

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

August–September 2019

UTHealth
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

McGovern
Medical School

NIH DEADLINES

- August 8 F Series Fellowships (including F31 Diversity – NOT-OD-17-029) new, renewal, resubmission
- August 12 R13, U13 All - new, renewal, resubmission, revision
- September 25 All - new, renewal, resubmission, revisions P Series, R18, U18, R25, T Series, D Series, C06/UC6, G07, G08, G11, G12, G13, G20, R24, S06, S11, S21, S22, SC1, SC2, SC3, UG1, U10, U19, U24, U2C, U41, U42, U45, U54, U56
- October 5 New— U01
- October 12 New— K Series
- October 16 New—R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, U34, UH2, UH3, UH2/UH3

PUBLICATIONS

Barba A, Urbina C, Maili L, Greives MR, Blackwell SJ, Mulliken JB, Chiquet B, Blanton SH, Hecht JT, Letra A. Association of IFT88 gene variants with nonsyndromic cleft lip with or without cleft palate. *Birth Defects Res.* 2019 Jul 1;111(11):659-665. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1504. Epub 2019 Apr 5. PubMed PMID: 30953423.

Bigueti CC, De Oliva AH, Healy K, Mahmoud RH, Custódio IDC, Constantino DH, Ervolino E, Duarte MAH, Fakhouri WD, Matsumoto MA. Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaws after tooth extraction in senescent female mice treated with zoledronic acid: Microtomographic, histological and immunohistochemical characterization. *PLoS One.* 2019 Jun 14;14(6):e0214173. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0214173. eCollection 2019. PubMed PMID: 31199812; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6568384.

Carlson JC, Anand D, Butali A, Buxo CJ, Christensen K, Deleyiannis F, Hecht JT, Moreno LM, Orioli IM, Padilla C, Shaffer JR, Vieira AR, Wehby GL, Weinberg SM, Murray JC, Beaty TH, Saadi I, Lachke SA, Marazita ML, Feingold E, Leslie EJ. A systematic genetic analysis and visualization of phenotypic heterogeneity among orofacial cleft GWAS signals. *Genet Epidemiol.* 2019 Jun 6. doi: 10.1002/gepi.22214. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 31172578.

Fakhouri WD, Letra A. Identification of Disease Risk DNA Variations is Shaping the Future of Precision Health. *Genes (Basel).* 2019 Jun 13;10(6). pii: E450. doi: 10.3390/genes10060450. PubMed PMID: 31200548; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6627794.

Kaulfus ME, Gardiner H, Hashmi SS, Mendez-Figueroa H, Miller VJ, Stevens B, Carter R. Attitudes of clinicians toward cardiac surgery and trisomy 18. *J Genet Couns.* 2019 Jun;28(3):654-663. doi: 10.1002/jgc4.1089. Epub 2019 Jan 28. PubMed PMID: 30688390.

Muhammad W, Khan MA, Nazir M, Siddiquah A, Mushtaq S, Hashmi SS, Abbasi BH Papaver somniferum L. mediated novel bioinspired lead oxide (PbO) and iron oxide (Fe₂O₃) nanoparticles: In-vitro biological applications, biocompatibility and their potential towards HepG2 cell line. *Mater Sci Eng C Mater Biol Appl.* 2019 Oct;103:109740. doi: 10.1016/j.msec.2019.109740. Epub 2019 May 11. PubMed PMID: 31349401.

Strickland JC, Alcorn JL 3rd, Stoops WW. Using behavioral economic variables to predict future alcohol use in a crowdsourced sample. *J Psychopharmacol.* 2019 Jul;33(7):779-790. doi: 10.1177/0269881119827800. Epub 2019 Feb 21. PubMed PMID: 30789298.

Dr. Jacqueline Hecht receives the 2019 WFF Excellence in Research Award

Dr. Jacqui Hecht, PhD, division director of the Pediatric Research Center (PRC), received the Excellence in Research Award for 2019, an annual award presented by the Women Faculty Forum (WFF). This award recognizes outstanding contributions made by women faculty at McGovern Medical School and selection is based on the awardee's record of research, clinical and educational activities with a strong emphasis on leadership, mentorship, professionalism and innovation. Outside of Dr. Hecht's research contributions delineating the genetic identification and molecular basis underlying the pathology of pseudoachondroplasia (PSACH) (dwarfing condition) and a multitude of craniofacial disorders, her selection was supported strongly by her innovative development of the first Genetic Counseling Program in the state of Texas, her leadership of the PRC since inception and her mentorship of a wide variety of numerous trainees, particularly in the scientific careers and professional development of women. Rather than list her numerous activities and recognition that led to this award, Dr. Hecht was given the opportunity to reflect on her accomplishments.



Q: Many contributions are recognized by this award, which are you most proud of?

A: Each chapter in this continuing story/career has been rewarding. Gene discovery, subsequent mechanistic studies and now treatment for pseudoachondroplasia has been a special journey. However, the students and colleagues who have collaborated or studied with me or just been my friends and mentors are what I am most proud of. They have accomplished so much and continue to light up my life. We have many challenges and accomplishments as academicians – but ultimately every contribution to further science is special.

Q: What activity holds a special place in your heart?

A: I love genetic counseling and the practice of genetics. The process of making a diagnosis and helping families understand why it happened, will it happen again, the prognosis and now potential treatments is extremely rewarding. This has been a special highlight of my career.

Q: How do you foresee the future of the PRC with regards to the mission of the Department of Pediatrics?

A: We are charged with enlarging a basic science footprint in the department. The research focuses on birth defects, including craniofacial anomalies, bone and cartilage morphogenesis and defects, heart defects and kidney defects. All basic scientists have NIH funding. A number of our researchers are members of the Center for Craniofacial Research – which is also comprised of researchers from the School of Dentistry - and the Bone Disease Program of Texas (a multi-institutional program with Baylor college of Medicine and UT MD Anderson Cancer Center). We look forward to growing the PRC and providing collaborative research opportunities with other department members.

Q: How are you going to celebrate?

A: Continue practicing, doing research and building programs. Oh, and maybe some champagne!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Dr. Walid Fakhouri received the Dean's Excellence Award in the Scholarship of Discovery 2019, awarded by UTHealth School of Dentistry.
- ◆ Seminar Series to start Fall 2019. Date and Speaker information to be determined.
- ◆ PRC / CCR Retreat— November 19, 2019