



Neurosciences Update

Fall 2008

A Note from the Chief Medical Officer, Neurosciences Program

Dear Colleagues,



The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Neurosciences program is pleased to bring you the third quarter 2008 issue of *Neurosciences Update*.

Beginning June 2008, Children's announced the development of a new affiliate, Marcus Autism Center, which will offer comprehensive services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities.

Marcus Autism Center will provide much needed services and insight into this complex, multidisciplinary area. The Marcus Autism Center staff have been forging new treatments for children with conditions, including autism, cerebral palsy, feeding disorders and genetic disorders.

With its many innovative programs, Marcus Autism Center uses applied behavior analysis in conjunction with traditional methods, including pharmacotherapy, individual and family therapy and diagnostic evaluation. Treating many different conditions, the staff at Marcus Autism Center work closely with families, making them a part of the treatment to determine their child's unique goals.

Join me in welcoming the staff and physicians of Marcus Autism Center to Children's. We look forward to the collaborative relationship and mutual learning experience that will benefit all of our patients.

As an example of an opportunity to collaborate, members of our neurosciences team recently published and presented articles about attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and the prevalence of headaches in children.

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

A Mind to Give

As the Children's Neurosciences program continues to grow, we have many new and ongoing funding requirements-many of which cannot be met within our annual budget. As a result, we must rely on the generosity of the community to fill the funding gaps.

To help build our growing academic program, we are seeking donor support to build endowments for two research leaders and a fellowship program, to train the next generation of neurosciences physicians. Only a few physicians graduate from medical school each year with a degree in pediatric neurosciences. So, the ability to train future neurosciences experts at Children's becomes invaluable for both retention purposes and for maintaining optimal access to care.

In addition, community partners, including Georgia Institute of Technology, Emory University School of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), allow us to engage in research partnerships that will bring advances for our neurosciences program.

To continue to grow, we need support from philanthropic organizations such as the [Children's 1998 Society](#). When physicians join the Children's 1998 Society, their contribution will help fund our continued pursuit of excellence in pediatric healthcare.

Employees at Children's can choose to donate a portion of their paychecks to Children's via the Employee Giving Campaign. These funds will allow us to grow our facilities, enhance medical programs, support research and training, and expand our advocacy and charity care efforts in the community. The 2008 Employee Giving Campaign is under way, and employees can make a pledge either online-[via the Foundation page on Careforce Connection](#)-or by obtaining a pledge form from their department's employee giving ambassador.

Patient families also can help with their contributions, supporting numerous other children with neurological disorders. If there is a family who would like to contribute to the Children's Neurosciences program, direct them to development officer [Hannah Sparks](#). Hannah will work with families to determine an appropriate gift-one that will have the greatest impact on the Children's Neurosciences program.

Call development officer Hannah Sparks at 404-785-7306, or direct grateful patient families to www.choa.org/thankyou to learn about other ways to support the Children's Neurosciences program.

Accomplishments

- Dr. Hudgins was a featured speaker at the 2008 Children's Circle of Care North American Leadership Conference (NALC) June 19 in Denver, Colo. to showcase the impact of private giving on pediatric healthcare. A crowd of nearly 1,000 prominent donors dedicated to supporting pediatric hospitals from around the country learned about the benefits of the intra-operative magnetic resonance imaging (iMRI) technology. Dr. Hudgins' talk raised awareness about how community and clinical personnel can come together to improve patient care within neurosciences, capturing the attention of a highly influential audience.
- Grace Fong, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, presented Pediatric Neuropsychology: Common Issues, at Grand Rounds at Children's at Egleston Aug. 6.

- Kristine Whigham, Psy.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, received training at Electrical Geodesics Inc. (EGI) in Oregon for high density electroencephalogram (EEG) and explored collaborative research initiatives.
- Stacey Woodrome, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, completed a workshop about Immediate Post-concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing™ (ImPACT). This repeatable cognitive assessment will be a part of a new multidisciplinary sports concussion program in the Children's Sports Medicine program.

News and Notes

- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Children**
Children's neuropsychology resident Dawn Ilardi, Ph.D., was interviewed by Georgia News Network about ADHD and potential complications resulting from certain medications. The show was broadcast on more than 40 radio stations across Georgia.
- **When a Headache is More Than Brain Freeze**
Fit Atlanta interviewed Children's neurologist Frank Berenson, M.D., about headaches in children and when parents need to be concerned. The article also addressed the severity of the headaches as it relates to parents' genetics.
- **Epilepsy Camp at Camp Twin Lakes** was postponed until summer 2009. Visit www.choa.org/epilepsycamp for more information.
- **The Children's Neuropsychology department** is proud to add Kristine Whigham, Psy.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist, to the team. This August, Dr. Whigham completed her postdoctoral neuropsychology fellowship at Children's. She obtained her Doctor of Psychology in clinical psychology from the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University in Atlanta.

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