



Neurosciences Update

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to dedicate the first issue of the 2008 *Neurosciences Update* to the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta academic programs, as one part of a systemwide four-part strategy, including: clinical care, education, research and the newest area of focus--wellness. This strategy is an integrated system, encompassing all we hope to accomplish within our department this year.

The capacity of our academic programs directly impacts the effectiveness of our research efforts, while strengthening relationships with organizations like Emory University School of Medicine, Emory Winship Cancer Institute and Georgia Institute of Technology. The infrastructure and staff these organizations can provide is crucial to developing the Children's research programs.

Similarly, these organizations need Children's to supply an increasing number of fellowship and residency positions. A partnership with Emory University School of Medicine and Winship Cancer Institute means a reliable group of fellows, residents and facilities for Children's to develop treatments, research studies and physicians.

Our focus on the academic element will continuously improve our clinical efforts. By increasing the number of national publications and presentations, Children's will maintain a level of national pre-eminence needed to attract fellows and residents to the neurosciences program. This is the best way to increase in-state physician retention while increasing the strength of the Children's neurosciences team.

Academic initiatives enhance the Children's wellness programs. The research studies we develop will contribute to community dialogue about head injury prevention and will improve our ability as providers to care for both mild and severe head injuries. Physicians are a valuable, credible source for wellness information in our communities.

We appreciate your comments and welcome your suggestions for future issues. E-mail Jill Morrissey, Service Line Director Neurosciences, at jill.morrissey@choa.org with any questions or suggestions.

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Clinical, Research and Teaching Updates

- In 2008, the establishment of fellowships, residencies and research initiatives in collaboration with partner institutions will be our greatest focus. These initiatives will establish a firm direction for our research efforts, while keeping the next generation of neuroscience clinicians engaged with the Children's mission and eager to stay upon the completion of their residency or fellowship program.
- Children's and the Emory Neurology Division have filled one pediatric neurology resident position beginning the summer of 2008.
- Neuropsychology will now offer a doctoral level candidate a one-year internship, spending four months at each of the following: Children's, Emory University School of Medicine and Wesley Woods Center.
- Children's is actively recruiting for a medical director of research who will set the strategic direction for research within our Neurosciences program, nurture our collaborative research partnerships, mentor young scientists and enhance our pre-eminence through publications, presentations and new discoveries.
- It is anticipated that we will have a new pediatric neurosurgery fellowship program July 2008, in conjunction with the Department of Neurological Surgery at Emory University.
- In 2008, Children's will apply for grants from various funding sources, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Health Systems Institute (HSI); a collaboration with Georgia Tech and Emory University School of Medicine, for studies ranging from epilepsy to brain morphometry.

News and Notes

- Tom Burns, Psy.D., A.B.P.P./A.B.C.N., was featured on *Atlanta Business Radio* to discuss the growth of the Children's Neurosciences program, and the Taste of Dunwoody event benefiting the program.
- Frank Berenson, M.D., bylined an article on headaches in children for *Fit Atlanta* magazine. The article is scheduled to appear during the spring.
- Robin Guthrie, R.N., and a number of staff members were featured in an *Advance for Nurses* article about the intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging system (iMRI), and its impact on neurosurgery.
- Neurosciences continues recruitment efforts for neurologists, epileptologists, neurosurgeons and a medical director of research. Contact Tom Burns, Psy.D., A.B.P.P./A.B.C.N., at 404-785-2854 or [e-mail](#) Thomas Burns to refer interested candidates.

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