

FIRST ANNUAL
Faculty Awards *February 3, 2012*

Sponsored by the Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation

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Welcome

Arnold Strauss, MD

Director, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation

Recognition of new members, SOCIETY OF PEDIATRIC RESEARCH AND AMERICAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY

Sandra J. F. Degen, PhD

Presentation of Faculty Awards

Sandra J. F. Degen, PhD

Gurjit Khurana Hershey, MD, PhD

Jeffrey A. Whitsett, MD

Career Achievement Award

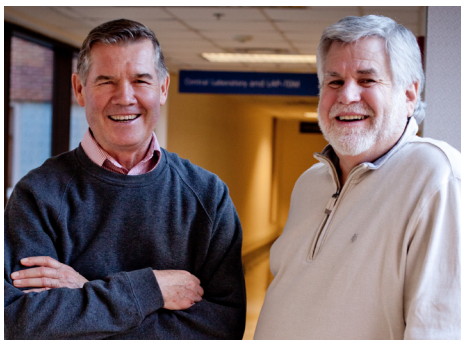
Thomas Cody

Chairman, Cincinnati Children's Board of Trustees

Reception

Please join us after the program





ENTREPRENEURIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

David Bernstein, MD

*Director, Gamble Program and VTEU
Division of Infectious Diseases*

Richard Ward, PhD

Research Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases

The world-changing legacy of Albert Sabin, MD, father of the live-virus polio vaccine, lives on in the work of David Bernstein, MD, MA, and Richard Ward, PhD. Since discovering a rotavirus strain dubbed “89-12” in 1998, Bernstein and Ward have devoted more than two decades to the development, distribution and continued study of their Rotarix vaccine to combat rotavirus, which has killed about 600,000 children a year worldwide. Now used in more than 100 nations, Rotarix is dramatically reducing the risk of death from severe gastroenteritis for generations to come. In the U.S., where childhood fatalities from gastroenteritis are rare, rotavirus vaccination averts tens of thousands of rotavirus-related hospitalizations yearly. Ward describes the many challenges faced in developing Rotarix in his 2011 autobiography, *Dead Ends to Somewhere*. Bernstein continues to lead vaccine studies at Cincinnati Children’s for a variety of diseases.



SERVICE & ADVOCACY AWARD

Beverly Connelly, MD

*Director, Infection Control Program
Division of Infectious Diseases*

Beverly Connelly, MD, is a shining example of ensuring the “best” in best practices. As director of our Infection Control Program since 1997, Connelly has led Cincinnati Children’s response to a wide range of infection control issues. She has been a driving force in dramatically reducing surgical site infections, catheter-related blood stream infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia. Her vigilance on practices such as real-time data sharing, hand hygiene, and employee flu shot campaigns prompted a Joint Commission surveyor to say, “CCHMC’s annual infection control report is one of the best I’ve ever seen.” Connelly’s commitment to education helped our infectious disease fellowship win a rare five-year ACGME accreditation in FY 2010. She has created an atmosphere of information sharing, problem solving and health promotion that minimizes infectious complications for more than 1 million patient contacts a year at Cincinnati Children’s. Connelly’s work also has shaped best practices at children’s hospitals throughout Ohio.



EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Michael Farrell, MD

*Chief-of-Staff
Professor, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology,
Hepatology and Nutrition*

For many years, Michael Farrell, MD, has lived by the high expectations he sets for physicians in training. As director of pediatric residency for 22 years and one of the founding members of the pediatric gastroenterology fellowship program at Cincinnati Children’s, Farrell has served as a bridge between the worlds of primary and subspecialty care. His contributions include a residency-within-a-residency program that supports the med-peds program, a triple board program and more than 250 CME presentations. Farrell has served the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Education Committee of the Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (SOGHN). Farrell’s creative approaches to teaching have had such impact that house staff renamed their weekly chief rounds “Farrell Rounds.” For the many residents and fellows he has influenced, Farrell defines what it means to be a doctor.

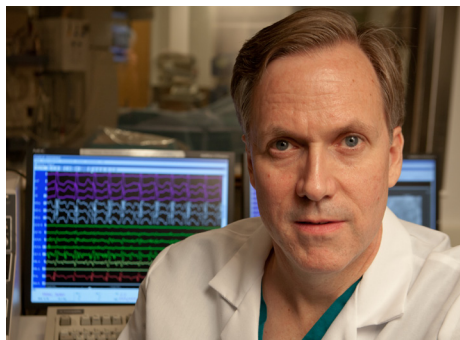


COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD

Michael Gittelman, MD
Wendy Pomerantz, MD

Division of Emergency Medicine

Few people have been more outspoken advocates for preventing childhood injury than Michael Gittelman, MD, and Wendy Pomerantz, MD, who have co-directed the Injury Free Coalition for Kids in Greater Cincinnati since 2000. Their leadership in this important field includes training medical residents, building community partnerships and urging government action. They have worked with leaders in high-injury neighborhoods in and around Cincinnati to distribute home safety kits, raise funds for youth sports leagues and build 13 safe playgrounds. The pair played central roles in passing booster seat legislation in Ohio and a bike helmet ordinance in Cincinnati. Both also have served in leadership roles on the National AAP Council Executive Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention. Thanks to their work, childhood injuries in Avondale have dropped 30 percent in 10 years, compared to a 5 percent decline in other communities.



CLINICAL CARE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Timothy Knilans, MD

Division of Cardiology

As director of Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing at Cincinnati Children's, Timothy Knilans, MD, provides a living example of gold-standard clinical care. Many patients with cardiac electrical disease are alive and well today thanks to his relentless attention to detail and untiring focus on patient needs. In the electrophysiology lab, Knilans has pioneered cryotherapy techniques that allow safer treatment for patients with arrhythmias. For more than two decades, he has taught electrophysiology to cardiology and pediatric trainees. He also regularly integrates research and clinical practice, including publishing papers on the use cardiac rhythm devices in children, competing forms of catheter ablation, the cost-effectiveness of certain diagnostic tests and other topics. His devotion to patient care and desire to share his knowledge and skills with other physicians define what is exceptional about academic medicine.



MENTORING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Richard Lang, PhD

Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology

During his 26-year career, Richard Lang, PhD, has served as mentor, coach and teacher to a long line of undergraduate and graduate students who now lead their own successful academic careers. In the past 10 years, Lang has continued his own high-impact research while building the Visual Systems Group at Cincinnati Children's into an internationally recognized research team. Lang has demonstrated a special ability to motivate those under his tutelage to swiftly reach their potential. Graduate students and faculty team members praise Lang's mentoring style as "trustworthy, accessible, generous and extremely fair." His unselfish support — be it reviewing proposals, discussing ideas, or providing resources for preliminary research — has helped several colleagues win crucial NIH grant support. His style also has helped forge successful collaborations across several research disciplines. Overall, Lang's mentorship embodies Cincinnati Children's core values of respect, teamwork, honesty and making a difference — within this institution and within the global scientific community.

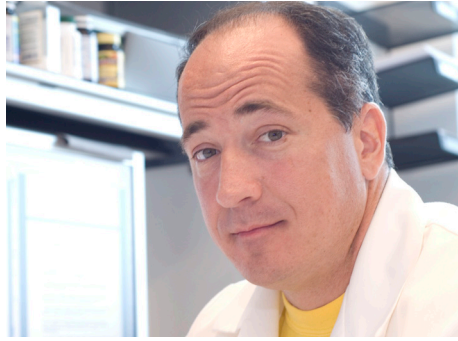


EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Arnold (Carl) Merrow, Jr., MD

Division of Radiology

Carl Merrow, MD, returned to Cincinnati Children's in 2010 after two years in private practice and made an instant impact as the leading educator of Radiology trainees. Merrow has implemented a highly regarded monthly imaging case conference for pediatric radiology fellows, serves as a member of the Radiology Department Education Committee and as a mentor. This year, one of his mentees won the Best Trainee Presentation Award for an abstract presented at an international pediatric radiology scientific meeting. While continuing a high volume of clinical work, Merrow also has contributed nearly 200 cases to Radprimer, an innovative learning portal for radiology residents and fellows preparing for board exams. An ability to share his experience and knowledge in clear and understandable ways has earned Merrow a respected place as an exceptional teacher of his specialty.



RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jeffery Molkentin, MD, PhD

Division of Molecular Cardiovascular Biology

Few investigators in the cardiovascular sciences have seen their work cited by others more frequently than Jeffery Molkentin, MD, PhD. He leads a lab that strives to characterize novel signaling pathways, transcription factors and other molecular mechanisms that affect cardiac and skeletal muscle disease. Among more than 270 publications contributed to the peer-reviewed literature, 11 of Molkentin's papers have been cited more than 400 times. Named a Howard Hughes Investigator in 2008, Molkentin has become the leading authority in determining the pathogenic mechanisms associated with altered calcium signaling in cardiovascular disease. He has received many national and international honors and has demonstrated great success at earning research funding. In just the past year, Molkentin successfully competed for seven R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health. Data from his studies, published in *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Circulation Research* and other prestigious journals, have had profound impact on the understanding of heart disease and muscular dystrophy.

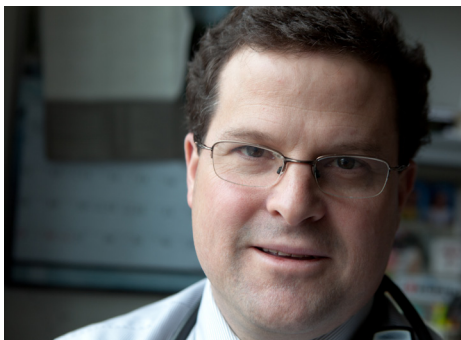


RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Noah Shroyer, PhD

Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Noah Shroyer, PhD, is an accomplished young investigator with a significant publication record in high-impact journals. He has earned continuous NIH support since 2005 and has been awarded three new R01 grants in the past 18 months. In 2010, Shroyer, identified SPDEF as a transcription factor important for goblet cell differentiation. In 2011, he authored a pair of breakthrough studies, both published in *Nature*. In the first, Paneth cells were shown to provide essential niche signals to support intestinal stem cells. In the second, Shroyer worked with colleagues in Developmental Biology to direct human pluripotent stem cells to differentiate into intestinal tissue in vitro. This work is the first to demonstrate in vitro production of 3-dimensional organized tissue from embryonic stem cells. This methodology opens the possibility of growing intestinal tissues for patient-specific therapy. Shroyer is collaborating with investigators in Developmental Biology, Pediatric Surgery and Gastroenterology to make this a reality.



CLINICAL CARE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Jeffrey Simmons, MD

*Co-Director of Hospital Medicine
Division of General and Community Pediatrics*

The reputation Cincinnati Children's enjoys as a leader in family-centered care was built by the exceptional dedication of people such as Jeffrey Simmons, MD. Among several innovations in clinical care, Simmons was an early leader in the refinement and spread of Family Centered Rounds at Cincinnati Children's, which have improved patient care and family satisfaction. Simmons has helped spread the FCR concept nationally through lectures and presentations to pediatric hospitalists. In addition, Simmons and colleagues have transformed asthma care throughout our campuses. The results of these improved practices include a nearly four-fold reduction in re-admission rates, a 50 percent reduction in outcome disparities between Medicaid and non-Medicaid patients, and significantly reduced treatment costs. As Fellowship Director for Hospital Medicine, Simmons furthers the impact of his work through his award-winning teaching of junior faculty and trainees.



SERVICE & ADVOCACY AWARD

Alexander Towbin, MD

Department of Radiology and Medical Imaging

Just three years after completing his fellowship training, Alexander Towbin, MD, has emerged as a strong contributor to the Department of Radiology and Medical Imaging. His enthusiasm for and interest in technology was one of the reasons Towbin chose a career in radiology. He is director of Radiology Informatics and assistant director of Thoracoabdominal Imaging. He participates in numerous clinical leadership committees, including the Epic committee that aims to create a databank of patients' medical images from all disciplines within the medical center. At the national level, Towbin serves on the editorial board of *Pediatric Radiology* and is active in the Society for Pediatric Radiology and the American College of Radiology. He is one of two radiology reviewers on a national study of pediatric liver tumors by the Children's Oncology Group. Towbin also strives to ensure optimal, safe imaging for children through his advocacy work with the National Cancer Institute and the Children's Oncology Group.



ENTREPRENEURIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kejian Zhang, MD

Division of Human Genetics

Kejian Zhang, MD, MBA, has been instrumental in developing our Molecular Genetics Laboratory (MGL) into an international-scale resource for genetic testing. Zhang took over as MGL director in 2006 and now leads one of the nation's largest academic molecular service labs. The MGL conducts more than 10,000 tests per year for more than 60 diseases and conditions. Under Zhang, revenue has grown five-fold to more than \$6.6 million in the past year. The lab has developed more than 150 testing protocols and continues to collaborate with investigators throughout the medical center to introduce a wide range of unique testing platforms. These accomplishments include products for liver disease, deafness, lysosomal diseases, fatty acid oxidation disorders and immunodeficiency disorders. Meanwhile, Zhang continues her own research in immunodeficiency diseases and lymphoproliferative syndromes. Her remarkable productivity and collaborative philosophy have proven highly beneficial to the research enterprise at Cincinnati Children's.



2011 NATIONAL AWARDS TO CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S FACULTY

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Thomas Boat, MD
Margaret Hostetter, MD
Alan Jobe, MD
Uma Kotagal, MD
Arnold Strauss, MD
Jeff Whitsett, MD

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE INVESTIGATOR

Jeffery Molkentin, MD, PhD

BASIL O'CONNER SCHOLAR AWARD

Geraldine Guasch, PhD

SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC RESEARCH – NEW MEMBERS 2011

Terri Byczkowski, PhD
Bradley Dixon, MD
Noah Hillman, MD
Jennifer Kaplan, MD
Bradley Marino, MD
Mark Mitsnefes, MD

AMERICAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY – NEW MEMBERS 2012

Javier Gonzalez del Rey, MD
Jessica Kahn, MD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the support of:

Arnold W. Strauss, MD

*Rachford Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics,
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Director, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation*

Richard G. Azizkhan, MD

Lester W. Martin Chair of Pediatric Surgery

Brian D. Coley, MD

Director, Department of Radiology

Charles Dean Kurth

Director, Department of Anesthesia

Faculty Awards Committee

Neeru Hershey, MD, PhD - Chair

Frank Biro, MD

Stella Davies, MD

Sandra Degen, PhD

Tom DeWitt, MD

Tracy Glauser, MD

Peggy Hostetter, MD

Monica Mitchell, PhD

Ardythe Morrow, PhD

Marc Rothenberg, MD, PhD

Music

Cleo Leung *Flute*

Ringo Chan *Viola*

University of Cincinnati - College Conservatory of Music

