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The Division Welcomes Our New Chief

We are pleased to announce that **Andrew P. Feranchak, MD**, joined the Division on December 1, 2017, as the new chief and professor of pediatrics. Dr. Feranchak most recently served as division chief and professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, where he also held the Willis C. Maddrey, MD, chair in liver disease.



A native of Pittsburgh, Dr. Feranchak received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and he completed his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, followed by fellowship training in gastroenterology and hepatobiliary transport at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Feranchak's clinical and research expertise involves cholestatic liver diseases, bile formation, hepatobiliary transport mechanisms, and membrane ion channels. Dr. Feranchak's NIH-funded research focuses on understanding the basic mechanisms of bile formation, which may serve as the basis for therapeutic strategies for the treatment of cholestatic liver disorders. He has authored numerous significant publications in the field, and he has served on the editorial board for several leading journals, including the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition*, and the *Journal of Hepatology*.

Dr. Feranchak has lectured extensively and served in numerous academic leadership positions, including for the Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (NASPGHAN), the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), and the council of the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR).

New Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Program



The Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition is pleased to announce it has received approval from the ACGME to begin accepting fellows into the Pediatric Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Program for the 2018-2019 academic year.

James E. Squires, MD, MS (left), will serve as program director for the fellowship.

He will be supported by the transplant

hepatology team, which includes **Patrick McKiernan, MD;** **Robert H. Squires, MD;** **Zahida Khan, MD, PhD,** and **Veena Venkat, MD,** as well as the transplant surgery team consisting

of **George Mazariegos, MD;** **Kyle Soltys, MD;** **Ajai Khanna, MD;** **Geoffrey Bond, MD;** **Armando Ganoza, MD,** and **Rakesh Sindhi, MD.**

The fellowship is a one-year program designed to provide advanced experience in the care of pediatric patients with hepatobiliary diseases, including those who undergo liver transplantation.

Candidate interviews are in progress, and the first fellowship candidate will start on July 1, 2018.

Potential candidates or referrals should contact james.squires@chp.edu or tirmblet12@chp.edu.

Highlights from NASPGHAN 2017

Researchers and clinicians from Children's Hospital delivered lectures and led discussions on a variety of topics at the 2017 NASPGHAN (North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition) conference in November 2017. Featured speakers included **Sohail Husain, MD**, who discussed why some drugs cause pancreatitis. **John Eisses, MD, PhD**, delivered a lecture on cellular and animal models in pediatric pancreatitis, and **Sandra Kim, MD**, led a discussion on biosimilars in IBD, their efficacy and safety, current guidelines for use, and the next steps in incorporating them into the treatment of IBD in pediatric patients.



Sohail Husain, MD



John Eisses, MD, PhD



Sandra Kim, MD

Save the Date: September 20-22, 2018

10th International Pediatric Intestinal Failure and Rehabilitation Symposium

Join us in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown for this premier three-day symposium.

Sponsored by:

- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC *Intestinal Care and Rehabilitation Center (ICARE)*
- Hillman Center for Pediatric Transplantation
- Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute
- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine *Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery, and the Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences*

Details for the symposium will be available in the near future.

ABOUT THE DIVISION

The Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition provides a wide range of treatment options for patients with conditions of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, and pancreas.

Some of the conditions that we treat include:

- Abdominal pain
- Gastroesophageal reflux and esophagitis
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intestinal failure
- Liver transplantation
- Small bowel transplantation
- Pancreatitis
- Metabolic disorders

Specialized Programs and Centers

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center
- Hepatology Center
- Intestinal Care and Rehabilitation Center (ICARE)

Clinical Research

The Division has a large research program, and has taken a leading stance in investigations for numerous conditions and therapies. Some of the current research in the Division includes the following studies. For a complete listing of current clinical studies, please visit CHP.edu.

Alagille Syndrome and LUM001: The IMAGINE Study

Primary Investigator: Robert Squires, MD

This study is looking at the long-term safety and durability of the therapeutic effect of LUM001, an apical sodium-dependent bile acid transporter inhibitor (ASBTi), in the treatment of cholestatic liver disease in pediatric subjects with Alagille Syndrome.

ICARE Research Registry (Intestinal Care and Rehabilitation Center Database)

Primary Investigator: Jeffrey A. Rudolph, MD

This registry is a central repository of information about pediatric patients who have been treated by the Intestinal Care and Rehabilitation Center (ICARE) at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. The registry serves as a means to identify the clinical characteristics of patients being followed, assess clinical outcomes, and evaluate the long-term medical and nutritional management issues in children with intestinal disease.

IBD Treatment with Remicade®: The ADAPT Study — Phase IV

Primary Investigator: Sapana Shah, MD

This multicenter research study is to determine if pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) who have lost response to infliximab, also known as Remicade®, at the standard approved dose of every eight weeks would benefit from an increase in their dose.

Recent Publications

Below are select recent publications from Division faculty members.

Malec LM, Cooper J, Rudolph J, Michaels MG, Ragni MV. Prophylactic rtPA in the Prevention of Line-associated Thrombosis and Infection in Short Bowel Syndrome. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2017; Epub ahead of print.

Stollon N, Zhong Y, Ferris M, Bhansali S, Pitts B, Rak E, Kelly M, Kim S, van Tilburg MAL. Chronological Age When Healthcare Transition Skills Are Mastered in Adolescents/Young Adults With Inflammatory Bowel Disease. *World J Gastroenterol.* 2017; 23(18): 3349-3355.

Feranchak AP. CFTR: Actin(g) as a Master Regulator of Cholangiocyte Function. *Hepatology.* 2017; Epub ahead of print.

Iskandar H, Greer JB, Krasinskas AM, Tinsley AT, Koltun WA, Siegal CA, Levy LC, Herfarth HH, Farraya FA, Binion DG, Rosh JR, Keljo DJ, Isaacs KL, Regueiro MD. IBD LIVE Series - Case 8: Treatment Options for Refractory Esophageal Crohn's Disease and Hidradenitis Suppurativa. *Inflamm Bowel Dis.* 2017; 23(10): 1667-1677.

About Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Regionally, nationally, and globally, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC is a leader in the treatment of childhood conditions and diseases, a pioneer in the development of new and improved therapies, and a top educator of the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists. With generous community support, Children's Hospital has fulfilled this mission since its founding in 1890. Children's is named consistently to several elite lists of pediatric hospitals, including ranking No. 9 in the prestigious *U.S. News & World Report* annual Honor Roll of America's Best Children's Hospitals for 2017-2018 and ranking 10th among children's hospitals and schools of medicine in funding for pediatric research provided by the National Institutes of Health (FY2016).

Affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and ranked among the nation's best children's hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*.

