

Research News

Newsletter of
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Department of Pediatrics



Division Highlights: Ambulatory Pediatrics

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Behavioral Sciences

Each volume the Research News highlights a new division so we can all learn more about their research activities and interests.

This volume the chosen division is Ambulatory Pediatrics, the largest division in Pediatrics at KUMed. Dr. Pam Shaw serves as Chief of the division and Director for the residency program, and Dr. Lisa Gilmer serves as the Associate Program Director for the residency program. Also in the division are doctors Steve Lauer, Sohena Kaur, Kevin Maben, Lore Nelson, Nirav Shastri, Pam Shastri, Leona Therou, Kathryn Veal and Norma Villegas, and pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) Sallie Page-Goertz with Cindy Turner serving as division secretary. Because the division is so large they have division meetings twice per month where they discuss clinical issues, billing topics, evidence-based medicine, and ongoing research projects.

There is currently a great deal of research happening in Ambulatory Pediatrics at KUMed. Dr. Pam Shaw is the current recipient of a Healthy Steps curriculum grant to change patterns of practice behavior for physicians and residents related to a Developmentally based curriculum. This is quite a jump from her previous research interests in the area of lactation and barriers to breast-feeding, but is a nice fit with her current position as director of the residency program. Her current interests are quite broad and include matters related to changing or improving the practice of medicine.

The division also just finished a Phase IV Hepatitis B vaccine study looking at the safety and efficacy of a popular vaccine. The data from this study are in the process of being compiled from all of the sites around the nation and results should be available soon. In November 2004 the division will start another Phase IV trial of a drug called Synagis, a monthly injection to be used to prevent RSV or respiratory syncytial virus.

The division is also about to start a new study assessing oral health in children under three to see if a fluoride varnish can help prevent later dental caries funded by the United Methodist Health Foundation. Both residents

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and attending physicians will be educated on how to do a proper primary care dental exam, followed by how to properly apply the fluoride varnish. Dental outcomes of all pediatric participants will be measured again at age 5 to determine the effects of the study. This study is extremely important for the pediatric population served by KUMed as they typically have an extremely high dental caries rate.

In addition to the ongoing projects, the division has diverse research interests that they hope to pursue. Dr. Lisa Gilmer is currently a Fellow in the Sunflower Clinical Scholars Program, and developing an observation scheme in which resident H & P's can be reliably and validly assessed through direct observation. Dr. Steve Lauer is interested in smoking cessation and changing inpatient practices to improve patient outcomes through the use of standardized protocols. Dr. Kathryn Veal was recently appointed as the local Director of the Pediatric Health and Environment Study Unit, a five state grant designed to improve the care of pediatric patients with ingestions or exposure to toxins. Dr. Sohena Kaur is also an extremely productive researcher, with many ongoing projects in the areas of pediatric obesity and smoking cessation. Sallie Page-Goertz, a PNP in the Ambulatory Pediatrics division, is a well known researcher in the area of breast feeding and often has articles appear in nationally known journals and magazines, while also serving as project coordinator for some of the divisions on-going research projects.

Dr. Shaw reports that she is extremely pleased with all of the current research in her division, and believes that research is extremely important for the practice of medicine. She hopes that in the future her division will be able to pursue their research interests more actively and sees their only barrier as the lack of a full time study coordinator.

Research Tips: Avoiding Pitfalls in Collaborative Research

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Behavioral Sciences

To collaborate means "to labor or cooperate with another, esp. in literary or scientific pursuits" (The New International Webster's Students Dictionary of the English Language, 1996). Collaboration between investigators within the same institution or between institutions offers a number of benefits. Interdisciplinary collaboration allows one to more thoroughly research interesting scientific questions from unique perspectives. It is also a great learning experience for those who collaborate and optimizes chances for obtaining funding. There are, however, a number of potential pitfalls that can scuttle efforts for productive collaborations.

1. There can be lack of agreement between investigators on who does what and when. It is important to have written protocols for implementing all aspects of a study, including recruitment, data collection, treatments or conditions, and data analysis. All research staff needs to be trained using the same

Human Subjects Committee Information

Deadline**	Meeting
April 5	April 13
April 19	April 27
May 3	May 11
May 17	May 25
May 28	June 8
June 14	June 22
July 2	July 13

****all deadlines are at noon****

New Hours: The Human Subjects Office/Research Compliance Division hours will now be 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, effective Monday, April 5, 2004. This applies to the offices located at G006, G017, and G018 Sudler.

For more information, go to the HSC office at G006 Sudler or the website at

http://www2.kumc.edu/researchcompliance/forms/HSC_MeetingDates_2004.pdf or call 913-588-1240

protocols and there needs to be a monitoring system in place to ensure that protocols are followed by all staff. There also needs to be a designated site and person who has overall responsibility for data integration and analysis. Finally, there needs to be advanced written agreements about who will write up results for publication and the order of authorship.

2. Lack of flexibility and receptivity to new ideas may be a particular pitfall for established investigators who are accustomed to conducting research in a certain way. "Thinking out of the box" is one of the main benefits of collaborative research.
3. Being too concerned about who gets the credit can be a problem (Clint Eastwood, playing the character Dirty Harry, referred to this as "being a legend in your own mind"). The group should get credit for a group effort, if everyone contributes equally or in important ways.
4. Human subjects' approval across sites can be a major problem. Research compliance personnel and human subjects committee chairs must communicate to address the issues of which parental consent and child assent forms should be used and their format and data and safety monitoring issues. With the new HIPAA regulations, it is vital that data shared between investigators is properly handled when protected health information is accessed and coded.
5. To maintain effective collaboration, figure out what reinforcers are preferred by collaborating investigators and provide them. Most often these would be reimbursement for a portion of their salary, presentations at professional meetings, and publications.

These seem to be the major pitfalls to successful collaboration, but they are manageable and need to be addressed from the outset of any joint research project.

Current Pediatric Grants

Ahluwalia, J. (PI), & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator) "Helping African-American Light Smokers Quit" NIH/ NCI - Total direct costs: \$1,604,016	08/01 - 06/05
Casey, J. (PI), Delrosario, G. (Co-PI) "Endocrinology Metabology" Genet-Internal	02/21/02-12/31/05
Cocjin, J. (PI) "The use of Amitriptyline in Children" KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000	7/1/03-6/30/04
Greiner, A. & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator) "Assessing Obesity In Rural Kansas Primary Care Practices" Sunflower Foundation - Total direct costs: \$137,958	06/03 - 05/04
Huang TTK & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator) "Monitoring University Students Tackling Diabetes and Obesity (MUST DO)" American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) - Total direct costs: \$100,000	7/1/03 - 6/30/05

Johnson, C. (PI), Richman, D. 07/00 - 06/05
"Leadership education in neurodevelopmental disabilities."
Maternal and Child Health Bureau - Total costs: \$2,675,000

Award News

Dr. Pam Shaw has been selected as the 2004 recipient of the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching. Her selection by a committee of faculty and students, recognizes her contribution to the University and to its students through her outstanding teaching.

Also, Drs. Kaur & McGrath were selected for the KUMC Research Institute Faculty Travel Award. Dr. Kaur presented a research poster at the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL (October 2003) and Dr. McGrath will present a research poster at the Child Health Conference in Charleston, SC in April, 2004.

Li, C & Kaur, H. (Co-Investigator) 1/1/04 - 12/31/05
"Influences of Fetal Environment & Growth in Childhood on the Onset of Overweight in Adolescence"
American Heart Association (Heartland Affiliate) – Total direct costs: \$143,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 7/1/03 - 6/30/04
"Development of a Videotape Coding Scheme for Evaluation of Pediatric Residents in Cardiology"
KU Pediatric Foundation - Total direct costs: \$10,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 3/1/04 - 2/28/05
"Using TeleMedicine to Assess Pediatric Obesity Rates and Treatment Barriers Among Rural Children in the State of Kansas"
KUMC Telemed Department – Total direct costs: \$25,000

McGrath, A. (PI) 07/02 - 06/04
"Obesity among school age children in the state of Kansas"
Sunflower Foundation - Direct costs: \$137,383

Nelson, E. (PI) 09/03 - 08/04
"Development of an eHealth Provider-Patient Communication Measure"
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - Total costs: \$95,538

Poston, C. (PI), Kaur, H. (PI on KU Subcontract) 06/03 - 05/08
"An Analysis of Environmental Risk Factors for Obesity"
NIH/ NIDDK - Total direct costs: \$2,489,343

Rapoff, M. (PI), Belmont, J. & Knobler, S. (Co-Investigators) 07/04 – 06/07
"Headstrong Intervention for Recurrent Pediatric Headache"
R01, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke-Total Costs: \$563,090

Sahgal, N. (PI)
“Fetal Regulation of Placental Biology”
NICHD : K08 HD 42171

04/02 - 03/07

Voziyian, P. (PI), **Scheinman, J. (Co-Investigator), Belmont, J. (Consultant)** 08/02 - 07/04
“Development of a New Treatment of Urinary Stone Disease”
NIH - STTR Grant - Direct Costs \$100,000

Recent Pediatric Publications

Ahluwalia HK, Klish D, Choi WS, Li C, Resnicow K, Ahluwalia JS. Cluster Analysis of Adolescent Dietary and Activity Behaviors. *Obesity Research*. September 2003; 11 (Supplement) A143 (Abstract # 590-P)

Foster JEA. (2004). The spirit of pediatric residency. *American Academy of Pediatrics – Kansas Chapter Newsletter*.

Hollowell JG, Neonatology & Laboratory Medicine, Book Review. *J Med Screen* 2004;11:54.

Huang TK, Harris KJ, Lee RE, Nazir N, Born W & **Kaur H**. (2003). Assessing overweight, obesity, diet, and physical activity in college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 52(2), 83-86.

Hyman PE & Danda CE (2004). Understanding and treating childhood bellyaches. *Pediatric Annals*, 33(2), 97-104.

Marcin JP, Ellis J, Mawis R, **Nagrampa E**, Nesbitt TS & Dimand RJ. (2004). Using telemedicine to provide pediatric subspecialty care to children with special health care needs in an underserved rural community. *Pediatrics*, 113(1), 1-6.

Nelson EL, Citarelli M, Cook D & **Shaw P**. (2003). Reshaping health care delivery for adolescent parents: Healthy steps and telemedicine. *Telemedicine Journal and E-health*, 9(4), 387-392.

Page-Goertz S. (2004). Leading families to breastfeeding success: Key principles of anticipatory guidance. *Advance for Nurse Practitioners*, 12(2), 23-33, 100.

Pediatric Conference Presentations

Due to faculty interest, we've decided to add a new section to the newsletter on faculty and resident presentations at national or international conferences. So, if you have any that you've recently given or plan to give in the near future, and you'd like to add to the next newsletter, just email them to amcgrath@kumc.edu.

Born W, Pulvers K, Lee RE, Greiner KA, **Kaur H**, Nollen N, Hall S, Fitzgibbon ML, Ahluwalia JS. Body Image Discrepancy Among Rural Obese Patients. Poster presentation at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, Baltimore, MD, March 24-27, 2004.

Ellerbeck KA, Ansari MA, Dhar MG & Jacobson JD. Sex Differences in Immune Responsiveness to Oxytocin: Role of G β q. Society for Pediatric Research, Poster Presentation, May 2004, San Francisco, CA.

Hallowell JG. Prevalence of Thyroid Dysfunction in Reproductive Age Women - US Population. At The Impact of Maternal Thyroid Disease on the Developing Fetus: Implications for Diagnosis, Treatment and Screening Workshop, Atlanta, GA (January 2004).

Li C, **Ahluwalia HK**, Choi WS, Ahluwalia JS. Early Life Influences on the Developmental Trajectories of Overweight during Childhood. Poster presented at the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL (October 2003).

Li C, **Kaur H**, Choi WS, Ahluwalia JS. Is Prenatal Alcohol Exposure Associated with Childhood Overweight? Poster presentation at the 44th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention featuring the L. J. Filer Symposium on Prevention of Overweight and Its Consequences Beginning in Youth. San Francisco, California, March 3-6, 2004.

Nollen NL, **Ahluwalia HK**, Pulvers K, Choi W, Fitzgibbon M, Li C, Nazir N, Ahluwalia JS. Correlates of Ideal Body Size among Black and White Adolescents. Poster presented at the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO) Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL (October 2003).

Nollen N, Snow P, Okuyemi KS, Mayo MS, Choi WS, Nazir N, **Kaur H**, Ahluwalia JS. Estimation of the Sensitivity of Carbon Monoxide and Serum Cotinine among African American Light Smokers. Poster presentation at the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco's 10th Annual Scientific Sessions, Scottsdale, Arizona, February 18-21, 2004.

Raghuveer G, Hoover C, **Belmont J**, **Mattioli L**, Moriarty P. Effect of Simvastatin on Flow-mediated Vasodilatation in Hypercholesterolemic Children. Society for Pediatric Research, Poster Presentation, May 2004, San Francisco, CA.

A Request for Proposals

The Sunflower Foundation (www.sunflowerfoundation.org) has announced a new funding opportunity....

Promoting Physical Activity and Healthy Eating to Reduce the Prevalence of Obesity in Kansas

Due: Postmarked by 4/23/04

Their application is relatively simple and can be found at their website listed above.

Additional Grant Opportunities

Please see the links below for information on the Faculty Travel Award, deadline May 1, offered by KUMC Research Administration.

Announcement -

<http://www2.kumc.edu/researchinstitute/admin/forms/Travel%20Award%20Memo.pdf>

Application -

[http://www2.kumc.edu/researchinstitute/admin/forms/Application for Faculty Domestic or International Travel Award.pdf](http://www2.kumc.edu/researchinstitute/admin/forms/Application%20for%20Faculty%20Domestic%20or%20International%20Travel%20Award.pdf)

For all other internal funding opportunities

http://www2.kumc.edu/researchinstitute/admin/funding_opportunities.html