

**Columbia University
Children's Hospital of New-York Presbyterian**

Community Pediatrics Projects and Anne E. Dyson Residents

Third year Dyson Residents:

Sangeeth Gnanasekaran, MD, *Children with HIV in the Community*: Sangeeth is working at the Family Care Center at Harlem Hospital, where comprehensive medical care, mental health services and support services are provided to HIV-infected children and their families. The Center is undertaking a new initiative to develop individualized programs to improve adherence with anti-retroviral medications. Sangeeth is working at the Center to develop and implement a home visitation program in order to create a direct-observed therapy program as part of the adherence initiative. (skg9@columbia.edu)

Karen Jooste, MD, *A Partnership for Better Health for Children in a Special Education School*: Karen's project is based at a Special Education School in Harlem, New York City where there are approximately one hundred children ages 5 through 12 who have autism, cerebral palsy, behavioral problems and seizure disorders. She advocates for the school's children by forming a communication link between school's teachers and nurses, and the children's parents and pediatricians. She addresses teacher and nurse concerns regarding the health and health care of individual students and communicates with parents and pediatricians in order to solve problems. In addition, she works to educate the teachers, physical and occupational therapists and school nurses about common medical issues they encounter. She is organizing an Educational Day in November comprised on several workshops addressing various health issues in order to allow school staff to enhance their knowledge and provide optimal care for the children. (edkaren@yahoo.com)

Ellen Lee, MD, *Domestic Violence Screening in Pediatrics*: Interpersonal violence in a home has major repercussions on the health and well-being of children that home. The importance of the role of the pediatrician in identifying mothers/parents at risk of being victims of domestic violence is increasingly recognized. Ellen is working to improve provider awareness of the importance of this issue. She is educating pediatricians and pediatric residents about domestic violence and its impact on children, teaching appropriate methods of screening all parents for the presence or risk of domestic violence in the home, and training pediatricians to refer patients to appropriate community agencies. (ellelee@hotmail.com)

Second Year Dyson Residents:

Evelyn Berger, MD and Mara Minguez, MD: Evelyn and Mara are interested working with adolescent girls in order to engage them in productive and directed activities, build self-esteem and educate them in order to allow these girls to make healthy choices. They

intend to work with a group of girls to provide regular activities, education and mentorship, and will track outcomes related to pregnancy avoidance, high school graduation, and achievement of goals. (eb283@columbia.edu and maraminguez@hotmail.com)

Cecilia Penn, MD: Cecilia is developing a project in the Pediatric Emergency Department to examine the issue of use and perceptions of misuse of emergency facilities by community children. She is interested in understanding patient/parents' reasoning and rationale for using the emergency room for problems considered non-urgent and non-emergent by the medical providers. She plans to design an intervention that will help bridge the gap between community and Pediatric ED expectations. (cakuete@hotmail.com)

First Year Dyson Residents (projects to be developed):

Jennifer Huang, MD: Jennifer completed medical school at Washington University. (jh2179@columbia.edu)

Lesley Stephens, MD: Lesley completed medical school at University of Pennsylvania. She is particularly interested in the psychosocial and mental health issues of children and adolescents. (las2033@columbia.edu)

Jennifer Verani, MD, MPH: Jennifer completed medical school and public health school at Harvard University. She had worked internationally on a Child Survival Program and on immunization programs. (jrv@post.harvard.edu)

Other Resident Projects:

Lisa Eiland, MD (PGY-3), *Disparities of Infant Mortality: A Comparison of NYC Neighborhoods*: Lisa is examining data from a variety of sources to look at differences in infant mortality, comparing Washington Heights, Harlem and East Harlem to New York City. She is particularly interested in disparities in health outcomes related to race. Her research focuses on the so-called "Hispanic Paradox" evidenced by this data.

Sheryl Jawetz, MD (PGY-3) and Laura Robertson, MD (PGY-3), *Postpartum Depression Advocacy Project*: There is evidence that maternal depression is under detected in pediatrician's offices and that on-going maternal depression has a significant impact on child health and development. Sheryl and Laura have identified a clinical screening tool for postpartum depression which they plan to pilot and then implement in the ACNC Pediatric Practices. In addition, they are compiling a list of treatment resources for postpartum depression in the Washington Heights and Bronx communities to be distributed to providers at the pediatric practice sites. Thirdly, because Sheryl and Laura found a need for Spanish-language mental health resources, they are working with the Alianza Dominicana Best Beginnings Program and the Columbia University Department

of Psychiatry to establish a postpartum depression support group for Spanish-speaking mothers. Sheryl and Laura have applied for a Resident CATCH Grant funding to provide additional support for their work.

Roger Zemek, MD (Pediatric Chief Resident), *Striding for Better Health*: Roger is working with pediatric residents and medical students to develop an exercise program for children ages 10 through 18. The pre-adolescents and adolescents will meet twice weekly to walk or run in a community park. Exercise will be followed by a group activity, including informal health education, casual sports (such as Frisbee) or other appropriate activity.

Faculty Projects (partial list):

Heidi Beultler, MD, *Children with Special Health Care Needs* (additional support provided by CATCH grant)

Sayantani Dasgupta, MD, MPH and Hetty Cunningham, MD, *Teaching Cultural Competency to Pediatricians in Training: An Academic-Community Partnership*

Patricia Hametz, MD, *Injury and Violence Prevention Center including A Descriptive Epidemiology of Injuries due to Falls in New York City*

Matilde Irigoyen, MD, *Start Right and Northern Manhattan Immunization Program*

Connie Kostacos, MD and Michelle Ratau, MD, *Post Partum Primary Care*

Mary McCord, MD, MPH, *An Alternative Model for Elementary Health Services: The Health Partnership at PS-128*

Dodi Meyer, MD, *Pediatric Residency Training in Community Pediatrics*

Sandra Ortiz, MD, *Healthy Parenting Program*