A newly published book edited by UCLA pediatricians Drs. Shahram Yazdani, Sean McGhee, and Richard Stiehm is now available. Titled, “Chronic Complex Diseases of Childhood, A Practical Guide for Clinicians”, the book’s seventeen sections cover most childhood diseases as well as sections on Creating the Medical Home, Medical Devices & Therapies and Disease Drug Interactions. Most of the articles in this comprehensive resource were written by UCLA pediatricians.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM OFFERS MEDICAL HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX CONDITIONS

For parents of children with complex medical conditions, keeping up with the numerous doctors’ appointments, diagnostic tests, medications and medical equipment can be overwhelming.

Faced with the need to see a myriad of specialized physicians, they sometimes struggle to find answers to the questions that inevitably arise between appointments—and often end up relying on the emergency room, the nation’s most expensive form of care.

In an effort to better coordinate the care of these patients—including children with cancer, heart disease, spina bifida and other musculoskeletal abnormalities, craniofacial abnormalities and severe gastrointestinal disorders—Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA established the Pediatric Medical Home Program at UCLA. The program is the first of its kind and has demonstrated impressive results that have placed it at the forefront of a national effort to transform primary care for children.

In the first study to look at the benefits of the medical home concept in a specialized children’s hospital, UCLA researchers have found that participation in the program reduced emergency room visits by 55 percent, as well as improved patient satisfaction levels.

“The medical home model stresses the importance of continuous, accessible outpatient care,” says pediatric cardiologist Thomas Klitzner, M.D., executive director of the Pediatric Medical Home Program at UCLA, which conducted the study. “Parents told us that when they had a concern that they might have previously thought would require an emergency room visit, they now had someone to call. They felt empowered to use scheduled outpatient primary care and specialty visits rather than using the emergency department to get care.”

The medical home concept does not refer to a physical location; it is an approach to medical care that is accessible, compassionate, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, culturally effective and family centered. The child’s pediatrician and parents act as partners in identifying and accessing necessary medical and nonmedical services. The UCLA program, based on guidelines established by the American Academy of Pediatrics, includes four basic components: a formal 60-minute intake appointment, follow-up appointments of 40 minutes (twice the length of standard appointments), access to a bilingual family liaison to help families navigate the medical system, and a family binder that keeps all of a child’s medical information in one place.

Dr. Klitzner decided to launch the program after concluding it could not only improve the quality of care but could reduce costs by eliminating unnecessary services. The findings of his pilot study have drawn considerable interest.

Kellie Ernzen Kruger, M.D., an internist and pediatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, says she has noticed significant improvement in the quality of care complex patients are provided through the medical home concept. “When you are a primary care provider trying to coordinate care for patients with complicated medical issues, it’s very helpful to have access to all of the information from the specialists and to be able to communicate easily and effectively with them,” Dr. Kruger explains. “The medical home helps to foster that kind of communication, which translates to better care and greater satisfaction among patients and their families.”

For more information about the Pediatric Medical Home Program at UCLA, go to: www.uclahealth.org/medicalhome

Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA and Tor Vergata in Rome Unite to Help Those with HIV

Karin Nielsen, M.D., clinical professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine, helped forge an official agreement between the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics, part of Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, and the University of Tor Vergata in Rome, Italy. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding in July.

The purpose of the agreement is to further research collaborations between the two institutions and also a public health initiative sponsored by the Sant’Egidio community known as DREAM (Drug Resource Enhancement Against AIDS and Malnutrition). DREAM provides state-of-the-art care to more than 75,000 HIV-infected individuals in 10 African countries. The collaborators aim to train both U.S., Italian and African medical students, residents and faculty in treating infectious diseases and promote and implement health advances in communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Tor Vergata, a public university, is one of the largest research-based institutions in Italy. The University is an international center for research and education and is well known for scientific studies.
**Sue McDIARMID PROMOTED TO GASTROENTEROLOGY DIVISION CHIEF**

*Noteworthy: Awards and Recognition*

- Sue McDiarmid, M.D., professor of pediatrics and surgery, received the 2010 Distinguished Service Award from the International Liver Transplantation Society.
- Jackie Casillas, M.D., assistant clinical professor, hematology/oncology, received the UCLA Latino Alumni “Alumna of the Year” Award at the 19th Annual “Fiesta de Inspiración” in October.
- Kevin Shannon, M.D., associate clinical professor, cardiology, was named a National Caring Award winner by the Caring Institute for his efforts in co-founding and co-directing Camp del Corazon—a camp for children with heart disease.
- Noah Federman, M.D., and Chris Denny, M.D., from the division of hematology/oncology were awarded $100,000 from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels in September. The award supports a research study using nanoparticles to deliver therapies to children who have bone and soft tissue cancers.
- Laura B. Allen, a clinical psychologist and postdoctoral scholar with the Pediatric Pain Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, was one of six recipients of the 2010 Chancellor’s Award for Postdoctoral Research. The prize recognizes research accomplishments that show clear potential to have meaningful and enduring implications in the researcher’s field.
- Wendy Slusser, M.D., assistant clinical professor, child health policy, was named the 2010 recipient of the Robert F. Allen Symbol of H.O.P.E (Helping Other People through Empowerment) Award. The award is presented annually by the American Journal of Health Promotion to an individual who makes an outstanding contribution to serving the health promotion needs of underserved populations or to promoting cultural diversity within health promotion.

**NEW PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY DIVISION CHIEF APPOINTED**

Mark Sklansky, M.D., joined UCLA as division chief of cardiology and professor of pediatrics on September 20, 2010. In his new role, he leads the Division in providing comprehensive, collaborative, state-of-the-art, and compassionate evaluation and management of fetal and pediatric patients with a wide range of congenital and acquired forms of heart disease. Dr. Sklansky follows Thomas Klitzner, M.D., who has now turned his creative energies to the field of healthcare delivery, directing the Pediatric Medical Home Program at UCLA that he established.

Dr. Sklansky received his medical degree from the UC, Irvine School of Medicine. He then completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, followed by a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. After a year of private practice in Sacramento, he joined the division of pediatric cardiology at UC, San Diego, where he developed an international reputation for his work with 3-D fetal cardiac imaging. Dr. Sklansky returned to Los Angeles to develop the Fetal Cardiology Program for the Heart Institute and Institute for Maternal-Fetal Health and serve as Co-Chair of the Ethics Resource Committee at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Sklansky to UCLA!
Three Pediatric Faculty Receive Awards from Today’s and Tomorrow’s Children Fund

Traumatic brain injury repair, reversing liver disease and providing cardiac telemedicine to newborns in remote areas were all research topics that earned top accolades at the fifth annual Today’s and Tomorrow’s Children Fund (TTCF) Faculty Presentation Awards. TTCF prizes honored compelling presentations made by faculty members engaged in pediatric research at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA. The group presented the three winners with grants totaling more than $326,000 at a luncheon in July.

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery, won the grand prize and was awarded a gift of $175,000 for his research in developing new treatments for traumatic brain injury (TBI)—the number one cause of death and disability in children and adolescents.

Dr. Robert Venick, assistant clinical professor of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition, earned second-place honors and a gift of $88,100. Venick’s research aims to help children whose intestines do not work and must be fed intravenously through parenteral nutrition.

Dr. Gary Sato, associate professor of pediatric cardiology and director of Pediatric Echocardiography, was awarded a gift of $63,100 to support his work in developing a telemedicine connection with rural, remote medical facilities that do not offer specialty pediatric heart care.

Organized in 2006, Today’s and Tomorrow’s Children Fund was born out of the belief that, by pooling their donations, a group of committed individuals can award a major gift every year to make an important difference in the work of talented UCLA Pediatric faculty members whose cutting edge research benefits the boys and girls at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA.

Come Visit Us at the PAS Annual Meeting April 30—May 2, 2011

Attend the UCLA Department of Pediatrics Reception

WHEN
Saturday, April 30
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WHERE
Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center
Mineral Hall C
Drop by our PAS booth: #821 in the Exhibit Hall

SAVE THE DATE: 2011 Pediatric Board Review Course Returns!

Hundreds of pediatricians from across the nation attended the Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA 15th Annual Pediatric Board Review Course in 2010. The upcoming 16th annual course is planned for Tuesday, September 6 through Sunday, September 11, 2011. This year the popular course will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Santa Monica.

For details visit www.mattel.medsch.ucla.edu/boardreview.asp For questions or more information, please email: PedsBoardReview@mednet.ucla.edu

WANTED: Your Feedback!

Send us your email address today: pedsalum@mednet.ucla.edu
Include your comments and suggestions.