



Neurosciences Update

Second Quarter, 2009

A Note from the Chief of Neurosciences and Craniofacial Surgery



Dear colleagues,

For years, there has been an influx of children and families to Georgia. While we are happy to see growth, the amount of pediatric patients needing neurology appointments has grown beyond the state's current capacity. We cannot provide the same level of care to an ever-increasing number of children with the same number of neurologists. This discrepancy has caused a severe backlog for our patients.

To address these needs, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has hired two specialists Cherise Russell, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist and Epileptologist, and Han Phan, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist and Sleep Medicine Specialist, both of whom will start seeing patients Monday, Aug. 3. Their hiring has sparked the creation of a new neurology group--Children's Pediatric Neurology. The arrival of these physicians will improve patients' access to care and appointment availability. Children's is actively recruiting two additional neurologists for this group. We hope to fill these positions by the end of 2010.

Additionally, the Emory University Department of Pediatrics Division of Child Neurology has begun recruitment for a new Division Chief of Child Neurology. This position will partner with Children's to lead both Emory-Children's Center Division of Neurology and Children's Pediatric Neurology for clinical, research and teaching initiatives. Emory-Children's Center also is actively recruiting new neurologists.

Our partners at Child Neurology Associates also hired two new specialists--Jun Park, M.D., Pediatric Neurologist and Epileptologist, starting in July, and Kristin Baranano, M.D., Ph.D., Pediatric Neurologist, starting in November. We are excited about these additions to our neurology services and look forward to seeing their impact on our mission to provide excellence in patient care.

We appreciate your comments and welcome your suggestions for future issues. Contact Jill Morrissey, Neurosciences Service Line Administrator, at jill.morrissey@choa.org or 1001 Johnson Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA30342-1605 with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Hudgins, M.D.
Pediatric Neurosurgeon
Chief of Neurosciences and Craniofacial Surgery

Children's Pediatric Neurology: an Introduction

Malika Reagon
Practice Manager
Children's Pediatric Neurology

As Practice Manager of the Children's Pediatric Neurology, I am thrilled to provide additional details related to this new neurologist group. Our two new pediatric neurologists will join the Children's Neurosciences program this summer, and they will begin to see patients Aug. 3, 2009.

Cherise Russell, M.D., received her medical degree at the University of Florida and completed her pediatric residency at Westchester Medical Center in New York. She completed a pediatric neurology fellowship at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Brooklyn and a neurophysiology fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine. She is board certified in pediatrics and neurology.

Dr. Russell's specialty is epilepsy and electroencephalography (EEG), and she will work in collaboration with J. Robert Flamini, M.D., Medical Director of the Children's Epilepsy Center and the rest of the Children's Epilepsy Center team.

Han Phan, M.D., received her medical degree at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Phan completed pediatric residencies at Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where she completed pediatric neurology and sleep medicine fellowships. Dr. Phan's specialty interests include neuromuscular disorders and sleep medicine. She also served as an assistant professor and pediatric neurologist for the Muscular Dystrophy Clinic at UAB.

In addition to seeing pediatric neurology patients in the Children's Pediatric Neurology office on the second floor of the Children's at Scottish Rite Medical Office Building, Dr. Russell will see patients in the Children's Epilepsy Center. Dr. Phan also will see patients with sleep-related conditions in her private practice.

Contact Malika Reagon, Practice Manager, Children's Pediatric Neurology, at malika.reagon@choa.org or 404-785-3801 for more information, or call 404-785-8580 or fax 404-785-9218 to make a referral.

New and Notes

- **Children's Hosts Panel Discussion on Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury (PABI)**

On May 7, Children's, in collaboration with the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation, hosted the American PABI Heroes Tour. Several clinicians from Children's participated in a panel discussion at Children's at Scottish Rite, which was filmed for an upcoming PBS documentary. Jackie Kiefel, Ph.D., Neuropsychologist, and

Dawn Illardi, Ph.D., Neuropsychology Fellow, represented the neurosciences team on the panel.

- **My Family Health Spot Web Site Launches**

Children's is excited to announce the launch of My Family Health Spot, an interactive and engaging wellness Web portal for families seeking to improve their overall health and well-being. Developed by expert clinicians, dietitians, athletic trainers and physicians at Children's, the Web site includes content and customized tools for tracking nutrition and fitness, meal planning, exercise ideas and recipe makeovers. The Web site is free and will be a valuable resource for you and your patients. Visit www.myfamilyhealthspot.org for more information.

- **Internal Neuro Web Site Launches**

The Children's Neurosciences program has launched a new internal Web site on Careforce Connection, the Children's intranet site, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Contact Kristine Whigham, Psy.D., Site Administrator, at kristine.whigham@choa.org or 404-785-2856 to make updates or changes.

- **New Summer Camp for Patients**

In June 2009, the Children's Neuropsychology department launched the Cognitive Remediation Camp. Led by Senior Neuropsychologist, Kathleen O'Toole, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.N./C.N., and Neuropsychology Postdoctoral Fellow, Lindsay Lutton, Psy.D., the camp includes 20 children with neurological disorders (e.g., epilepsy, Tourette syndrome, cerebral palsy) and involves pre- and post-testing, in addition to customized activities based on individual neuropsychological evaluations. Cognitive Remediation Camp offers six sessions per child in a three-week period to improve sustained, selective and divided attention. Between sessions, each camper gets homework assignments to practice their attention skills at home. Parents will receive weekly reports and a final report at the end of camp, which contains tips to help them practice with their child. Call Dr. O'Toole at 404-785-2849 for more information.

- **Spring Baseball Classic for Kids**

The annual Spring Baseball Classic for Kids, which benefits the Children's Neurosciences program, specifically the intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging (iMRI) system, was May 12, 2009. Approximately 24,000 attendees were on-hand for the event. At the event, Barun Brahma, M.D., was interviewed by FOX Sports and discussed the iMRI and the importance of donor support.

Accomplishments

- **Senior Neuropsychologist Earns Board Certification**

The Children's Senior Neuropsychologist, Kathleen O'Toole, Ph.D., successfully passed the four-stage examination for the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN). This places her among a select few board-certified neuropsychologists in the nation.

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