Dear Alumnus,

Communicating with you via our new PedsAlumni Connections and through email has been very rewarding and enlightening. I’ve received many messages from alumni and I enjoy hearing about you, your career, and your family.

This issue of the newsletter will be posted online to download and read. Since we do not have all of our alumni email addresses, a card was sent notifying you that the newsletter is ready to view online.

By collecting email addresses, we can communicate more frequently, at less cost, and reduce our carbon footprint.

If we do not have your email address, please send it to: pedsalum@mednet.ucla.edu.

While electronic communication is efficient, fast, and here to stay, there is nothing like being in the presence of good friends and enjoying the company of colleagues.

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Barry Halpern, on July 12, 2009, members of the class of 1974-77 along with a few nurse colleagues, gathered to visit the new Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA and catch up with changes in the department of pediatrics.

I was delighted to personally meet our alumni, provide an update, and walk them through our new state-of-the-art hospital.

For those of you who would like to reunion with former classmates and organize a gathering, I enthusiastically invite you back to UCLA. For information, please contact our community and alumni relations manager, Maria Orefice at: morefice@mednet.ucla.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

ReConnecting through ReUnions

A message from Ed McCabe, M.D., Ph.D.
Physician-In-Chief, Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA
Mattel Executive Endowed Chair, Department of Pediatrics

New Faculty Appointments as of July 1, 2009
Kara Calkins, M.D.
Neonatology
Lee Miller, M.D.
Medical Education
Kate Perkins, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Education
Pornchai Tirakitsoontorn, M.D.
Pulmonology

"Re-union-ing" in front of the Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA Welcome Wall are (from left to right): Trish Lewis, RN (UCLA NICU RN from 70’s to present); Sylvia Swilley, MD; Lynn Mattison, RN (UCLA 70’s NICU RN, back row); Holly Tilson, RN; Ed McCabe, MD, PhD; Paula Chou, MD (wife of Dr. Glatz); Theodore Glatz, MD (back row); Debra Halpern, RN (UCLA 70’s PICU RN & wife of Dr. Halpern); Barry Halpern, MD; Paul Wasserman, MD (back row); Bonnie Friedman, RN (UCLA 70’s head NICU nurse); and Harland Winter, MD (back row).
UCLA Breathmobile Hits the Road to Help Kids with Asthma

Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA rolled out its new UCLA Breathmobile, an “asthma clinic on wheels,” with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 23, 2009. The UCLA Breathmobile was donated to the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) under the sponsorship of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

The UCLA Breathmobile provides free diagnosis, treatment, medication and education to high-risk children with asthma and for those who are unable to keep regular visits with an asthma specialist. Staffed by a physician, registered nurse, patient-service worker and a coordinator/driver who manages the logistics of visits, the UCLA Breathmobile will be visiting 25 schools in the Long Beach and Wilmington area. The UCLA Breathmobile will primarily service schools along the 710 Long Beach Freeway, in areas where children live, play, and go to school in close proximity to the very industrial and polluted Port of Long Beach.

“With our kid-friendly UCLA Breathmobile, we look forward to bringing our services to the community and helping countless children with the diagnosis and management of asthma,” said Maria Garcia Lloret, M.D., assistant clinical professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children’s Hospital. “We hope these visits will improve the day-to-day lives of families who are coping with this chronic condition.”

American Pain Society Honors UCLA Pediatric Pain Program

The Pediatric Pain Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA was honored with the Clinical Centers of Excellence in Pain Management Award by the American Pain Society (APS) at the organization’s 28th Annual Scientific Conference in San Diego on May 7, 2009.

APS established the program in 2006 to build awareness about progressive teams of health professionals who address critical, sometimes unmet, needs in pain management within their communities.

“I am so proud of our wonderful multidisciplinary clinical and research team and the achievements we have accomplished in a field that is still emerging in pediatric care,” commented Lonnie Zeltzer, M.D., director of the Pediatric Pain Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA.

Among the five honorees, Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA was the only pediatric program to receive an award. UCLA’s pain program was recognized for its achievements in changing the paradigm for children’s pain management, recovery and function.

Some notable highlights of UCLA’s Pediatric Pain Program include: Initial consultations that enable patients and their parents to share stories about pain and offer insights to the child’s pain disability and potential ways to reduce suffering and enhance function; treatment plans that include medication, psychotherapy, family therapy, school reintegration planning, art and music therapy, yoga, and more; treatments can be modified in weekly case discussions at team meetings; practitioners who work closely with referring physicians to keep the pain care plan focused and collaborative.

The UCLA Pediatric Pain Program offers state-of-the-art medicine in combination with the regenerative power of complementary therapies to help treat children suffering from chronic pain. A wide variety of complementary therapies is used, ranging from acupuncture to art therapy. In addition, the Pediatric Pain Program conducts research on integrative therapies and spouses educational programs for health professionals and the public. For more information, please visit www.mattel.ucla.edu/pedspain/home.php.

Kate Perkins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Pediatric Residency Training Program

Kate Perkins, M.D., Ph.D., became Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program in November of 2009. She has been the Associate Vice Chair for Education within the Department of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA since 2004, providing leadership and oversight to the residency program for several years. After completing Medical School and PhD training in genetics at the University of Minnesota, Kate received her residency training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She joined the UCLA faculty in 1991 and worked at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in a variety of roles, including as Associate Program Director and Vice Chair for Clinical Services. This fall, Kate transitioned to her new role and is now working at UCLA. She has been recognized over the years with numerous teaching awards, including the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Pediatric Residency Golden Apple Teaching Award and the Award for Excellence in Education from the UCLA School of Medicine.
Professor Pinchas Cohen Receives Prestigious NIH Grant

Pinchas Cohen, M.D., www.uclahealth.org/pinchascohen, Professor of Pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Chief of Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology at the Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and Associate Director of the UCSD/UCLA Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center, has won a $2 million Transformative R01 (T-R01) award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund his innovative research on mitochondrial dysfunction.

Mitochondrial dysfunction has been associated with many diseases, including Alzheimer's, cancer and diabetes, although its exact role in the development of these diseases remains controversial.

Cohen's bold proposal will test the paradigm-shifting hypothesis that previously unrecognized molecules, he dubbed "mitochondrial-derived peptides" (MDPs), play an previously unappreciated role in the regulation of cellular and organismal function, and that the regulation of MDPs is important in disease development.

Likewise, understanding the role of MDPs may lead to development of new therapeutic and diagnostic targets. These treatments could be developed for children with cancer or diabetes but since Alzheimer's, cancer and diabetes often affect the elderly, these findings may also have a significant impact as the aging population grows. The first of these agents, which Cohen named "small human-like peptides," have already demonstrated promise in animal models of diabetes and cancer.

Cohen was one of 42 researchers nationwide chosen for the T-R01 award.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA & Jikei University, Tokyo Partner for Improved Children's Health

As part of a new initiative to create partnerships with pediatric research institutions around the globe, Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA signed a memorandum of understanding with the department of pediatrics at Tokyo's Jikei University School of Medicine on November 4, 2008.

The memorandum is the first among Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA's many planned agreements with leading institutions throughout Asia and Latin America.

The UCLA–Jikei University pact is a broad agreement in which both institutions express the intention of engaging in cooperative research and collaborating on a variety of other academic activities. The historic memorandum will help create a network through which physicians, scholars and administrators can exchange information on developments in pediatric education and research and help facilitate the translation of research into practice for pediatric diseases.

"By expanding our network throughout the Americas, Pacific Rim, India and beyond, we have the opportunity to exchange ideas and collaborate on cutting-edge research that will benefit children both at home and abroad," said Edward McCabe, M.D., Ph.D. "As a result, children everywhere will benefit from an improved quality of life."

Signing the agreement are (back row from left): Dr. Hiro-yuki Ida, chair of pediatrics, Jikei University; Yoshikatsu Eto, founding chair, International Advisory Board; Keizo Takagi, executive director of administration, Jikei University School of Medicine. Front row (from left): Dr. Edward McCabe; Dr. Satoshi Kurihara, dean and president, Jikei University School of Medicine.

Noteworthy: Awards and Recognition

James Cherry, M.D., professor and former infectious diseases division chief, received the Stanley A. Plotkin Lecture in Vaccinology Award from the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. He was recognized for contributions to the field of vaccinology and areas of related science that have impacted the lives of children and the specific area of pediatric infectious diseases. Wendy Slusser, M.D., assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, received the Beverlee Myers Award of Excellence for contribution to public health, presented by the California Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Services. E. Richard Steihm, M.D., professor of pediatric allergy/immunology, received the 2009 Special Recognition Award from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology for his exemplary career. Paul Chung, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, senior natural scientist at RAND, and director of the UCLA/RAND Center for Adolescent Health Promotion received the Nemours Child Health Services Research Award. It recognizes the scientific work of emerging scholars in the field of child health services research, particularly research on quality improvement of pediatric health services.

The memorandum of understanding is an agreement to engage in the following activities:

- Develop visits and informal exchanges of faculty, scholars and administrators in specific areas of education, research and outreach; Explore ways to cooperate in postgraduate education and training; Organize joint conferences and scientific meetings on subjects of mutual interest; Exchange academic information and materials; Pursue avenues for student exchanges.

The selected projects tend to be inherently risky, but if successful, can profoundly impact a broad area of biomedical research.
Looking to hire a pediatrician? Consider a UCLA pediatric alumni! If you know of employment opportunities for graduating residents or fellows, let us know. For graduating residents, please contact the Chief Residents at: pedchief@mednet.ucla.edu

For fellows graduating in a subspecialty, please email: morefice@mednet.ucla.edu

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
10833 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90095-1752

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE:
http://www.mattel.medsch.ucla.edu

WANTED: YOUR FEEDBACK!

Tell us news about yourself.
Send us your comments and suggestions.
Share your opinions.
Snail mail us at PedsAlumni Connections, Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, Communications Office, 10833 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1752

ISSUES ARE POSTED ONLINE SO SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TODAY TO:
pedsalum@mednet.ucla.edu

UCLA's Craniofacial Center: Reconstructing the Face of Childhood

The UCLA Craniofacial Center offers a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of children with congenital and acquired craniofacial anomalies.

Yoshi Setoguchi, M.D., established the clinic more than 25 years ago, and is co-director with Katrina Dipple, M.D., Ph.D., a geneticist conducting basic science research into understanding genetic disorders and craniofacial anomalies. Henry Kawamoto, Jr., M.D., is one of the founders and medical directors and leads the fellowship training program. Surgeons from America and around the world train to become new leaders in craniofacial surgery in their home countries or US city.

A highly specialized team of medical professionals provide a wide range of individualized care. The core team, consisting of plastic surgeons, oral surgeons, head and neck surgeons, medical geneticists, ophthalmologists, neurosurgeons, orthodontists, audiologist, speech pathologist, and pediatricians, is augmented, as each case may require, by specialists in maxillofacial prosthetics and social services.

The majority of patients are children with congenital abnormalities. Patients of all ages with trauma-related injuries requiring craniofacial restoration are also commonly referred. An emerging application of craniofacial surgery is the reconstruction of faces disfigured by cancer. In these cases, microsurgery is a major component of the treatment approach.

The center offers consultation or consultation and treatment, depending on the nature of the referral. The entire core team is involved in the initial consultation with the patient. Based upon a thorough examination and review of records, the team formulates a diagnosis and a treatment plan, which is communicated to the patient and family during the consultation. A detailed written report with each specialist's remarks is sent to the referring physicians.

Patients of any age with acquired or congenital deformities affecting the face, head, and neck are candidates for referral to the UCLA Craniofacial Center. For more information, email Katrina Dipple at kdipple@mednet.ucla.edu or call (310) 825-5904.

Come Visit Us at the PAS Annual Meeting
May 1—4, 2010

Attend the UCLA Pediatric Programs Reception on Saturday, May 1 from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel
Azure Room
Drop by our PAS booth while in Vancouver:
#204 in the Exhibit Hall

MCH/UCLA 2010 PEDIATRIC BOARD REVIEW COURSE
Hundreds of pediatricians from across the nation attended the 14th Annual Pediatric Board Review Course in September 2009. The upcoming 15th annual course is planned for September 7—12, 2010 at UCLA. For more information email Kristy Fong: ksfong@mednet.ucla.edu.