24th Frank M. Norfleet Executive Forum on Health to focus on childhood obesity

Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, the Children’s Foundation Research Institute and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) will host Addressing Our Pediatric Obesity Epidemic: Research to Health Policy on April 5. The meeting will bring together pediatric researchers, health care providers and other stakeholders – all in an effort to focus on the causes and risk factors associated with childhood obesity and identify treatment and policy strategies that can help combat the epidemic.

The session is made possible by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis’ Frank M. Norfleet Executive Forum on Health – an endowed fund created in 1979 with a gift from Dunbar Abston Sr. in honor of Frank M. Norfleet. The forum is part of a new collaborative initiative under way in Memphis to address childhood obesity, a major public health problem, especially in the Mid-South.

“To me, pediatric obesity is the No. 1 problem in Memphis because it drives so much of the chronic disease in terms of high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea, joint orthopedic problems and so on,” said Jon McCullers, MD, pediatrician-in-chief at Le Bonheur and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC.

For more information about the forum or to register, call (901) 516-8933 or visit www.methodistmd.org.

Le Bonheur to offer research grants

Le Bonheur Children’s is instituting a Research Grants program designed to promote meritorious clinical and basic investigation within the hospital. Le Bonheur medical and nursing staff – as well as investigators in the Children’s Foundation Research Institute – are eligible to apply for grant support through the program.

Funds, at $25,000 to $50,000 each, will be offered this year to support up to three junior faculty members in the development of their research programs. The remainder of the funds will be used to fund smaller projects – from $5,000 to $10,000 each, depending on the number and quality of applicants.

Applicants can submit their requests through noon on April 30. Forms are available at www.lebonheur.org/research-and-education/research/ or in the Children’s Foundation Research Center at Le Bonheur, Room 471R. For more information, contact Sheon Lynch at sheon.lynch@lebonheur.org or (901) 287-5355.
Pediatric Research Day Poster Winners

The fifth annual Pediatric Research Day, held Nov. 14, 2012, with nearly 200 attendees. Congratulations to the outstanding poster winners:

- PRD 522 - David F. Bruhn
  Spectinamides: A novel series of safe and effective antitubercular antibiotics that overcome native efflux

- PRD 561 - Ranjit K. Thirumaran
  Intestinal CYP3A4 and midazolam disposition in vivo shows seasonal variation and is associated with vitamin D receptor genetic polymorphisms

- PRD 502 - Weiqiang Zhang
  A young Hispanic with SS49N mutation exhibits severe cystic fibrosis lung disease: ivacaftor as a potential option for therapy

- PRD 537 - Sandeep Chilakala
  The effects of prolonged hypercapnia on cerebrovascular reactivity in newborn pigs

- PRD 551 - Eszter Völgyi
  Influence of maternal diet patterns during pregnancy on neurocognitive functioning at two years

- PRD 514 - Errin M. Newman
  Design and implementation of CHAMP: Changing high-risk asthma in Memphis through partnership

Medical student winners

- MS 504 - Nikhil Panda
  Anti-angiogenic effect of standard of care chemotherapy in subtypes of neuroblastoma

- MS 508 - Shannon Niedermeyer
  New generation vaccines against Group A streptococcal infections

- MS 509 - Karen Wong
  Characterization of the PI3K, MAPK/ERK, and p38 MAPK pathways in pediatric and adult melanoma: Differences more than skin deep?

Children’s Foundation of Memphis gives $4 million for research

The Children’s Foundation of Memphis (CFOM) has donated $4 million to Le Bonheur to fund research support and infrastructure in the Children’s Foundation Research Institute (CFRI). The group has pledged $4 million, with $2 million designated as a challenge grant intended to encouraging matching gifts from other groups.

The Children’s Foundation’s gift will provide for infrastructure and support for newly recruited physician scientists, new equipment and technology, and grant support for junior faculty and young investigators. The funds will be combined with research funding commitments from Le Bonheur and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC).

The Children’s Foundation Research Institute was established in 1994 by CFOM, Le Bonheur and UTHSC. Established in 1982, the Children’s Foundation promotes the health and well-being of children in the Memphis area through clinical research.

CFRI Publications Oct-Dec 2012