

PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS

Wednesdays at 8 a.m. in the Children's auditorium. For CME information, contact the UT Southwestern continuing medical education at 214-648-2166.

Aug 16

"Abstracts Presented at the Annual Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, May 2006," Michelle Gill, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases, UT Southwestern, Hasan Jafri, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Infectious Diseases, UT Southwestern and Audra McCreight, M.D., Emergency Medicine Fellow, Pediatrics, UT Southwestern.

Aug 23

"Congenital Syphilis in 2006: The Scourge Persists," Pablo J. Sanchez, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, UT Southwestern.

Also available via videoconference at selected area hospitals, call 214-345-2330 for locations.

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MEDICAL UPDATE: Mental health disorders and the return to school

As summer ends, children and their parents begin to prepare for the return to school. Most kids face this time with some excitement and enthusiasm for the new adventures (and backpacks, lunchboxes and clothes) that will come. Unfortunately, many youth with unrecognized mental health disorders will enter the new school year and face challenges for which they are unprepared. While summer is a period in which psychiatric disorders are generally less evident, the prevalence for children presenting with psychiatric problems is substantially higher in the school year. Often, the stressors from school trigger previously unrecognized learning difficulties or attention and behavior problems. School stressors also can be a precipitant for mood and anxiety disorders.

In order to assist parents, it is important to first evaluate whether the problems are simply due to a period of adjustment, which may resolve naturally.

Assessment of whether the difficulties are related to specific stressors may include contact with the school and a review of recent changes in the child's life. Many times, mood and behavior problems can be resolved by addressing recent problems or stressors.

However, if the problems persist or appear complex, a psychiatric evaluation is warranted. A psychiatrist or psychologist can diagnose the problem, identify factors which may be contributing to the child's difficulties, and implement interventions accordingly. These interventions may include education about the diagnosis, psychosocial interventions (e.g. school modifications, family therapy, etc.), psychotherapy or medication.

For more information on mental health, contact Graham Emslie, M.D. at graham.emslie@childrens.com or Betsy Kennard, PsyD at betsy.kennard@childrens.com.

SERVICE UPDATE: Pain Management nurses among first in nation to be board certified

Children's Pain Management nurses, Renee Manworren, clinical nurse specialist, and Lynn Clark, a pediatric nurse practitioner, are among only 300 nurses in the United States to be recognized as board certified in pain management.

As part of a pain-free initiative to create a painless environment for every child, the clinical staff at Children's, including Clark and Manworren, conducts research that focuses on assessing, diagnosing, treating and preventing pain. Because of these studies and other research initiatives, Children's is creating an evidence-based pain management environment. Dissemination of the result of these studies through publications and presentations has helped to identify Children's as a pre-eminent pain center that delivers holistic, state-of-the-art pain management to its patients.

Renee Manworren, leads the pain management team, while Lynn Clark will take part in the development of the chronic pain management program. Each team member provides direct patient care and consultative services for patients in pain. To contact the pain management program, call 214-456-6041.