



Perinatal Gazette



Newsletter of the Regional Perinatal Center

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

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Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM) Comes Our Way

Lawrence D. Rosen, M.D. directs one of the nation's only hospital-based Integrative Pediatrics services. This program was initiated at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in July, 2003, to provide clinical, educational and research services to families and clinicians interested in complementary and alternative medical therapies.

The Integrative Pediatrics Service at MFCH works with families interested in a holistic approach to health and healing. Therapies are meant to be truly complementary, working in tandem with each child's conventional treatments. Dr. Rosen works with families and clinicians to offer an integrative approach mainly for those infants and children coping with chronic illnesses. By offering a wide array of safe, evidence-guided techniques, Dr. Rosen's goal is to assist each child's innate healing responses to promote health and healing. New ventures of particular interest to the neonatal community include music therapy and infant massage.

Music therapy is the use of music in the accomplishment of therapeutic aims: the restoration, maintenance and improvement of mental and physical health. Laurie Park, a certified music therapist is now on board to provide regular music therapy services to infants in the NICU at the MFCH. She and Dr. Rosen are collaborating with the NICU staff to develop clinical and research protocols in this area. "Through a generous grant from the Starlight Foundation, I have been given the opportunity to develop a music therapy program in the NICU and PICU," said Ms. Park. "I will be providing live music therapy bedside to the children to help with a variety of needs. Some of these may include procedural support, developmental stimulation, relaxation, anxiety and pain reduction, multimodal stimulation, as well as promoting

bonding through the use of music."

Another area of great interest for NICU staff and families is the development of an infant massage program. One goal is to provide training for family members to enable them to safely and effectively use this technique with their babies.

Dr. Rosen is a board certified general pediatrician committed to family-centered, holistic child health care. He practices in Westchester County one day a week providing inpatient and outpatient consultations at MFCH, as well as in northern New Jersey, where he provides holistic primary care. He is the Director of the Division of Pediatrics at Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood, N.J., a New York Medical College affiliate.

For more information about music therapy, you can contact Laurie Park, MT-BC, through the Child Life Department at **493-6640**, or www.musictherapy.org. You can reach Dr. Larry Rosen at (201)722 - 4732 or lrdoc@alum.mit.edu.



Laurie Park, MT-BC

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Please join us for the
Annual
Children's Hospital
Memorial Gathering
And
Tree Planting
To
Celebrate & Remember

Sunday, May 22, 2005
2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Maria Fareri Children's Hospital
Conference Center
Westchester Medical Center
Valhalla, New York

Bereavement Update: Dr. Janet Serwint, Medical Director, Harriet Lane Primary Care Clinic, Johns Hopkins Children's Center, will be on hand Nov. 2, 2005 to present "The Art of Healing in Death and Bereavement" at Grand Rounds. Afterwards, she will present her workshop "Sharing Bad News" to a larger audience at our bereavement conference, now being planned. Other speakers confirmed for Nov. 2 are Paul Thayer, Assistant Professor of Child Life and Family Studies at Wheelock college in Boston and Pam Magi, RN, Perinatal Bereavement Coordinator, Good Samaritan Hospital.

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Happenings

Putnam County Prematurity Symposium

Partnering to bring you this exciting event:
March of Dimes, Putnam County Department of Health,
Putnam Hospital center &
WMC's Regional Neonatal Center
In conjunction with NE Quadrant QA

Join your maternal and infant services provider colleagues for the Putnam County Prematurity Symposium highlighting the latest, cutting-edge information on prematurity.

Keynote speaker: Karla Damus, RN, PhD., Senior Research Associate, March of Dimes
Thursday, June 30, 2005
Putnam Hospital Center
9:00 am – 12 noon (light refreshments served)
RSVP to Eileen at the March of Dimes office
845-454-8850
Email: emartucci@marchofdimes.com

Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network Kicks Off Quarterly Education and Networking Meetings

"Momentum and support for the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network (LHVPN) is growing," reports Cheryl Hunter-Grant, Executive Director. "Our first two quarterly Education and Networking meetings for 2005 were a huge success. A total of one hundred thirty people from diverse backgrounds attended our 2005 meetings to date."

Participants represented the health care field, including hospital and community based providers, managed care organizations, county health departments, health commissioners, physicians, nurses, social workers, administrators, lactation consultants, and health educators. Human service and child care providers, educators, business and a consumer were also among the varied audience.

The goal of the January meeting was to bring together members of the LHVPN to begin crafting a strategic plan for the Network. The strategic plan will be aimed at:

- Improving pregnancy outcomes;
- Promoting better maternal and child/infant healthcare;
- Establishing better linkages between existing programs;
- Ensuring families have access to the full range of preventive and primary health care, social support, and educational resources in the Lower Hudson Valley.

The April meeting focused on Recent Trends in Birth Outcomes in the Lower Hudson Valley (LHV) Region and the Abandoned Infant Protection Act. Tim Jaccard, President, A.M.T. Children of Hope Foundation was the Educational Session speaker.

Funded by a generous grant through the March of Dimes, the goal of the LHVPN is to meet the health needs of under-served mothers and children in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties.

Future Education and Networking meetings are scheduled for **June 21, 2005** in Rockland County, and **October 19, 2005** in Westchester County in conjunction with the Regional Perinatal Forum Conference at Westchester Medical Center.

For more information or to become a member of the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network contact
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March of Dimes NICU Educational Exhibit Officially Open



The Ward Family



The March of Dimes / NICU Educational Exhibit was officially dedicated on March 23, 2005. The exhibit is on the second floor of the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. It was generously donated by Charlie, Tonja, Caleb and Hope Ward And Sony Electronics, Inc. Dr. Edmund La Gamma, Chief, Division of Newborn Medicine, far left, conducts a tour of the exhibit and the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Newsmakers...

Congratulations to Dr. Praveen Ballabh for achieving an 8.8th percentile score on his R21 application to the NINDS: "Pericytes in the Pathogenesis of Germina-Matrix Hemorrhage." The total award is for approximately \$427,000. Dr. Ballabh is currently an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics with a joint appointment in Cell Biology. This year he was elected to membership in the Society for Pediatric Research and he has published 7 peer reviewed reports since joining our Division in 2001. He is mentoring one of our fellows, Dr. Nadine El-Khoury, who was a runner-up for an ESPR trainee research award earlier this month. Together they have submitted a manuscript to *Glia*.

Noteworthy...

These internet sites all have links to several other sites that may be of interest. The content of each website is the responsibility of the webmaster.

http://www.pediatrics.wisc.edu/childrenshosp/parents_of_preemies: For Parents of Premies, answers to commonly asked questions written by neonatologist Jane Brazy, M.D. There is also a Spanish edition.

[Http://translate.google.com/translate?u=http://www.pediatrics.wisc.edu/patientcare/preemies/&langpair=en%7Ces&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&safe=off&prev=%2Flanguage_tools](http://translate.google.com/translate?u=http://www.pediatrics.wisc.edu/patientcare/preemies/&langpair=en%7Ces&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&safe=off&prev=%2Flanguage_tools)

PARA LOS PADRES DEL BEBE PREMATURO
RESPUESTAS A PREGUNTAS QUE SE HACEN
FRECUENTEMENTE

<http://preemieparenting.com/>

A place created for parents and loved ones of premature infants, and women experiencing a high risk or complicated pregnancy.

<http://www.preemie-l.org>

Parents of Premature Babies Inc. (Preemie-L) A non-profit foundation supporting families with children born six weeks or more before due date.

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We are interested in providing you with a newsletter that is relevant and of interest to you. Please contact us with perinatal topics you would like to see addressed. For a copy of our newsletter or to be placed on our mailing list contact us by phone or e-mail. Please see below the NYMC neonatal web site address to locate other issues of The Perinatal Gazette:

<http://www.nymc.edu/neonatology>

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