



Neurosciences Update

Third Quarter, 2007

A Note from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

Dear Colleagues,

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Neurosciences program strives to deliver excellence in pediatric neurosciences clinical care, research, teaching and innovation. *Neurosciences Update* is our newest tool to provide you with the latest information about our growing program.



Neurosciences Update offers a snapshot of current activities including my CMO overview, clinical pathways from our physician colleagues and news about the Children's Neurosciences program, including the hiring of new physicians and providers. It is an exciting time for the Children's Neurosciences program and we hope you will find this newsletter interesting, useful and informative.

We appreciate your comments and welcome your suggestions for future issues. Please e-mail **Jill Morrisey**, Service Line Director Neurosciences, at jill.morrisey@choa.org with any questions or suggestions.

Roger J. Hudgins, M.D.

Pediatric Neurosurgeon
Chief Medical Officer, Children's Neurosciences program
Chief of Neurosurgery, Children's Neurosurgery program
Surgical Director, Children's Epilepsy Center

Clinical Pathways

Trauma is among the leading causes of death of children ages 1 to 18. The majority of trauma-related deaths are the result of head injuries. There have been recent initiatives to introduce standardized guidelines for the management of children with severe head injuries. Studies show that evidence-based guidelines reduce morbidity, increase survival, improve outcomes and lower healthcare costs associated with pediatric traumatic brain injuries.

A task force, under the direction of **Patricia Richardson**, Patient Safety/Improvement Officer at Children's, was established to refine and implement evidence-based guidelines for patients who sustain severe traumatic brain injuries. The goal is to have the critical pathways in place at Children's by the end of the year.

At a meeting of this task force, attended by physicians and nurses representing intensive care, pediatrics, neurology, transport, and rehabilitation, **Andrew Reisner M.D.**, Director of Neurotrauma at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, presented the consensus of the neurosurgery staff regarding tentative guidelines to be introduced at Children's.

The clinical pathways will encompass all aspects of the management of these patients, including emergency transport, triage in the Emergency department, Intensive Care Unit management and rehabilitation. These pathways will help Children's provide integrated and consistent care to patients with neurological trauma. This will likely increase the quality of care provided at Children's while decreasing the cost of treatment.

News and Notes

- The [intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging \(iMRI\) system](#) was delivered to Children's at Scottish Rite in July. Once operational in early November, Children's will become one of only four pediatric hospitals in the world and the first in the Southeast to house the IMRIS Neuro™ technology. Studies show that by using an iMRI, neurosurgeons are able to find and remove more of the tumor in 25 percent to 30 percent of all cases.
- A recent WSB-TV special featured a story about one of our neurosciences patient families. The Terwilliger family has provided generous financial support for our epilepsy program--to expand and improve access to care.
- The Children's Neurosciences program also will be prominently featured during a WSB-TV special to air in December. More details, including the date and time of the special, will be announced later.



New Physicians and Providers

- **Barun Brahma, M.D.**, Pediatric Neurosurgeon, joined the Children's Neurosurgery team in July from the University of Michigan. Dr. Brahma has a particular interest in complex pediatric spine disorders.
- **Scott Perry, M.D.**, joined the Children's Neurology team following completion of his neurology training in July. Dr. Perry plans to continue his education with a fellowship in epilepsy next year.
- **Stacey E. Woodrome, Ph.D.**, and **David J. Marcus, Ph.D.**, recently joined the Children's Neuropsychology department. Dr. Woodrome previously worked at the Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, while Dr. Marcus was employed at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.
- **Pediatric Neurosurgery Associates P.C.** physicians will become employed physicians at Children's as of Oct. 1, 2007. By aligning these surgeons with the Children's system, we will have a seamless integration of clinical services, research and teaching for the community we serve.
- **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta**, in conjunction with the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine, is presently recruiting [neurology fellows](#) for 2008. The program is seeking joint recruitment between the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Neurology to provide a combined Pediatric Residency and Neurology Fellowship. Contact John Sladky, M.D., at jsladky@emory.edu for more information.

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