



Neurosciences Update

Winter 2009

A Note from the Chief Medical Officer, Neurosciences Program



Dear Colleagues,

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Neurosciences program had many successes in 2008. In our third year of the neurosciences strategic plan, we made great progress in creating the infrastructure to align all participants, support effective clinical delivery and create a foundation to further develop our academic and research goals. Looking forward to 2009, we are ready to implement our plans for expansion, as our team will have the facilities, technology and staff to realize even more achievements.

Demand for neurosciences services has remained very high. In response to this, Children's has already hired an additional neuropsychologist and a new neurologist, who will start in July 2009. In addition, we will be actively recruiting another neurosurgeon and additional neurologists. By adding these extra positions, we hope to improve access to care and patient and referring physician satisfaction. In 2008, patient demand continued to increase, with a 10 percent rise in inpatient admissions.

With this increase in patients, Children's made a wise choice by investing in innovative new technology, such as the intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging (iMRI) system. This new system furnished critical imaging data for approximately 90 surgeries in 2008, resulting in better outcomes for many of those patients. The donor-funded dense array electroencephalogram (EEG) also made a difference in the lives of more than 40 children with seizure disorders during its first year of operation.

Earlier this year, with the guidance and support of the Children's Quality and Critical Care teams, we launched a new neuro trauma clinical pathway with the leadership of Andrew Reisner, M.D. Early intervention for traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord issues and seizure disorders will result in better outcomes for children and better collaboration between departments.

In 2009, we continue to build our recognition through presentations, publications and research, as we add new research scientists to our team. This year, our clinical team was responsible for 20 presentations and several journal articles. We also have 15 studies being supported by our research coordinator that are active or in various stages of development. Adding to our physician-training initiatives and future recruitment possibilities, the Children's Neurosciences program now offers fellowships in neurosurgery, neurology and neuropsychology.

We appreciate your comments and welcome your suggestions for future issues. Contact Jill Morrissey, Neurosciences Service Line Director, at jill.morrissey@choa.org or 1001 Johnson Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30342-1605 with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Hudgins, M.D.
Pediatric Neurosurgeon
Chief Medical Officer, Children's Neurosciences program

News and Notes

- The [Douglas County Sentinel](#) published a front-page story about neuro spine patient Morgan Hopper, detailing her experiences and treatments at Children's. **Barun Brahma, M.D.**, was interviewed for the story.
- **Roger Hudgins, M.D.**, was spotlighted by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) for helping Jeffri Montenegromoran, a 1-year-old patient with spina bifida who was discovered during a missionary trip to Nicaragua, by donating his services.
- **Nicolas Krawiecki, M.D.**, Pediatric Neurologist, is a 2008 recipient of the Emory University School of Medicine Dean's Teaching Excellence Award. This annual award recognizes Emory University School of Medicine faculty members for excellence in teaching. Dr. Krawiecki, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, was described by the award-selection committee as "gentle, wise and profound...a professor who thinks deeply, speaks carefully, feels empathetically and acts effectively."
- Patient family preregistration forms are now available for both [Pediatric Neurosurgery Associates at Children's](#) and the [Children's Neuropsychology department](#).
- Visit www.choa.org/neuroupdate to use the online *Neuro Update* continuing medical education (CME) module. Physicians are encouraged to read each issue and take the online questionnaire to earn CME credit.
- Six new patient stories were recently added to the Children's Web site. Visit www.choa.org/neurosciences to view them.

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