



UI HEALTH PEDIATRICS

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020 CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER

News Briefs

Dr. Van Voorhees Is George R. Honig, MD, Endowed Professor in Pediatrics



Benjamin W. Van Voorhees, MD, MPH, has been appointed as the inaugural recipient of the “George R. Honig, MD, Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics” in the College of Medicine by University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Michael Amiridis. The Professorship that is named for Dr. Honig will support the Head of the Department of Pediatrics at UIC. Now serving as Emeritus Professor, Dr. Honig was Head of that Department from 1984 to 2004. He also was a founder and director of the University of Illinois Sickle Cell Center, which encompassed programs in patient care, education, screening and counseling services, and clinical and laboratory based research.

Section of Pediatric Genetics Announcements

Professor **Philip F. Giampietro, MD, PhD**, has now joined us as Chief of the Section of Pediatric Genetics. The research interests of Dr. Giampietro include the genetics of congenital and idiopathic scoliosis. Dr. Giampietro has worked closely with orthopedic surgical colleagues, clinical and molecular geneticists, and epidemiologists to better understand genetic and environmental contributions to these conditions. Dr. Giampietro also has interests in the use of social media for children with genetic conditions, personalized medicine, and syndrome delineation. Associate Professor George Hoganson will continue to manage our metabolic program with such roles as Director of Newborn Screening & Biochemical Genetics, and Director of the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory. Our long-term commitment to the State of Illinois Newborn Screening Program is particularly noteworthy. Under the leadership of Drs. Giampietro and Hoganson, UI Health is uniquely equipped to provide outstanding care for children with a special healthcare need as well as those with multiple disabilities.



Philip F. Giampietro, MD, PhD



Dr. Caskey Is Chancellor's COVID-19 Response Award Recipient

Associate Professor **Rachel Caskey, MD**, is a recipient of the Chancellor's COVID-19 Response Award. This prestigious campus-wide honor recognizes contributions of UIC/UIH employees who serve as first responders or who have significantly contributed to maintaining campus operations during this unprecedented time.



Dr. Caskey poses with masks made by Masks for Moms volunteer effort, through the UIC Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health

Dr. Srinivasan Is Director of Simulation



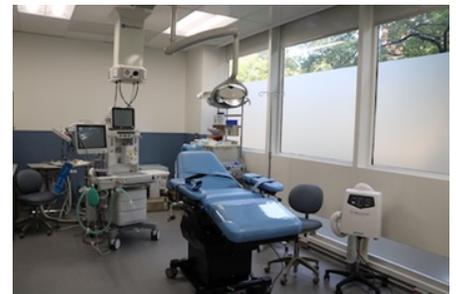
Dr. Nishant Srinivasan, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, has accepted the position of Director of Simulation for the Department of Pediatrics. His extensive experience in simulation includes scholarly pursuits in the development of innovative tools in simulation education, contributions to the AAP ONTPD's (American Academy of Pediatrics Organization of Neonatal Training Program Directors) National Neonatology Curriculum as an author and a peer reviewer, and the organization of regional neonatology simulation workshops for trainees and neonatal providers in the community. Dr. Srinivasan is now working to expand Departmental support of simulation by fostering areas of related expertise and bringing together interested individuals to form a cohesive team.



Dr. Srinivasan with Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellows

UIC Children's Dentistry Outpatient Center Is Now Open

In collaboration with the pediatric dentistry and oral & maxillofacial surgery departments, the UIC College of Dentistry has now opened the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Pediatric Dentistry Outpatient Center. The center houses four operatories for oral surgery procedures and two general anesthesia suites. More than 1000 children annually are expected to be served with improved wait times. <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/new-dentist-news/2020-archive/october/uic-dental-school-unveils-pediatric-outpatient-center>



Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Team Continues Thanksgiving Tradition

Thanksgiving continued to be festive for UI Health Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. This year "gratitude boxes" were sent to the home addresses of more than 300 patients. The boxes containing items such as books and art supplies, Uno cards and other party games, dental supplies, and edible treats were part of a tradition started 17 years ago of a Thanksgiving fest attended by the Heme/Onc team and those struggling with blood and cancer disorders. Past gatherings included food, music, games, and family photographs, as well as holiday gifts to be taken home. Thanks to all at UIC and in the community who made it possible in 2020 to share gratitude for collective health and to spread love.



Friends of UIC Pediatrics Distribute Handmade Blankets and Masks



Nothing says love like a beautiful and functional item that is handmade! In addition to the blankets given to the Children's Hospital University of Illinois, cloth face masks to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus were stitched in cheerful fabric for our hospital and clinic children in three sizes: medium, small, and extra small. Several churches in the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Archdiocese participated in making and distributing the blankets and masks. Special thanks goes to Maria Lampros, who is a Board Member of the Friends of UIC Pediatrics, for making deliveries to campus and for heading up the Masks Matter group at the Ascension of Our Lord Church.





UIC Infant Has Been Enrolled in the Footprints Study

A research team in the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine led by Dr. De-Ann Pillers is participating in a Footprints study to determine if an investigational drug (SHP607) can reduce chronic lung disease in extremely premature infants. The first UI Health infant enrolled on 11.6.20 was the 49th baby in the nationwide clinical trial, which is a phase 2b, multicenter, randomized, open-label, controlled, 3-arm study that is sponsored by Shire.

Halloween Costume Contest Winners Announced



Based on nearly 1500 “likes” received via social media, gift card prizes generously donated by the Flamini Foundation were awarded to Avery Thor, Brayan Superman, Santino Aqua Man, and Elijah Hulk. Although the Halloween 2020 focus was on safety during the pandemic, there were many other costumes and forms of celebration that made the day special for patients and staff alike.



Reminder of the 3W's

COVID-19 restrictions are in effect for the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, and other guidelines are continually being updated for UI Health faculty, staff, and patients. Virtual holiday celebrations are strongly encouraged for extended family, and it's important to remember the 3W's to slow the spread of the virus: WASH your hands, WATCH your distance, and WEAR a face covering.

Recent Grant Award

NIH Award to CATCH-IT

Title: Primary Care Based Depression Prevention in Adolescents: Intervention Optimization in Preparation for Implementation

Study Dates: 12/1/2020-10/31/2024

Amount: \$2.93M

Funder: NIH (NIMH)

PI: Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD (contact PI); Tracy Gladstone, PhD (Wellesley, MPI)

Summary: Prevention of depressive disorders has become a key priority for the NIMH, but we have no widely available public health strategy to reduce morbidity and mortality.

To address this need, we developed and evaluated the primary care based-technology “behavioral vaccine,” Competent Adulthood Transition with Cognitive-Behavioral Humanistic and Interpersonal Therapy (CATCH-IT). We will engage 4 health systems that are representative of the U.S. health care system, and conduct a factorial design study to optimize the intervention in preparation for an implementation study and eventual dissemination.



Department of Pediatrics presents...

FACULTY RETREAT

April 9, 2021



Save the Date

Further details will be forthcoming, but please put the Faculty Retreat on your new next year's calendar. It will be held on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Please continue to send news items to Ann Lindner at lindnera@uic.edu