HOSPITAL NEWS

Meet the New Members of the Medical Staff:
Gina-Marie Barletta, MD, Nephrology, PCMG
Veronica Bordes-Edgar, PhD, Psychology, PCMG
John E. Culp III, DMD, Dentistry
Colin P. Goggins, MD, Orthopaedics
William W. Holland, MD, Family Medicine
William D. Leighton, MD, Plastic Surgery
Andrew Little, MD, Neurosurgery
Sachin Mehta, MD, Ophthalmology
Stephen G. Pophal, MD, Cardiology
Kimberly Sherrill, DDS, Pediatric Dentistry

Children's Neuroscience Institute Updates: P. David Adelson, MD, FACS, FAAP, director of the Hospital's Children's Neuroscience Institute (CNI), was recently awarded a grant from Baxter for $123,863 over two years to support his traumatic brain injury (TBI) basic science project titled, “Experimental Post-Traumatic Epileptogenesis.”

There is increasing evidence that the response of the developing brain to TBI, due to anatomic, metabolic, molecular, and physiologic differences, changes at different maturational ages.

Adelson's overall hypothesis on this project is that in a brain that develops post-traumatic seizures, there is an inherent susceptibility, either due to genetics, earlier insults, or a brain in development that leads to chronic seizures and epilepsy. Additionally, Adelson hypothesizes as this epileptogenesis evolves after TBI it will be detectable early with specific serum and/or tissue biomarkers in advance of the electroencephalographic changes and provide an opportunity for the development of novel early therapeutic interventions that could lead to a direct treatment option.

In related news, Jeffrey Buchhalter, MD, division chief of Neurology and director of the Hospital’s Pediatric epilepsy Program, recently co-authored the study, “EEG and Neuroimaging Studies in Young Children Having Epilepsy Surgery,” which aimed to evaluate the yield of electroencephalography and structural and functional neuroimaging in children having resective epilepsy surgery before 5 years of age.

Also, Buchhalter and neurologist Randa Jarrar, MD, recently collaborated with researchers at Arizona State University on another study, “Knowledge about epilepsy and confidence in instructing students with epilepsy: Teachers’ responses to a new scale.” In the study, 91 current teachers of a student with epilepsy and 203 teachers in general were surveyed using a new scale. As expected, more knowledgeable teachers expressed greater confidence. Results suggest that some facts about epilepsy require additional dissemination to educators.