



# NeonatalNews.Net<sup>sm</sup>

From the Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Vol. 4 No. 1, July 2003

## Spotlight

**W**e welcome six new faculty members to the Section of Neonatology and are pleased to briefly spotlight each one here.



Josephine Enciso, MD

**Dr. Josephine Enciso** joins us in July as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Enciso attended the University of Arizona College of Medicine and completed her residency with Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. She completed her fellowship this year at Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut.

**Dr. Charles Hankins** joined us in March as Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Director at St. Luke's Community Medical Center—The Woodlands. He comes to Baylor with an MBA, and from the University of Tennessee, his alma mater, where he has served since 1995.



Charles Hankins, MD



David Horst, MD

**Dr. David Horst** attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and went on to complete his medical degree, residency, and fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine here at Baylor. During his fellowship, he worked in the laboratory of Dr. Saul Karpen in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, and he now joins our Section as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.

see Spotlight, page 2

## The Front Line

*Newborn Center ranked third in the nation*

by Michael Speer, MD

**C**hild magazine ranked the neonatology program at Texas Children's Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> in the United States. The survey results were published in the magazine's February issue.

Based on qualifying criteria, only 54 hospitals nationwide were asked to participate in a thorough survey of their facilities. The survey queried such factors as survival rates and average lengths of stay for neonates at various gestational ages and children with various heart disorders, as well as the amount of government funding a hospital receives.

The Texas Children's Newborn Center is the largest and busiest in the nation. The center was one of the first in the world to develop facilities and specific care plans to minimize light and noise in the NICU to improve the care environment for its patients. It is a regional ECMO center and a center for acute and chronic respiratory disease management. The Newborn Center includes a new state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) with 120 beds. This unit serves as the NICU for 2,900 patients each year including inborn infants and transfers from other hospitals across the state of Texas.

see Rankings, page 2



Michael Speer, MD

## Breaking News

*The Neonatology Graduate Clinic*

by Tiffany McKee-Garrett, MD

**T**he Neonatology Graduate Clinic opened its doors to its first patients in September 2002. The clinic is on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the new Clinical Care Center at Texas Children's Hospital and is a primary care clinic for graduates of the newborn and intensive care nurseries at Texas Children's, St. Luke's Hospital, and The Methodist Hospital.

The clinic provides services to all patients of pediatric age. This service is particularly convenient for families with newborns and older children who wish to receive their health care with the same physician at one location. Additionally, clinic patients with complex medical problems can receive primary care and sub-specialty care at the same location, since sub-specialty clinics are in the Clinical Care Center, too. Every effort is made to coordinate appointments in the Neonatal Graduate Clinic

see Graduate Clinic, page 4

## Editor's Corner

*Texas Children's Hospital receives Magnet recognition*

**I**t is always nice when the facilities you work in are nationally recognized as being among the best of the best. As reported on Page 1, our neonatology service, Texas Children's Hospital, and Baylor College of Medicine were honored in recent issues of two national publications, *Child* magazine and *U.S. News & World Report*.

Our nurses, too, were honored this year when Texas Children's Hospital earned national Magnet recognition, one of the highest honors in nursing.

Very few hospitals achieve this status, and it is a great opportunity to attract the best and brightest nurses.

"Magnet recognition is given to hospitals that demonstrate ongoing excellence in nursing leadership, management, and care delivery," said Susie Distefano, Senior Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer at Texas Children's. "Hospitals applying for Magnet status must show that the nursing service consistently provides the highest standard of care."

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), the largest nursing accrediting and credentialing organization in the U.S., directs the Magnet program. Only 67 hospitals nationwide have Magnet status—only three of them are freestanding children's hospitals.

The Baylor College of Medicine neonatology faculty consider it an honor, indeed, to work side-by-side with the professional nursing staff at all the Baylor-affiliated hospitals in the Houston area.

**Michael E. Speer, MD**

Professor of Pediatrics  
Section of Neonatology  
Baylor College of Medicine

## Research Highlights

### Grants/Funding

**Marlene Walden, PhD, RNC**, the Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Pain Medicine; Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, \$7,500.

### Events

**Steven Abrams, MD**, co-organized the Nutrition Society of the Brazil symposium "Micronutrients: Food and Bioavailability" and presented *Bioavailability of a Multi-nutrient Fortified Beverage* in Sao Paulo, Brazil, February 19, 2003.

**Charleta Guillory, MD**, spoke at the Texas Gulf Coast March of Dimes Bikers for Babies kick-off and was the invited speaker representative for the March of Dimes State Public Affairs Committee at Lobby Day 2003 in Austin, Texas.

**Patricia Ramsay, MD**, was an abstract reviewer for the Southern Society of Pediatric Research and was a scientific session moderator for the Southern Society Pediatric Research meeting.

**Michael Speer, MD**, presented the *Babson Lecture on Hyperalimentation: the Past and Present* at the University of Oregon Health Science Center in Portland.

see Highlights, page 3

### Rankings (continued from page 1)

The Texas Children's cardiology program also ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the survey, and the hospital itself climbed to 4<sup>th</sup> among the nation's pediatric hospitals in the nation and 1<sup>st</sup> in the South and Southwest.

The *U.S. News & World Report* annual survey of top medical schools ranked the Pediatrics Department of Baylor College of Medicine 9<sup>th</sup> and the college overall 12<sup>th</sup>. The *U.S. News* survey included 125 medical schools and 19 schools of osteopathic medicine and results were published in April 2003

"To be included among the nation's top medical schools is an honor and an ongoing goal of the College because it is an indication that [Baylor College of Medicine] is an excellent place to learn, care for patients, and discover new treatments," said Dr. Peter G. Traber, Baylor president and CEO.

### Spotlight (continued from page 1)



Kirsten Kienstra, MD

**Dr. Kirsten Kienstra** also completed her fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine with Baylor this year and joins us as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Kienstra is a graduate of Princeton University and received her medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Dr. Elaine Sillos** was born and raised in Curitiba, Brazil, and completed her medical degree and residency at the Federal University of Parana. In 1983 she moved to New York City where she completed two fellowships—one in pediatric pulmonology at Columbia University and one in perinatology at Cornell. She comes to Baylor from the University of Tennessee, where she was chief of the St. Jude's NICU, and joins us as Associate Professor of Pediatrics.



Elaine Sillos, MD

**Dr. George Vailas** received his medical degree from the National University of Athens and completed his residency at the University of Chicago. He completed his first fellowship in perinatal medicine at Northwest University Medical School in Chicago and a second fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Dr. Vailas has served as Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Texas Tech University in Odessa since 1997 and now joins Baylor College of Medicine as Associate Professor of Pediatrics.



Ketan Kansagra, MD

# Journal Review

## The Sy-Fi Study

Craft AP, Bhandari V, Finer NN. The Sy-Fi Study: A randomized prospective trial of synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation versus a high-frequency flow interrupter in infants less than 1000 g. *J Perinatol* 2003;23:14–19.

by Ketan Kansagra, MD

**Introduction:** Mechanical ventilation has been the mainstay of treatment for respiratory distress syndrome (RDS), but it is associated with the potential

development of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and air leak syndrome, especially in the preterm infant who is less than 1000 grams. Clinical trials of high-frequency flow interruption (HFFI) have shown equivocal results regarding efficacy and complications. This study tested the hypothesis that (HFFI) would reduce the incidence of BPD in preterm infants less than 1000 grams when compared to synchronized intermittent mandatory ventilation (SIMV), which has been reported to have a lower incidence of BPD compared to conventional mechanical ventilation (CMV).

**Methods:** From January 1999 to May 2000, patients between 24 and 34 weeks' gestation and less than 1000 grams were recruited from two nurseries (San Diego and Philadelphia) after informed consent was obtained. Infants were randomized to SIMV or HFFI and stratified into two weight categories (500–750 grams [I] and 751–1000 grams [II]) and remained on the assigned mode until extubation (at MAP <7 cm H<sub>2</sub>O) or, if on high frequency, until changed to CMV or extubation. The Infant Star® ventilator was used in both groups. Standard approach to ventilator management was utilized for both groups. Primary outcome was the incidence of BPD, defined as having an oxygen requirement at 36 weeks' postconceptual age, as well as multiple secondary outcomes. Recruitment was stopped early due to declining enrollment, and an interim analysis was performed.

**Results:** No differences were noted in demographic data between the two groups, nor in BPD or ventilator days between groups, nor in any other secondary outcomes. Center differences included increased air leak in Center A for all weight categories and increased ventilator days for Group II, and increased continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) days for Center B in Group I.

**Discussion:** No differences were seen in the measured outcomes between the two groups. The most important limitation of this study is that it lacked power to reject the null or alternate hypotheses. Thus, this study can not answer which mode of therapy is better. Despite apparent advances in ventilator strategies, ventilator-induced lung injury continues to be a cause of significant morbidity in the extremely low birth weight infant. Strategies to avoid mechanical ventilation entirely might hold the greatest promise to reduce the incidence of lung injury.

(Infant Star is a registered trademark of Nellcor Puritan Bennett, Inc., Pleasanton, PA.)

### Highlights (continued from page 2)

**Leonard E. Weisman, MD**, presented *Neonatal Bacterial Infection and Immunity, The Neonatologist - Risk Factors for Severe RSV Disease*, and *RSV Prevention: Antibodies at the Masters of Pediatrics Conference in Miami Beach*, and presented *Summary of Phase I and II Clinical Studies of a Human Chimeric Anti-Staphylococcal Monoclonal Antibody for Prevention of Staphylococcal Infection* at the US Investigators Meeting in Hutchinson Island, Florida.

## Contact Us

The Baylor College of Medicine Section of Neonatology has staff at hospitals in Houston's Texas Medical Center and in the local community.

To request a neonatal consultation at any of our locations, call

1-877-NEONATE

(1-877-636-6283)

### Texas Medical Center locations

#### Texas Children's Hospital

6221 Fannin Street, Houston TX 77030

Director of Nurseries: James M. Adams, MD

For neonatal transport, call the Kangaroo Crew:

In Houston: 832-824-5550

Toll-free: 1-877-770-5550

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

6720 Bertner Avenue, Houston TX 77030

Director of Nurseries: Michael E. Speer, MD

#### The Methodist Hospital

6565 Fannin Street, Houston TX 77030

Director of Nurseries: Michael E. Speer, MD

#### Ben Taub General Hospital

1504 Taub Loop, Houston TX 77030

Director of Nurseries: Joe Garcia-Prats, MD

### Community locations

#### East Houston Regional Medical Center

13111 East Freeway, Houston TX 77015

Director of Nurseries: Dilicia A. McLenan, MD

#### St. Luke's Community Medical Center - The Woodlands

17200 St. Luke's Way,

The Woodlands TX 77384

Director of Nurseries: Charles T. Hankins, MD

#### Twelve Oaks Medical Center - Sharpstown

6700 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77074

Director of Nurseries: Tommy Leonard, MD

#### Woman's Hospital of Texas

7600 Fannin Street, Houston TX 77056

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## Graduate Clinic

(continued from page 1)

with other sub-specialty clinics to accommodate the families.

The clinic is staffed by board-certified pediatricians from the Neonatology Section at Baylor College of Medicine. While these physicians focus on the care of neonates, they are very experienced in the care of pediatric patients of all ages. The clinic also has access to the services of a registered neonatal/pediatric dietitian and a certified social worker.

Appointments for well children are available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Appointments for sick children are available Monday and Wednesday. An on-call physician is accessible at night for acute patient problems.

- The clinic telephone number is **832-822-3500**
- The appointment telephone number is **832-822-3562**



## Baylor Perinatal Outreach Program

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Perinatal Nursing Symposium

October 24, 2003 • Hilton University of Houston

For registration information, contact:

**E-mail:** mcbrand@texaschildrenshospital.org **Telephone:** 832-824-6250

**Web site:** www.neonate.net (click Educational, then Symposia)

Texas Children's Hospital is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity meets Type I criteria for mandatory continuing education requirements toward relicensure as established by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

## Baylor College of Medicine

### Neonatal Fellowship Opportunities

#### Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program

accepts applications year-round

**For information**

- visit our Web site: [www.neonate.net](http://www.neonate.net)
- send E-mail to: [fellowship-program@neo.bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:fellowship-program@neo.bcm.tmc.edu)
- write to Dr. Leonard Weisman at the address at the top of this page

#### Neonatal Nutrition Fellowship Program

for Registered Dietitians with clinical experience; accepts applications year-round for two training periods (January-March and April-June).

**For information**

- visit our Web site: [www.neonate.net](http://www.neonate.net)
- or contact Diane Anderson, PhD, RD
- E-mail: [dianeanderson@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:dianeanderson@bcm.tmc.edu)
- telephone: 832.824.1346
- mail: write to the address at the top of this page

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