Interview Season Underway

Under the guidance of Residency Director Auxford Burks, the Department is now winding down the 2009-10 recruitment season. We received more than 1100 applications, interviewed 206 applicants, and consumed almost 600 bran muffins. Applicants hailed from more than 50 different medical schools, including:

Albany Medical College, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Barbizon School, Boston University, Bronx High School of Science, Columbia University, Connecticut School of Broadcasting, Cornell Medical College, Dartmouth, Drexel University, Emory University, Florida State University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Indiana University, Thomas Jefferson University, Loma Linda University, Loyola University of Chicago, Medical College of Georgia, Medical College of Wisconsin, Mercer University, Morehouse, Mount Sinai, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York Medical College, New York University, Northeastern Ohio University, Pennsylvania State, Sackler School of Medicine, Starfleet Academy, SUNY Downstate, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Upstate, University of Toledo, Brown University, Tufts University, University College London, University of Cambridge, University of Chicago, University of Connecticut, University of Illinois, University of Kansas, University of Mars, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/R.W. Johnson Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School, University of Miami, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rochester, University of Southern California, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, University of Vermont, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin, Virginia Commonwealth University, and West Virginia University.

Special thanks go to Amy Perez for her organization skills and to the chief residents, Rebekah Lipstein and Madalsa Patel, who could always be found touring groups of bright eyed, bushy-tailed applicants. Also, we thank the interviewers: Mahsa Akhavan, Yoli Brown, Joey Buttafuoco, Auxford Burks, Bill Caspe, Ellen Crain, Kishwar Dhingra, Glenn Fennelly, Jaime Fernandez, Clare Fried, Jeff Gershel, Curly Howard, Gary Igel, Diane Indyk, Rachel Katz, Heather Lawsky, Daniela Levanon, Stephanie Lichten, Teresa McCann, Scott Miller, Beth Nagourney, Molly Nozyce, Apolo Ohno, Madalsa Patel, Kathy Porder, Ken Rivlin, Donald Rumsfeld, Denise Serebrisky, Angela Shtern, Penny Tarshish, Tiger Woods, Loren Yellin, and Irving Zoltan.

We are all now officially on a diet.
The North Bronx Healthcare Network (i.e. Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital), honored Andy Wiznia with a Profile in Excellence

Described by friends and colleagues as a true “Renaissance Man,” Dr. Andrew Wiznia has dedicated himself to providing exceptional and compassionate care to children living with HIV and AIDS for more than twenty-five years. “Dr. Wiznia is a role model for physicians everywhere,” said Dr. Jason Leider, Medical Director of Adult HIV Services at NBHN. “He is the physician every patient would want as their doctor, because besides his medical talent, he advocates for patient needs like no other.”

Listed as a “Super Doctor” in The New York Times Magazine for the past two years in a row, Dr. Wiznia is the Director of the NBHN Pediatric and Adult HIV Services and Director of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Services. He is also a member of the New York City HHC Research Council and a Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. Dr. Wiznia has published extensively, with more than 80 peer-reviewed articles and 5 reviews and book chapters to his name.

“A true mentor to his students, Dr. Wiznia has enlightened a decade of young men and women with his unparalleled expertise and knowledge,” said Allen M. Spiegel, M.D, The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. “His dedication to the advancement of HIV treatment and his advocacy for policy change continue to inspire the next generation of medical leaders in the fight against pediatric HIV.”

Dr. Wiznia has been the guiding force in developing Jacobi’s Pediatric HIV/AIDS program into one of the largest single site programs in the United States. The service provides integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for HIV infected children and HIV-exposed, uninfected children, as well as integrative care for infected adults and other family members. The program also works closely with foster care agencies and the New York City Administration for Children’s Services in managing the healthcare of infected children in foster care. Working closely with Dr. Denise Serebrisky, the Director of the NBHN Pediatric Asthma and Allergy Service, Dr. Wiznia has also helped to establish the program as a Center of Excellence - providing state-of-the-art integrated care for children with asthma and allergies.

“As an early pioneer in pediatric HIV care, Dr. Wiznia is a world renowned leader in his field,” said William P. Walsh, Senior Vice President of the North Bronx Healthcare Network. “Those of us who work closely with Andy are motivated by his sincere passion and are amazed by his boundless energy and enthusiasm.”

Despite his many responsibilities at Jacobi and North Central Bronx Hospital, Dr. Wiznia has made it a priority to serve on numerous state-wide, national and international HIV committees, and is on the writing committee for the “Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection” sponsored by the National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center, National Institute of Health (NIH), Health Resources and Services Administration. He is the vice chair of the NIH IMPAACT primary therapy group that oversees all new drug development and HIV treatment strategies for HIV infected children at forty sites in the United States and forty international sites including South Africa, Thailand, Brazil, India, Zimbabwe and others.

More Wiznia News
In addition, Andy was co-author on two abstracts selected for presentation in San Francisco at the 17th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, February 16, 2010:
Pharmacokinetic (PK), Safety and Efficacy Data on Cohort IIA; Youth Aged 6-11 years from IMPAACT P1066: A Phase I/II Study to Evaluate Raltegravir (RAL) in HIV-1 Infected Youth. Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Once-Daily Elvitegravir in HIV-infected Adolescents.
Faculty News

Sandra Cunningham, Associate Director of the Jacobi Emergency Department, was interviewed in the July, 2009 issue of HHC Today. The article was titled, “Bikes, Pools, Bugs: Summer Safety.”

On October 8, 2008, Katherine Chou was interviewed about Norovirus by Channel 12.

This past summer, Jaime Fernandez, Director of the Jacobi Regional Perinatal Center, was the rage in Washington, DC. As a personal friend of new Supreme Court justice Sonia Sotomayor, he attended a number of swearing-in events. As you can see, Jaime hob-knobbed with stars.

Housestaff News

On October 2, 2009 incoming chief resident Daran Kaufman presented a research poster at the Assuring Equity through Health and Health Care Reform Conference, in New York. The poster was titled, “Understanding inequities in health care: a “ghost map” of disparities in the economic burden of the uninsured and poorly insured for hospitals in New York City.” Co-authors included Jeff Gershel and Ken Rivlin.

2011-12 Chief Residents Selected

The FIB is delighted to report that Michele Edelman and Noé Romo have been selected to be the 2011-12 chief residents. Michelle is a New Yorker, and another one of our long line of Scarsdale High School grads. She completed her undergraduate work at Cornell, then moved on to medical school at SUNY Stony Brook. In case you are wondering, she is not related to ex-chairman Chester.

Noé was born in Los Angeles and went to the University of California, Riverside. He then saw the light and headed east for medical school at AECOM, where he completed both his third-year clerkship and subinternship with us. Noé is an avid runner who finished the 2009 NYC marathon in 2:50:02. While his goal was sub-2:45, the FIB learned that he was post-call from the NICU that day.
Recent Departmental Publications


And…it has come to our attention that over the past two years, one of our graduates, Jen Lighter ‘04 has been churning out the publications:


From Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobi_Medical_Center)
“Clinicians in pediatrics made significant contributions in diagnosis and treatment of congenital heart disease in children, identified congenital abnormalities which caused renal tubular acidosis in children, and were the first to describe a seriously prolonged jaundice in infants.”

“Its work in AIDS care and research led Jacobi to the establishment of the first hospital-based pediatric AIDS Day Care Program in the U.S.”

“Pediatric ED was lauded by New York Magazine as one of just four of the best pediatric EDs in NYC.”

And, we are located at 40°51′20″N 73°50′50″W.
Breaking News From Vancouver

You may think that the only important news coming from Vancouver involves curling, crying figure skaters, and people who ski cross-country while carrying guns. However, several research abstracts from the department were selected to be presented at the annual Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Vancouver in May. In addition, ED fellow Abigail Nixon is the recipient of the Academic Pediatric Association Ludwig-Seidel award which is given to the abstract that represents the best research project in Pediatric Emergency Medicine in which a Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellow is a lead author. Congratulations, Abby! In addition, four of our residents, Michelle Edelman, Daran Kaufman, Randy Nelson, and Noé Romo are co-authors on accepted abstracts.

Nixon AF, Cunningham SJ, Cohen HW, Crain EF: The effect of Lactobacillus GG (LGG) on acute diarrheal illness in the Pediatric emergency department (PED).

Grossman DS, Kunkov S, Crain EF: Calling 911! What role does the Pediatrician play?

Stephens Hanes LA, Crain EF: Rapid, point-of-care testing for Chlamydia trachomatis in emergency department settings.

Romo N, Gershel JC, Rivlin K: “When I was an intern.” Intern stress and the feelings we need to remember.


In Memoriam

DR. GARY LOMBARDI 1951 - 2009

A superb clinician, scholar, mentor and administrator, Dr. Lombardi touched the professional lives of over 15,000 medical students, resident physicians, attending physicians, nurses, paramedics and a countless number of hospital staff.

He was the embodiment of kindness and compassion as he cared for ever one million patients during his professional career.

He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER NORTH CENTRAL BRONX HOSPITAL OCTOBER 2009

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”
Albert Einstein
Letters

Our switch to electronic format led to a huge number of letters:

Thanks for the electronic FIB. We had a baby, too- Wesley Owen McDonald born March 21st [2009]. I attached a photo. Maybe for the next FIB?
Neysa
Ed: Neysa McDonald graduated in 2007. She works with the Pediatrics Associates of Connecticut, with offices in Southbury and Waterbury. Happy first birthday to Wesley!

Thanks for sending the FIB. I always enjoy an update. Regards to Jeff, Ellen, Bob, Andy and others from my cohort.
Ted Kastner
Ed: Ted graduated in 1984. He is now President of the Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance, which has eight centers in New Jersey.

Well thank you for the FIB (electronic version) and how nice to see Louis Fraad’s photo smiling out at me from the page. He was quite a role model. I remember he used to say to me “Mopsy, you can’t save the Bronx” when I would go to him in despair with a complex social case in my continuity clinic. And I am so glad to know that the FIB has not lost its sense of humor!
Elizabeth T. Matthews
Ed: Elizabeth graduated in 1983 and was known as “Mopsy.” She is the Medical Director of the Family Health Bureau in Santa Fe, NM.

Please tell Bill and the rest of the crew how much I appreciate your doing this and sharing it with those of us in the ‘diaspora.’ I’ve recently been back to Mongolia (3rd time there) doing an assessment of the health/medical schools and curriculum. We have a Mongolian yurt next to our house in Vermont and we’re getting some Cashmere Goats this summer, so that our friends and family (and you all, if you wish) can experience the Silk Road right here in New England! Cheers–Karen
Karen Hein
Ed: Karen graduated a number of years ago . . . we will not specify how many. Several years ago, Karen informed us that she was back in touch with Steve Atwood (resident and chief resident 1972-6), who is the former Regional Advisor for Health and Nutrition at the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. He is presently an Associate Professor of Global Health, Faculty of Public Health, Thammasat University in Bangkok and Director of Public Health Solutions, Ltd., an international public health consultancy based in Hong Kong. Steve was the recipient of Dartmouth’s Martin Luther King Social Justice Award, which honors members of the Dartmouth community for their contributions to civil rights, education, public health, environmental justice, and social justice. In November 2009, Steve was a featured speaker at The Sixth Annual Great Issues in Medicine and Global Health Symposium at Dartmouth.

This is a great idea, as it not only saves trees but also storage space for those of us who still live in Manhattan... I wanted to take the opportunity to also let you know that I am working at NYU now, on a DOH scholarship for translational medicine, researching into regulatory disturbances of early infancy. It's great to be in an academic center again. It brings back many dear memories of my days at Jacobi. The noon conferences can't compete, though, of course...

Thanks for your subtle support over the years. I have greatly appreciated it and am quite happy that I am now exactly at the right place, it seems (continued on next page).
Please send my regards to Dr. Caspe and Dr. Crain as well,
Nina Burtchen
*Ed: Nina graduated in 2005*

I'm delighted to receive a letter from you and thus to know that you are still at Jacobi. Someone has to keep Jeff Gershel and Bill Caspe in line :) I enjoy receiving the FIB. Though I don't know any of the residents anymore, and only some of the attendings, I like the humor. The top 10 list is always good fun. Folks down here at Duke seem to take themselves a bit more seriously. Please send the FIB to this e-mail address. It will get put in the "suspect mail" but I will fish it out.

Best Regards, and I hope you are well.
Katharine Kevill
*Ed: In 1998-9, Katherine was the first chief resident of the “new” program. She is now a pulmonary attending at Duke.*

Hello Family and Friends!
For most of you, we are writing this letter from "across the pond"! That's right! This past summer we packed up and moved to London so that Marc could continue his work with Thomson Reuters. After finishing my pediatric chief resident year in July, I quickly made the transition to full-time stay at home Mum. I admit that it was a frightening decision to leave everything that was so familiar to us but now that we're settled into our new life in London, it feels just as much like home as NYC did. We're in a spacious 3-bedroom flat in St. John's Wood, (Paul McCartney's neighborhood, though we've never spotted him), and are just a stone's throw away from parks, playgrounds and tourist attractions. We've been lucky to make several nice friends in London, some of whom are American Ex-Pats just like ourselves!

In the beginning of 2009, Zachary was an only child, but towards its close, he became a big brother! Noah Liam was born on October 24th and we are proud to say that he is both a US and British citizen. Noah is an agreeable and easy baby, thankfully, as Zachary's energy takes up much of my time and attention!

Much love as always,
Mary Kim, Marc, Zachary and Noah Mehlman
*Ed: Mary was a resident and chief resident from 2005-09*

What I miss most about New York is...The FIB and showering alone.
Plaxico Buress
Oneida Correctional facility
*Ed: With time off for good behavior, Plax will be released in June 2011*

Other people we have heard from include Teresa Camacho ('01; Medical Director Pediatric Critical Care Edinburg Children’s Hospital, Edinburg, TX), Maida Galvez (chief resident ‘02; Assistant Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine at Mount Sinai), Tony Howe ('79; practice in Solvang, CA), Gordon Streeter (resident and chief resident ’03; practice in Hamden, CT), and Marc Wager ('83; practice in New Rochelle with Kim Abrams ’09 and Bill Meyers ’75)
**Baby News**

Dear friends and family,

We are thrilled to announce the birth of yet another son (for those keeping score at home, that makes 3)! The baby weighed in at 7 lbs even and was 19 inches tall (long?) at birth. The baby was born on an especially special day, as not only was it Hoshana Raba, but it was also his mommy's birthday! Who could ask for a better present? Mommy and baby are both doing great and can't wait to see everyone at some point!

Warmest regards to everyone, and may the year bring only simchas!
Gadi, Jana, Beni, Ilan, and baby boy Romm

*Ed: Jana Romm graduated in 2008 and is now an Ambulatory Care attending at NCB*

**Dear Friends,**

Jun and I are very proud to announce that I gave birth to a healthy baby girl on 12/21/09 at 13:58pm at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC!! We were discharged home this morning and very excited to welcome our baby girl home. Her name is Mana Lynn Sasaki and she weighs 3,370gm, 7lb 7oz- big girl! I hope you all have as happy holidays as ours, this holiday season surely is the best one ever for us!!

Lots of love
Nao & Jun Sasaki

*Ed: Nao, then known as Nao Kimoto, graduated the program in 2007. She is finishing her cardiology fellowship at Mt. Sinai.*

Hello all,
It’s been a bit since we’ve spoken but I wanted to share some good news with you. Ali and I are FINALLY expecting a baby boy…due May 14th. All is well. We are still in shock/amazed by the whole process and awed by working parents!

Happy New Year and best of luck with Match!
Warm regards,
Maida

*Ed: Maida Galvez was Chief Resident in 2000-2001.*

**Wedding News**

The FIB is thrilled to announce that on October 23, 2008, ex-Resident (06-09), ex-Chief Resident (09-10), and current NCB ambulatory attending and left fielder for the Fillies, Scott Miller married Kristina Behr, at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, in Spotswood, New Jersey. Attendees included Mahsa Akhavan, Andres Baquero, David Blanco, Chetan Bhupali, Eugene Chung, Avi Grunin, Derek Jeter, Daran Kaufman, Stephanie Lichten, Madalsa Patel, Nicole Porti, Noé Romo, and Kavita Sharma. Notably, no one in room 817 was invited. The reception was at the Forsgate Country Club, in Jamesburg, New Jersey. The newlyweds then honeymooned in Hawaii, as the Capri Whitestone Motel (just off the Hutch at the Whitestone Bridge toll) was booked with short stay guests.
This Month’s Picture Caption Contest
Why is this nicely-dressed intern applicant carrying a sewing machine?

Quotes From Morning Report

“I hate ALTEs.” William B. Caspe . . . “Well, I hate asthma.” Emily Slotkin

“No, Leo, you slept with me!” Paul Sue

“I was in the irreproducible results club.” Jeff Gershel

“There is a lot of down time during Shabbos.” Rebekah Lipstein

“There are enough adolescent girls for everybody.” Rebekah Lipstein (who was on fire)

“I don’t like the word virginal, it implies angels and halos.” Clare Fried

“If botulism is in food it is still organic.” Jeff Gershel

“I puked in Dr. Caspe’s bathroom, but I put the seat back up.” Madalsa Patel

“She has no underlying illness . . . other than JRA or cancer!” Teresa McCann

“If my memory serves me . . . which it doesn’t anymore . . .” William B. Caspe

“Don’t make fun of the kidney!” Penny Tarshish

“It accommodates but does not react, like a prostitute” Teresa McCann

“I declare you, Stephanie Lichten, perfect” William B. Caspe

“What do they do in prison?” Jeff Gershel

Fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life, son. Dean Wormer