

# Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital Newsletter

September

2011

Issue 2



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Northeast view of building site



Front view of new Children's Hospital

[pennstatehershey.org/web/childrens/home/newbuilding](http://pennstatehershey.org/web/childrens/home/newbuilding)

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## From the Chair's Office

*A. Craig Hillemeier, M.D., Chairman – Barbara E. Ostrov, M.D., Vice-Chair*

**Welcome** to our September issue of the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital Newsletter. The first newsletter was successfully launched in July and we have been given great feedback and ideas for future issues. Thank you to everyone for their input.

We are thrilled to have Andrea Taroli, M.D., join us, as she will be the first faculty member to focus primarily on child safety. She will build on the work done by Kate Crowell, M.D., and Laura Duda, M.D., which really brought child safety and its importance to the forefront of Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

In July, we were happy to welcome new residents and fellows to the

pediatric family. These young men and women have proven to be an exciting group, and we are proud they have chosen Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital for the next phase of their professional development.

Congratulations to the orthopaedics and urology teams, led by Doug Armstrong, M.D., and Ross Decter, M.D., for their accomplishment in being listed among the best in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* and bringing great recognition to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

As the summer winds down, the structure of the new Children's Hospital is finally enclosed and protected from the weather. More than 200 people are estimated to be working every day on

the construction, making a completion date of fall 2012 seem realistic. Decisions regarding the electronic safety system, patient amenities, and a choice of artwork in front of the hospital are nearing finalization. The Family Advisory Council and Advisory Council of Teens have been actively involved in these and many other decisions about the "touch and feel" of the new hospital—emphasizing our family-centered care approach to the design.

**Thank you** in advance for your contributions to this publication. With your participation and input, this newsletter will provide a great service to the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital community. Send submissions, ideas and suggestions to:  
[pedsnewsletter@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:pedsnewsletter@hmc.psu.edu).



**Sunday, Oct. 16  
Hershey Half  
Marathon**

Race is SOLD OUT, but volunteers are still needed for Oct. 15 & 16  
[hersheyhalfmarathon.com](http://hersheyhalfmarathon.com)

**Saturday, Nov. 19  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
"Thanks for Giving"  
Miracle Ball**

Hershey Lodge  
6:00 p.m.



**Friday, Dec. 2  
Neiman Marcus  
Fashion Show**  
The Hotel Hershey  
11:00 a.m.

For a complete list of Children's Miracle Network events and details, visit  
[pennstatehershey.org/web/cmnhome/calendarevents](http://pennstatehershey.org/web/cmnhome/calendarevents)

Like our Facebook page!  
[facebook.com/childrensmiraclenetworkhershey](http://facebook.com/childrensmiraclenetworkhershey)

## PA Vent Camp

Robin Kingston, C.R.N.P.  
Pediatric Home Ventilator Program  
Staffing Coordinator, PA Vent Camp

In June, PA Vent Camp held its seventeenth year of camp at Camp Victory in Millville, Pennsylvania, hosting forty-two campers who are ventilator, CPAP, or BiPAP dependent for all or part of the day. Vent camp allows such children an overnight camp experience away from home and enables them to see that they are not the only kid in the world like this, while also providing respite time for their families.

PA Vent Camp is like any other typical summer camp in that it provides experiences such as swimming, arts and crafts, fishing and boating, talent shows, dances, and food fights. The campers are also able to rock climb and go zip-lining. How can this be, you ask? Modify, modify, modify. You haven't seen

anything until you see a kid with a ventilator, oxygen, and wound vac on a zip-line!

The campers establish friendships with others who are like them and keep in touch with fellow campers and camp volunteers all year long via social networking. Speaking of volunteers, we have more than 120 who make the camp run—from physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and physical and occupational therapists, to college and high school students, young teens, and anyone willing to help and work hard. Our volunteer to camper ratio is about three to one. We have partners who are paired with a specific camper, as well as nurse and respiratory team leaders, junior counselors, and a night shift staff who takes over at bed time. Also important is the activities staff that plans the theme and all of the fun activities for the week. This

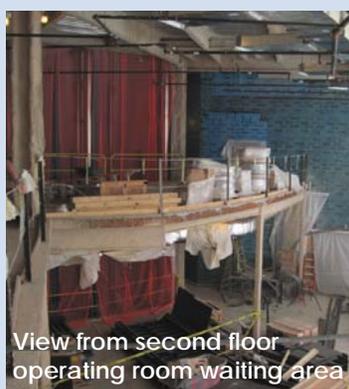
year was an Indiana Jones meets dinosaurs week.

PA Vent Camp began in 1993 with just fourteen campers and now welcomes up to forty-two campers. Camp is free to the campers and is largely funded by the Children's Miracle Network, donations, and fundraisers.

While it takes a lot of time and planning to prepare for and run a camp that is essentially mini-ICUs in a camp setting, the payoff is huge when you see the kids' smiles as they enjoy their friends and activities; see kids doing things that they never thought they could do; and see kids talk about camp and share photos all year long on Facebook!

For more information on how you can participate in PA Vent Camp or become a donor, please visit our website at [paventcamp.com](http://paventcamp.com).

## New Building Progress



View from second floor operating room waiting area



Second floor operating room



The Penn State Hershey Support Services Building, located behind the BMR and in front of Long Lane, is currently on schedule for occupancy occurring the week before Thanksgiving. In addition to eight new receiving docks, the building will be home to various facilities support functions and will centralize a number of clinical trials office

### Highlights

- Framing is nearing completion with drywall following suit.
- Exterior panels are almost all placed. Full enclosure is expected by mid-October.



Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit on the fourth floor

# Pediatric Rehab: We're not in "Kansas" anymore!

Myra Popernack, C.R.N.P.

It has been a year since Penn State Hershey Pediatric Rehabilitation was lifted from the six-bed, third floor corner of Penn State Hershey Medical Center and landed in the spacious ten-bed unit at the [Penn State Hershey Rehabilitation Hospital](#), located in a serene setting off of Old West Chocolate Avenue where Hummelstown meets up with Hershey.

The new facility has large patient rooms and convenient parking. The "almost home" feeling of the unit has been very beneficial for patients and their families, assisting them in the journey to recovery. A parent may sleep at the bedside, and rooms are just steps to the outdoors where patients easily walk or use wheelchairs to get some fresh air. This serves not only for leisure activity,

but also as part of a therapeutic environment allowing them to test mobility in even and uneven terrain.

[Penn State Hershey Pediatric Rehabilitation](#) is comprised of four patient populations: spinal cord injury, mobility deficits, traumatic brain injury, and home ventilator program for technology dependent children and infants. These unique groups of children and adolescents are provided intensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation services to meet each child's individual needs. Services include facilitating the reintegration of school-aged children back into their school system with appropriate supportive services and accommodations for their level of recovery.

Although the partnership with Select Medical Corporation and the surroundings are new, many of the program team members are not. Jeanette Ramer, M.D., continues to serve as medical director with her partner, Harry Bramley, D.O. Myra Popernack, C.R.N.P., serves as the nurse practitioner. Michael Dettorre, D.O., and Robin Kingston, C.R.N.P., lead the home ventilator program. A cohesive rehab team is comprised of the excellent, experienced pediatric nursing staff, occupational and physical therapists, speech language pathologists, and educational director, Richard Billings.

Although it is not physically at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital campus, we remains connected through

collaborative efforts and a shared mission to provide advanced care to the pediatric population in central Pennsylvania. We invite you to visit our unit, making you more familiar with the setting, thus enabling you to assist patients and families in a seamless transition from acute care, to rehab, and ultimately to home. As you know, there's no place like home! To arrange a tour, please call 717-832-2600. If you would like to refer a patient, please contact the pediatric rehab team at 717-832-2760.

[psh-rehab.com](http://psh-rehab.com)



## Announcements



**William Wenner, M.D., J.D.** has been named Director of the Pediatric Intermediate Care Unit.

**Three days, sixty miles**  
Administrative secretary Sue Hemperly and social worker Cindy Greene of Pediatric Pulmonology are teamed up as *Strength Becomes Her* in the Susan G. Komen three-day *For the Cure* walk in Philadelphia on October 14-16, raising funds for breast cancer research.

Sue and Cindy are walking in support of their co-worker, Nutritionist Liz Reid, who has been fighting a courageous battle with cancer. To make a helpful contribution to their team: <http://tinyurl.com/3cclld7p>



L to R: Sue Hemperly, Liz Reid, Cindy Greene

## Education Calendar

**Tuesday, Sept. 20 – 7:30 a.m. Lect Rm C – Grand Rounds**  
*CPC...An Unknown Case*  
**Bhavin M. Doshi, M.D.**

**Tuesday, Sept. 27 – 7:30 a.m. Lect Rm C – Grand Rounds**  
*Staged Left Ventricle Rehabilitation in Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome*  
**Sitaram M. Emani, M.D.**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital Boston

**Tuesday, Oct. 4 – 7:30 a.m. Auditorium– Grand Rounds**  
*Retinal Findings Associated with Child Abuse*  
**Alex Levin, M.D.**, Chief, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Ocular Genetics, Wills Eye Institute, Philadelphia, PA

**Tuesday, Oct. 11 – 7:30 a.m. Lect Rm C – Grand Rounds**  
*Biotherapy-What is it, and why should we care?*  
Ronald A. Sherman, M.D., M.Sc., DTM&H, Clinic Physician (Special Diseases-HIV), Orange County Health Care Agency; Santa Ana, CA

[penstatehershey.org/web/childrens/education/educationcalendar](http://penstatehershey.org/web/childrens/education/educationcalendar)

## Kudos

**Dianne Schuller, M.D.**, was recently elected as President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Allergy and Asthma Association and will begin her term in June 2012. Additionally, Dr. Schuller was recognized by the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic region in April at the Sapphire Gala awards ceremony for more than thirty years of volunteer community service to this organization.

**Patricia Silveyra, Ph.D.**, was recently promoted from post-doctoral scholar to research associate. Dr. Silveyra works in the Joanna Floros, Ph.D., laboratory.

**Michael Beck, M.D.**, received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



## RESEARCH Spotlight

Barbara A. Miller, M.D.  
Laboratory

Four Diamonds Pediatric Oncology Research Center

Barbara Miller, M.D., is chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, vice chair for research in the Department of Pediatrics, and professor of pediatrics and biochemistry and molecular biology.

Diamonds Fund and THON to build endowments for the Pediatric Cancer Experimental Therapeutics Program and the Pediatric Molecular Oncology Program, attracting internationally known physician scientists to Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. The goal of these programs is to further the understanding and treatment of pediatric cancer.

The major research focus of Dr. Miller's laboratory is to understand the role of transient receptor potential (TRP) channels in cell proliferation and cancer. Her work started as research on the mechanisms through which growth factors control blood cell production, when these factors were first cloned in the 1980s. She focused on erythropoietin regulation of erythropoiesis as a straight forward initial model. Early work revealed the importance of regulation of intracellular calcium concentration in erythroid proliferation/differentiation. At the same time, the superfamily of ion channels, called TRP channels, were discovered. These are calcium permeable cation channels expressed on non-excitabile cells and are involved in a large number of physiological processes. Dr. Miller's lab identified TRP channels on normal human erythroid precursors, their regulation by erythropoietin, and specific domains of importance. Recently, work with knockout mice has shown that the channel TRPC2 plays an important role in oxidative stress induced hemolysis in red cells, and participates in regulation of the volume of red cells through interaction with the Gardos channel.

Dr. Miller has received many honors and awards including election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation, a highly prestigious society which recognizes excellence in clinical research. She was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research, and was a Hinkle Society Outstanding Junior Investigator Award recipient at Penn State. In 2004, she was awarded the Christopher Millard Endowed Chair in Pediatric Oncology from Penn State College of Medicine, the first recipient of this endowed chair.

A second major focus involves the role of the TRP channel TRPM2 and its isoforms in determining a cell's proliferative potential as well responsiveness to chemotherapy. Her laboratory is performing novel work to understand the role of these channels in tumorigenesis. They are expressed on the cell surface and have great potential as targets for new drugs to improve cure rates in pediatric cancer and to reduce devastating side effects. These channels also play a major role in cell death after oxidative stress, and may have an important role in diseases which involve oxidant injury and/or inflammation.

Dr. Miller has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1983, as well as by the American Cancer Society, Children's Miracle Network, Penn State College of Medicine Tobacco Formula grants, the St. Baldrick's Foundation, and by the Genzyme Renal Innovations Program. She has published more than seventy-five peer-reviewed papers, reviews, and chapters, and has had more than fifty presentations and invited talks to national and international societies and universities. She has served on numerous NIH study sections and review committees. Among the major motivations for her research are experiencing the daily challenges of children with cancer and their families, and the tremendous energy created by the THON students and all of those who contribute to The Four Diamonds Fund.

Dr. Miller has been a pediatric hematologist/oncologist for more than thirty years and has been recognized in *Best Doctors in America*™ since 1996. As chief of the division, she has had the opportunity to work with The Four

[Penn State Hershey Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Research](#)

[pennstatehershey.org/web/pedshematology/home](http://pennstatehershey.org/web/pedshematology/home)



Barbara Miller, M.D.

## Recent Publications *Children's Hospital faculty and Joint faculty*

Mehta J, Genin A, Brunner M, **Scalzi LV**, Mishra N, Beukelman T, Cron RQ. Prolonged expression of CD154 on CD4 T cells from pediatric lupus patients correlates with increased CD154 transcription, increased nuclear factor of activated T cell activity, and glomerulonephritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2010 Aug;62(8):2499-509.

**Silveyra P**, Raval M, Simmons B, DiAngelo S, Wang G, **Flores J**. The Untranslated Exon B of Human Surfactant Protein A2 (SFTPA2) mRNAs is an Enhancer for Transcription and Translation. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol*, Aug 12, 2011. [Epub ahead of print]

**Dovat S**, **Song C**, Payne KJ, **Li Z**. Ikaros, CK2 kinase and the road to leukemia. *Mol Cell Biochem.* 2011 July 13.

**Dovat S**. Ikaros in hematopoiesis and leukemia. *World J Biol Chem.* 2011 Jun 26;2(6):105-7.

**Song C**, **Li Z**, Erbe AK, Savic A, **Dovat S**. Regulation of Ikaros function by case in kinase 2 and protein phosphatase. *World J Biol Chem.* 2011 Jun 26;2(6):126-31.

**Li Z**, Perez-Casellas LA, Savic A, **Song C**, **Dovat S**. Ikaros isoforms: The saga continues. *World J Biol Chem.* 2011 Jun 26;2(6):140-5.

Sullivan S, Leite K, Shaffer ML, Birch LL, **Paul IM**. Urban parents perception of healthy infant growth. *Clin Pediatr* 2011; 50: 698-703.

**Paul IM**, Maselli JH, Hersh AL, Boushey HA, Nielson DW, Cabana MD. Antibiotic prescribing during pediatric ambulatory care visits for asthma. *Pediatrics* 2011; 127: 1014-21.

Trofa A, Klein NP, **Paul IM**, Michaels MG, Goessler MC, Chandrashekar V, Blatter M. Immunogenicity and safety of an inactivated Hepatitis A vaccine when co-administered with Diphtheria-Tetanus-Acellular Pertussis and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccines to children aged 15 months. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2011; 30: e164-e169.

Laughon MM, Benjamin Jr. DK, Capparelli EV, Kearns GL, Berezny K, **Paul IM**, Wade K, Barrett J, Smith PB, Cohen-Wolkowicz M. Innovative clinical trial design for pediatric therapeutics. *Expert Review of Clinical Pharmacology* 2011; 4: 643-652.

**Hirschler-Laszkiwicz I**, **Tong Q**, **Waybill K**, **Conrad K**, **Keefer, K**, **Zhang W**, **Chen SJ**, **Cheung JY**, **Miller BA**. The Transient Receptor Potential (TRP) Channel TRPC3 TRP Domain and AMP-Activated Protein Kinase Binding Site Are Required for TRPC3 Activation by Erythropoietin. *J. Biol. Chem.* 286:30636-30646, 2011.

The [Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Center](#), founded and directed by **Akif Undar, Ph.D.**, has published more than twenty papers in 2011. A complete list of the publications can be found on the Center's [website](#). [pennstatehershey.org/web/pedscardiocresearch/home](http://pennstatehershey.org/web/pedscardiocresearch/home)

## New Grant Funding

The Division of General Pediatrics was recently awarded a grant by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital PKU (Phenylketonuria) clinic. PKU clinic personnel include: **Cheston M. Berlin, M.D.**, **Andrea Abbe, R.D.**, **Patricia Gordon, M.D.**, and administrative secretaries **Linda Watson** and **Rose Santeusanio**. \$255,533.70; 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2014,

**Michael Huang, M.D.**  
St. Baldrick's Fellowship Award  
"The Role of Homeostasis & HFE Variance in Neuroblastoma Tumorigenesis"  
\$78,146; 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012

**Sinisa Dovat, M.D., Ph.D.**  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
"The Role of Ikaros in Myeloid Differentiation"  
\$115,000; 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012

**Sinisa Dovat, M.D., Ph.D.**  
NIH  
"The Role of Zinc Finger Genes in Leukemogenesis"  
\$367,370; 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012

## Presentations

Presentations at Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium American College of Rheumatology (*PRSYM*), Miami, FL. June 2011

**Scalzi LV**, Hychko G, Bingham C, Ungar D, Groh B., "Neuroblastoma versus JIA: Diagnostic Dilemma."

**Ostrov BE**, **Scalzi LV**. "Med-Peds Rheumatology in Practice: Assessment after Twenty Years."

**Howard Weber, M.D.**, was an invited lecturer for a second time at the Pediatric Interventional Symposium. This year's international event was held July 24-28, 2011 in Boston. Dr. Weber lectured on techniques utilized to avoid aortic valve damage during balloon valvuloplasty.

The [Seventh International Conference on Pediatric Mechanical Circulatory Support Systems and Pediatric Cardiopulmonary Perfusion](#) was held May 5-7, 2011, at the University of Pennsylvania/Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where members of the [Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Center](#) presented numerous invited lectures, slide presentations and poster presentations. A complete list of the 2011 presentations is listed on the Center's [website](#).

## Patient- and Family-Centered Care Quiz

You're walking down the hall, and you see a woman who looks lost and upset. You're not familiar with her, but you see she's wearing a *Parent Badge*, so you know she has a child somewhere on the seventh floor. How do you handle this situation in a family-centered manner?

- A. Avoid eye contact and keep walking. You have patients and families of your own to take care of and you know there are other people who will support this woman.
- B. Approach the woman and ask "Is there anything I can do for you right now?"
- C. Keep walking and alert a social worker when you get a chance.

The correct answer is B.

Approach the woman and ask "Is there anything I can do for you right now?" Calling the social worker is probably a good idea as well, but it would be helpful to have more information before doing so. We are all very busy with our own daily tasks, but something that families say time and time again, is that it's the little things we do that make a difference. One of the main values of patient-and family-centered care is respect and dignity. Show your respect for this person by simply acknowledging that she is upset and provide a tissue, or offer to walk her to where she needs to go. These little things can really show our patients and families the compassion we have for them in a difficult time.

## Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Center Reaches out to Istanbul, Turkey

Akif Ündar, Ph.D.

Faculty members (Linda Pauliks, M.D., M.P.H.; Bonnie Weaver, R.N., M.S.N., C.C.R.N., and Akif Ündar, Ph.D.) of the [Penn State Hershey Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Center](#) organized two recent Extracorporeal Life Support Systems (ECLS) symposiums held in the Swissotel the Bosphorus, Istanbul Mehmet Akif Ersoy Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Training and Research Hospital (IMAEH) in Istanbul, Turkey on June 26, 2011 and July 23, 2011, respectively.

The main goal of the symposiums, founded by Dr. Ündar, was to share the latest ECLS technology and outcomes of a custom-made Penn State Hershey ECLS system developed at the Penn State Hershey Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Center.

All participants, 182 clinicians from forty-four centers located throughout Turkey, received hands-on training with several different ECLS systems and showed a sincere appreciation of the new ECLS systems and a willingness to adopt the systems themselves. In addition, the faculty from Penn State Hershey visited local hospitals (IMAEH by L.P., B.W. and A.Ü.; Baskent University Hospital by L.P., B.W. and A.Ü.; Kartal Kosuyolu Training and Research Hospital by A.Ü.) to share their experiences with colleagues.

A video recording of the second symposium can be watched at the [IMAEH website](#), [www.imaeh.gov.tr](http://www.imaeh.gov.tr).

At the Third Scientific Meeting of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery held in Istanbul, June 23-26, 2011, Dr. Ündar co-chaired the panel *Pediatric mechanical cardiopulmonary support: mini-symposium* with Professor Dr. Atif Akcevin. Additionally,

he co-chaired the satellite symposium *State-of-the-art practices in neonatal & pediatric extracorporeal life support* with Colin Green.

Dr. Ündar is very appreciative of the plaque he received from IMAEH President & Founder Dr. Ihsan Bakir in recognition of his contributions to pediatric cardiovascular research in Turkey.



WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

# Calling all moms

Researchers at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center are looking for mother and child pairs to determine if there are differences in DNA transmitted to children based on the mother's age at child birth.

**Multiple children of the same mother, as well as grandmothers, can participate in this study.**

DNA will be collected by:

- a finger stick for blood
- cheek swabs
- optional hair sample

Besides date of birth, no other identifying information will be collected.

Compensation is provided.

**For more information:**  
Pediatric Clinical Research Office at 717-531-5656.

**Study director:**  
Kateryna D. Makova, Ph.D.  
Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

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This research study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board, under federal regulations at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Penn State College of Medicine.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pediatric Clinical Research Office  
**717-531-5656**

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[www.pennstatehershey.org/web/childrens/research](http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/childrens/research)

## What's happening in Allergy & Immunology?

### The Division of Allergy & Immunology

#### Section Chief:

Tracy B. Fausnight, M.D.

#### Faculty:

Alexandra Horowitz, M.D.  
Diane Schuller, M.D.

The incidence of allergic diseases has been increasing over the past several years, and the need for comprehensive allergy services for pediatric patients has never been greater. Our allergy and immunology program provides diagnosis and treatment for a variety of allergic and immunologic disorders.

We have recently started an oral challenge program for children with food allergies. This allows us to determine if our patients have outgrown their food allergies. It also helps

establish the diagnosis of food allergy when there is uncertainty about the condition.

We perform thorough evaluations of children with eosinophilic gastrointestinal disease (such as eosinophilic esophagitis), including patch testing and guidance on elimination diets.

We also see patients with recurrent infections or known complex immunodeficiencies. We can help establish the diagnosis and formulate a treatment plan, including immunoglobulin replacement.

We provide complete evaluations for environmental, drug, and stinging insect allergies, and perform desensitization when

indicated. We also treat asthma, atopic dermatitis, and chronic urticaria and angioedema.

Lastly, we sponsor a support group for families of children with anaphylactic food allergies. This meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Anteroom of Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Please email [FoodAllergySupport@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:FoodAllergySupport@hmc.psu.edu) for more information.

We currently have an outreach clinic in State College, and plan to begin outreach clinics in Lancaster and Reading in 2012. We are accepting physician referrals for new patient evaluations; please contact our office at 717-531-1846.



Tracy Fausnight, M.D.



Alexandra Horowitz, M.D.



Diane Schuller, M.D.

[pennstatehershey.org/web/pediatric-allergy/home](http://pennstatehershey.org/web/pediatric-allergy/home)

## New Faces in Pediatrics

## Faculty



**Zissis Chroneos, Ph.D.**, joined CHILD in The Department of Pediatrics in August 2011. He

was previously at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. His research goal is to elucidate the role of pulmonary surfactant in perinatal and postnatal development of the pulmonary immune system. Dr. Chroneos' research has defined a switch mechanism through which one or more surfactant components appear to modulate the ability of

alveolar macrophages to regulate immunological homeostasis, innate host defense, and activation of pulmonary mucosal immunity.



**Patricia Silveyra, Ph.D.**, came to Penn State from Argentina a few years ago as a

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. She has been working with Dr. Floros since spring 2008 as a postdoctoral fellow. The focus of her research is on the molecular mechanisms that regulate expression of

the human surfactant protein A genes and their variants that play an important role in innate immunity. Her specific focus is in the control of translation, particularly the role of mRNA untranslated regions and their interactions with translation factors and miRNAs.



**Andrea Taroli, M.D.**, joins us as our first board-certified child abuse faculty. After graduating

from the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexel), she practiced in

the Wilkes-Barre area and at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Taroli has served as an educator on all aspects of child abuse and has been a member of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Medical-Legal Advisory Board on Child Abuse & Neglect. We are fortunate to have Dr. Taroli here at Penn State Hershey to further develop our important Child Safety program. She will be working closely with our pediatricians, pediatric specialists, Trauma Program, emergency department, and community partners.

Please welcome these new faculty members!

# New Faces in Pediatrics

## Fellows & Residents



JULY 2011

### FELLOWS



**Christiana Oji-Mmuo, M.D.**  
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine



**Rohit Passi, M.D.**  
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine



**Mansi Sachdev, M.D.**  
Hematology/Oncology



**Ashish Saini, M.D.** Pediatric Cardiology



**Mala Talekar, M.D.**  
Hematology/Oncology

### RESIDENTS



**Waleed Abbasi, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Matthew Cascio, D.O.**  
Pediatrics



**Wendy Evans, D.O.**  
Pediatrics



**Christina Herting, D.O.**  
Pediatrics



**Samantha Hyner, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Timothy Kaminsky, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Arun Kannappan, M.D.**  
Medicine/Pediatrics



**Malika Kapadia, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Soumya Kattikat, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Nathan Keller, D.O.**  
Pediatrics



**Carrie Knipel, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Berthrand Onuoha, M.D.**  
Medicine/Pediatrics



**Kathleen Pitterle, D.O.**  
Medicine/Pediatrics



**Anjani Ravindra, M.D.**  
Pediatrics



**Laura Viscome, D.O.**  
Medicine/Pediatrics



**Alyssa (Kate) Weller, D.O.**  
Pediatrics



**Robert Wilkinson, D.O.**  
Pediatrics