

# Kids Connection

a monthly newsletter from MUSC Children's Hospital



February 2008

## Letter from the Chair

Dear faculty, Children's Hospital staff and friends,

We are currently undergoing a review of our residency programs in general pediatrics, medicine/pediatrics, pediatric hematology/oncology, pediatric cardiology, pediatric endocrinology, general academic pediatrics and medicine, and developmental medicine.



**L. Lyndon Key, MD**  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Pediatrics

On February 28, the Charles P. Darby Children's Research Institute (DCRI) will have been in service for three years. The Department of Pediatrics and many other research programs have come together to explore childhood physiology and pathology. Translational studies are underway in neonatology (with help from OB/GYN and radiology), in bone biology and vitamin D through studies that have been initiated in neonatology. In bone biology, an initiative is underway to understand and treat several severe bone diseases seen in children: osteoporosis and osteopetrosis. We have seen dramatic studies in adults and children in the area of neuroscience with results from our studies designed to explain pediatric disease being extended to traumatic brain injury in Iraq and spinal cord injury.

Although I am not going to describe all the projects going on, I want to discuss the importance of the DCRI. Today, I had a medical student to ask me if they could work with our group in the area of vitamin D physiology. This fourth year medical student wants to learn how to perform research. Last week, a former patient's sister came up and spent a day preparing a science project that she had envisioned and needed help with to bring it to fruition. The experience has already

caused her to want to go forward in science and medicine. Finally, we have had a number of fellows who have developed and run projects with such mentors as Dr. Reddy, Dr. Saul, Dr. Hammerich, and others.

An institute is not just a facility that allows research to be done, it is a house where people learn to address problems and turn them into solutions. This crucial ingredient to the training we offer to our faculty, staff, and trainees has raised us to a new level. We have had 250 discoveries during the last three years. The DCRI has increased its funding base from approximately 10 million dollars to nearly 25 million. However, the major impact of the Institute is that it allows people who want to know the answers to develop new ideas, work with world-renowned faculty, and answer the questions that come up in all of our lives: "How do we help patients to recover more quickly and fully?"

Please join us for the 3rd DCRI Anniversary celebration on February 28. Come with your questions. Meet the stars and the trainees, our aspiring stars. Ask them why they do what they do. Ask them if it isn't a special calling to help to find new ways to relieve pain and suffering in children. Watch what is happening and dream alone and with the parents who are still awaiting their miracles. I am sure that like me, you will be impressed with what a little building and a visionary idea from Dr. Darby has done to better the lives of children in South Carolina and around the world.

Sincerely,

L. Lyndon Key, MD  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics



### FEATURE STORY

**Expanded Clinic puts the needs of kids and caretakers first**  
See page 2.



## Expanded Clinic puts the needs of kids and caretakers first

### *Expanded Clinic puts kids and caretakers first*

A new location for the MUSC Children's Care clinic in North Charleston adds much needed space and a more child-friendly environment for this fast-growing practice.

"We've expanded from six exam rooms to 15, and more than doubled our previous space," explains Dr. Henry Lemon, who serves as medical director for both the North Charleston and Moncks Corner Children's Care clinics.

The relocation last month doubled the clinic's size to 5,300 square feet. "It's now a facility that is truly dedicated to treating children, with the décor and equipment all chosen with pediatrics in mind," says Dr. Lemon.

Bright colors, child-safe spaces, an open waiting area and easily accessible bathrooms with changing stations create a kid-friendly atmosphere that puts little ones and their caretakers first.

"Previously we shared a waiting room with other clinics, but now we have a dedicated waiting area specifically for our patients," says Dr. Lemon. "Because it doesn't combine practices, it's much calmer and more welcoming for our young patients."

The new clinic has plenty of office space for the four providers (formerly the four shared one small office), a break room and conference room designed for medical education.

### *Same convenient location, same continuity of care*

To be able to stay in the same building complex and continue as a much-needed resource for the people of the North area is a great accomplishment, notes Dr. Lemon.

Because the clinic relocated from a building next door, patients still enjoy its convenient location—across the street from a city bus stop and in the same complex as the MUSC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, which provides prenatal and women's health services.

It's a helpful combination of care that Dr. Lemon and his staff call "one-stop shopping."

"These are important factors for this segment of the population," he notes. Another advantage: most of the staff are bilingual and the MUSC Specialty Center North is nearby.

The MUSC Department of Pediatrics created MUSC Children's Care in 1999 in response to a growing need for healthcare for children with public insurance or limited healthcare provider options. The clinic treats typical childhood illnesses and ambulatory conditions including asthma, ADHD and other specialized pediatric care.

Typically the clinic serves children in their first decade. "We provide continuity, establishing a newborn's care and then making it possible for the child to continue to see the same practitioner at each encounter throughout his or her young life," explains Dr. Lemon. "We can manage ongoing problems and provide a medical 'home' for these children."

### *Keeping up with area growth and community needs*

Together the North Charleston and Moncks Corner locations serve 6,200 children, at a growth rate of more than 86 new patients per month.

The pediatrician and his staff are certain the expansion will not only meet, but also grow along with the needs of its ever-increasing number of patients: We're booked four of five months in advance, but are hopeful that this added space will accommodate the next five years of growth in the North area.

"This new building allows us to serve more patients, reduces their wait time, and facilitates scheduling," says Dr. Lemon.

The clinic added a third full-time pediatrician in April 2004, and a fourth full-time provider, a nurse practitioner, in May 2007. Dr. Lemon expects to add a fifth provider—a third pediatrician—in the near future, and foresees being able to expand office hours under the terms of the new building's lease. Clinic pediatrician Cynthia Murphy was recently named MUSC's 2006 Clinician of the Year.

Dr. Lemon says it wouldn't be possible without the support of the Trident United Way. "Part of the reason we've been able to operate and be successful is through its generous support."

The clinic's mission is in line with the Trident United Way's Success by Six program, which ensures children reach school readiness by age six.

By partnering with the United Way, Dr. Lemon and his staff expect to keep pace with the fast-growing population in the area in ways that go beyond healthcare.

"We're looking forward to launching a child literacy campaign," he explains. "Now that we have a dedicated space and a child-focused waiting room, we're able to have volunteer readers on site. This is a growing community, and we're proud to serve it as it grows. This new building helps us do that—and more."

## Update from the Administrator

### *Renovations offer relief*

Over the last three months, we have had six rooms down for renovations on our 7B hematology/oncology unit. This equated to a loss of 10 beds. At the same time, our volume in the hospital increased with the usual winter bump and the number of bone marrow transplants has increased. I am pleased to report that the renovated rooms are complete and open. To better accommodate our bone marrow transplant patients, the rooms are completely changed from the standpoint of how filtered air is moved in to positive pressure rooms. In many ways we now have a bone marrow transplant suite.

I would like to thank the nurses and physicians for their patience while these renovations were taking place. I also want to thank 8 West, the adult oncology unit, for working with us to take transplant patients for the last few months. They have been more than kind to our families and our staff and we greatly appreciate their support.

There are more renovation plans for the future in the Children's Hospital. We will continue to upgrade the finishes on the remaining sections of 7B and construction of our new interim ED is set to begin this month. By July we will provide emergency care with a new entrance and the addition of three more treatment rooms to better serve our patients.



**John Sanders, MHA**  
Administrator  
MUSC Children's  
Hospital

## Children's Research Institute News Brief



**Bernard L. Maria, MD, MBA**  
Executive Director  
Darby Children's  
Research Inst.



**Inderjit Singh, PhD**  
Scientific Director  
Darby Children's  
Research Inst.

### *Celebrate our 3rd DCRI Anniversary, February 28 - 29*

As Dr. Key mentioned, this month marks the 3rd Anniversary for the Charles P. Darby Children's Research Institute (DCRI), and we're planning a celebration to honor all the great work we've achieved over the last three years.

The DCRI is now "home" to more than 150 dedicated and forward-thinking investigators and staff in 11 interdisciplinary programs, who collectively make approximately 90 new discoveries each year. That's an amazing and awesome feat!

We continue to house some of the nation's most successful investigators, and each day focus on translating fundamental discoveries into new treatments for children. Our innovative collaborations bring together medical investigators who are breaking boundaries in partnerships to create forward-looking solutions. Some of the important advances of the last year include among others, a first-in-class, NIH-funded clinical trial to protect the brains of unborn children whose mothers experience chorioamnionitis before delivery.

We hope you'll join us on February 28 and 29, 2008 as we celebrate the

last year's advancements toward improving children's health, including new discoveries in basic biology, and in translational and clinical sciences.

On Thursday February 28, Dr. William C. Mobley's presentation on "Exploring the neural circuitry of developmental and degenerative disorders in mouse models of Down Syndrome" kicks off the celebration at I Iam in BSB302.

With an M.D. and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Stanford University and residency training in Neurology at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Dr. Mobley is an expert on neurotrophic factors that lead to neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Down's syndrome. A past chair of the Department of Neurology and Neurological Sciences at Stanford, he holds the John E. Cahill Family Endowed Chair, and is founding director of the Neuroscience Institute. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and, in 2006, he was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Following Dr. Mobley's forum, please join us for an Open House and Poster Session, from 1-3pm on the 2nd floor DCRI/BSB Lobby, with refreshments and presentations by DCRI investigators on DCRI floors 2 through 6. As in years past, we're expecting attendance and lively participation from the Children's Hospital and MUSC's community of researchers, health professionals and trainees. We look forward to it!

On Friday February 29, Dr. Mobley delivers his second talk, "Minding the Gaps in Brain development: Enabling Great Science to become Great Medicine" at 8 a.m., SEI 8th Floor Auditorium, followed by a mini-reception and Q&A session.

See you there!



### *The Power of a Wish*

For over 23 years, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of South Carolina has been granting wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Our vision of reaching every child, one child at a time, begins with a referral from a medical professional. Doctors, nurses, child care specialists, social workers – you are the vital component in reaching these children. Without your guidance, understanding and communication efforts, the role of our Foundation would be much more difficult. As caring individuals, you are our voice to the hundreds of children we hope to reach.

Our mission has empowered us all to ensure that each eligible child have the opportunity to be granted their most heartfelt desire or wish. With that one wish, a child can be anyone, have anything, go anywhere, or meet anyone. Not intending to be a "last wish," it is rather an endorsement of life and a gift of hope. For many children, a wish becomes a turning point, renewing their courage and determination to continue their fight. We look to their medical teams to help us be a guiding force in reaching every eligible child.

### *Qualification Criteria*

- A child must be over the age of 2½ and under the age of 18 at the time of the referral.
- The child has been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition, i.e., a progressive, degenerative or malignant medical condition that has placed the child's life in jeopardy.
- The child has not received a wish from another wish-granting organization.
- The family is aware the referral is being made to the Foundation.

Thank you for your constant support of our mission, for working with us to ensure these children have the opportunity to make their wishes come true. We look to you to help us share the power of a wish®.

If you know of a child that may be eligible for a wish, please call our office at 843.853.7880 or 800.293.WISH (9474).

## The 2007 South Carolina Great Friend to Kids Award

*Charles P. Darby, Jr. MD, co-honoree*

*C. Warren Derrick, Jr., MD, co-honoree*

There are individuals and organizations across South Carolina who are making significant and outstanding contributions to strengthening and advancing the interests of our children. EdVenture Children's Museum has chosen to recognize these special people and organizations through the creation of the South Carolina Great Friend to Kids Award and the Unsung Hero Award.

The Great Friends to Kids Award is given to "an individual, business, or organization that has significantly and positively affected the lives of South Carolina's children. The recipient's contributions should be a reflection of long-term, life-long dedication to working for and on behalf of the children of South Carolina."

EdVenture Children's Museum is dedicated to inspiring children to experience the joy of learning. Opening in Nov 2003, EdVenture is the largest children's museum in the South and the best attended museum in South Carolina.

### *Previous Great Friend to Kids Recipients:*

The Honorable James B. Edwards (2006), former Governor of SC, former President of MUSC

The Honorable Richard W. Riley (2006), former Governor of SC



Dr. Warren Derrick (*co-honoree of award*) on the left. Dr. Derrick is former Chair of Dept of Pediatrics at USC and just received one of the first President Medals handed out by MUSC Board of Trustees for service to our state by an alumni. Woman in the middle is Catherine Wilson, President/CEO of EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, SC.



Dr. Darby and Ms. Wilson and The Honorable Ronnie Cromer, Member of the South Carolina Senate. Senator Cromer presented the award to Dr. Darby on Oct. 2, 2007 at the awards dinner in Columbia SC.

*A special thanks to the following individuals for their efforts in putting together Kids Connection each month.*

**Editor:** Bernard L. Maria, MD, MBA, Jennifer Cherock, Trio Solutions Inc.

**Publisher:** Brian Cendrowski, Trio Solutions Inc.,  
Roxanne Hicks, Trio Solutions, Inc.

**Feature Writer:** Mary Sue Lawrence, Trio Solutions Inc

**Contributing Writers:** Lyndon Key, Bernard Maria, John Sanders, Inderjit Singh, Philip Saul