

## GRAND ROUNDS

Sept. 10

### Fetal Programming of Adult Disease: Concepts and Controversies

Rebecca Simmons, M.D., associate professor pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health, University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia.

Sept. 17

### Pediatric Hospital Medicine: Building the Evidence Base

Christopher P. Landrigan, M.D., MPH, assistant professor of pediatrics research and fellowship director, Inpatient Pediatric Service, Children's Hospital Boston, Department of Medicine, Boston.

Sept. 24

### Foot deformities in children

Lori Karol, M.D., professor of orthopaedic surgery, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Medical Director of Performance Improvement and the Movement, Science Lab, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Dallas.

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

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## MEDICAL UPDATE: Cardiovascular monitoring for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) patients

The American Heart Association (AHA) recently published a Scientific Statement entitled "Cardiovascular Monitoring of Children and Adolescents with Heart Disease Receiving Stimulant Drugs, A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Congenital Cardiac Defects Committee and the Council on Cardiovascular Nursing". (Circulation. 2008;117:2407-2423)

This document is an overview of the topic and includes sections on ADHD in the general population and specifically in children with congenital heart disease, a review of the anecdotal reports of adverse effects of stimulant medications and the actions of Health Canada, and a review of sudden cardiac death in children including the results from screening programs.

The statement contained typographic errors and was misrepresented in the media. As a result, many physicians and patients were led to believe that an ECG was necessary prior to initiation of medications for ADHD. A subsequent clarification indicated that an ECG was "reasonable" but not mandated. This clarification was endorsed by the

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the AHA.

Subsequently the AAP has issued a formal policy statement, "Cardiovascular Monitoring and Stimulant Drugs for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder" that can be found on the AAP Web site. The Academy reinforces prior evidence based recommendations where there is a consensus that sudden cardiac death is rare and does not occur in children with ADHD at a rate higher than the general population. The policy statement recommends "... physicians continue currently recommended treatment for ADHD, including stimulant medications, without obtaining routine ECGs or routine subspecialty cardiology evaluations for most children ..."

The Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society also endorsed the practice of not obtaining ECGs for most patients prior to beginning medical therapy for ADHD.

For more information on ECG screenings for ADHD patients, contact William Scott, M.D. at [william.scott@childrens.com](mailto:william.scott@childrens.com).

## SERVICE UPDATE: International Adoption Medicine program

Children's launched the International Adoption Medicine program, headed by Susan D. Dibs, M.D., clinical assistant professor of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern. Crista E. Wetherington, Ph.D., serves as the program's psychologist. The program is one of only a few dozen centers in the United States that offers care for internationally adopted children.

Services for families include:

- Pre-adoption services – evaluation of the child's medical record before the adoption begins.
- Post-adoption services – physical examination and developmental screening by a child psychologist.
- Specialists are also available for on-call support during travel.

For more information about international adoption medicine or to schedule a consultation, call 214-456-6788.