

Office of Faculty Development Newsletter

WUSM Research Key in New WHO Guidelines



The World Health Organization (WHO) has released new guidelines for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, based in large part on research at Washington University School of Medicine.

The new guidelines, which update protocols issued in 1999 by the Geneva-based organization, address treatment for the roughly 20 million children under age five worldwide who suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Among the most significant new recommendations is that children with uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition receive antibiotics to treat infection, along with therapeutic food. These children are severely malnourished but still have good appetites, are not hospitalized and do not show signs of severe infection. Under the guidelines, such children would be treated at their homes with antibiotics and specially formulated, nutrient-rich food.

"The new guidelines, if properly implemented, will reduce childhood deaths by about 175,000 annually," said **Mark Manary, MD**, the Helene B. Roberson Professor of Pediatrics. "These are relatively simple, inexpensive steps that will have a profound effect on many lives."

A study that Manary and School of Medicine colleague **Indi Trehan, MD**, led in Malawi, in sub-Saharan Africa, was an impetus for the new guidelines. Published early this year in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, their study found that severely malnourished children are far more likely to recover and survive when given antibiotics along with a therapeutic peanut-butter-based food than children who are simply treated with the therapeutic food alone.

The study involved nearly 2,800 children with severe acute malnutrition, each given an average of 30 days of therapeutic food and a placebo or an oral antibiotic for seven days. Overall, 88.3 percent of the children enrolled in the study recovered. The researchers found a 44 percent drop in mortality with the use of the antibiotic cefdinir and a 36 percent drop with amoxicillin, compared with the use of no antibiotics.

Eager to put such consequential findings to work, Manary and Trehan presented their research last year to WHO, which establishes international guidelines for the treatment of malnutrition and other diseases. [more](#)

Office of Faculty Development

[Brian Hackett](#), MD, PhD, Director
[Bess Marshall](#), MD, Associate Director
[Janet Braun](#), Program Coordinator, 454-4952



Faculty Development

Save The Dates!

Pediatric Research “Need to Know Wednesdays”

11:30 am–12:30 pm, NWT10A

3/12/2014	Documenting Research in the Age of Electronics	Mickey Clark, Human Research Quality Assurance Manager, Office of the Vice Chancellor of Research
04/09/2014	Reportable Events: What needs to be reported to HRPO	Martha Jones, Executive Director of HRPO
5/14/2014	Guidelines on the Use of Facebook and Other Social Media	TBD

Faculty Affairs Brown Bag Thursday Topics– Schwarz Auditorium Noon-1 pm

March 27 Enhancing your social engagement and why that’s important for career success.

April 24 Biomedical publishing: Strategies for success

New Pediatric Faculty Orientation

August 29, 2014 11:00 am-2:00 pm NWT10A

New faculty will be invited to attend the pediatric department’s orientation with Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Cole. This is held a week after the orientation sponsored by Faculty Affairs. Please attend both as Faculty Affairs program does not include pediatric-specific information. Watch for your invitation early summer.

Spotlight on Women in Medicine and Science

Thursday, September 11, 2014 1:30-5:30 pm

SLCH 3rd Floor Auditorium

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH



University of California San Francisco
Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics
Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Chief of Pediatrics, San Francisco General Hospital

Dr. Fuentes-Afflick is a pediatrician and epidemiologist and has conducted research studies focused on issues of acculturation, immigrant health, and health disparities. She is also interested in the portrayal of body mass images in Latino television media, principally in telenovelas.

The seminar will also highlight four WUSM female faculty who will each share their work and personal experience as a woman in the field of science.

Pediatric Grand Rounds Sponsored by Office of Faculty Development

Friday, September 12, 2014 9:15-10:15 am

Clopton Auditorium

Dr. Fuentes-Afflick will also speak at Grand Rounds.

Excellence in Medicine

Awards

Distinguished Clinician Award

David T. Balzer, MD, professor of pediatrics, is recognized for his skill and dedication as a pediatric interventional cardiologist.



Regarded as a national leader in pediatric cardiac catheterization, Balzer has played a key role in the development of many innovative, life-saving procedures for infants, children and adults with congenital heart disease. The director of the St. Louis Children's Hospital Pediatric Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory since 1995, he is highly valued by referring physicians in the region and serves as a valued resource for colleagues at Washington University Medical School. Through his dedication, he has contributed greatly to the growth and reputation of the pediatric cardiology program at St. Louis Children's and to Washington University's adult congenital heart program.

Described as collegial and generous colleague, Balzer also is valued as an outstanding teacher, particularly of adult and pediatric cardiology fellows. He has published widely on pediatric catheterization in prestigious national journals and is recruited as a resource by various national and regional bodies.

Samuel R. Goldstein Leadership Award in Medical Student Education

W. Edwin Dodson, MD, professor of neurology and of pediatrics, who recently retired as associate vice chancellor and associate dean for admissions and financial aid, is being recognized for outstanding contributions to medical student education and admissions.

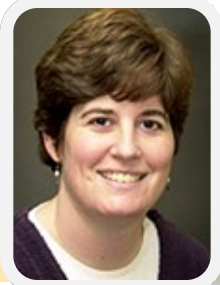


Dodson is a pediatric neurologist internationally recognized as an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of childhood epilepsy. As head of admissions and financial aid since 1990, he is credited with playing a major role in maintaining the school's preeminence. Under his leadership, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Washington University No. 1 in student selectivity for 16 consecutive years. In addition, the proportion of female applicants has risen from 30 percent to 50 percent, and minority representation has increased from 5 percent to 15 percent.

Dodson's passion for education is matched by his commitment to community service in preventing child abuse and improving epilepsy treatment in the St. Louis area and nationally — work that inspires medical students and colleagues alike. He has served numerous not-for-profit institutions, was the founding president of the St. Louis Family Support Network, served as chairman of the Children's Trust Fund of Missouri and was president and CEO of the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Dr. Corinne Walentik Provider Champion Award

Katie Plax, MD, division director of adolescent and diagnostic medicine in the department of pediatrics and medical director of The SPOT (Supporting Positive Opportunities with Teens), received the Dr. Corinne Walentik Provider Champion Award in October from the Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition in St. Louis. Plax was recognized as a gifted clinician, an advocate for children and teens, a committed educator and a role model for junior faculty. The award is named in memory of Walentik, a passionate advocate for babies and families, particularly those with few resources and unequal access.



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Research

Feliciano “Pele” Yu Jr., MD, the hospital’s chief medical information officer, and an associate professor of pediatrics at Washington University is the principal investigator at Washington University/St. Louis Children’s Hospital for a new multi-institutional project that aims to create a national pediatric “learning health system” that will feature an extensive clinical data research network.

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) awarded nearly \$7 million on Dec. 17 to eight institutions involved in forming the pediatric specific learning

health system and the clinical data research network. PCORI, a nonprofit organization authorized

by Congress, funds research that provides patients and caregivers evidence-based information to allow for informed health-care decisions. Three condition-specific “patient-powered research networks” focused on pediatric inflammatory bowel disease, childhood obesity and hypoplastic left heart syndrome, a serious congenital heart condition, will be instituted. [More...](#)



“I am excited that we will have the opportunity to create a child-health-specific network that includes St. Louis Children’s Hospital, other children’s hospitals and specialty networks that can be used to transform research and quality improvement,” said Pele Yu, MD.

In addition, **Pele Yu, MD** is one of Ten Washington University physicians recently certified in new medical subspecialties — five, including Pele Yu, MD, in clinical informatics and five in emergency medical services.

Research Awards

PI	Award	Title
Bednarski, J	Alex’s Lemonade Stand	DNA Damage Responses Coordinate Survival and Cell Death Switching in Lymphocytes
Cooper, M	Scleroderma Foundation	The role of Stat3 in Juvenile Scleroderma
Dharnidharka, V	Children’s Discovery Institute	Nextgen Deep Sequencing in Post Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorders
Druley, T	American Cancer Society	Characterization of MLL3 Dysfunction in Myeloid Precursors from Infant Leukemia Patients
Druley, T	CDI	Functional Characterization of Rare Congenital Variation in Infantile Leukemia
Duncan, J	BJHF-ICTS	Impact of Maternal Obesity on Mitochondrial Function in Infant Offspring
Duncan, J	AHA	Maternal Obesity and Risk of Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Infant Offspring
Gauvain, K	Siteman Cancer Research Fund	Evaluation of FDOPA-PET/MRI in Pediatric Patients with Recurrent Brain Tumors, A Feasibility Study
Hayashi, R	SLCH Foundation	Neuro-Oncology and Investigational New Drug Support
Hmiel, P.	NIH/Children’s Mercy Hospital	Chronic Kidney Disease in Children

Research

Kozel, B	WU Center for the Investigation of Membrane Excitability Diseases	Cardiovascular Characterization and Drug Screening in Cantu Syndrome
Kraft, T	AHA/Predocctoral Fellowship	NMR Structure/Function Analysis of Facilitative Glucose Transport 4
Magee, J	CDI	Developmental Changes in Stem Cell Self-Renewal Mechanisms and their role in Leukemogenesis
Manary, M	US/AID University of GA	Treating Pregnant Women with Moderate Malnutrition in Malawi
Morley, C	CDI	Defining Host Determinates of Severe Childhood Pneumococcal Pneumonia
Morley, C	NIH/R01	Control of Adaptive Immunity by Actin-Regulatory Proteins
Odom, A	CDI	Towards Noninvasive Diagnosis of Malaria Infection Through Exhaled Breath Analysis
Shenoy, S	NIH/CHOP	NMDP BMT-CTN Clinical Protocol #0601
Pineda, J	SLCH Foundation	Pediatric Neurocritical Care Program
Plax, K	Episcopal-Presbyterian Charitable Health and Medical Trust	The SPOT
Plax, K	State of MO	The Spot Express Testing and Youth Engagement
Plax, K	City of St Louis	The SPOT STI Services
Rosenblum, J	SLCH Foundation	Pediatric Advanced Care Team
Saunders, S	CDI	Growth Factor Signaling Pathways Regulating Development of the Small Intestine
Schnadower, D	NIH/R01	Impact of Emergency Department Probiotic Treatment of Pediatric Gastroenteritis
Schuettpelz, L	NIH/K08	Elucidating the Role Of Kruppel Like Factor 7 in Cell Development
Shenoy, S	NIH/CHOP	NMDP BMT-CTN Clinical Protocol #1202
Spinella, P	Entegron, Inc.	Characterization of Plasma Study (COPS)
Steed, A	NIH/PSDP	The Role of Type 1 Interferon Signaling during Influenza A Infection in the Young Host
Storch, G	SLCH Foundation	Camp Hope
Storch, G	CDC/City of St Louis	HIV Prevention Intervention for Targeted Populations at Risk

Work Life Balance

Faculty Breakfast: Summer Opportunities for Kids of All Ages

On March 28, before grand rounds, the **Pediatric Faculty Breakfast** will focus on summer opportunities for kids. Learn about new opportunities and share your past camp experiences with other faculty. It will be held from 8:00-9:00 am in NWT8C. [Register here.](#)



Come, forget about winter and enjoy a breakfast catered by Einstein Bagels including their popular Thintastic egg white sandwich - asparagus, mushroom & swiss and southwest turkey sausage and their "Darn Good Coffee".



Visit [OFD's website](#) for a listing of 2014 camps around St. Louis. The list includes camps for the younger set and enrichment programs for middle and high school students.

Updates & Enhancements to Employee Assistance Program

Washington University's Employee Assistance Program provider, People Resources, Inc., has been acquired by E4 Health, a leading provider of holistic life services and wellness solutions for organizations nationwide. The merger of these two experienced, professional teams will afford expanded service offerings for faculty, staff, postdoctoral associates and scholars and clinical fellows while providing all the high-quality services and capabilities to which you and your family and household members are accustomed to.

As of 1/1/14, you now have access to a new full-service member website. Please note the new URL will be www.LifeScopeEAP.com. **The global username is WUSTL and the global password is guest.** The toll-free helpline (800-765-9124) will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Program Services and Resources

Some areas include:

- Emotional well-being – confidential help for you and your family members
- Overcoming challenges around life transitions
- Help with conflict and communication
- Improving fitness and nutrition habits
- Convenience services for busy people
- Pet care resources
- Household services resources
- Relocation resources

Website

- Life Connect Chat with a work/life specialist – anytime, any day
- Webinars – free monthly webinars on a range of topics
- Support topics (parenting, wellness, consumer tips, and career development)
- Discounts on name brand merchandise
- Online forums
- Mobile-friendly

For additional details, click on the following link: [Washington University Employee Assistance Program Website](#)