Le Bonheur welcomes new chief of Nephrology

John Bissler, MD, recently joined Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital as the new chief of pediatric nephrology. Bissler comes to Memphis from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, where he served as the Clark D. West Chair of Nephrology and associate program director for Research and Academic Careers. Bissler received his medical training at Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Children’s Medical Center, Akron, and his nephrology fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s.

Board certified in pediatrics and nephrology in Memphis, Bissler also serves as a professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. His research interests include proliferative renal diseases, polycystic kidney disease, tuberous sclerosis complex, Von Hippel-Lindau disease, Birt Hogg-Dube syndrome and renal cancers.

Bissler replaces Robert Wyatt, MD, who retired as chief after 29 years in the division. Wyatt will continue to see outpatients, conduct research and teach.

Le Bonheur research published in New England Journal of Medicine

Pediatric Nephrologist Robert Wyatt, MD, is finding noninvasive ways to properly diagnose, monitor and treat kidney inflammation. His research was featured in a Medical Progress report — “IgA Nephropathy” — published in the New England Journal of Medicine in June. IgA nephropathy is the most prevalent primary chronic glomerular disease worldwide.

“Previously, the required method for diagnosing this disease was a painful and expensive kidney biopsy,” said Wyatt. “Over the past decade, advances in analytic approaches have provided better insight into the molecular mechanism of this disease. These advances offer the potential for noninvasive tests for diagnosis and monitoring of disease activity and an opportunity to envision disease-specific therapy.”

His co-author is Bruce A. Julian, MD, of the Department of Medicine at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

The Lancet study offers TSC-associated angiomyolipomas treatment

Everolimus – a rapamycin derivative – could be a potential treatment for angiomyolipomas associated with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), according to a study recently published in The Lancet by Le Bonheur Nephrologist John Bissler, MD.

Common in patients with TSC and sporadic lymphangioleiomyomatosis, angiomyolipomas are slow-growing tumors that cause serious complications including retroperitoneal hemorrhage and impaired renal function.

The double-blind, placebo-controlled study included 118 patients from 24 centers in 11 countries and was funded by Novartis Pharmaceuticals.
Publications


Publications and Presentations: 2013


Nephrology Team:

John Bissler, MD, Chief
Betina Ault, MD
Russell Chesney, MD
Noel Delos Santos, MD
Margaret Colleen Hastings, MD
Robert Wyatt, MD