Welcome to the first annual report of the USF Department of Pediatrics. As we enter our fourth decade of existence, we continue to thrive and contribute to the health and wellbeing of children and families in the Tampa Bay area. Our greatest legacy is the numerous alumni who have trained at USF Pediatrics — they make us all proud, and their knowledge and dedication ensure that the department’s passion for its mission spreads throughout the region. This year, 25 residents and fellows graduated from USF Pediatrics programs. These individuals will continue to expand the influence of the department — whether they start to practice pediatrics or continue their training.

In this first report, we wanted to reflect on our accomplishments, and “brag” a little about who we are and what we do. This reflection helps us as we move forward and refine our mission and strategic plan. We have highlighted a variety of people and programs that we are very proud of — there are many to choose from, and we wish we could have included many more. Every member of the department is critical to our overall mission. We recognize that what makes USF Pediatrics an outstanding department is the people, and their strong relationships with each other and the community. We are so proud of all of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and residents.

Our department is diverse — in locations, in missions, in content. We leverage this diversity to provide exceptional training for our students and outstanding care for our patients. The past several years of uncertainty in the national and local health care environment have presented challenges. To weather these times we need to focus on the core values of USF Pediatrics — a dedication to quality, leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration and excellence. These values are demonstrated throughout this report and unite us in our passion for advancing the health of children and our community.

We are truly inspired by our community and powered by our university!

MISSIONS

4 Education
6 Research
8 Clinical
10 Community
THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS has been an integral part of the Tampa Bay pediatric health care community since it was founded in 1972. USF Pediatrics provides outstanding pediatric primary care, is home to 11 different pediatric sub-specialties, and offers 21 service locations throughout Hillsborough, Pinellas and five surrounding counties. We work closely with our state and community partners to provide medical care to children with special health care needs, and we support a variety of programs including Newborn Screening Programs, the Early Steps Program, the Hillsborough County Child Protection Team, and the Ybor Youth Clinic.

THE DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

- Total Annual Operating Budget (all sources): $75,000,000
- 510 Faculty, Residents and Staff
  - 56 MDs
  - 28 PhDs
- 54 Pediatric Residents, 17 MedPeds Residents, 11 fellows, 4 post docs
- 16 Clinical Divisions with Multiple Programs
- 21 Inpatient/Outpatient Practice Locations
  - Primary sites for graduate training programs at All Children’s Hospital and Tampa General Hospital
  - Primary Care clinics at 17 Davis, STC and Health Park
- Total Number of Patient Visits
  - Outpatient: 78,380 total visits and 29,074 unduplicated patients
  - Inpatient: 7,161 patients
- 8 Endowed Chairs
- Number of Peer-Reviewed Publications: 96 (self-reported)
- Research Funding: $40,703,705
  - Pediatric Epidemiology Center: $31,227,968
  - Department of Pediatrics: $9,475,737

Our investigators are actively involved in basic science and translational research related to pediatrics. Many studies are conducted at the USF/All Children’s Hospital Children’s Research Institute, a premier pediatric research facility located on the All Children’s Hospital campus. Our innovative research programs in molecular genetics, immunology, cardiology and neonatology are based at the Institute, which also houses six endowed chairs.
MEDICAL EDUCATION

Education is our raison d’etre. The USF Department of Pediatrics provides outstanding pediatric medical education to students, residents, and fellows. We strive to foster the knowledge and clinical experience necessary to develop basic skills to care for infants, children and adolescents. Education at USF Pediatrics is supported by a strong team of dedicated professionals and faculty leaders.

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

THIRD YEAR ROTATION

In the 2013 academic year, Pediatrics was integrated into three third-year clerkships: Maternal Newborn, Primary Care and Medicine-Pediatric. These separate exposures help medical students gain an understanding of the importance of preventive care, and by the end of the third-year, they have a broad understanding of both the inpatient and outpatient realms of pediatrics.

FOURTH YEAR ELECTIVE

The Department of Pediatrics offers USF medical students and visiting fourth-year medical students a broad selection of elective courses and multiple active-internship opportunities. Our fourth-year specialty electives in inpatient and outpatient environments give students a chance to learn about subspecialty medicine in a clinical setting while working alongside faculty to provide care to all children. Students with an interest in pediatrics, family medicine, emergency medicine, or combined internal medicine-pediatrics are encouraged to take part in pediatric acting-internships for a comprehensive inpatient clinical experience.

EDUCATION STAFF

2012–2013

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Primary Care & Special Populations
Vinita Kiluk, MD

Medicine-Pediatrics
Brian Knox, MD

Maternal/Newborn
Shalini Patel, MD

4th Year Pediatric Electives
Ronald Sutsko, DO

Special Initiatives
Judith Ranells, MD

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Pediatric Residency Program
Program Director
Sharon Dabrow, MD

Associate Program Directors
Diane Straub, MD
Jennifer Casatelli, MD

Chief Residents
Katherine Braley, MD
Hugo Jasín, MD

Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program
Program Director
Erika Abel, MD

Associate Program Directors
John McCormick, MD
Brian Knox, MD

Chief Resident
Elimarys Perez-Colon, MD

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Fellowship Programs Directors
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Michael Font, MD

Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology
Dorothy Shulman, MD
Verena Jorgensen, MD

Pediatric Allergy & Immunology
Morna Dorsey, MD
FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS, the USF Department of Pediatrics has trained residents and produced leaders in medicine. The Department’s residency program is fortunate to have two strong tertiary partners, Tampa General Hospital and All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg. Faculty from both institutions play an integral role in resident education. Residents complete rotations on the inpatient ward service, the newborn nursery, the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, and the emergency department. They also spend time gaining experience in general, specialty and outpatient pediatrics throughout the Tampa Bay region. Our graduates have successful careers in primary care, hospital medicine and pediatric subspecialty care.

The rapid changes occurring in pediatric graduate medical education require a greater emphasis on individualized learning. In response, USF Pediatrics has developed four residency tracks to ensure residents are well-prepared for their future careers: general pediatric-hospitalist, general pediatrics-ambulatory, subspecialty, and procedure-based subspecialty (NICU, PICU, ER).

MEdICINE-PEDIATRICS

In partnership with the Department of Internal Medicine, the Department of Pediatrics offers an Internal Medicine & Pediatrics residency program. The “Med-Peds” residency is a four-year program with primary training sites at Tampa General Hospital, All Children’s Hospital, the Moffitt Cancer Center, and the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Hospital. The program offers a variety of educational environments, including ambulatory and tertiary care based. Graduates have pursued careers in inpatient or hospitalist positions in either Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, or continued training in a variety of subspecialties.

FEElOWSHIPI PRogramS

NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

The Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program is a fully accredited three-year program that is closely integrated with other pediatric divisions and the Department of Community and Family Health at the College of Public Health. The program is designed to provide the neonatal fellow with the analytical, clinical, and leadership skills required to manage complex problems in neonatal-perinatal medicine.

PEDIATRIC ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

The Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Program at University of South Florida/All Children’s Hospital (USF/ACH), accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education since 1988, provides an in-depth, enriched, and complementary education to our fellows-in-training in allergy and immunology. Every year, two to four fellows are trained in our fellowship program and, to date, over 50 fellows have graduated from the program.

PEDiATRIC DIABETES & ENDOCRINOLOGY

The Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology Fellowship Program focuses on training participants in the clinical aspects of pediatric endocrinology. Fellows in the program are educated in the research aspects of this discipline and are trained to implement an investigative and critical approach to problems in pediatric endocrinology and to their solutions.
**USF PEDIATRICS** is proud to be home to a number of innovative researchers and to have strong endowments and infrastructure to support them in their pursuit of new knowledge. USF Pediatrics faculty, residents and staff are doing amazing work to advance pediatric health care – from working on molecular determinants of immune deficiency diseases to implementing evidence-based developmental interventions in the community, and much more. The research portfolio is supported by significant state and federal dollars. Below, we highlight two of our faculty members and the pioneering work they are doing.

Dr. Jeffrey Krischer and the Pediatric Epidemiology Center, housed in the Department of Pediatrics, are awarded more federal research grant funding than any other group within the University. His team oversees numerous international multicenter trials investigating the pathophysiology of diabetes, they coordinate the Rare Diseases Network for NIH, and individual members of his team conduct their own cutting-edge research. The graphical information regarding Dr. Krischer’s grant awards appears separately from that for the rest of the department.

The human microbiome and its impact on genes, illness and health is emerging as one of the most significant fields of scientific investigation in this decade, and the Department of Pediatrics is proud to be participating in this important research agenda.

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**RESEARCH**

**THE BUGS WITHIN US, AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO HEALTH**

Microbiome refers to the enormous community of microbes that inhabits our bodies – including microbes that cause disease and those that promote health. The interactions between the mucosal immune system and the microbiome have been ongoing for hundreds of millions of years in all animals that have a gut. The USF Department of Pediatrics is home to cutting-edge research in the microbiome field. Assistant Professor Dr. Larry Dishaw and his mentor, Dr. Gary Litman, are investigating the critical role played by the interaction between the body’s mucosal immune systems and the microbiome that exists on the surface of the gut and skin. By studying diverse animal models, we are learning about the rules, conserved during evolution, that govern these interactions. Dr. Dishaw has investigated the microbiome and immune systems of a wide range of species. He currently uses as his model *Ciona intestinalis*, an animal that shares a common ancestor with vertebrates such as humans. His studies are revealing features of the gut mucosal immune system that contribute to the establishment and maintenance of a microbiome that promotes health.

The importance of these studies to human health has led to collaborations with other investigators to clarify the clinical relevance of his findings. Dr. Dishaw and Dr. Angel Luciano, a USF neonatologist, are studying the colonization of the newborn infant gut by microbes. They are investigating the sources of the microbes and the role they play in maturation of the immune system and in clinical outcomes of infants – particularly those born prematurely. Dr. Dishaw is also working with Dr. Maureen Groer from the USF College of Nursing to describe the migration of microbes from the maternal gut to the mammary gland and to determine the role of this migration in establishing the microbiome in nursing infants.

The human microbiome and its impact on genes, illness and health is emerging as one of the most significant fields of scientific investigation in this decade, and the Department of Pediatrics is proud to be participating in this important research agenda.
Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT): an effective psychological treatment for a wide variety of psychiatric problems, including obsessive compulsive disorder, other anxiety disorders and depression.

Dr. Eric Storch, Professor of Pediatrics and the All Children’s Hospital Guild Endowed Chair, specializes in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of adult and childhood obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), as well as anxiety disorders and other obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders such as trichotillomania, tic disorders, body dysmorphic disorder, and skin picking. In addition to his clinical practice Dr. Storch is investigating the causes and nature of these disorders and is working to develop better ways to treat them. His other areas of research include:

- Investigating alternative ways to deliver psychosocial therapies
- Developing behavioral interventions for youth with tics and anxiety
- Developing and evaluating behavioral interventions for anxiety in children with autism spectrum disorders

Currently, he is the principal investigator for over 1 million dollars in federal research grants. The goal of these grants is to determine the impact of CBT when used with a novel non-psychotropic medication, or when implemented in community mental health centers. Dr. Storch’s accomplishments reflect a strong partnership with many USF colleagues – particularly Drs. Tanya Murphy and Adam Lewin. He is supported by the ACH Guild Chair and sees patients at the Rothman Center for Neuropsychiatry. In addition to his current grants, he’s been supported by federal agencies and private foundations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Tourette Syndrome Association, the Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, and the International OCD Foundation.
CLINICAL ACTIVITIES provide the backbone of many USF Pediatrics programs. In FY13, USF Pediatrics provided care for 7,161 patients in inpatient settings and 29,074 unduplicated patients in the outpatient clinics, totaling 78,380 outpatient visits. USF Pediatrics provides care and training at our two main hospital affiliates: Tampa General Hospital (TGH) and All Children’s Hospital (ACH) in St. Petersburg, in addition to other hospitals and numerous outpatient facilities throughout Hillsborough and surrounding counties. In partnership with the statewide Children’s Medical Services program, we provide care for over 1,500 children each year with special health care needs. The Department realized $11.9 million in operating clinical revenue and a total clinical budget of $20.3 million. This year, we initiated two new joint programs with TGH — the Pediatric Oncology Program and the Neonatal Follow-Up Program. We are very proud of our expanding initiatives around health care quality — many championed by Dr. Terri Ashmeade, Quality Improvement Officer for the Department of Pediatrics. These initiatives have fostered relationships with our partners, other colleges at USF and local and state programs such as Healthy Start and the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

YBOR YOUTH CLINIC OPENS

In September 2012, the Ybor Youth Clinic (YYC) opened as the first health care facility in the southeast to reach out to adolescents and young adults who are homeless, HIV-infected or at risk of HIV infection, or part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community. The YYC, a collaborative effort between the Divisions of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Adolescent Medicine, serves as a unique, nonjudgmental health care clinic and is home to innovative research studies. Through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health, patients have access to free health care services including HIV testing and treatment, gynecological and contraceptive care, and comprehensive testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. In addition, the YYC maintains agreements with a number of community agencies to provide onsite trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, counseling, and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, as well as referral services for domestic violence counseling, temporary housing solutions, and educational advancement.

USF/TGH JOINS CHILDREN’S ONCOLOGY GROUP (COG)

Led by Dr. Cameron Tebbi, USF Pediatrics and Tampa General Hospital were recently accepted into the Children’s Oncology Group (COG). COG is a network of children’s hospitals, university medical centers and cancer centers throughout the U.S. and Canada. COG was created to conduct a broad spectrum of clinical and translational research trials for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer. Membership provides a forum to collaborate with other COG institutions, contribute to clinical protocol development and help set the national agenda for pediatric cancer. Dr. Tebbi and his team anticipate enrolling 20 patients a year in clinical trials offered through COG.
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOME INITIATIVE

The Division of General Academic Pediatrics (GAP) continues to work towards designation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Patient-Centered Medical Home. This initiative began with a statewide grant through the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to implement the medical home model. While the grant has ended, the Department's team is still actively working on this project to improve care for our patients. The team’s accomplishments include:

- Doubling the percentage of patient charts for which the primary care physician, team, and location are clearly identified
- Implementing electronic asthma action plans and a standardized asthma testing tool
- Implementing care tools to aid in the transition of adolescent patients to adult care
- Establishing a Family Advisory Council

Dr. Cristina Pelaez, the physician champion for the initiative, is supported by GAP Division Chief Dr. Carol Lilly, Dr. Terri Ashmeade, Dr. Veronica Davis and all of the GAP physicians. The interdisciplinary team includes Cati Hinton, RN, Masmina Sirleaf, MHA and Janet Hess, PhD.

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS) QUALITY INITIATIVE

NAS is a complex disorder that can occur in newborns exposed to addictive illegal or prescription drugs during pregnancy. Symptoms include difficulty feeding, vomiting, diarrhea, shakiness when resting, fast breathing, and cranky behavior. Led by Dr. Maya Balakrishnan, USF physicians and TGH staff launched an initiative to improve identification and management of these infants in the inpatient and outpatient settings. The project aims to decrease hospital length of stay by admitting infants more promptly to the NICU, improving compliance with inpatient/outpatient guidelines, educating parents and providers, and evaluating the health care costs associated with outpatient management.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH TGH—NEONATAL FOLLOW UP

This year we completed the first full year of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program. The program provides comprehensive, coordinated care to infants with complex medical conditions who are discharged from TGH’s Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and who are referred by other units at hospital discharge. The program helps each infant and family make a smooth transition from the hospital to home by promoting optimal wellness through a dedicated neonatal nurse navigator. Working in partnership with families enables them to adjust to the needs of their child in a supportive environment staffed by a multidisciplinary team of neonatologists, pediatricians, nurses, developmental therapists and social workers.

In addition to being a medical home for many of these children, the program also provides consultation services to primary care practices where coordinated complex care may be more difficult to access. The program, led by Carol Lilly, MD, Medical Director, and Susan Angelos, RN, Neonatal Nurse Navigator, has enrolled over 230 infants since it was established in April, 2012.
IMPROVING THE HEALTH of children and families requires rolling up our sleeves and getting involved with the Tampa Bay Community. USF Pediatrics has initiated effective programs at the local and state level. We are very proud of the many faculty, staff, residents and students who participate in these highlighted programs and many others – their efforts are having a significant impact on the children and families in our community. Whether it is participating in a March of Dimes walk, coordinating a diabetes support group for youth, volunteering to do sports physicals, or working to change legislation in the state, our department is engaged in making life better for children.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INSPIRED BY OUR COMMUNITY

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: SEVERE COMBINED IMMUNODEFICIENCY DISEASE (SCID)

This is the first year of newborn screening for severe combined immune deficiency (SCID), which uses TREC bs (T-cell receptor circles) retrieved from newborn dried blood spots. The state legislature passed the bill for SCID screening after intensive lobbying by many child advocates, including several USF faculty. The USF Allergy/Immunology program under Dr. John Sleasman became a referral site for SCID screening. The first infant detected with the screen has received a bone marrow transplant at All Children’s Hospital and is recovering! Thanks to this program, children with SCID can be identified and receive a lifesaving transplantation before they become ill with sepsis or pneumonia.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

The USF Child Protection Team (CPT) provides medical, psychological and psychosocial assessments to children who are victims of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Since becoming part of the Department in 2006, CPT has reviewed over 95,000 abuse reports, provided over 12,000 assessments, opened cases for over 7,600 families and provided court testimony for over 350 cases. The CPT, housed at Mary Lee’s House at 2806 N. Armenia Avenue in Tampa, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Services are private and confidential and are provided free of charge to families.

HOT DOCS

Helping Our Toddlers, Developing Our Children’s Skills (HOT DOCS) is a parent training curriculum targeting parents and caregivers of children ages 0-5. The curriculum is designed to promote emotional and social competence, and to prevent or reduce children’s emotional and behavioral problems through the use of problem-solving and implementation of positive behavior supports. Dr. Kathleen Armstrong, Professor of Child Development, oversees this program and has helped expand it to address the needs of school age children (6-8 years-old) and their families. Studies have shown that children who participate in the program have less disruptive behavior and are more likely to meet developmental milestones, while caregivers express great satisfaction with the program and are more competent parents and less stressed.
The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® (RMCM) is a collaborative project between USF Pediatrics and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay. The RMCM, a mobile medical and dental office, was specifically built and equipped to deliver cost-effective health services to underserved children in their communities. Services provided by the mobile clinic include primary care (well-child visits, school physicals and sports physicals), treatment for chronic and acute illnesses, health and oral hygiene education, nutrition counseling, and child health promotion. The RMCM staff also works with community, county, and state organizations to help families apply for government-assisted health insurance, helping families gain access to a medical home. This year the RMCM, led by Program Director Jeannette Fleischer, a certified pediatric nurse practitioner, provided medical care at the Salvation Army, Metropolitan Ministries, The Spring of Tampa Bay, and various public schools in Pasco County.

Residents and members of the Pediatrics Interest Group (PIG) of the USF Morsani College of Medicine volunteer their time to take part in community health fairs. On April 27th, students, residents and faculty organized a “Teddy Bear Clinic” for children at Healthy Kids Day, held at Curtis Hixon Park. Dr. Kiluk, coordinator of PIG, helped to establish the concept of the “Teddy Bear Clinic”, which provides an opportunity for children and their families to explore health care experiences. Children at the clinic act as the bear’s doctor by providing check up exams, setting broken bones, and teaching the bear healthy habits.