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Guest Faculty

Marilyn C. Augustyn, MD
Dr. Augustyn is a Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician at Boston Medical Center (BMC) where she has worked for the last 18 years. She went to medical school at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine, completed her pediatric residency at UCLA and her Developmental and Behavioral Pediatric Fellowship at Boston University-Boston City Hospital. She co-directs two clinics there: the Developmental Assessment Clinic for children ages birth to seven years and the School Achievement Clinic for children and young adults ages 8 to 18 years. Her clinical work at BMC primarily involves the evaluation of children with various developmental delays from speech and language delays to global developmental delay, from autism to cerebral palsy to learning disabilities. Her research work has focused on the effects of both in utero cocaine exposure and violence on early childhood and parenting. In addition, she is the pediatric consultant for the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center and is a core member of the Boston Harris Institute for Infancy Research and Training. She is the Director of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics in the Boston University School of Medicine, where she is an Associate Professor. She also co-directs the subspecialty practice at BMC and is section co-editor for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics for the online journal Up To Date.

Mark E. Halstead, MD
Dr. Halstead received his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison, Wisconsin in 1998. He performed his pediatric residency and chief residency at the University of Wisconsin Children’s Hospital. He completed a two-year primary care sports medicine fellowship at the Vanderbilt Sports Medicine Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Halstead is currently an Assistant Professor of Nonsurgical Sports Medicine in the Departments of Orthopedic Surgery and Pediatrics at Washington University where he has been in practice since 2004. He is the primary care team physician for the St. Louis Rams, the St. Louis Athletica Women’s Soccer Team, as well as for the Washington University Varsity Athletic Teams, Lafayette High School and the Go! St. Louis Marathon. He is also the director of the Sports Concussion Clinic at Washington University. Dr. Halstead is an Executive Committee Member for the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness.
Richard J. Martin, MD

Dr. Richard J. Martin, Professor of Pediatrics, Reproductive Biology, and Physiology & Biophysics at Case Western Reserve University [Case], is the Director of the Division of Neonatology at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital [RB&C], University Hospitals of Cleveland, and first holder of the Drusinsky/Fanaroff Chair in Neonatology. Having received his formal and medical education and residency [pediatric] training in his native Australia, Dr. Martin pursued further pediatric training at the University of Missouri [Columbia]. In 1974, he came to RB&C for Neonatology fellowship training where he has remained and risen through the academic ranks. He serves on numerous editorial boards, is Chair of the Sub-Board in Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine of the American Board of Pediatrics, has served as a permanent member of the HED1 Study Section [NIH], and is Senior Editor of the major text, Fanaroff and Martin’s Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, currently in its 9th edition. Dr. Martin's research expertise is in translational research as it pertains to the developing respiratory system. His laboratory has focused much of its attention on the biologic basis for apnea of prematurity and its management, employing state-of-the-art biologic tools, and clinical trials for new ventilatory and pharmacologic clinical strategies. This research has been continually funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 25 years. He and his group have focused on the development of airway function in health and disease, and the roles of lung and airway injury in the development of later respiratory morbidities such as wheezing disorders in children born prematurely.

George H. McCracken, Jr., MD

George H. McCracken, Jr., MD, is Professor of Pediatrics, The GlaxoSmithKline Distinguished Professor of Pediatric Infectious Disease, and The Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay Chair in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He received his undergraduate education at Williams College and medical degree from Cornell University Medical College followed by an internship in Medicine and a Residency in Pediatrics at the New York Hospital. With 514 peer-reviewed manuscripts and editorials and 70 book chapters to his credit, Dr. McCracken has made significant contributions to the scientific literature. His research interests include the clinical pharmacology of antimicrobial agents in infants and children and animal and clinical studies of the molecular pathophysiology and treatment of bacterial meningitis and of lower respiratory tract infections. In addition, he has made more than 250 presentations to peer-reviewed national conferences (PAS, ICAAC, IDSA, etc), and has held the honor of Visiting Professor and Honorary Lecturer at numerous national and international universities. He has been Chief Editor of The Pediatric infectious Disease Journal since 1982, when he and Dr. John Nelson started the journal. Since 1968, Dr. McCracken has been involved in the training of 95 fellows in pediatric infectious diseases, of which approximately 80% are engaged in active research and training at university-affiliated medical centers and children's hospitals worldwide. In addition, since 1992 he has raised more than $4.56 million for the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society to sponsor 58 two-year fellowship training awards. Dr. McCracken has received many honors and awards during his career, including the Bristol Award for Distinguished Achievements in Infectious Diseases from IDSA and the Hoechst-Roussel Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Antimicrobial Chemotherapy from the American Society for Microbiology. In 1998, the American Society for Microbiology established the Annual George H. McCracken Infectious Disease Fellow Award in recognition of his contributions to the ICAAC and to the ASM. In 2001, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Physician Award for lifetime achievements in research and training from the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. In April 2003, he received the Bicentennial Medal from his alma mater, Williams College, for distinguished accomplishments in pediatric medicine. In October 2003, he received the Mentor Award from IDSA for recognition of a lifetime of service as a mentor for infectious disease
professionals. In March 2004, he received the Maxwell Finland Award for scientific achievements from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. In October 2004, he was the first recipient of the Lifetime Contribution to Education in Infectious Disease from the Section on Infectious Disease of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In October 2005, he received the Sumner J. Yaffe Lifetime Achievement Award in Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics. In May 2006, he received the Cornell University Weil Medical Center Alumnus Award of Distinction and in 2008 the Kellogg Alumnus Award for Distinguished Lifetime Achievements from Williams College.

Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics Faculty

James R. Batterson, MD, FAPA, FAACAP
Bob was born and raised in the Kansas City area and is a graduate of the UMKC School of Medicine’s 6 year BA/MD program. He received his general psychiatry training in Charleston, South Carolina at the Medical University of South Carolina and his child psychiatry training in Providence, Rhode Island at Brown University Program in Medicine. He returned to Kansas City in 1993 and for 6 years was in private practice seeing children, adolescents and adults. He was the medical director for psychiatry at Trinity Lutheran Hospital and also has worked at Marillac Center for Children, ReDiscover Mental Health Center, and Research Psychiatric Center. He has been in the section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at Children’s Mercy since 1997. Dr. Batterson is currently involved with research in ADHD, and runs a Tourette Clinic at CMH Northland.

Denise F. Bratcher, DO
Denise Bratcher, DO, is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine and a member of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases section at Children’s Mercy Hospital. Dr. Bratcher is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a BA degree in Human Biology and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (formerly the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine). She completed her pediatrics residency at Children’s Mercy Hospital and pediatric infectious diseases fellowship at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is board certified in pediatric infectious diseases. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Infectious Disease Society of America. She is a member of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS) and former member of the Training Programs Committee of PIDS. She is also a member of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America. In addition to her clinical service on the pediatric infectious diseases consult service, Dr. Bratcher serves as the pediatrics residency program director at Children’s Mercy Hospital. She also coordinates the pediatric infectious diseases Fellows’ outpatient experience. Dr. Bratcher’s specialty interests include pediatric immunizations, respiratory syncytial virus prophylaxis, and infection control issues.
Gregory P. Conners, MD, MPH, MBA, FAAP, FACEP

Dr. Conners joined the Children’s Mercy Hospital faculty in July 2009, when he was appointed Chief of the Emergency Medical Services Division, Vice Chair of Pediatrics for Emergency and Urgent Care, and Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at UMKC School of Medicine. Dr. Conners grew up in Rochester, NY, and is a graduate of Amherst College and the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine. Following residency in Pediatrics and fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, both at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, he joined the faculty at the University of Rochester, where he held various leadership and administrative positions, obtained M.P.H. and M.B.A. degrees, and conducted research on health services issues in emergency and pediatric practice. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians, and a member of the Academic Emergency Medicine editorial board. He and his family are enjoying their acclimation to Kansas City.

Christopher J. Harrison, MD

Dr. Harrison received his BS and MD degrees from and did his Pediatric Residency at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. His Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellowship at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City was followed by faculty stints at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Creighton University Medical School, and University of Louisville School of Medicine. Dr. Harrison currently is Professor of Pediatrics at Children’s Mercy Hospital, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Section, in Kansas City, Missouri, and affiliated with the University of Missouri at Kansas City. There, he is director of the Infectious Diseases Research laboratory and of the NIH sponsored pediatric Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatric Infectious Disease Society and Infectious Disease Society of America. He is a member of the Society for Pediatric Research, American Pediatric Society, International Society for Antiviral Research, SHEA, American Society for Microbiology, and American Society for Virology. He is Chairman of the PIDS Clinical Affairs Committee and the Vaccine Advocacy task Force. He also serves on the IDSA CAC committee, IDSA Public Policy Committee, Committee on Pediatric Subspecialties, and CDC Vaccine Partnership. Board certified in pediatrics and pediatric infectious disease, Dr Harrison’s clinical interests include the development/efficacy of vaccines, pharmacokinetics, antimicrobial resistance, innate immunity to cytomegalovirus, cytokines, and sinusitis/otitis media. He is reviewer and editor for multiple journals. He has authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles, two books, over 25 book chapters, and many invited articles.

J. Edward Hulse, III, MD

Dr. Hulse was born a native “Tar Heel” in a small town in North Carolina. He grew up mostly along the eastern coasts of South Carolina and Georgia. Dr. Hulse attended Presbyterian College in South Carolina, then medical school and pediatric residency at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He completed a pediatric cardiology fellowship at Children’s Hospital in Boston and stayed an extra year for specialization in pediatric electrophysiology. Dr. Hulse worked at Eggleston Children’s Hospital at Emory University in Atlanta for six years before coming to work at Children’s Mercy Hospital in 1998.
Mary Anne Jackson, MD

Mary Anne Jackson, MD is chief of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Section at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Kansas City, Missouri, and professor of pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. Dr. Jackson obtained her medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati where she was recognized with the Samuel Dalinsky Memorial Award as the outstanding graduating resident. She completed her infectious diseases fellowship training at the University of Texas-Southwestern. She is board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Infectious Disease Society of America, and a member of the American Pediatric Society. She has served on the editorial boards of Healthy Kids, Concise Reviews in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and is a current member of the editorial board of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal. Since 2000, she has been a regular contributor to Pediatric News. She is a past chair of the American Board of Pediatrics’ Sub-board of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and currently serves as the sub-board medical editor. She is a past contributor to the Red Book and in July 2009, she was selected to the Committee on Infectious Diseases 2009-2011. Current research activities focus on prevention of hospital acquired infections, antibiotic resistance, and immunization awareness and implementation and has authored over 100 publications. In 2002, she participated in the US Senate hearing on vaccine shortages and in 2005, was the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Immunization Education and Advocacy from the Mid America Immunization Coalition.

Jason G. Newland, MD

Dr. Newland grew up in southwest Oklahoma, and obtained his B.S. in Pre-professional studies at the University of Notre Dame in 1996 and medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 2000. He completed pediatric residency at the University of Nebraska/Creighton Medical Centers in 2003 and fellowship in Pediatric infectious diseases at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2006, distinguishing himself with teaching awards at both the resident and fellow level.

In August of 2006, he joined the faculty at Children’s Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, Missouri where he is the director of the antimicrobial stewardship program. An active resident and faculty mentor, he is completing a master's in education through a joint program offered by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Education, focusing on adult learning, curriculum and teaching methods, and medical education evaluation and research.

His clinical research has focused on the cellular entry mechanisms of group B coxsackieviruses as well as the neurologic complications of influenza virus. His current research spotlights the use of antimicrobials and the impact of a clinical practice guideline on the treatment of community acquired pneumonia.

Felix A. Okah, MD, MS, FAAP

Felix Okah, MD, MS, is a Professor of Pediatrics on the faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, the director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Training Program, and a staff neonatologist at the Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to his clinical and administrative responsibilities, he conducts research in perinatal epidemiology, with special focus on the health behaviors of adult care providers and their effect on the health of the fetus, newborn, and child. Dr. Okah is certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal- Perinatal Medicine and earned his MS degree in Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati. He received his MD degree from the College of Medicine at University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Okah is the leading author of several papers in peer-reviewed journals.
Robin L. Onikul, DDS, FACD
Dr. Onikul graduated from the UMKC School of Dentistry in 1989 and spent 1 year doing Geriatric Dentistry in California before coming back to the Midwest to do a residency in Pediatric Dentistry at Children’s Mercy Hospital and the UMKC School of Dentistry. Since her graduation in 1992, she has been on the staff at Children’s Mercy as Director of Clinical Activities and starting in July of 2008 has become the Chair of the Department of Dentistry. She enjoys teaching and working with her Pediatric colleagues on educating not only the Pediatric Dental residents, but also the Pediatric Medical residents on the importance of early oral education and intervention. In her spare time, she enjoys playing the violin with the Kansas City Civic Orchestra and riding her scooter.

Robert J. Rinaldi, MD
Dr. Robert Rinaldi is a pediatric sub specialist who practices pediatric rehabilitation medicine. He is board certified in General Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. He presently is an assistant professor of pediatrics in the Section of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine at the Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. He has been on staff at Children's Mercy since 1997. In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Rinaldi serves as an associate member of the Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Committee of the American Board of PM&R, Subcommittee Chair/Senior Reviewer of the Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Examination Committee of the American Board of PM&R, and as Vice Chair of Education for the Pediatric Rehabilitation/Developmental Disabilities Council of the American Academy of PM&R. His clinical interests include rehabilitation in neuromuscular disorders, peripheral nerve injuries/brachial plexus injuries, and traumatic brain injury.

Laurie D. Smith, MD, PhD, FAAP
Dr. Laurie Smith currently provides genetic services, including identification of genetic syndromes and treatment of metabolic diseases at the Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics in Kansas City, MO. She received her PhD in Biological Sciences specializing in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from the University of California, Irvine. She completed postdoctoral training in bacterial genetics and pathogenesis at The Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla, California. She subsequently "saw the light" and went to medical school, graduating from Oregon Health and Science University. She completed her Pediatrics residency there and practiced general pediatrics for three years in Portland, OR before returning to OHSU to complete her Genetics residency and Biochemical Genetics fellowship. Prior to coming to Children's Mercy Hospital, she provided pediatric and genetics services to underserved migrant children in Oregon through the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. Dr. Smith is board certified in Pediatrics, Clinical Genetics, and Biochemical Genetics. She has been at the Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics since 2006. She is active in the expanded newborn screening program for the state of Missouri, the Heartland Genetics Consortium, and several clinical trials evaluating new treatments for several inborn errors of metabolism and storage diseases. Dr. Smith is a member of the American Society of Human Genetics, the American College of Medical Genetics, the Society for Inborn Metabolic Diseases, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
Sarah E. Soden, MD
Dr. Sarah Soden is a Developmental Pediatrician in the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at Children’s Mercy Hospital. She attended medical school at University of Missouri – Columbia. She first came to Children’s Mercy for pediatric residency, but stayed on as chief resident for an additional year, and then a fellowship in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. Her fellowship was part of an initiative by the Hall Family Foundation and was co-sponsored by Children’s Mercy and the University of Kansas Medical Center. She is board certified in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and her areas of interest include autism, developmental screening, and medical home promotion.

Stephen P. Spielberg, MD, PhD
Dr. Stephen P. Spielberg is the Marion Merrell Dow Chair in Pediatric Pharmacogenomics and Director of the Center for Personalized Medicine and Therapeutic Innovation at Children’s Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO. He is also Principal Investigator for the Institute for Pediatric Innovation, a non-profit organization focused on developing improved medicines and devices to meet the therapeutic needs of sick children. He was previously Professor of Pediatrics, and of Pharmacology and Toxicology at Dartmouth Medical School, where he also served as Dean as well as Vice President for Health Affairs, Dartmouth College, from 2003-2007. He received an AB (Biology) from Princeton University, an MD and PhD (Pharmacology) from the University of Chicago, did a pediatric internship and residency at Children’s Hospital, Boston, and a post-doctoral fellowship in human biochemical genetics at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. He then joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology, moving to the University of Toronto, Hospital for Sick Children where he was Professor of Paediatrics and Pharmacology, Director of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Director of the Centre for Drug Safety Research. After 15 years in academic medicine, he moved to Merck Research Laboratories as Executive Director, Exploratory Biochemical Toxicology and of Clinical and Regulatory Development in 1992, and subsequently to Johnson & Johnson from 1997 to 2003 to become Vice President for Pediatric Drug Development. He chaired the Pediatric Task Force for PhRMA, represented the pharmaceutical industry on the FDA Pediatric Advisory Subcommittee and on pediatric legislative initiatives in the US and EU, and was the Rapporteur for the Pediatric ICH Initiative (ICH E-11) to harmonize pediatric drug development regulations among Europe, Japan, and the US. He has served as Associate Editor of Drug Metabolism and Disposition, Section Editor for Therapeutics and Toxicology for Current Opinion in Pediatrics, and on the editorial boards of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, and Pediatric Alert. He is on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the Council of the Convention of United States Pharmacopeia, the Executive Board of OMOP (Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership – FDA, FNIH, PhRMA), and was President of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (2006). He is also Chair-Elect, Steering Committee for the Centers for Education and Research in Therapeutics (CERTs) for AHRQ, and is on the Science Board Advisory Committee for the FDA. His research interests include: mechanisms of idiosyncratic adverse
drug reactions, human pharmacogenetics, and pediatric clinical pharmacology; he has published over 130 papers in these areas. He is the recipient of the Rawls-Palmer Award and Lectureship from the American Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (1992), the first recipient of the Werner Kalow Award in Pharmacogenetics and Drug Safety (1995), the Williams B. Abrams Lectureship from FDA/ASCPT (2001), Award in Excellence in Clinical Pharmacology, PhRMA Foundation (2007), Distinguished Service Award from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine (2008), gave the FDA Chief Scientist’s Distinguished Lecture (2009), and received the Sumner J. Yaffe Lifetime Achievement Award in Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics from the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (2009).

Nasreen Talib, MD, MPH

Dr. Talib received her medical degree and a post-graduate Diploma in Pediatrics from Nagpur University, India. She completed her Pediatric Residency at Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, KS. Currently, Dr. Talib is Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics & Director, Pediatric Clerkship, Department of Pediatrics, University of Missouri - Kansas City School Of Medicine and University of Medicine and Biosciences, Kansas City, MO; She is also the Director, Medical Student Education and the Medical Director, Down Syndrome Clinic, Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, Kansas City, MO. She has practiced pediatrics for almost 25 years, she is interested in preventive pediatrics and after obtaining an MPH recently she has implemented Preventive oral health including Fluoride varnish application training program for pediatric residents and faculty at Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, Kansas City, MO.