2010 REVIEW

Stay connected to the Steele Center = Learn more about what's happening at the Steele Center through our website: steelecenter.arizona.edu = Stay current with our e-newsletter. Sign up at: steelecenter.arizona.edu = "Like" us on Facebook = Follow us on Twitter
“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you nearly a month after the terrible shooting incident that shook Tucson to its core and reverberated throughout the nation.

On January 8, upon hearing that Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was gravely injured in a senseless shooting, I was stunned. I was further saddened to learn that six innocent people had been killed and many others wounded. But my heart broke when I learned that one victim was a curious and vivacious little 9-year-old girl—Christina-Taylor Green—who was just becoming interested in her government.

Despite this inexplicable tragedy, I am heartened by the survivors who received superb care by my colleagues at University Medical Center—exceptional care made possible by the advances in research.

I am proud of our dedicated faculty who assisted during this painful time—Dr. Andreas Theodorou—who also serves as Chief Medical Officer for UMC/Diamond Children’s, Dr. Marc Berg, who provided aid on the day of the tragedy, and all the others from our department who helped in so many ways.

I am touched beyond words to witness how our community and nation have pulled together during this time. Through our collective grief, we have demonstrated what is good in people. I am so grateful for you all.

Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Horace W. Steele Endowed Chair in Pediatric Research
Director, Steele Children’s Research Center
Professor and Head, Department of Pediatrics
The University of Arizona College of Medicine
In the spring of 2010, a new volunteer group was created that has generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement at the Steele Children’s Research Center—the Kids of Steele!

Kids of Steele is comprised of families from the community who are interested in supporting the Steele Center in its mission to discover new and improved treatments and cures for devastating pediatric diseases. Through individual and group activities, Kids of Steele aims to raise awareness and funds for the Steele Center.

“When I first heard the concept,” says Cecie Davenport, 2010 Kids of Steele Chairman, “I was most drawn to the idea of teaching my daughter about community service from a young age. I am thankful that she has her health and I want her to learn to give back to others who are not as fortunate.”

Kids of Steele encourages families to participate in a way that works for them—taking their own interests and busy schedules into account.

“If your child is on swim team and loves the sport, have a swim-a-thon!” says Davenport. Members also are invited to attend group events and receive newsletters and ideas for activities they can do as a family.

If you are interested in learning more about Kids of Steele and how you can become a charter member, please contact Mariana Vazquez at (520) 626-9773 or vazquez@peds.arizona.edu.

ABOUT THE COVER

Gracing our cover this year are four active members from our Kids of Steele auxiliary group. Cover photo (clockwise from left to right): Andres Peralta (8), Haley Bronson (8), Ashley Feig (15), and Nora Davenport (4).
I would like to share with you my evolving vision for the Steele Children’s Research Center and some significant changes currently taking place at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

UA Healthcare
As many of you know, University Medical Center and University Physicians Healthcare are in the process of integrating to become what is tentatively named, “UA Healthcare.” This newly formed organization will oversee the patient-care enterprise affiliated with the UA College of Medicine, ensuring improved quality, patient satisfaction and greater efficiencies across the system.

We expect the integration to be completed sometime in 2011.

Looking forward, it’s exciting to see growth and positive change taking place at the Steele Center and the Department of Pediatrics.

Moving Forward: Our Clinical Care
Pediatrics will remain one of the “pillars” of emphasis within the newly formed organization. Diamond Children’s at University Medical Center, which opened last September, has significantly strengthened pediatrics as a “pillar.” Toward that end, we are actively recruiting pediatricians, pediatric sub-specialists and researchers, expanding programs and developing new clinical fellowships. In short, our clinical enterprise is steadily growing. We secured 18 new faculty members—10 of whom started in the 2010 calendar year.

Moving Forward: Our Education
Our residency program is growing as well. A few years ago we had 33 residents. Now we have 71—more than doubling the number. In addition, we are developing new clinical fellowship programs. We currently have programs in endocrinology, neonatology and pulmonology, with plans to establish fellowships in gastroenterology/nutrition and cardiology.

Moving Forward: Our Research
Our most significant changes are taking place in research, so I want to explain how our focus is evolving.

In industrialized nations, incidence of immunological inflammatory diseases (also known as autoimmune diseases) has been increasing over the last 50 years, while infectious diseases have steadily been decreasing (largely due to vaccines). This includes diseases like type 1 diabetes, asthma, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis and multiple sclerosis, to name a few. Many autoimmune diseases start in childhood.

Moreover, in recent years, evidence has emerged linking inflammation and cancer. For example, studies have shown that individuals with ulcerative colitis have an increased risk of developing colon cancer. Other studies showed an increased occurrence between rheumatoid arthritis and lymphoma.

Immunological inflammatory disorders are rooted in an overactive immune system.
response of the body against its own tissues or organs. That is, the body mistakes some part of the body as a pathogen (like bacteria) and attacks it.

Consequently, our research focus is adapting to this growing incidence of autoimmune diseases. This undoubtedly will impact our recruiting efforts. For instance, as we seek to fill our Sally Lindholm Endowed Chair in Genetics and the Father’s Day Council Tucson Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes, we specifically will search for individuals who demonstrate outstanding expertise in their area, with an emphasis in molecular immunology.

The illustration (below, right) shows how our research emphasizes the connection between autoimmunity and inflammation.

By emphasizing the link between immunological diseases and inflammation, the Steele Center reinforces its commitment to remain on the forefront of research, making discoveries that will have the greatest impact on the health of our children—now and in the future.
On September 22, 2010, Diamond Children’s at University Medical Center celebrated its grand opening! “It’s truly a dream come true,” says Steele Center Director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD. “Diamond Children’s is a beautiful state-of-the-art facility that provides compassionate family-centered care by our outstanding pediatric hospitalists, critical care physicians, pediatric sub-specialists, nurses, residents, fellows and support staff.”

All private rooms have:
- Bathroom and shower
- Sleeping bed for two caregivers
- Wireless Internet access

Level 1
Pediatric Emergency Care Center:
18 emergency beds
7 trauma/resuscitation beds

Level 4
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU): 36 beds

Level 5
Medical/Surgery Rooms: 36 private rooms

Level 6
Hematology/Oncology: 12 private rooms
Blood & Marrow Transplantation:
6 private rooms
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU):
20 private rooms (with additional six-bed specialty unit)

Take a virtual tour of Diamond Children’s at: www.diamondchildrens.org, or come for a visit and see this spectacular facility with your own eyes.
Features:

◊ Separate entrance/lobby
◊ 116 private rooms
◊ Nesting and family sleeping areas
◊ Playrooms on each floor
◊ Library with computer and Internet access
◊ Education facilities
◊ Stage for performances and celebration
◊ Private conference room
◊ Laundry room
◊ Meditation room
◊ Healing garden
◊ Gift shop
◊ Lactation consultation area
◊ Outdoor spaces to roam and play
For Lucinda and Miguel Peralta, the birth of their first child, Andres, on Nov. 30, 2002, was an occasion filled with indescribable joy. He was healthy and happy.

But, when Andres was only 15 months old, a mass the size of a grapefruit was found in his liver. A blood test and biopsy confirmed his parents’ worst fears: cancer. It was hepatoblastoma, a rare pediatric liver cancer. “We were stunned,” recalls Lucinda. “Our world turned completely upside down that day.”

The exact causes of hepatoblastoma are unknown and it typically is diagnosed in children between the ages of infancy to 3 years old. Some of the symptoms include a swollen abdomen, decreased appetite, vomiting and back pain.

Upon diagnosis, Andres was transferred to University Medical Center (UMC) to receive the specialized cancer care he needed. His team included former Steele Center pediatric oncologists Rochelle Bagatell, MD, Luke Whitesell, MD, oncology nurses, medical technicians and other pediatric sub-specialists. “Everyone who provided care for Andres was amazing,” says Lucinda.

Andres’ medical team recommended four rounds of chemotherapy, followed by surgery to remove as much of the remaining tumor as possible. This would be his best chance for survival.

For the next three months Andres spent three to four days in the hospital every three weeks for chemotherapy treatment.

After Andres completed his chemo treatments, tests showed his tumor had shrunk significantly. “Miguel and I were extremely encouraged by this news,” says Lucinda.

The next step was resection surgery to remove as much of the tumor as possible. On June 28, 2004, when Andres was only 17 months old, he had surgery. Drs. Jonathan Greenfeld, Catherine Cosentino and Ann O’Conner were Andres’ surgeons, and they estimated the resection would take three to five hours. “It took eight hours,” recounts Lucinda. “They were able to remove nearly all the remaining tumor and removed 60 percent of Andres’ liver to do so.”

Four days after surgery, as Andres recovered in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), Dr. Bagatell confirmed that no cancer cells could be found in Andres—he was cancer free! After two weeks in the PICU, and about four days in the pediatric wards, Andres could go home.

Of course, that’s not the end of the story. Since there is always a risk the cancer may return, Andres had to endure two more rounds of inpatient chemotherapy treatments. After completing chemo, routine CT-scans would be needed every month, then every three months and then every six months to make sure the cancer hadn’t returned.

Today, Andres is now 8 years old and still cancer free.

“He basically lived at the hospital,” says Lucinda. “This was a difficult time, but the doctors, nurses and all the support staff were tremendously positive and hopeful.” On the off weeks, Andres received outpatient treatment at the Arizona Elks Clinic for Children and Young Adults at UMC.

Andres is now a vibrant boy who loves to play with his younger sister, Olivia, snowboard, play soccer, practice karate and play on the beach with his family. He’s even an active member of Kids of Steele!

“I can say in all honesty that cancer changed our family for the better,” says Lucinda.

Andres Peralta: Patient, Survivor and Boy Extraordinaire!
Dr. Ghishan Honored with 2010 UA Faculty Science Forum Founders Day Award

Steele Center Director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, was selected as the recipient of the 2010 Faculty Science Forum Founders Day Award at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

The recipient of this honor gives the Annual Founders Day Lecture in November. Dr. Ghishan gave an inspiring lecture on the “Recent Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: Bench to the Bedside.”

The Founders Day lectureship was established in 1979 to recognize and honor UA College of Medicine faculty members for their scientific accomplishments. Each year, faculty members select one of their peers to provide a presentation to commemorate the founding of the College of Medicine, which was dedicated on Nov. 17, 1967.

The recipient of this award is a faculty member who embodies the model of an investigator whose research work has a continuous thread of significance and who can present effectively that research with enthusiasm, vigor and inspiration.

The National Institutes of Health estimates that nearly 23.5 million Americans suffer from autoimmune diseases—diseases resulting from an overactive immune response of the body against its own cells. We don’t know why, but the immune system mistakes some part of the body as a pathogen and attacks it. There are 149 known autoimmune diseases. Examples of autoimmune diseases include type 1 diabetes, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, lupus, and multiple myeloma, to name just a few.

An incomplete understanding of the mechanisms behind these diseases has been a significant hurdle in developing new and better therapeutic methods to treat autoimmune diseases.

Recently, Dorrance Fellow Rajalakshmy Ramalingam identified a new cellular pathway required to maintain immunological tolerance (the process by which the immune system does not attack its own tissue or cells). Using a mouse model, Ramalingam discovered that deleting the receptor for Transforming Growth Factor beta from dendritic cells (responsible for alerting the immune system during infection) leads to the development of multi-organ autoimmune disease, because the dendritic cells then lose their ability to maintain tolerance, resulting in an uncontrolled immune reaction and inflammation.

“This novel finding has created new avenues for research that could eventually lead to novel methods for diagnosing and treating autoimmune diseases,” says Ramalingam. She has presented her findings at three international conferences and is preparing a manuscript outlining her findings in detail, which soon will be published.

“We are very proud of her accomplishments,” says Dr. Ghishan.
In 2010, proceeds from the 11th annual PANDA “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show enabled the Steele Center to establish the PANDA Children’s Cancer Immunology Program.

The PANDA Children’s Cancer Immunology Program funds research for cancer immunotherapy, which involves treatment that uses the patient’s own immune system to fight cancer, such as cancer vaccines.

“The PANDAs have made it possible for us to hire a graduate student and a research technician for the next three years,” says pediatric oncologist Emmanuel Katsanis, MD, who leads the team of cancer investigators at the Steele Center. “Now, we can move our research forward and be more competitive for additional grants from the NIH—absolutely essential to continue our research for years to come.”

Currently, the Steele Center is one of only a few research centers in the country conducting pediatric cancer immunology research and developing novel immunotherapy treatments against cancer.

The program focuses on two areas of immunotherapy: the promotion of anti-tumor immunity and the mechanisms of tumor-induced immunosuppression.

Promotion of anti-tumor immunity: The CRCL vaccine

For more than a decade, Dr. Katsanis and his team have been developing a promising cancer vaccine, known as CRCL (Chaperone Rich Cell Lysate). CRCL utilizes proteins called chaperone proteins. These proteins are found inside cancer cells and are associated with the protein antigens that are unique to the individual’s cancer. These antigens are needed for the immune system to identify the cancer in order to initiate an immune response to both destroy the existing tumor cells and the immune memory to protect against any recurrence of the tumor. In individuals with cancer, however, the cancer conceals these antigens from the immune system.

The CRCL vaccine is a patented process that enriches for active cancer antigens making them visible and able to stimulate the immune system against the cancer that the CRCL vaccine was derived from. The CRCL vaccine, now named AlloVax™, is nearing human clinical trials in the U.S.

Mechanisms of tumor-induced immunosuppression

Nicolas Larmonier, PhD, associate professor, is a co-principal investigator, and his area of research examines the mechanisms of cancer-induced tolerance, also called immunosuppression. One subpopulation of immune inhibitory cells, known as T-reg cells (regulatory T lymphocytes), are generated during tumor progression and block most of the cells of the immune system, thus reducing the efficiency of anticancer vaccines.

The researchers are investigating ways to weaken T-reg cells so that anticancer vaccine treatments like AlloVax™ can do its job in building the individual’s immunity against cancer.

“We are immensely grateful to the PANDAs and all our volunteer groups who work hard to fund this life-saving cancer research,” says Dr. Katsanis.
It seems appropriate that Father’s Day Council Tucson was born out of a son’s inspiration from his dad. After seeing his father, Howard Rosenberg, at work with the Father’s Day Council in Los Angeles, Steve Rosenberg returned to Tucson determined to start a chapter here. He succeeded, and established the only council nationwide that supports a local organization—the Steele Children’s Research Center.

Now in its 16th year, Father’s Day Council Tucson has celebrated more than 90 fathers in the community and raised nearly $2.5 million for type 1 diabetes research and clinical care at the Steele Center. Through hard work and determination, Father’s Day Council Tucson has made groundbreaking research projects, vital equipment, and a comprehensive patient care team possible.

“Father’s Day Council Tucson’s funds have allowed us to increase our faculty from one pediatric endocrinologist to four, and add a nutritionist and a social worker—all working together for the benefit of the child,” says Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, Director of the Steele Center. “We are now better equipped to care for the approximately 600 type 1 diabetes patients that come to us from across Southern Arizona.”

In addition to their continued support of research and care, the council is building the Father’s Day Council Tucson Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes. The goal is to reach $1 million to complete the chair by their 20th anniversary in 2014. Once finished, the chair will ensure the Father’s Day Council’s impact on the Tucson community, and the world, for years to come.

It’s enough to make a father proud.

FDC ‘Comfort Companion’ Bags

The Fathers of the Year Awards Dinner & Gala featured Jonathan Vogel, a type 1 diabetes patient who shared his story, hoping to help other children like him. The audience responded overwhelmingly to his appeal, giving more than $15,000. These funds are being used to create “Comfort Companion” bags that contain essential items for a child who has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, as well as comfort items like stuffed animals. In addition, glucagon kits are being purchased with the money raised. Glucagon is a hormone that raises blood glucose levels when they are dangerously low. For a child and family struggling to adjust to life with type 1 diabetes, receiving both the bag and the glucagon kit can make a world of difference.
I was fortunate to join the outstanding cardiovascular team from the University of Arizona, led by congenital heart surgeon Michael F. Teodori, MD, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery Program.

It was a long journey to the Ethiopian capital city Addis Ababa. We left Tucson Friday morning, arrived in Addis Sunday morning, dropped our bags off at the hotel and drove to the hospital to start seeing patients.

On Sunday, we evaluated many children for surgery with two Ethiopian cardiologists. Many had advanced symptoms—the result of longstanding uncorrected heart conditions—which would have been corrected in the United States at a much younger age. During our evaluation, our PICU nurses from Diamond Children’s—Whitney Elton and Kim Liston—engaged the children waiting to be seen in various games such as the Ethiopian version of “duck-duck goose.” Several were so symptomatic they turned deeply cyanotic (blue) and had to sit down after taking just a few steps.

Dr. Teodori performed nine surgeries. Although each child had a great story, two especially stuck with me.

Samuel is 6-year-old boy born with an aortic valve abnormality resulting in severe aortic regurgitation. He is an orphan—one of 5.5 million in Ethiopia. He had been adopted by a family in France, but his adoption could not be completed until his heart was repaired. His operation was on Monday—the morning after we arrived—and he did extremely well.

Demelash is 7 years old with severe endocarditis (heart infection): his mitral and aortic valves were severely involved and he had a large vegetation (infected material) extending from his pulmonary artery through a connection (PDA) to his aorta. He had been in the hospital for more than a month, and was so weak and thin he could barely walk. I doubted he would survive a complicated surgery—but it was his only chance.

After spending most of the afternoon and evening in the operating room he arrived in the ICU looking much better than anticipated. I was amazed to see him the next day sitting up, a gleam in his eye, being fed spaghetti by his smiling dad!

To travel to another country and experience a different culture and different practice of medicine is deeply rewarding. This trip, while emotionally and physically exhausting, was ultimately inspiring and reminded me why I decided to become a physician. It was a privilege to care for the children and families in Addis Ababa, and a tremendous learning experience collaborating with the physicians in Ethiopia.

I hope to return!

Many thanks to the following for supporting this trip:
Dr. Belay Abegaz and The Children’s Heart Fund of Ethiopia; Gina Guglielmo, Gift of Life-Arizona; Jon Marlier, Philips Cardiovascular Ultrasound.
Curcumin Study Shows Promise in Treating IBD

Turmeric is the spice that gives curry its vibrant orange-yellow color. Used in Indian and Middle Eastern cooking for thousands of years, turmeric also has been used to treat colds, inflammation, arthritis and many other ailments.

For several years, Steele Center researchers have been studying how curcumin—the biologically active ingredient in turmeric—might be an effective way to treat Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

Recently, the Steele Center received a $1 million, four-year continuation grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), enabling the Steele Center to advance its research into curcumin’s efficacy in treating IBD.

IBD refers to two inflammatory diseases: Crohn’s Disease, which affects the entire gastrointestinal tract, and ulcerative colitis, which affects the colon. Both cause severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, fatigue and weight loss.

For several years, Steele Center researchers have been investigating how curcumin aids treating IBD. Pawel Kiela, DVM, PhD, associate professor, and Steele Center Director Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, professor, previously have shown that curcumin decreases severe inflammation in the gut.

“We know that curcumin is an effective supplemental treatment for individuals with IBD,” says Dr. Ghishan. “Now we’re trying to answer the question of how curcumin inhibits inflammation and provides protection to the gut.”

While there are efforts to improve absorption of curcumin through different formulations, despite its negligible absorption from the intestine, unformulated curcumin (curcumin without any additives) was very effective in preventing relapses in ulcerative colitis patients.

This suggests that the mucosal lining of the colon is the primary target of the drug. It is this single-cell layer that separates our interior and, most importantly the immune system, from the microbial and dietary antigens that could elicit uncontrolled inflammation so characteristic in IBD patients.

“Our studies are leading to an understanding of the molecular mechanisms by which curcumin offers protection from the negative influence of inflammatory cells and the soluble mediators of inflammation on the integrity of the mucosal lining of the colon,” says Dr. Kiela.

“Our discoveries should apply not just to IBD, but many other inflammatory disorders associated with impaired gut barrier,” says Dr. Ghishan. “Discovering the mechanism of action at the molecular level will help us determine which clinical scenarios curcumin may have the most beneficial effect as a supportive therapy, and thus improve the quality of life for those suffering from inflammatory diseases.”

...studying how curcumin can decrease inflammation
Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are lifelong developmental disabilities characterized by repetitive behaviors and social and communication problems. Individuals with ASD have significant impairments in social and communication skills and unusual behaviors or interests. ASD begins in childhood and lasts a lifetime.

Often, a child isn’t diagnosed with autism until they are in elementary or middle school, when their achievement falls behind that of their classmates. However, earlier diagnosis and intervention have been shown to improve communication skills and curtail some negative behaviors.

Toward that end, the Steele Center recently received a $2.3 million four-year Cooperative Agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The “Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program” will continue its work on the identification of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and intellectual disabilities (ID) in Maricopa County, Arizona.

The study is being led by Steele Center pediatric geneticist Christopher Cunniff, MD. Additional team members include developmental and behavioral pediatrician Sydney Rice, MD, and epidemiologist Sydney Pettygrove, PhD, from the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health.

Arizona is one of 13 sites across the country participating in the study. The sites will provide comparable, population-based estimates of the number of children who have autism and related disorders in different sites over time.

Dr. Cunniff and his team will review the records of more than 6,000 children in Maricopa County to determine the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders and intellectual disabilities in that region.

“Eventually, we hope to come to a point where we can intervene with caregivers and pediatricians and give them information about how better to diagnose children in the early stages of autism and perhaps improve their outcomes,” says Dr. Rice.

“This information will give us accurate data about the characteristics of children who have these developmental disabilities and we will be able to document whether autism is indeed increasing, decreasing or staying the same,” says Dr. Cunniff.

He continues: “In our last investigation of children who were 8 years old in 2006, we reported that Arizona has a higher prevalence of ASD than many other states: about 1 in 83 children, compared to around 1 in 100 in other regions.”
Celebrating our Volunteer Groups

The Steele Children’s Research Center’s many volunteer groups gave our physicians, scientists and patients something to celebrate this year! Our work would not be possible without your continued support of our mission to teach, heal and discover.

PANDA (People Acting Now Discover Answers)
The Steele Center’s Phoenix Women’s Board continues to work diligently to improve children’s health. This year’s golf tournament and “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show netted more than $550,000 for the PANDA Children’s Cancer Immunology Program and the PANDA Children’s Neurological Center. The program seeks to further research into new treatment options for pediatric cancer patients.

Arizona Elks Major Projects
Raising funds dollar by dollar, the Arizona Elks contributed another $250,000 toward the Arizona Elks Endowed Chair in Neonatology. Their steadfast support has allowed for advancements in neonatal research that will make a real difference in the lives of babies.

Father’s Day Council Tucson
Father’s Day Council Tucson marked their 16th anniversary by honoring five exceptional fathers from the community and netting more than $200,000 for type 1 diabetes research and care at the Steele Center. The group also is well on its way to completing the Father’s Day Council Tucson Endowed Chair for Type 1 Diabetes and impacting the lives of children for years to come.

Kids of Steele
The Steele Center’s new family auxiliary, Kids of Steele, is only in its first year but already is thinking big. The group recruited 50 charter families, encouraged service-oriented projects, spread awareness about the Steele Center’s work and raised more than $12,000. We can’t wait to see what they do next!

Tee Up For Tots
More than a decade has gone by since Courtney Page Zillman passed away from neuroblastoma, but her family and the volunteers of Tee Up For Tots continue to be inspired by her memory. Proceeds from their annual golf tournament support pediatric cancer research and the TUFT Courtney Page Zillman Fellowship in hopes of one day finding a cure.

Runway for Research
Pediatric cancer patients, survivors and their siblings proudly strutted their stuff on the runway this year, raising funds for pediatric cancer research. Runway for Research raised $3,000 for the Steele Center and brought joy to children who have faced life’s toughest challenges.

Marisa Ann Gallego Foundation
The Marisa Ann Gallego Foundation proved this year that tragedy can create an exponential amount of goodwill.

Their second annual IMAGine A Cure Golf Tournament raised $10,000 for pediatric cancer research, doubling what they raised in 2009.

The Steele Center also celebrates the support of several new volunteer groups!

Founded in 2002 in Paradise Valley to honor three classmates that passed away from brain tumors, Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research established a branch at the UA in 2010. The group held a walk on campus that raised $6,000 for the Steele Center.

The Eller ELITE Program, made up of excelling pre-business freshman at the University of Arizona, participated in a marketing competition that resulted in over $1,000 raised for the Steele Center.

First year medical students at the University of Arizona formed MedCats Making Change to have a greater impact on their community. They held their first golf tournament in the fall, raising more than $2,000 for the Steele Center.
Facts & Figures

$1,840,712 was raised in FY09-10.

The UA Steele Children’s Research Center serves children throughout Arizona and neighboring states, focusing primarily on difficult-to-treat diseases like pediatric cancers, type 1 diabetes, autism spectrum disorders, congenital heart disease and gastrointestinal disorders such as Crohn’s disease and eosinophilic esophagitis.

Steele Center pediatricians and pediatric specialists conduct more than 60,000 patient visits a year, providing the cutting-edge care that only comes from being an academic research institution. Physician-scientists at the Steele Center focus on investigating the causes of pediatric diseases, and work to discover new treatments and therapies for children suffering with illness.

Federal and state grants help fund scientific investigation, but philanthropy is an important catalyst for nurturing new ideas because it serves as a springboard for securing government aid in the future.

Only 10 percent of all donations are used for development and fundraising efforts.

We thank each of our donors for their investment in the Steele Center and children’s health.
As the 20th anniversary of the Steele Children’s Research Center approaches, the Steele Foundation made a generous donation to renovate the administration offices, board room and other public spaces at the Steele Center.

“The goal of the Steele Foundation grant was to make the public areas more pleasant, professional and inviting,” said Marianne Cracchiolo Mago, president of the foundation. “I believe that the environment one works in needs to have some beauty and comfort in order to inspire. This renovation is a perfect way for us to show our support of the work done at the Steele Center.”

The color palette of the newly-renovated spaces is an array of light greens and browns—colors that make the areas feel contemporary, welcoming and professional. New signage and photography adorn the hallways—further creating a space that designates the Steele Center.

We are so grateful to the Steele Foundation for this beautiful gift.

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Ways You Can Make the World a Healthier Place for Children

Listed below are many ways you can make the world a healthier place for children. We are grateful for every donation made!

Contact Laura Hopkins at (520) 626-9618 or hopkins@peds.arizona.edu for more information.

| Annual Fund | The Annual Fund provides funding for the greatest needs at the Steele Center. You may also support a specific area of research or support an endowment, enabling your gift to give in perpetuity. |
| Cash Donations | Gifts of cash (made via check or credit card) are usually fully tax deductible for donors who itemize deductions. Go to www.steelecenter.arizona.edu and click on the “Make a Gift” button. |
| Matching Gifts | Many businesses and corporations match employees’ charitable gifts. Check to see if your company has a matching gift program to maximize the impact of your gift. |
| Gifts of Securities (Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds) | Gifts of appreciated securities can provide special tax advantages including a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift and avoidance of capital gains taxes. To make a gift of any security, instruct your broker or banker to transfer the security to The University of Arizona Foundation. For more information contact Lori Stratton at (520) 626-7799. |
| Estate Gifts | Bequests, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts are examples of some planned giving vehicles. |
| Corporate Gifts | Many local companies and corporations support the Steele Center. Some do this through holding fund raising events, making corporate contributions, or sponsoring an existing Steele Center event. |
| In-kind Gifts | Donations of toys, books, blankets, games and other items allow us to ease the stress of visits for children in our outpatient clinics |
Musings from a Steele Center Advisory Board Member

By Larry Ring

Some say timing is everything. Perhaps so. I joined the Steele Center advisory board just when Dr. Ghishan’s dream of a children’s hospital began to materialize. Now, thanks to the incredible generosity of the Diamond family, Diamond Children’s at University Medical Center proudly stands with the Steele Children’s Research Center by its side.

The Steele Center is recognized nationally for its ground-breaking research in pediatric cancer, diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, heart problems and other terrible illnesses that cause children to suffer.

It has attracted first-rate researchers and doctors for years. Now, with the state-of-the-art Diamond Children’s, even more of the best and brightest are applying to care for the sickest of our youth.

There are many wonderful pediatric medical centers around the country. However, few reach the elite level that includes a research facility. I know Diamond Children’s will be among the best, not just nationally, but globally, because the research conducted at the Steele Center is what distinguishes Diamond Children’s from other children’s hospitals.

It has been a humbling experience to be a small part in helping make this happen. There is no better feeling than seeing a dream come true, for Dr. Ghishan, the kids and for Tucson.

Susan and Larry Ring, with their grandchildren. From left: Bailey, Bridget, Susan, Larry, Ava, Mackenzie and Cole.

Faculty Highlights 2010

Mark Brown, MD, Professor, Section of Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology, received a 5-year, $1.725 million grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to continue serving as a regional and national resource center for the training and education of graduate students to provide care for children with chronic pulmonary disorders. Publications: Treatment options for the management of exercise-induce asthma and bronchoconstriction. *Physician and Sportsmedicine* 2010; 38:1-7; Asthma in pediatric patients: unmet needs and therapeutic options. *Clinical Pediatrics* 2010; 49:912-930.

Christopher Cunniff, MD, Professor, Section of Genetics; received a $1.7 million grant—the “Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to continue indentifying children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and intellectual disabilities (ID) in Maricopa County, Arizona; received a $600,000 two-year grant from the CDC to refine methods to investigate and collect baseline information on the development, health and condition progress in young children born with spina bifida.

Karen Davenport, MD, Assistant Professor, Section of General Pediatrics, appointed Co-medical Director of the Newborn Nursery at UMC.


Sean Elliott, MD, Section of Infectious Diseases, promoted to Professor; invited to speak and moderate at the symposium, “Antibiotic-Resistant Pathogens: An Emerging Pediatric Threat,” at the 50th Annual ICAAC conference in Boston, Mass.

Robert P. Erickson, MD, Professor, Section of Genetics, Publications: Interactions of Npc1 and...
amyloid accumulation/deposition in the APP/PS1 mouse model of Alzheimer’s. *Journal of Applied Genetics* (In press); Variation in NPC1, the gene encoding Niemann-Pick C1, a protein involved in intracellular cholesterol transport, is associated with Alzheimer disease and/or aging in the Polish population, *Neuroscience Letters*, 447:153-157.


**Kimberly Gerhart, MD**, Assistant Professor, appointed Section Chief, General Pediatrics.

**Roni Grad, MD**, Associate Professor, Section of Pulmonology, Allergy and Immunology; Publication: Cost-effectiveness of school-based asthma screening in an urban setting. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 2010;125:643-50.

**Cleo Hardin, MD**, Associate Professor, Section of Hospital Medicine and Outreach, presented with first-ever Senior Fellow in Hospital Medicine (SFHM) designation.

**Emmanuel Katsanis, MD**, Professor, Section of Hematology/Oncology, appointed Director of the UA College of Medicine’s MD/PhD training program. Publications: Signaling pathways induced by a tumor-derived vaccine in antigen presenting cells. *Immunobiology* 2010 July 215(7):535–544, Epub 2009 Oct 30; Allogeneic effector/memory Th-1 cells impair FoxP3+ regulatory T cells and synergize with chaperone-rich cell lysate vaccine to treat leukemia. *Blood*, Epub 2010 Jan 20.


**Sydney Rice, MD, MPH**, Section of Developmental Pediatrics, promoted to Associate Professor; received a $1.7 million grant – the “Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); received HRSA “LEND” planning grant for $150,000 to train professionals to improve the health status of infants, children and adolescents with or at risk for neurodevelopmental and related disabilities; received a $600,000 two-year grant from CDC to refine methods to investigate and collect baseline information on the development, health and condition progress from CDC to refine methods to investigate and collect baseline information on the development, health and condition progress in young children born with spina bifida.

The Department of Pediatrics Welcomed These New Faculty Members in the Calendar Year 2010

Priti Patel, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Endocrinology

Puja Gupta, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Hematology/Oncology

Rana Ammoury, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Lisa Kopp, DO  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Hematology/Oncology

Deepti Deshpande, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Hospital Medicine and Outreach

Ranjit Kylathu, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Neonatology

Valerie C. Ebert, DO  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Hospital Medicine and Outreach

David Nathalang, DO  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Critical Care

Rouba Garro, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Section: Nephrology

Gracie Wilcox, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Section: General Pediatrics
Department of Pediatrics Faculty, Calendar Year 2010
Fayez K. Ghishan, MD, Professor and Head

**Cardiology**
Section Chief: Ricardo Samson, MD
Professor
Brent Barber, MD
Associate Professor
Stan Goldberg, MD
Professor Emeritus
Scott Klewer, MD
Professor
Daniela Lax, MD
Associate Professor
Gregory Mike Nichols, MD
Clinical Lecturer
Santiago Valdés, MD
Assistant Professor

**General Pediatrics**
Section Chief: Kimberly Gerhart, MD
Associate Professor
Thomas Ball, MD
Professor
Kathryn Bowen, MD
Associate Professor
Conrad Clemens, MD
Associate Professor
Karen Davenport, MD
Assistant Professor
William Madden, MD
Associate Professor
William Marshall Jr., MD
Professor
Richard Wahl, MD
Professor
Gracie Wilcox, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

**Critical Care**
Section Chief: Andreas Theodorou, MD
Professor, Clinical Pediatrics
Marc Berg, MD
Associate Professor
Hillary Franke, MD
Assistant Professor
Mary Gaspers, MD
Assistant Professor
Michael Karadshesh, MD
Assistant Professor
Robyn Meyer, MD
Associate Professor
David Nathaliang, DO
Assistant Professor
Katri Typpo, MD
Assistant Professor

**Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics**
Sydney A. Rice, MD, MS
Associate Professor
Margaret Trouard, MD
Clinical Lecturer

**Endocrinology**
Section Chief: Mark Wheeler, MD
Associate Professor
Kurt Griffin, PhD, MD
Assistant Professor
Chetan Patel, MD
Assistant Professor
Priti Patel, MD
Assistant Professor

**Gastroenterology**
Section Chief: Hassan Hassan, MD
Professor
Rana Ammoury, MD
Assistant Professor
Fayez K. Ghishan, MD
Professor and Department Head

**Hematology/Oncology**
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Professor
Puja Gupta, MD
Assistant Professor
Lisa Kopp, DO
Assistant Professor
Nicolas Larmorier, PhD
Associate Professor
Brenda Wittman, MD
Assistant Professor

**Hospital Medicine/Outreach**
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Deepi Deshpande, MD
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Valerie Ebert, DO
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Nancy Gruchala, MD
Assistant Professor
Eliza Holland, MD
Lecturer
Chan Lowe, Jr., MD
Assistant Professor

**Infectious Diseases**
Section Chief: Ziad Shehab, MD
Professor
Jean Elliott, MD
Professor

**Neonatology**
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Professor
Bohuslav Dvorak, PhD
Professor
Edith Edde, DO
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**Nephrology**
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April 16
PANDA 12th Annual “Children Helping Children” Fashion Show
The Phoenician, Scottsdale

May 6
Father’s Day Council Tucson Golf Classic
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

May 21
Tee Up For Tots “A Fun Night Out!”
Omni Tucson National Resort

June 18
Fathers of the Year Awards Gala
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

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PANDA 4th Annual “Playing FORE PANDA” Golf Tournament
Phoenix, Arizona

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About the Steele Center Logo

Our logo is an incomplete puzzle, with a child in the center. The pieces to the puzzle represent everyone who is integral to improving children’s health…doctors, nurses, medical staff, researchers, families, volunteer groups, donors and others. We all can be a piece of the puzzle, working together to improve children’s health. The puzzle isn’t finished, because we can’t do it without YOU. Thank you for your support! To learn more about the Steele Center, please visit www.steelecenter.arizona.edu.