Updates

Important Dates

NIH Deadlines

June 5 R01 (New)
June 12 K Series (New)
June 16 R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, UH2, UH3, UH2/U (New)
June 25 R15 (New, Renewal, Resubs, Revisions)
July 5 R01 and U01 (Renewal, Resubs, Revisions)
July 16 K Series ( Renewal, Resubmission, Revisions)
July 16 R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, UH2, UH3, UH2/U(Renewal, Resubs, Revisions)

Publications


Annual PRC Retreat!

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeyer
June 16, 2016
Time: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Location:
The Cooley Center
7440 Cambridge St.

PRC Seminar Series 2016

June 17 2016
12:15PM-1:15PM
MSB B100
Mary Dickinson, Ph.D.
Baylor College of Medicine

Researcher Conversations; an Inside View with Marc Rhoads, M.D.

Continuing with the new segment of the PRC newsletter, this month we will get to know Jon “Marc” Rhoads, chief of the Division of Gastroenterology in the Department of Pediatrics. Marc was raised in Gaithersburg Maryland and while the unfortunate death of his best friend in high school from bone cancer prompted his journey to medicine, it was the novel treatment approach of immunotherapy (this was the 1970’s) that he witnessed that piqued his interest in scientific research. Marc then found himself performing research at the National Institutes of Health at the tender young age of 16, and that experience led to a Bachelor’s in Natural Sciences from John Hopkins University.

While continuing at John Hopkins for Medical School, he participated in a long medical elective to Bangladesh, where he found himself drawn to treatment of pediatric diseases associated with worldwide poverty, specifically rotavirus and gastrointestinal issues. This desire to help the most vulnerable among us led to his Pediatrics residency at UCLA and then a fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology in Toronto, Canada.

Armed with his desire to treat children and do research, he joined the faculty University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and rose to the rank of Professor. Marc says that his desire to do research has a lot to do with the fun he has in presenting and sharing his research and his desire is to write “the manuscript that describes something that no one has discovered before,” a desire that came from his great experience with outstanding mentors at the NIH and in India. At this point in his career, he then went to Ochsner Clinic Foundation to head a division in New Orleans in 2002, which was a fortuitous event for this department because he was one to the faculty displaced by hurricane Katrina and directly led to his presence here starting in 2006. Marc says that while he misses the enormous variety of things to do in NO every weekend, the interaction with people of all backgrounds and the food (of course), Katrina so severely disrupted his research enterprise that he had to make a move. Great for us and too bad New Orleans.

Marc has trained 18 fellows and has excellent research support from the NIH and BioGaia. His interest in all things gastrointestinal has led to nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications, reviews and chapters. His interest is now focused on the role of probiotics in gastrointestinal health with specific interest in the action of probiotics to reduce the incidence/severity of necrotizing enterocolitis and colic in infants. He now wishes to investigate a novel relationship of probiotics, the microbiota of the gut and gastrointestinal symptoms in children with autism. These new interests should prove fertile for future funding.

Marc does have a life beyond the university. He plays keyboard in a band that occasionally gigs when the mood strikes them. Having heard a CD of one of these sessions, I can say that he plays a mean keyboard. Jazz gives him most enjoyment, both classical and fusion, but he does have an affinity for the great musicians of the 60’s and 70’s, both jazz and rock. Indeed, we were both saddened by the recent and sudden loss of the great keyboardist Keith Emerson of Emerson, Lake and Palmer. Being the eternal optimist that he is, Marc is a great collaborator, both scientifically and musically, and I urge all to take some time to get to know Marc Rhoads.

-Joe Alcorn, Ph.D.