Syed Shahrukh Hashmi, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Pediatric Research Center, within the Department of Pediatrics, who joined the faculty at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston in August, 2008. Dr. Hashmi is an Epidemiologist and also has a faculty appointment at the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences since 2009.

The focus of my research is on maternal exposures during pregnancies that might have teratogenic effects, resulting in children with congenital structural abnormalities. Of special interest are febrile and hyperthermic exposures that might result in an increased risk of children born with oral clefts or other craniofacial abnormalities. My prior research has shown that the rates of oral clefts were significantly modified by whether the mother used anti-pyretics for the febrile episode—those reporting anti-pyretic use demonstrated no increased risk while it was significantly increased in those reporting no anti-pyretic use. Furthermore, since those initial studies we have found that these febrile exposures increase the risk of many other birth defects as well.

Apart from research mentioned above and epidemiological studies of birth defects in Texas (done in collaboration with the Texas Department of State Health Services), I am also involved in various research projects within the Department of Pediatrics. I have assisted numerous Pediatric Faculty and Fellows on their research projects - from helping at the study design phase to data analysis and interpretation, including, and not limited to, sample size and power estimates, and database management. In this capacity, I have worked closely with the Divisions of Cardiology, Neurology, Pulmonology, Endocrinology, Medical Genetics and Gastroenterology. These collaborations have facilitated research in those divisions and have resulted in numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals. My main goal in these collaborations is to assist individuals within the Department of Pediatrics in their research projects so that we, as a Department, are able to increase our research impact (in terms of grants and publications). I also work with the Genetic Counseling Program within the Department of Pediatrics, where I teach a two-semester course on Research Methodologies and Epidemiology. As a faculty member at the GSBS, I’ve also mentored both Masters (MS) and Doctorate (PhD, MD/PhD) students and served on numerous research and thesis committees.

GUY M. BENIAM, M.D.
Professor; Emory University

“Using C. elegans to discover new information about the assembly and maintenance of the muscle contractile machine”

Tuesday, October 15, 2013
10:00-11:00 a.m. in MSB B.100

DIANA M. MILEWICK, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor; President George Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine
UT Houston Medical School

“Genetic Basis of Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections: Identifying Molecular Pathways and Gene-Based Management”

Friday, October 18, 2013
12:00-1:00 p.m. in MSB B.100