

The Pulse of Pediatrics in Rhode Island

SHARON W. SU, MD, FAAP
GUEST EDITOR

Sharon W. Su, MD, served as assistant professor of pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. She recently relocated to Portland, Oregon, to become medical director in pediatric nephrology at Randall Children's Hospital and affiliate assistant professor of pediatrics at Oregon Health and Science University.



I was invited to introduce hot topics in pediatrics presenting in Rhode Island. Many exciting and innovative projects and services are currently underway in the Department of Pediatrics at Hasbro Children's Hospital, a major teaching hospital for the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Below is a sampling of local issues that are being addressed by its pediatric faculty.

Articles at a glance:

Health Care for Gender Variant or Gender Non-Conforming Children

Dr. Michelle Forcier and Emily Haddad, LCSW, aim to educate healthcare providers regarding a very high-risk and vulnerable population – children who exhibit gender non-conforming behaviors persisting into adolescence. They argue that early recognition, collaboration among medical providers, and supportive family interventions may improve social and mental health outcomes for these children.

Preschool-aged Wheezing

Dr. Nico Vehse re-addresses a common but often misinterpreted physical finding – wheezing. He reiterates the old adage, “all that wheezes is not asthma,” by delineating the difference between bronchiolitis and pre-school asthma.

Health Care Transition in Rhode Island for Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs: A report on the development and use of a clinical transition service

As children with chronic illnesses survive into adulthood, pediatricians are faced with the challenge of transitioning these patients over to adult medical care. Dr. Sue McLaughlin and colleagues tackle this emerging problem by developing a pilot program that offers multidisciplinary transition services to healthcare providers in Rhode Island.

Health Screening of Newly Resettled Refugees in a Primary Care Setting

The federal Refugee Act of 1980 has resulted in more than 4300 refugees resettling in Rhode Island. Dr. Sylvia LaCourse and her colleagues discuss the success of the Medicine/Pediatrics Primary Care Center (MPPCC), an outpatient residency clinic at Rhode Island Hospital, in providing medical care to newly resettled adult and adolescent refugees since October 2008.

Building International Collaborations from the Ground Up: Brown University Partnership in Haiti and Ukraine

Global health is one of the fastest growing fields in medicine, particularly in the area of medical education. For over a decade, the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University has been a leader in global health. Dr. Natasha Rybak and her colleagues continue Brown's legacy in global health by discussing the development of 2 international medical programs – Haiti and Ukraine – and sharing the lessons they learned during the process.