



# Pediagogue

[HTTP://WWW.PEDIATRICS.MED.UBC.CA/](http://www.pediatrics.med.ubc.ca/)

ISSUE NUMBER 1 SPRING 2005

## Department Head's Message



**Dr. Bob  
Armstrong**

Welcome to the first issue of "Pediagogue" which was the name submitted by John Wu

and selected by the review committee as the best among a stiff competition of submitted names. Our intent is to focus on news and interest items that describe the activities of individuals, divisions and programs. I hope you like the change and invite your comments and suggestions.

This is the place to come if you want to hear about what is working! While we work on our challenges in other forums, *Pediagogue* is focused on our accomplishments. The external reviewers highlighted our successes as well as the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead. So, *Pediagogue* will bring you our collective accomplishments and encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities!

David Scheifele is highlighted in this first edition for his success in receiving the CIHR/Wyeth Chair in Vaccine. As one of two Chairs in Canada this is a very prestigious award and well deserved by David who is clearly providing national

and international leadership in this critical area of pediatrics. But, as only David can so eloquently say, his recognition reflects the accomplishments of a broad interdisciplinary team that has grown and thrived at BC Children's.

On April 2, 2005 we celebrated the accomplishments of Ross Petty as one of the founding fathers of pediatric rheumatology. It was an amazing day and dinner, not only because Ross was being recognized but because it demonstrated so clearly the dedication and collaboration of individuals in moving this field forward. Finding and training the right people in a field of study has tremendous long term payoff and Ross's contributions to training were clearly confirmed by the lineage of leaders in the field who pointed to Ross as a mentor and skilled teacher.

The Department Review was received this week. We are planning to gather input and comment from the Department as a whole for our response to the reviewers. This needs to be done by the end of May and you will hear more about how we will do that in the coming weeks.

I hope you find *Pediagogue* valuable and will be excited as well as feel challenged by the opportunities that are ahead.

Dr. Bob Armstrong can be reached at [barmstrong@cw.bc.ca](mailto:barmstrong@cw.bc.ca).

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### *The Lancet* announces its Neonatal



#### Survival Series.

Eight million children are either stillborn or die each year within the first month of life. This figure never makes the news.

The issue of child survival is a moral as well as a health barometer of our times. The aim of this special *Lancet Neonatal Survival* issue is to erase the excuse of ignorance for public and political inaction once and for all. It is available at no cost to all 1.1 million registered users of [thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com) at <http://www.activemag.co.uk/lancet.htm>

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Acting Editor: Julie E. Cullen; Design, Layout & Photography: Georgia Petropoulos



## Administration News



**Julie E. Cullen**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our quarterly newsletter *Pediagogue!*

Congratulations and thank you to John Wu for a great name.

Months of work have come together to present you a digest of clinical and academic activities going on in the Department. *Pediagogue* is your voice. The primary goal is to put information in your hands that is interesting, useable, newsworthy and equally represents academic and clinical activities. A secondary goal is to build an image for the Department and communicate with external stakeholders about who we are. Two Divisions (Centers) will be presented in each issue while the Spotlight sections will center on clinical and academic achievements or activities by an individual, group or program.

Expecting to grow by two pages, we are planning to add regular and visiting sections such as; Education Update, International Child Health, Chief Resident's News or perhaps something from the recently formed Research Assistant Table. *Pediagogue* will evolve as all newsletters do. Making this a publication that you really enjoy requires your input and feedback. Ideas, comments, or contributions are always welcome.

We are searching for an Editor for a one year term. If you are interested please contact Julie Cullen at (604) 875-2318 or [jcullen@cw.bc.ca](mailto:jcullen@cw.bc.ca)

## Transitions

**D**amian Duffy, our Administrator of Post Graduate Education and Human Resources, has accepted the position of Managing Director in the newly established Office of Pediatric Surgical Evaluation and Innovation in the Department of Surgery here at Children's Hospital. Over the past eight years, Damian played an important role in building an outstanding core residency program, has supported the subspecialty residents, and had a valuable role as human resource advisor to the Department.

**A**lison Bell, Executive Assistant to Dr. Bob Armstrong, Head of the Department of Pediatrics, has taken a position as Executive Assistant to the Managing Director, Annual Programs at BC Children's Hospital Foundation. Alison has made a very significant contribution to Sunny Hill, Children's & Women's, and UBC and we wish her well in her new position.

## In Memoriam

We regret to announce the passing of Dr. Fred Mirhady on January 5, 2005. Dr. Mirhady enjoyed a multi-cultural pediatric practice with an office at 63rd Avenue and Granville St. in Vancouver that spanned almost 45 years and generations of patients. He was Emeritus Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at UBC, an enthusiastic chess player, and a devoted teller of jokes, especially those using more than one of his many languages. He will be greatly missed by his devoted wife and extended family and friends.

## Postings

An opening exists for a Director, Integrated Pain Service at BC Children's Hospital. Please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca) on.

## Announcements

### Child Health Network



**D**r. Bob Peterson has been recruited as the Director of the Provincial Child Health Services Network for BC. He is former Professor

and Department Head of Pediatrics at the University of Ottawa. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Bob Peterson. Dr. Peterson can be reach at: [bpeterson@cw.bc.ca](mailto:bpeterson@cw.bc.ca).

### Rheumatology

**D**r. David Cabral, has accepted the position of Division Head of for Pediatric Division of Rheumatology. Under Dr Ross Petty, the Division has gained an international reputation for clinical



care, teaching and clinical research. The new paradigm for clinical care is to incorporate clinical research as part of quality of care control; furthermore research of rare pediatric diseases demands multicentre research endeavours. As the new head, my vision is for our division to become a leading centre for such care and research, and to also establish Vancouver as a centre for basic science research in the area of pediatric rheumatic diseases. The challenge is to achieve this in the face of increasing clinical, teaching and administrative commitments.

Dr. Cabral can be reached at [dcabral@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dcabral@cw.bc.ca).

**D**r. Kristin Houghton has been successful in her application for a position in the UBC Clinical Investigator Program. This program is designed to allow Dr. Houghton to pursue predominantly research during two additional years of her subspecialty program. Congratulations Kristin!

Announcements continued on page 11.

# Emeritus Happenings

Shortly after Judith Hall assumed the headship of the Department of Pediatrics, she asked me to explore the interest of retired faculty in on-going association with the department. She wondered if some of them would like to take part in the teaching program, or in research, or whether they might enjoy some social contacts.

I agreed to circulate a questionnaire to retired full-time and clinical faculty. The response indicated some interest in academic participation but almost unanimous interest in on-going social contact. A lunch was arranged, to which approximately 25 people attended. It was agreed that we would do it again in six months. We also agreed to approach retired colleagues from outside Vancouver, as well as those from disciplines other than pediatrics, who had worked with us in the Children's Hospital.

Since 1996, we have had lunch twice a year, in May and November, with an average attendance of about thirty; never less than 25 and at one time 40! Notifications are sent to approximately 100 individuals in all regions of the province. It is understood that people from a distance are unlikely to attend regularly, but at times the date has coincided with a projected trip to the coast. There have been regular attendees from Victoria. We suggest a note or an e-mail to say how you are doing and responses - which may be shared at the subsequent lunch - are always welcome and sometimes fascinating. For example, John Poole was building an aeroplane in his basement in Campbell River, while Mary Hollowell was captain of the 'Over 75' Pacific North West Tennis Team.

There has been some discussion about the most appropriate name for this group. "Retired" has been rejected because people don't necessarily retire at 65 and they don't like being classified as on the shelf. "Senior" appears to be a term that has

stuck, but we have been reaching down to the sexagenarian cohort – eliciting enthusiasm from some, and indifference from others. We also welcome a few younger individuals whose activities have been limited by illness. Our lunches have taken place at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, which is convenient for me and people seem to like it. Cash, or a cheque against the modest cost of the meal is collected on the spot. We have been most appreciative of the contribution of



**Rob Hill MD, FRCPC**

The Department of Pediatrics and its administrative staff in maintaining a mailing list and sending out notifications. There are no other costs and therefore no fees.

For the past few years we have had elegant newsletters, prepared by Phil Ashmore on his Apple. As I get older, I am less in touch with the Department and the hospital and I am extremely happy to say that David Smith has agreed to help in identifying those to whom we should send notifications. I will be glad, in due course, to relinquish my role as organizer.

We have tried to be inclusive. The purpose is purely social, with no formal presentations and no fund raising appeals. It is good to see or hear from old friends and we look forward to periodic progress accounts (or the lack thereof) in Departmental and hospital affairs. Alternative activities can, of course, be considered as they are proposed. The next Pediatrics Senior's lunch will take place on May 20th, 2005. Dr. Hill can be reached at [rob.hill@shaw.ca](mailto:rob.hill@shaw.ca).



*Dr. John Wu*

## **Department of Pediatrics Newsletter Name Contest**

*Congratulations to Dr. John Wu! Dr. Wu has won the Department of Pediatrics Newsletter Name Contest.*

*The origin of the name **Pediagogue** is: Department of Pediatrics + Dialogue Pedagogy – the art, science, or profession of teaching*

*Dr. John Wu is the Director of the Clinical Hematology Program with special interest in Inherited Bleeding Disorders and Hemoglobinopathy. He considers himself a recovering "workaholic" and loves Vancouver, walking, reading, traveling and participating in church activities.*

This newsletter is distributed to members of the Department of Pediatrics. We aim to make **Pediagogue** as informative as possible. To achieve this, we welcome articles, photographs, letters, feedback and other submissions. Please send submissions to [gpetrop@cw.bc.ca](mailto:gpetrop@cw.bc.ca).

## Changes a Foot

Strategic plans have been developed for the key organizations through which we deliver our mandate as a department – PHSA, Children’s, Women’s and the Research Institute. There are major new initiatives in development that present us with tremendous opportunity to move forward.

An effective response to these opportunities will require a framework for setting priorities, developing work plans and ensuring that we meet our goals. The **Strategy Council** brings together the key leaders within the Department of Pediatrics to set these priorities and translate them into action. The Council will meet 3-4 times a year to update and extend our priority plan and then use the Department Operations Committee to ensure implementation of tasks and strategic plans. In effect, the Operations Committee will become the working body of the Council and the Committee’s agenda will be built around tasks identified.

The Council has agreed on the following four principals:

1. That the leadership commit to the full engagement of the department members,

ensuring communication between all department members and the council leadership.

2. That the focus of the Council is on significant issues that support the strengthening of individual divisions or portfolios including issues that cross specific division/portfolio boundaries.

3. That priorities identified capture the breadth of our responsibility in terms of clinical care, education, research, and community service.

4. That, while respecting primary responsibilities and time commitment, there will be individual commitment to take leadership roles on issues and participate in moving forward specific tasks.

The Strategy Council, chaired by Bob Armstrong, first met in December 2004 and again in March 2005. Tasks have been identified, priorities are being developed, and task groups are being formed through *Pediagogue*, the Department will keep our members up to date on what the Strategy Council is doing.

For more information on the Strategy Council contact Dr. Bob Armstrong Head, Department of Pediatrics (barmstrong@cw.bc.ca 604.875.2315) or Julie E. Cullen, Director of Administration (jcullen@cw.bc.ca 604/ 875.2318)

### Conferences and Events

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH  
STAFF RETREAT

May 13, 2005 at the Marine Drive  
Golf Club.

For more information, contact:  
gpetrop@cw.bc.ca.

PEDIATRIC ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

May 14 - 17, 2005

<http://www.pas-meeting.org>

CHILDRUN - 20th Anniversary ,  
Celebration, June 5, 2005  
[www.childrun.com](http://www.childrun.com).

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS  
RESIDENTS BANQUET & AWARDS  
DINNER June 16, 2005. Pan Pacific

Hotel, 6:30 p.m. For further informaton,  
please contact Mike St. Yves at  
updtemp3@cw.bc.ca.

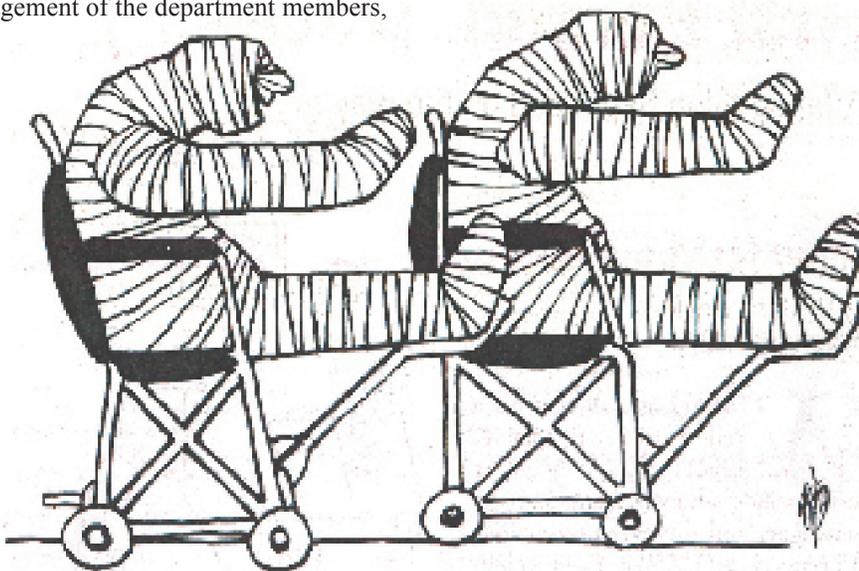
CANADIAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

[http://www.cps.ca/english/prodev/  
Vancouver2005/index.htm](http://www.cps.ca/english/prodev/Vancouver2005/index.htm)  
June 21 - 25, 2005

BC CANCER AGENCY ANNUAL  
CANCER CONFERENCE -

November 3 - 5, 2005 Westin  
Bayshore, Vancouver, BC. More  
information forthcoming next  
month.

1ST INTERNATIONAL CANCER  
CONTROL CONFERENCE, Oct. 23-  
26, 2005, Pan Pacific Hotel. For more  
information, visit [http://www.meet-ics.  
com/cancercontrol/welcome.html](http://www.meet-ics.com/cancercontrol/welcome.html)



*"Want to go bakes on another toboggan?"*

Source: "Stitches", Winter 2005 - <http://www.stitchesmagazine.com/>

# Academic Spotlight

## Vaccine Evaluation Centre

**Dr. David Scheifele was recognized at a Reception for his award of the 2004 CIHR/Wyeth Chair in Vaccine. The event took place at the Chieng Atrium of the Chan Centre on site.**

“The CIHR/Wyeth Chair in Vaccine Research will provide a substantial boost for the Vaccine Evaluation Centre at BC Children’s Hospital,” said Dr. David Scheifele in accepting the award at a ceremony at the Chieng Atrium on site on March 14th, 2005. His application to the Chairs competition was entitled “A Program in Applied Vaccinology: Translating new products into optimal immunization programs.” He explained that the application was based on the work of all 6 researchers at the Vaccine Centre, including Dr. Simon Dobson, Dr. Jan Ochnio, Dr. Jan Dutz, Dr. Julie Bettinger and Gordean Bjornson. Consequently, the research involved spans a wide spectrum of applied vaccinology, from preventable disease epidemiology and clinical trials of new vaccines to close evaluation of public immunization programs. The proposal emphasizes innovation, collaboration and training. The most innovative work involves needle-free immunization through the skin, led by Dr. Jan Dutz. Cross-country collaborations are being strengthened within a specialized organization chaired by Dr. Scheifele called the Canadian Association for Immunization Research & Evaluation (CAIRE).

as an attending specialist in infectious diseases. An especially attractive feature of the Chair is that it provides \$100,000 per year in discretionary research funding to be used to best advantage of the program. Planned uses include; hiring an immunoassay development technician to expand the technology available on site to assess responses to vaccines, facilitating the planning of multicenter studies and supporting trainee salaries and projects.

vaccinologists across Canada, as the existence of such chairs helps greatly to legitimize this area of research within CIHR, and it has been sometimes largely overlooked by funding agencies in the past. Better applied research means better programs for Canadian children, he concluded. Out congratulations to Dr. Scheifele.

Dr. Scheifele can be reached at [dscheifele@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dscheifele@cw.bc.ca).

Dr. Scheifele stressed that the benefits of the Chair program will extend to applied



*From left to right: Dr. Bhagirath Singh, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Infection & Immunity, Dr. Neil Maresky, VP Scientific Affairs, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Stuart MacLeod, Executive Director, BCRI, Mrs. Caroline Scheifele, Dr. David Scheifele, Mr. Brian Schmidt, Senior VP, Strategic Health Development, PHSA, Dr. Alison Buchan, Associate Dean, Research, UBC, Dr. Joan Anderson, Health Research Coordinator, UBC*

The Chair program will provide \$1.1 million in support over a 5 year term, through partnerships between Wyeth, Canadian Institutes for Health Research, UBC and the B.C. Research Institute. Dr. Scheifele will have more protected time for research and related advocacy activities such as the mentoring of trainees. It does mean that may not be able to be present on the wards



## Division News Cardiology

Derek Human, BMBCh, FRCPC

There are two exciting new developments in the diagnostic facilities now available to our patients.

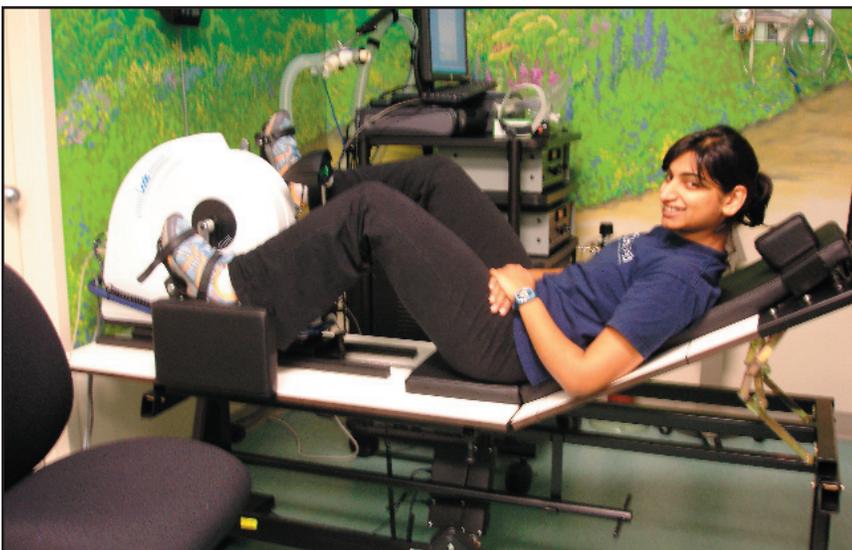
Firstly, the exercise laboratory has undergone a major equipment upgrade with installation of a new treadmill, a new cycle ergometer and a new semi-recumbent bed for both ergometry and stress echo assessments. We also now have a metabolic cart which permits assessment of the metabolic cost of exercise, thus allowing a more objective measure of fitness. This means we will have a more complete picture of the exercise tolerance and level of fitness of children undergoing exercise testing, both in the populations after repair of congenital heart disease, and also for the assessment of such diverse groups as the survivors of childhood cancer, those with cardiomyopathy and the patients with eating disorders and obesity.

The Division, under Dr. Sandor's guidance, has been a world leader in the use of exercise echocardiography

in children, and the ability to combine metabolic measurements in conjunction with the exercise echo assessments. This will give us a unique picture of cardiac function in the pediatric population.

Secondly, the recent upgrade of the CT scanner in Radiology has expanded our minimally invasive diagnostic tools for those with more complex congenital heart disease. In conjunction with the Department of Radiology, we are now evaluating the utility of CT scanning plus echocardiography for the pre-operative diagnosis of Tetralogy of Fallot, attempting to avoid the need for cardiac catheterization, which has been the standard of care up to this time. The CT scanner has already taken the place of angiography for the assessment of complex vascular abnormalities in the chest.

For further information, please contact Dr. Derek Human at [dhuman@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dhuman@cw.bc.ca)



*New Cycle Ergometer - Cardiac Sciences*

### Division of Cardiology Facts

The Division provides care for cardiovascular Disorders occurring in Childhood. As part of the cardiac sciences program, we provide a complete range of pediatric cardiac services at BC Children's Hospital.

### Special Diagnostic Tests Statistics

Exercise Stress Tests: 300 - 350 p.a.

Fetal Echocardiograms: 450-500 p.a

Pacemaker Programming: 80-90 p.a

Cardiac Cath Lab:

- ASD Closures: 15 - 20

- PDA./fenestration closures:25-30

- Angioplasty +/- Stent: 40 - 45

- Diagnostic studies: 80-90 - lower numbers reflect the increasing use of CT angiography and MRI for diagnosis

### Division of Cardiology Staff 2003 - 2005

Dr. Shu Sanatani, MD

Dr. Martin Hosking, MD

Dr. Jim Potts, MD

Dr. Walter Duncan, MD

Dr. Marion Tipple, MB

Dr. George Sandor, MB

Dr. Derek Human, BM

Dr. Brian Sinclair: now in Victoria

Dr. Michael Patterson: now at PACH

### Fellows

Dr. Aungkana Gengsakul: on staff, Bangkok

Dr. Saad Koshal: on staff, Riyadh

Dr. Kenny Wong

Dr. Al Dhari

Dr. Al Masham

### Awards

2001 Outstanding Teacher:

Dr. Walter Duncan

2002 Rookie of the Year:

Dr. Shu Sanatani

2002 Best Teaching

4th Yr.: Divisional Awards and Med Students



## Division News Respiratory Medicine

David Wensley, MBBS, FRCPC

### Current Services

The Division of Respiratory Medicine (RM), under the direction of Dr. David Wensley, is working on recruiting 2 full time faculty.

Respiratory diseases account for the largest single cause for children to be admitted to hospital. These illnesses are a very common reason for children to present to their doctors. Dr. Mike Seear and I continue to run this busy service with 2,000 visits and consultations each year as part our work in the Intensive Care Unit. Respiratory Medicine encompasses; a general respiratory outpatient clinic, an inpatient consultation service, pulmonary laboratory function with exercise testing, flexible bronchoscopy and sleep study services.

Manpower studies indicate that BC has the lowest number of Respiriologists per capita in Canada. For the current population in BC we require 10 full time Paediatric Respiriologists to properly support the paediatric population.

### History of Respiratory Medicine in Vancouver

In the late 1950's and early 1960's Paediatric Respirioly, at the then Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), was developed as part of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Patient care occurred on wards at the Health Centre for Children at VGH. A transport program was also developed, and the second Cystic Fibrosis Clinic in Canada was formed. At that time, Dr. Gordon Pirie was appointed as a Fellow to Dr Sidney Sigal and helped establish the modern day Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a pulmonary physiology laboratory and the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic.

In the early 1960's, Dr. Pirie studied

*Pulmonary Function Laboratory Rm 1C40*



extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation in animals, twenty years before it was an acceptable technique in humans. Lung mechanics were being measured in small children using techniques then, that are now being applied in clinical practice. By the 1970's Dr. Pirie had established the Paediatric Special Care Unit providing centralized care for ventilated older children. As the workload increased, research activity decreased and Dr. Pirie moved to the new BC Children's Hospital in 1982. He was the only active respirologist and was Medical Director of the newly formed Respiratory Therapy Department and Pulmonary Function Lab. In 1985, I developed a flexible bronchoscopy service and by 1988 was certified in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine (Melbourne Australia). Mike Seear, having trained in Toronto, joined the Respirioly Service and we practiced respiratory medicine as part of our appointments to the ICU.

While Dr. Don Hill was Department Head of Paediatrics (1989) the hospital recognized RM as a Division. His untimely death that year put further development of the Division on hold. In June 1993 a research day was held to recognize and celebrate paediatric

respiratory medicine and Dr. Pirie's retirement and is the day the Division of Respiratory Medicine was established in the Department of Paediatrics.

### Academics and Teaching

Since 1989, senior paediatric residents and adult Fellows have rotated through RM on an elective basis. The Fellows find the learning environment to be invaluable and the medical students, who attend the clinic weekly during their rotation, have found it to be an excellent experience.

Research activities include work on; chronic bronchitis in children, pulmonary function testing in infants and young children, oxygen delivery and consumption in exercise and disease, drug therapy in the ER management of asthma, development of guidelines for inpatient and emergency management of children with asthma, investigation of the effects of steroids in cystic fibrosis and the use of nitric oxide as a brochodilator.

For further information, please contact Dr. David Wensley at [dwensley@cw.bc.ca](mailto:dwensley@cw.bc.ca).

# Clinical Spotlight

## Division of Developmental Pediatrics

Barbara Fitzgerald, M.D., FRCPC

This unique service, which runs out of Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, has a long standing mandate to provide developmental services to underprivileged children. In 1990 Dr. Christine Looock saw a need for children living in the downtown east side of Vancouver to receive outreach services. The program has since expanded, but the original goal of reaching out to society's most needy people remains unchanged. From the beginning, there has been a strong partnership between the old Vancouver Health Department (VHD), the Department of Pediatrics and the Division of Developmental Pediatrics. Medical health officers such as John Bardsley, Dr. Liz Whynot, Lois Yelland and Cheryl Anderson along with many community health nurses have supported this program every step of the way. Clinical time has been provided through Sunny Hill to match funding from the VHD. Jan Radford, now head of Maternal Child Health Services for the Fraser Region spent hundreds of hours working with children on the downtown eastside. Dr. Liz Whynot provided support by funding pediatricians to expand the program to include school aged children.

In 1997, Dr. Barb Fitzgerald took over the school program and brought it back to its original mandate of serving inner city children who otherwise would not be able to access developmental services. The incidence of complex learning and behaviour problems is high in inner city schools. Most of the families served through this program do not have a regular family physician and their children's health care is either non-existent, or provided by walk-in clinics. Even in our system of universal health care, many children are left without health care coverage. In the outreach service, when concerns are raised by the child's teacher

or counsellor, a referral is made directly to Dr. Fitzgerald. With the help of her assistant Marisa Ferrara, an assessment is set up, usually within 1-2 months, and within days if necessary. Children are seen with their caregiver at school. Direct classroom observation, interviews with the child, parent, teacher and others



*Dr. Barb Fitzgerald (centre) in discussion with teachers from Beaconsfield Elementary School*

involved with the child are all part of the process. A full neurodevelopmental assessment of the child's thinking and learning processes and a physical exam complete the assessment. The child's learning and behaviour difficulties are considered in the context of maternal health, family circumstances, prenatal exposures, along with the child's medical and family history. Children are always interviewed about their history of abuse and domestic violence. In this population, frequent findings include learning disabilities, mental health concerns, FASD, poverty, housing concerns, issues of domestic violence and disclosures of abuse. The presenting concerns are almost always related to learning and behaviour issues, but the underlying causes are multiple-for example, up to 20% of children referred for disruptive and inattentive behaviour disclose abuse for the first time during the assessment. At the end of the assessment, a meeting

is held with school professionals and the family to facilitate implementation of recommendations. School professionals find the assessment process extremely helpful and comprehensive. Families are able to share very difficult aspects of their child's life. Upon completion of the assessments concrete plans are made that will support

the child and family. Dr. Looock leads the program on the downtown east side with preschool children and Dr. Fitzgerald operates out of inner city schools. Together they provide ongoing opportunities for medical students, residents, and fellows to learn and practice compassionate, developmental care for the most disenfranchised

children in Vancouver.

Dr. Grace Yu has recently started a small practice out of the new Crabtree Corner building and provides another teaching venue for our pediatric residents. As a graduate of our residency program, she is an example of how exposure to particular niches of practice can lead to future care of this underserved population.

It is a privilege to be involved with these children and the wonderful people who work in the inner city every day. Support from the former Vancouver Health Department, the Department of Pediatrics and the Division of Developmental Pediatrics has allowed this unique and valuable service to continue into its 15th year. The future is bright.

For more information please contact Dr. Barb Fitzgerald at: [bfitzgerald@cw.bc.ca](mailto:bfitzgerald@cw.bc.ca)



## Education Programs

### Undergraduate Program Update

One of the major strengths of the Department in terms of its Undergraduate Program is the leadership and active involvement of clinical faculty throughout the curriculum. All of our divisions are involved within the first two years at the curriculum as work captains, PBL tutors and clinical skills tutors. Several of our faculty hold leadership positions. The program has been fortunate to have the support of Dr. Debbie Hewes, as the Undergraduate Teaching Fellow, a position which has evolved over the past several years to the overall benefit of the educational goals of the department. The Teaching Fellow has made important contributions to the quality of Undergraduate education, providing ongoing assistance and direction to students, while simultaneously supporting the academic and research activities of the Undergraduate Program. The Teaching Fellow is in close contact with the students throughout their programs and is a visible mentor and role model.

### Challenges

One of the major challenges continues to be how to best deliver these precious teaching resources fairly and effectively across all divisions. Systemic changes made across the entire health care system have dramatically impacted the provision of academic education deliverables, especially in third year clerkship programs. Over the past few years, we have seen the loss of Inpatient areas such as the Children's Center at Mount St. Joseph's

Hospital and 3C [Surgery] which are no longer options within the program. Consequently, extra pressures have been placed on remaining Inpatient options resulting in ongoing challenges to student placements in the program. We expect these pressures on clinical assignments to continue with the expansion of the medical school.

### Expansion

UBC Medical School, courtesy of the BC provincial government, has undertaken an ambitious expansion. The expansion encompasses not only an increase in numbers of students but a distributed program with two partner University sites, UNBC in Prince George, the Northern medical Program and UVic in Victoria, and the Island medical program. Pediatrics has demonstrated leadership again in that the Assistant Dean of the IMP is a pediatrician/neonatologist, recruited from Manitoba. After two years of intensive planning, the first cohort of the expanded class was admitted in September 2004. 152 students are now in the Vancouver-Fraser Medical program (VFMP), 24 have gone to the NMP and 24 to the IMP since Jan 2005. A further expansion will take place for the VFMP site in 2006, bringing the total numbers of students to 178. Two pilot pediatrics clerkships were successfully run in spring 2004, one in Royal Columbian Hospital and one on the Island. Further pilots are planned for 2005 in Prince George.

For further information, please contact: Barb Fraser at [bfraser@cw.bc.ca](mailto:bfraser@cw.bc.ca)

### Postgraduate Education Program Update

We are very excited about the dynamic activity in 2005! The CaRMS match ups were very good from both the students' and our perspective. Not only are we looking forward to the new group of residents joining us in July but so are the Chiefs. Yes, we have new Chief Residents in the persons of Heidi Budden and Shawn George. Make sure you get your vacation and rotation requests to Gisela Murray during April; we are building the annual schedule in early May.

Growth figures prominently this year. New faces, more faculty in Victoria, continuation of the Prince George Residency Program, increasing trainee numbers, ramping up the OSCE program, and more research activities especially the Hartley Bay First Nations community and "Boys R Us". Of course, Continuing Medical Education keeps getting stronger with weekly Grand Rounds, more seminars and weekly advances in Pediatrics.

A strong sign of the quality educational programs include the number of awards our residents continue to win, notably at the Western Society for Pediatric Research, SMS Residents Forum, AAP and CPS.

Examinations are upon us, and so good luck to all. Then get ready to party at our annual June 16 Resident-Fellow Graduation and Award Banquet. See you there!

**Coming Soon: Residency News, Humour Section**

**Contributing Authors**

**Spring 2005 Issue:**

**Dr. Bob Armstrong**

**Julie E. Cullen**

**Dr. Barbara Fitzgerald**

**Barb Fraser**

**Dr. Rob Hill**

**Dr. Derek Human**

**Dr. David Scheifele**

**Dr. David Wensley**

We welcome comments, new ideas, suggestions, etc. Please address all comments and inquiries to [jcullen@cw.bc.ca](mailto:jcullen@cw.bc.ca) or [gpetrop@cw.bc.ca](mailto:gpetrop@cw.bc.ca).  
Thank you.



Department of Pediatrics Head Office - Room 2D19

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## Announcements, continued from Page 2

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) relies on the generous support of donors such as the R. Howard Webster Foundation, which recently established a premier professorship to support an innovative researcher in early child development. Dr. Dr. Tim Oberlander has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the **R. Howard Webster Professorship**. Dr. Oberlander is a highly regarded developmental pediatrician working to better understand the influence of early biological and environmental factors on the developing brain. Dr. Oberlander brings together a team of investigators from diverse backgrounds who support HELPS's mission to create and promote new knowledge through interdisciplinary research to help children thrive.

Dr. Oberlander is also the recipient of the 2003 Canadian Pediatrics Society prestigious *Aventis Pasteur Research Award*. This is awarded to researchers whose work is regarded as the best in current Canadian child health research that has been published in a peer-reviewed publication. Dr. Oberlander is cited as being "an outstanding clinician, scientist, investigator and researcher" who has made significant contributions to the field of developmental pediatrics. He is internationally recognized for his research in early biologic and behavioural factors that influence infant and child development.

Dr. Oberlander can be reached at [toberlander@cw.bc.ca](mailto:toberlander@cw.bc.ca).