



DOWNSTATE TIMES

ISSUE 19 ★ NOVEMBER 2013
The Newsletter for SUNY Downstate
University Hospital of Brooklyn



Bordetella Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

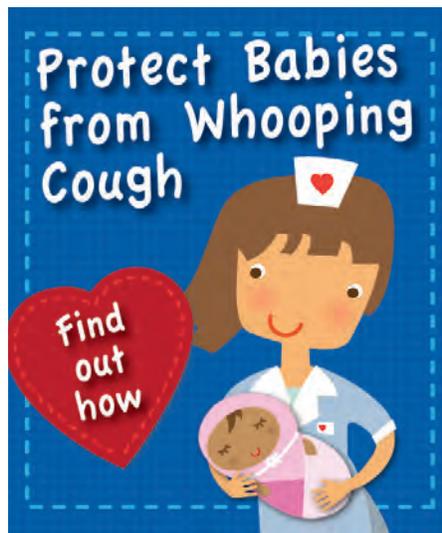
By Leone Waltrous, MD, MPH
Clinical Assistant Professor, Obstetrics
and Gynecology

Cases of Bordetella Pertussis (the cause of whooping cough), rose significantly between 2009 and 2012 across the United States. According to the New York State Department of Health and the CDC, New York State has the dubious honor of having the third highest number of cases nationally.

From 2011 when 900 cases were documented, the number of cases in New York State ballooned to 2,649 in 2012. Due to an aggressive campaign launched by the Department of Health to immunize the public, the number of cases has decreased for 2013.

What is the cause of this seemingly quiet storm?

Waning immunity is one of the suspects. Some experts believe that the protection from the pertussis vaccine we received as children lasts only 5 to 10 years on average. So as adults, we need



Courtesy CDC.

in 2012, 15 infant deaths were reported. The majority of these were in children less than 3 months of age. These deaths were preventable.

Since children lack immunity until their first Tdap shot at the age of 3 months, it is important for the adults caring for and surrounding them to be immunized to protect themselves and

A potentially deadly bacterial infection of the respiratory track is on the rise. At Downstate, Dr. Joseph Osho and Dr. Leone Waltrous are leading a campaign to raise awareness of the need for vaccination among pregnant mothers and infant children.

to get vaccinated with Tdap.

The sad problem is that our children are the ones in danger. Nationwide, last year 110 babies under 1 year of age were affected. Unlike other years, no deaths were reported so far in 2013. However,

the baby from becoming ill. This is called "cocooning." This same concept applies to the influenza vaccine. Babies cannot be immunized with the influenza vaccine until the age of 6 months.

Breast Cancer Walk

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Over 100 members of the Downstate community participated in the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Sunday," held October 20th in Prospect Park. Collectively, Downstate teams raised \$14,627 and still counting -- contributions are still being accepted until the end of the year.

"It was a great day for a great cause," said Betty Jung, RN patient educator in the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness, who coordinated UHB's efforts for the 4.6-mile walk. "Downstate came out in force, to show support for research and for patients and their families who have been affected by this disease."

Monica B. Coronado, RN, BSN, CNOR, deputy director of perioperative services, and her team from Perioperative Services were among the top fundraisers for the event, with \$5,591 raised. Students from Downstate's Colleges of Medicine and Nursing also supported the event.

Downstate's participation was featured on Brooklyn News 12 and the Ditmas Park Patch online community newspaper.

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Rehab Medicine Gears Up for Recertification



Staff on the Rehab Unit, located on Nursing Station 74, study for FIM recertification. (L to r): Seung Park-Shin, MD; Irina Dekhtyar, DPT, MPH; Nicholas Gritsik, DPT; Rebecca Malchie, OTR/L; Sylvia Sillo, RN; Leandre Descartes, HCA II; Rochel Zucker, third year PT student (seated at rear); Reesa Antony, SLP; and Ramon Rosales, DPT.

The staff of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine has been honing its skills in use of the Functional Independence Measure (FIM), in preparation for recertification of the unit in December. The unit has been holding twice weekly training sessions in which staff test each other's skills.

"FIM is a scoring document that is used to collect data on each and every patient admitted to the rehab unit," explains Debra Dickstein, OTR/L, administrative director, Rehabilitation Unit. "It measures the level of a patient's disability, and helps us determine the burden of care for each patient to assist us in determining how much aid a patient may need to carry out activities of daily living and functional activities."

Patients are scored on 18 motor and cognitive tasks at both admission and discharge. The scores, graded 1 to 7, help determine projected length of stay as well as reimbursement levels by Medicare and other insurance payors. FIM scores also guide staff in setting rehabilitation goals for patients and in creating treatment plans to meet those goals.

Whooping Cough continued from page 1

In 2012, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a law which "require(s) all general hospitals with newborn nurseries or obstetric services to offer and provide vaccination against Bordetella Pertussis (whooping cough) to parents and anticipated caregivers of all newborns being treated in the hospital following their births." Physician endorsement and high staff vaccination rates are two of the strategies that will lead to success.

Our obligation to successfully treat our patients is paramount. Do not forget that in this era of pay-for-performance that our reimbursement will depend not only upon patient satisfaction scores, but also the ability to implement evidence-based guidelines into our practices.

By our actions in this regard, let us make apparent to our community that SUNY Downstate continues to serve our patients.

Here at SUNY Downstate, a multi-disciplinary team including Infection Control, Performance Improvement, Regulatory Affairs, Pharmacy, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Nursing, Employee Health, Registration,

Billing and Pediatrics has been meeting to discuss effective ways to accomplish our goals. To date, lectures have been given to nurses on Labor & Delivery, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Housekeeping, and the Hospital Police Force. A presentation was made to the Provision of Care Committee and to the Executive Performance Improvement Committee.

Cards with bullets about Tdap on one side, and the influenza vaccine on the other, are handed to the patients in the Suite G Ambulatory Unit to promote discussions between the patients and medical providers. Another successful intervention utilized at other hospitals, and one under consideration here, is having pre-printed orders in the post-partum area.

The group is in the process of developing policies and procedures to address this issue. A follow-up presentation to the Provision of Care Committee on needed policy revisions should take place in the upcoming weeks. Hopefully the dedication from this group, and the emergence of more champions, will make this a satisfying and productive collaboration.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The pertussis vaccine does not provide lifetime immunity.
- Infants and young children are much more susceptible to serious complications from pertussis.
- Pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and asthma, are also more susceptible to serious complications.
- Booster vaccines should be given to children at age 11 or 12; adults should also consider them.
- Pertussis is reportable to the NYS Department of Health.

Breast Cancer Walk

See Downstate Times Online for more photos.

7 teams from Downstate participated:

Team

Downstate for Double D's
 Perioperative Team
 Center for Health Promotion and Wellness
 Adam's Striders
 The Tender Hearts at Downstate
 Team Fenimore
 SUNY Downstate Ob/Gyn Society

Team Leader

Gabrielle Fridman
 Monica Coronado
 Betty Jung
 Selina Adams
 Denise A. Reid
 Marlene Ferguson
 Kolbe Hancock



The SUNY Downstate team.



Denise Rolston, MA, RN, CCRN, from Cardiothoracic Surgery, walked with her cousin's son.



Downstate's Breast Cancer Tribute Quilt. Squares were donated by the hospital and campus community, as well as by the community at large, and sewn together by Lucy Grassi, budget director for the School of Public Health.



Allison Attong-Rogers is a 2012 Downstate retiree, but she still continues to support Downstate's team.



College of Nursing students Kristine Mnatsakanyan, RN, and Michaela Adi, RN.



Monica Coronado, RN, BSN, CNOR, deputy director of nursing, Peri-Operative Services, is pictured (center) with her dogs, German Shepherd Gretel, walking for her 4th year, and Tea Cup Terrier Boo, who has participated in the walk for 13 years. Surrounding Ms. Coronado, l to r, are Olive Nelson, Rehab; Natalie Baker, OPD; Mary Jane Torres, RN, CCU and her mother, Zosima Torres; and Cory Florece, RN, IV team.

DEPARTMENT AND STAFF NEWS

Audrée A. Bendo, MD, distinguished service professor and executive vice chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, was named chair for the American Society of Anesthesiologists 2013 annual meeting, the largest scientific meeting of anesthesiologists in the world. The meeting was held in San Francisco, October 12-16, 2013, and over 15,000 people attended.

Todd Sacktor, MD, distinguished professor of physiology and pharmacology and of neurology, was given the honor of delivering the 2013 American Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting's prestigious John W. Severinghaus Lecture on Translational Science. This award recognizes physician scientists who perform groundbreaking translational research. Dr. Sacktor's lecture was titled "Understanding What Happens to Memory During Anesthesia."

Brahim Chaqour, PhD, associate professor of cell biology and ophthalmology, was an invited speaker at the Seventh International CCN Society Meeting held in Nice, France. (CCN is an acronym for a family of six regulatory proteins.) Dr. Chaqour's presentation described new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of ocular

neovascularization, a leading cause of vision impairment worldwide. His presentation included studies from his laboratory on new molecules currently in pre-clinical development stages to reduce/prevent ocular neovascular and fibrovascular complications associated with ischemic retinopathies.

Arthur Grant, MD, PhD, associate professor of neurology, has been volunteering since 1996 with Physicians for Human Rights Asylum Network, a group of physicians and other healthcare professionals who examine individuals applying for political asylum in the US in order to provide professional documentation of prior torture, rape, mutilation and other atrocities. Dr. Grant was acknowledged for remarkable service by PHRAN for providing over 30 pro bono forensic evaluations for asylum seekers, almost all of which have had positive outcomes. In addition, Dr. Grant serves as a mentor for new Network members.

The 2013 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress, held in Washington, DC, in October, accepted five scientific paper presentations authored by Downstate surgical residents, who presented their work at competitive surgical forum, scientific panel, and poster sessions.



Marc LaFonte, MD, PGY-3
Identification of Reg1 as a NJOvel Stellate Cell Activator in Regenerating Pancreas (Surgical Forum).
PAP1/Reg3b Dependant MAPK Activation Mediates Pancreatic Regeneration after Partrial Pancrectomy in Mouse (Surgical Forum).



Brian Tiu, MD, PGY-3
Positive Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) Screening by Nasal Swab Is an Independent Predictor of Mortality (Scientific Paper Session).



Svetlana Kleyman, MD, PGY-4
The Role of Evidence-Based Medicine in Surgical Education (Poster Presentation)



Christopher Turner, MD, PGY-5
Bethany Malone, Medical Student (4th Year)
A Structured Daily Teaching Curriculum of Medical Students Improves the NBME Shelf Examination Performance (Surgical Forum).



Downstate Honored by the Association of Black Cardiologists



Cardiovascular Chief Dr. Jeffrey Borer, with ABC President Dr. Ola Akinboboye, and ABC Board Chair Dr. Phillip Duncan.

Downstate has been honored by the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) with its Diversity in Cardiology Award, presented during the organization's annual awards dinner, "Saving Hearts

for Generations," held in September. **Jeffrey Borer, MD**, chief of cardiovascular medicine, accepted the award on behalf of the division and Downstate. The award recognized Downstate for extraordinary community impact and for its institution-wide efforts to increase diversity in the field of cardiology. **Ruth Browne, ScD, MPH**, chief executive officer of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health, and **Josheila Crandall**, administrator, Department of Medicine, also attended.

Additional honorees at the event included Dr. Richard Allen, a 1962 COM graduate of Downstate, who founded ABC in 1974.

DOWNSTATE TIMES

Published by the Department of Policy and Planning, Division of Institutional Advancement

Volume 1, Issue 19

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