Office of Health Equity and Inclusion Launches Program Initiatives

By the Office of Health Equity and Inclusion

The BCH Office of Health Equity and Inclusion (OHEI) held its Inaugural Pediatric Health Equity Educational Symposium on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in Folkman Auditorium, co-sponsored by the OFD, the Academy for Teaching and Educational Innovation and Scholarship, and HR. Keynote speakers were Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH, Director, Massachusetts General Hospital Disparities Solutions Center, and John Cowden, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Office of Equity and Diversity, Children’s Mercy Kansas City. Additional presenters included Bonnie Rivers, MEd, of Work Without Limits; BCH’s Gregory Durkin, MEd, RN-BC, Senior Professional Development Specialist; Eva Gomez, MSN, RN-BC, Professional Development Specialist; and Laurie Fishman, MD, Attending Physician in GI-Nutrition and medical educator. Lecture and workshop topics included addressing healthcare disparities in a value-driven healthcare system, collecting patient race, ethnicity and language (REaL) demographic data, and increasing the awareness of disabilities. This event, which will be offered annually, will focus on presenting innovative research and best-practice education to faculty, trainees and staff around strategies for achieving equity and inclusion and reducing pediatric healthcare disparities.

The Office of Health Equity and Inclusion also collaborated with the OFD, HR, and the HMS Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership during the Harvard Affiliated Residency Programs Showcase on September 8, 2018. This annual event, attended by over 190 medical students from across the country, is a key pipeline recruitment effort aimed at engaging students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds to consider training at Boston Children’s. Valerie Ward, MD, MPH, OHEI Medical Director, gave opening remarks on behalf of Children’s. Theodore Sectish, MD, Program Director for the Boston Combined Residency Program (BCRP), spoke on the directors’ panel, and BCRP Resident Cynthia Akagbosu, MD, represented Children’s on the residents’ panel. Thank you to all the faculty, residents and fellows who took time to attend the Harvard Affiliated Residency Programs Showcase and share information about our robust training programs.

Upcoming Office of Health Equity and Inclusion Events

Mark your calendar for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Observance, on Thursday, January 17th, 2019 at 11am in Folkman Auditorium with Wayne J. Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP, President of SUNY Downstate Medical Center. In addition, a special Black History Month Medicine Grand Rounds will occur on Wednesday, February 13th, 2019 at 12pm in Folkman Auditorium, with Andre Churchwell, MD, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity Affairs at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Chief Diversity Officer, Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

The 10/16/2018 Boston Children's Hospital Fellowship, Research, Medical Education, and Program Awards Ceremony was sponsored by Sandra Fenwick, MPH, CEO; Kevin Churchwell, MD, President and COO; David Williams, MD, Chief Scientific Officer; Jean Emans, MD, OFD Director; and Alan Leichtner, MD, MSHP, Chief Medical Education Officer.
Latinos & Amigos: Celebrating Latino Heritage Month 2018 at Boston Children’s Hospital

The Latinos & Amigos Celebration, part of Boston Children’s Hospital’s annual Latino Heritage Month Observance, was held on 9/25 in Folkman Auditorium. The guiding theme of the Celebration was the recognition that Boston Children’s Hospital becomes stronger as it becomes more diverse in both its staff and its outreach to patients.

Nicolas D’Onofrio, MSOL, MBA, Director, Satellite Business, Peabody, hosted the event which was organized and sponsored by the Spanish Collaborative Team. Two speakers discussed contemporary Latino communities in the Boston area. Rosalyn Acosta, Secretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development in Massachusetts and a founding member of Milagros para Niños, reviewed her own family history as recent immigrants from Cuba; her parents learned English and were able to find better jobs with more education. To Ms. Acosta, all workers need to practice lifelong learning to remain competitive and successful. Pamela Chamorro, Director in the Social Work Department, spoke on the topic of “Puerto Rico Families and Hurricane Maria” and how Boston Children’s assisted families in need.

Reggie Stover, MS, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, presented the 2018 Latino Achievers awards to Sara Diaz, from the Hale Family Center for Families, who facilitates support groups for Latino families with special needs children, and Daniel Boschetti, Corporate Development Officer in the BCH Trust, who assists Latino families from all over the world and became a primary facilitator for Hurricane Maria relief efforts. Both Sandra Fenwick, MPH and CEO, and Dick Argys, Chief Administrative Officer, praised the efforts of the Spanish Collaborative Team. Michele Torres, Chaplain, provided the concluding spiritual message which emphasized the hope and promise in all aspects of life. Musicians from the Berklee College of Music affirmed the spiritual message throughout the program with their vibrant selections.

The annual Gala de Milagros para Niños was held on September 14. The Gala raised more than $500,000 for BCH programs that help Latino patients both locally and globally. The Gala honored 2 BCH clinicians: Diego Porras, MD, HMS Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the BCH Department of Cardiology and Division Chief of Invasive Cardiology, and Olga Perez, MSW, Clinical Social Worker.

Boston Children’s Hospital Women in Medicine and Science Month: Medicine Grand Rounds – Cancer Immunotherapy: The End of the Beginning

Laurie Glimcher, MD, President and CEO, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Principal Investigator and Director of the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, and the Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine at HMS, shared the joys of family and career, noting that she has three children and two grandchildren. She also explained how her career trajectory was influenced by her mother’s cancer. The main focus of Dr. Glimcher’s talk was an overview of advances in cancer immunotherapy: how controlling immune response in the tumor microenvironment can be a key factor in the treatment of tumors. Dr. Glimcher expressed her optimism about the future success of research into immunotherapy strategies that will diminish the recurrence of cancerous tumors.

Vincent Chiang, MD, Appointed as Chief Medical Officer for Operations

Congratulations to Vincent Chiang, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the BCH Division of General Pediatrics and Special Advisor to the Executive Vice President, on his appointment as Chief Medical Officer for Operations. Dr. Chiang will monitor clinical care and patient programs as they continue to grow. Effective leadership in the medical community has been a long-term interest of Dr. Chiang’s. “Every day, I am inspired by the talent and dedication of the people who work here at Boston Children’s Hospital. I see my role as trying to help them be as successful as possible on behalf of the patients and families we care for,” Dr. Chiang noted.
Dennis Kim, MD, PhD, Appointed New Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases

Dennis Kim, MD, PhD, currently the Ivan R. Cottrell Professor of Immunology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), will become Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases on January 1, 2019, succeeding Michael Wessels, MD, John F. Enders Professor of Pediatrics, who has led the Division for 18 years. Dr. Kim earned his MD and PhD from Harvard in 1997 and completed residencies and fellowships at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Since 2005 he has been a member of MIT’s Department of Biology. Dr. Kim’s research focuses on host-microbe interactions and he has received the Merck-Irving S. Sigal Award from the American Society of Microbiology and an NIH Director’s Transformative Research Award.

Charles Berde, MD, PhD, Receives 2018 John Bonica Award

Congratulations to Charles Berde, MD, PhD, HMS Professor of Anaesthesia, Sara Page Mayo Chair in Pediatric Medicine, and Emeritus Chief of the BCH Division of Pain Medicine, who has received the 2018 John Bonica Award sponsored by the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the development, teaching, and practice of pain medicine. Dr. Berde’s achievements include the creation of the BCH Pain Treatment Center, considered the first pediatric pain clinic in the US and which adopted a collaborative approach to pain treatment through involving physical therapists, psychologists, and pain specialists.

News from the BCH Archives
By Alina J. Morris, MLIS, Hospital Archivist

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and the Spanish Flu epidemic as well as the many veterans in the Boston Children’s community, the Archives Program would like to highlight one of our special collections. The Sarah Fish Woodworth manuscript collection in the Boston Children’s Hospital Archives contains materials relating to Sarah’s service in France. When World War I began in 1914, Sarah was finishing her studies at the Children’s Hospital School of Nursing. She worked at the school until she joined the war effort in 1918. Sarah served as a Nursing Sister with the Harvard Surgical Unit of the British Expeditionary Force at the No. 22 General Hospital, which Harvard University staffed with doctors and nurses from 1915 to January 1919. Sarah’s diary, with entries dating from May 1918 to January 1919, documents her journey from Boston to France and back home again. She writes of an ‘unknown influenza bug,’ which in June 1918 was taking hold of all of Northern France. At the time of Sarah’s service, the 1918 Spanish Influenza epidemic was spreading across Europe, killing soldiers, civilians, and medical staff alike. Sarah writes that on Armistice Day, “two boys were dying of ‘Flu’ while the actual rejoicing was going on.” The Spanish Influenza killed twice as many people worldwide than did the combat of World War I.

Several hundred women gave their lives for our country during World War I. Although no US Army Nurses died as a direct result of enemy action, three were wounded by shellfire and 272 died of disease (primarily tuberculosis, influenza, and pneumonia). In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson addressed the Senate, urging it to pass the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote: “We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?” The 19th amendment that guarantees all American women the right to vote was ratified two years later on August 18, 1920.
2018 Medical Education Awards
By the Department of Medical Education

Fabienne Bourgeois, MD, MPH, a hospitalist in the Department of Pediatrics, received the HMS Excellence in Clinical Instruction in Pediatrics Award. One student nominee said Dr. Bourgeois, “was personally invested in my education by taking time to discuss my individual goals, setting clear expectations to help me achieve those goals, and regularly checking in on my progress. She cared about me not only as student trying to learn pediatrics, but also as human being by showing a sincere interest in my personal wellbeing and other passions and interests outside of medicine. She served as an exceptional physician role model who cared not only about the medicine-related issues of her patients, but also the complex psychosocial aspects of their care that often went unnoticed by others.”

Daniel Kamin, MD, a pediatric gastroenterologist who teaches in the HMS Homeostasis II Course, received the HMS Donald O’Hara Faculty Prize for Excellence in Pre-Clerkship Teaching. One student called him “an exemplary professor” who is “continuously inspiring, encouraging, and who recognizes that different students participate differently in a classroom setting.” Students noted that what makes him stand out is the tremendous amount of time and effort he puts into making sure students understand the content in the course and creating a classroom environment that is conducive to collaborative learning. Students felt that “above all, he wants us to be great doctors who practice in a socially conscious way.”

Carolyn Marcus, MD, a hospitalist in the Department of Pediatrics, received the Janeway Award for Excellence in Teaching at BCH. She is known among her trainees for being “a wonderful teacher, having an excellent sense of humor, and being a brilliant educator, both in the classroom setting and as an attending.” In addition, she “expertly balances allowing residents to make autonomous decisions while at the same time fully supporting them. She has great teaching points which are relevant and evidence-based.” One resident noted she is “unanimously admired and respected for the combination of her teaching abilities and her wonderful personality - someone we always want to be around and seek to emulate.”

Baruch Krauss, MD, EdM, a pediatric emergency medicine physician, received the Robert P. Masland, Jr. Teaching Award, which recognizes a BCH faculty member who demonstrates passion in teaching medical students. All BCH pediatric clerks participate in his module on building trusting relationships with children. As part of this module, students participate in a one-to-one, emergency department tutorial where they practice skills and apply concepts learned in the classroom sessions. Students have described this tutorial as one of the best experiences in medical school and are inspired by the experience of learning how to “listen and connect” with young patients. One student noted, “He has an incredibly thoughtful and effective way of teaching students and physicians how best to interact with our youngest patients. He has a gift, but what makes him even more special is that he chooses to share it with us. His lessons will stick with me far beyond my pediatrics rotation.”

Director’s Perspectives by S. Jean Emans, MD

By the time you receive this issue, we will be in the midst of the winter holidays. As we look back at the past year, we can celebrate excellence in scientific discoveries, advances in teaching and mentoring strategies, and service to the local and global communities (see our photo of the 10/16 BCH Fellowship, Research, Medical Education, and Program Award recipients on p. 1). Junior faculty are encouraged to attend the Office of Faculty Development workshop on January 7, Strategies for Applying for BCH Research Grants (12-1 PM, Karp 7 Conference Room) to get started on their 2019 applications. Congratulations to Valerie Ward, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the BCH Office of Health Equity and Inclusion, and her team for a successful fall Pediatric Health Equity Symposium; our article on the event is also on p. 1.
2018 Apple-Picking at Westward Orchards

The annual Office of Faculty Development Apple-Picking Expedition occurred on Sunday, September 30 at Westward Orchards in Harvard, MA. Hosted by Alicia Casey, MD, and Lydia Shrier, MD, MPH, the Expedition included both faculty and trainee participants and their families. All enjoyed trekking the orchards on foot or by hayride!

The Office of Faculty Development has collaborated with the BCH Medical Library to create a Wellness Collection. Materials include resources on stress relief, meditation, yoga, achieving optimal health at any age, and a hygge (Danish term that connotes comforting practices) manual for surviving the upcoming winter.

A Special Thank You to Meaghan Muir, MLIS

The Office of Faculty Development would like to thank Meaghan Muir, MLIS, Manager of Library Services, for her exceptional contributions to Boston Children’s over the past three years. Meaghan left Children’s this November to pursue another opportunity. She supported our faculty and staff in all their research needs, created numerous library displays for BCH events, sponsored the Library’s Book Club and co-sponsored several Library Lunch Topics workshops with the Office of Faculty Development and the Office of Fellowship Training.

To contact the library during this transitional time, please email Chloe Rotman, MSLIS, at chloe.rotman@childrens.harvard.edu or call the library, 617-355-7232.
Kevin Churchwell, MD, Named BCH President and COO

Congratulations to Kevin Churchwell, MD, who has been named President and Chief Operating Officer of Boston Children’s Hospital. Sandi Fenwick, who will continue to lead as BCH CEO, said, “Dr. Churchwell’s promotion is recognition of his outstanding leadership, as well as part of our ongoing enterprise efforts to align senior management responsibilities to the ever-expanding internal and external challenges and demands on the Hospital.”

Introducing Katie Pricola Fehnel, MD, New Neurosurgeon

The Boston Children’s Hospital Department of Neurosurgery is pleased to announce the appointment of Katie Pricola Fehnel, MD, as an attending neurosurgeon and HMS Instructor in Neurosurgery. Dr. Fehnel received her BA political science degree from Yale University and her MD from Stanford Medical School. She completed her neurosurgery residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital and continued her training with a pediatric neurosurgical fellowship at Boston Children’s as the Neurosurgery Shillito Fellow Staff Associate. She was also a post-doctoral fellow in the Boston Children’s Vascular Biology Program, under the mentorship of Edward Smith, MD, and Marsha Moses, PhD.

When Dr. Fehnel was in eighth grade one of her classmate suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm on the playground at school. The desire to save her friend eventually set Dr. Fehnel on a path to medicine. In medical school, she found the greatest satisfaction in caring for the sickest patients. Dr. Fehnel is particularly interested in pediatric vascular disease, oncology, and congenital malformations of the brain and spine and plans to improve our collective understanding of the diseases that can so drastically change the life course of a previously healthy child. Please welcome Dr. Fehnel to the Boston Children’s faculty.

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The Office of Faculty Development wishes you a sparkling holiday season!

S. Jean Emans, Faculty Director of the Office of Faculty Development
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In this issue

Office of Health Equity and Inclusion (OHEI) Launches Program Initiatives
Celebrating Latino Heritage Month 2018
Women in Medicine and Science Month 2018
Kevin Churchwell, MD, Named BCH President and COO
Vincent Chiang, MD, Appointed as Chief Medical Officer for Operations
Dennis Kim, MD, PhD, Appointed BCH Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases
Introducing Katie Pricola Fehnel, MD, New Neurosurgeon
2018 Medical Education Awards
Charles Berde, MD, PhD, Receives 2018 John Bonica Award
A Special Thank You to Meaghan Muir, MLIS
Wellness Collection in the BCH Library
News from the Archives by Alina Morris, MLIS
Upcoming 2019 OFD Programs