

New Physicians Join PCC, ED, Hem/Onc, And Cardiology

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is pleased to announce four physicians who have joined the medical center staff.

Christine Briccetti, MD, of Farmington, has joined the Primary Care Center.

Dr. Briccetti comes to Connecticut Children's from the Charleston Air Force Base Clinic in South Carolina where she served as the chief of pediatrics. She received her bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Dr. Briccetti is board-certified in pediatrics and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She has several years of experience in military and non-military pediatric settings around the world. Dr. Briccetti served as a member of the United States Air Force Pediatric Mobility Module, the only mobile pediatric care center prepared for rapid deployment worldwide in order to care for humanitarian or civilian casualties.

Sharon R. Smith, MD, of Canton, has joined Connecticut Children's as an attending physician in the Emergency Department where

she also will serve as the ED research director.

Dr. Smith comes to



Sharon R. Smith, MD

Connecticut Children's from St. Louis Children's Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine,

St. Louis, where she worked for the past 10 years. She also served as assistant program director of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program.

Dr. Smith received her bachelor's degree in biology

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PICU Nurse Awarded Hamilton Fellowship

Diane Krieger, RN, a nurse in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Connecticut Children's Medical Center has received the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD, Fellowship in



Diane Krieger, RN

Healthcare Management. The award is given by the Capital Area Health Consortium.

Krieger will apply the \$2,000 scholarship toward acquiring her master's degree in academic pediatric nursing. The fellowship is available to

individuals engaged in post-graduate study in the field of health care such as management, medicine, nursing and public health. Awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Such honors are not new to Krieger. Last year she and fellow PICU nurse **Tara Wesoloskie** received a Circle of Excellence award from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Krieger and Wesoloskie were only two of eight nurses in the country to receive the award.

There's No Business Like Snow Business Skiers Unlimited Celebrates Another Successful Year on The Slopes

By Michelle King
Public Relations
Intern

"You'd better watch out," **Steve Balcanoff** said to me, "It's good snowball weather and I'm known to the kids to throw snowballs."

Balcanoff also attracts a lot of snowballs on the slopes of Mount Southington during January and February. As a former recreational therapist, Balcanoff, manager of non-medical community programs for Connecticut Children's Medical Center, has been involved and coordinating the Skiers Unlimited program since the very beginning. It was not until



1984 that **Dennis Tyburski**, an engineer in the Center for Motion Analysis, joined the all-volunteer staff.

Skiers Unlimited began 23 years ago on the slopes of Mount Southington to create a new compliment to physical therapy for kids.

"There is a set three-year

limit so new kids can come in and participate in the program," said Balcanoff who added that the two winter months give the volunteers enough time to work progressively with the children. "One of our goals is to get the kids to be at a point where they can

ski on school trips or with their family. We've had more inquiries of participation this year than we ever have."

A capacity of 18 children has been set for the program this year to make sure each child

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2003-2004 CCMC Foundation Grants Department Total More Than \$1 Million

By Sandra D. Van Horn, MS

The 2003-2004 Fiscal Year was a very good one for the CCMC Foundation Grants Department. Thirty proposals were funded for a total of \$1,104,376.97. This edition of Small Talk provides an overview of the last 10 awards received during FY 2004. Congratulations to each deserving program!

Craniofacial Team

The Craniofacial Team is delighted to receive a \$5,000 grant from a new Foundation called **The Smile Train, Inc.** This foundation aims to "change the world one smile at a time," and their gift is doing just that, at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. A special purpose fund was established, allowing our team access to this generous gift for individual patient needs. The staff has elected to use the funds for a young boy in need of palatal expansion and orthodontic work so that he may then receive a bone graft procedure. One young boy, his family, and our staff all send a huge smile and thank you to The Smile Train!

Audiology

Thanks to a \$500 general support gift for the Audiology Department from the **John R. Lindberg Fund**, our audiologists will be able to upgrade their hearing aid lab by purchasing equipment to repair and service hearing aids. This gift was made in honor of Dillon Lindberg.

Unrestricted grants, such as this one, are critical to our Medical Center's mission and are used to help pay for the many services we provide that are not reimbursable via Medicaid or private insurance.

The Pediatric and Youth HIV Program

This department has recently received two foundation grants. **The Carla and Stephen Schwartz Family Foundation** has awarded \$5,000 to help support the part-time registered dietician salary and fringe and to purchase nutritional supplements.

Nutritional interventions can spare more invasive procedures like nasogastric tube feeds or g-tube placement.

The Swindells Charitable Foundation has granted \$5,000 to help support the salary and fringe for the teen population master's level social worker. The teens receive much-needed inspiration and support as they learn to face their diagnosis while dealing with the expected adolescent challenges of establishing a sense of identity and autonomy.

A special thanks to each of these foundations for understanding the importance of nutritional and social support for our HIV-positive patients.

Reach Out and Read

Five foundations recently provided funds for the books and related supplies needed for our Primary Care Center Reach Out and Read program. These foundations all understand the need for early literacy to help instill a love of learning and future school success. Thank you!
Ahearn Family Foundation: \$1,000
Ellis A. Gimbel

Trust: \$10,000
Keeney Foundation, Inc.: \$300
The William and Alice Mortensen Foundation: \$1,500
Scholastic, Inc.: \$500

SCAN

Did you know that in 2002 (the most recent year examined) 45,627 of Connecticut's children were reported as abused or neglected? The **RadioShack Corporation** has granted our Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect program \$500 to

purchase patient education and support materials to enhance public awareness

efforts. These materials will be used with approximately 200 families, monthly, when seen in primary care for routine medical care. Thank you, RadioShack!

If your program is in need of additional funding, please complete and submit the *Foundation Funding Request Form*. This form is located on the G drive (CCMCDoc, Foundation Forms,

Foundation Funding Request). Once the completed form is received, the Foundation team will determine if they can raise money for your request via a special project, grant, gift from an individual donor, corporate involvement, etc. The appropriate Foundation team member will then be in touch to discuss next steps. We look forward to helping you meet the needs of the children and families who rely on Connecticut Children's Medical Center for the very best of care.

May you, your patients, and all of our wonderful donors have a happy and healthy 2005!



Small Talk

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for employees of

**Connecticut Children's
Medical Center**

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Chris Boyle, Editor; Tom Hanley and
Nancy Roncaioli.

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Thank You To Our Volunteers!



Skiers Unlimited

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can get the attention that they need. As he comes speeding down the hill, Tyler Brobette, has a snowball in one hand and grasps the top of his walker with the other. The walker is attached to skis aiding 10-year-old Tyler, born premature with slight cerebral palsy, while he stands on his own skis. There are three volunteers surrounding him, two with tethers on each side of the walker and one skiing backwards in front of Tyler, to guide him. Tyler is in his last year of Skiers Unlimited.

When asked how he feels about skiing Tyler excitedly said, "I think it's a blast. I like going down the hill, skiing with people, going on the ski lift and throwing snowballs, especially at Steve."

The program runs solely on volunteer assistance and coordinates with volunteers from New Britain Hospital for Special Care, Quinnipiac University, and a variety of other places. Volunteers participate in a four-hour slope training course taught by Tyburski.

"We teach volunteers that the number one priority is to get the kids to smile. Everything else is a plus," Tyburski said.

Tom Lovell has been volunteering since 1987 with the Skiers Unlimited program and said: "I began because one of my friends was a volunteer and I thought I would like helping kids. Besides it's good for my karma."

"It's a combination of things," Balcanoff said. "You can't really point to the ski program and say this is the only thing helping them. I think 95 percent of kids seem to benefit from the program and are enthused about it. It is just one thing that shows the kids that they really can do things they thought they couldn't."

The Skiers Unlimited program would like to thank Mount Southington, and Dusty and Ed's Alpine Haus for their extreme generosity given to the program all the years.



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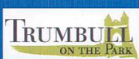
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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS - DAMON SCOTT, OUR IN-ARENA HOST &



Doctors

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from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. She received her medical degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC, and completed her pediatric residency at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Smith completed her fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at St. Louis Children's Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine.

Additionally, she is a National Institutes of Health—funded investigator. Her primary area of research is evaluating ways to link underserved children with asthma who come to the ED with their primary care providers. Dr. Smith's duties include developing and implementing clinical research projects within the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

She is an assistant professor of pediatrics

with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, and is board-certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Dr. Smith is a member of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, the Ambulatory Pediatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Nehal Parikh, MD, of Glastonbury, has joined the Division of Hematology/Oncology.



Nehal Parikh, MD

Dr. Parikh comes to Connecticut Children's from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where he completed his fellowship in hematology/oncology.

He received his bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from Rutgers University. Dr. Parikh earned his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies, and completed his pediatric residency at State University of New York.

Dr. Parikh is board-certified in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology. He also is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Parikh is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. His research in development of novel therapies for the treatment of neuroblastomas, a pediatric cancer, have garnered him William Kennedy Research Fellow Award from the National Childhood Cancer Foundation - Children's Oncology Group, and the American Cancer Society Fellowship Award. He has been invited speaker to several

national and international conferences. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, his research at University of Connecticut focuses on developing markers for early identification of pediatric cancers.

Richard A. Berning, MD, FAAP, FACC, of Sandy Hook, has joined Pediatric Cardiology Associates at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Dr. Berning will split his time between Connecticut Children's and Pediatric Heart Specialists LLC, a private practice in Newtown. Dr. Berning comes to Connecticut Children's from Bridgeport Hospital where he was an attending physician in pediatric cardiology. He received his bachelor's degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati and his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Dr. Berning completed his pediatric residency at Stanford University Hospitals, and his fellowship in

pediatric cardiology at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California at San Francisco. He is an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics with the University of Connecticut School of



Richard A. Berning, MD, FAAP, FACC

Dr. Berning is board-certified in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. He is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Diseases in the Young, the Connecticut State Medical Association, and the Fairfield County Medical Association. He also is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. His special interests include preventive pediatric cardiology, pediatric exercise testing and pediatric echocardiography.



WALTER CAMP PLAYERS A HIT: Fresh from his workouts for NFL scouts in California, former University of Connecticut quarterback Dan Orlovsky visited Connecticut Children's Medical Center this week as part of the annual visit from the Walter Camp All American Football Team. Orlovsky signed autographs and posed for photos for patients and families including Greg Thomas and his mom Susan.