childhood cancers, Kandel chose as her passion the research orphan of pediatric congenital vascular anomalies. And, as section chief of pediatric surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at Comer Children's Hospital, Kandel puts her energy into some of the most challenging areas of medicine, such as figuring out how to keep difficult-to-treat patients from slipping through the cracks as they progress from pediatric to adult surgery and medicine. Read more: <http://bit.ly/1HFT2Gm>

## **New Executive has Big Heart**

After losing a Heart Walk challenge, new executive Vikram Acharya had to suit up as Hearty the American Heart Association mascot and take a stroll November 13 through the Mitchell Hospital. The big-hearted Vice President of Clinical & Procedural Services extended his rounds to Comer, where the kids and staff members hugged and fist-bumped him. Patient Oliver Buena-Franco, 4, delivered a big high-five. Says Acharya: "I could do this every year."



## **I'd Say ...**

**Jessica Kandel**  
Section Chief, Pediatric Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief

### **Name one of your personal heroes.**

My mother, because she challenged convention, overcame her own fears, and realized a personal aspiration by going to law school between child #3 and #4.

### **What advice would you give a younger you?**

Worry less about mistakes and more about opportunities. Don't wait to be asked.

### **Biggest pet peeve about medicine ...**

Underfunding of the NIH, which translates into delayed discovery. Real quality in healthcare requires not only the best of what we have to offer today, but generating the new knowledge that becomes the future standard.

Read more from Kandel:  
<http://bit.ly/11Ui3ND>

## **New Appointments, Re-appointments & Promotions**

**Nikki Orlov**, a former Chief Resident, became the Associate Clerkship Director on November 1. She will be working in the Comer Clinics, at the Friend Center, and as a hospitalist on our general pediatric ward.

## **December Grand Rounds Schedule**

**Dec. 2** GI; speaker TBA

**Dec. 11** Dr. Andy Beck, University of Cincinnati

**Dec. 18** Neonatology; speaker TBA

**Dec. 25** No conference