Bissler recognized for TSC work

John Bissler, MD, chief of Pediatric Nephrology at Le Bonheur, recently received Tuberous Sclerosis Complex International’s research award for his work with Chinese patients with tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC). Bissler received the award at the 2014 International Research Conference on TSC/LAM in Beijing.

Bissler also received 2014 Manual R. Gomez award from the TS Alliance for his extraordinary scientific and humanitarian efforts to find a cure for TSC, while improving the lives of those affected.

Bissler is co-leader of the hospital’s TSC Center of Excellence, which treats TSC patients and conducts research.

RIVUR study: Antibiotics reduce UTIs for kids with reflux

Le Bonheur’s Chesney co-authors NEJM study

A study published in May’s New England Journal of Medicine showed that long-term antimicrobial prophalaxis can significantly reduce the risk of recurrent urinary tract infection in children with vesicoureteral reflux. The findings are part of the national RIVUR (Randomized Intervention for Children with Vesicoureteral Reflux) trial.

The study – funded by the National Institutes of Health – was co-authored by Le Bonheur Children’s Nephrologist Russell Chesney, MD, who serves as chairman of the RIVUR study steering committee.

“We hope these findings will help inform physicians – and parents – on the best ways to treat children with reflux who develop urinary tract infections, depending on their grade of reflux,” said Chesney. “We also think this may lead to more debate about the need for imaging studies in children with reflux.”

Research uses novel models to find prevention therapies for TSC-associated renal disease

Nephrology Chief John Bissler, MD, recently received funding from the United States Department of Defense to identify therapies to prevent tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC)-related renal disease. His research will use novel models that phenocopy human renal disease.

The new models are the next step in Bissler’s research, after he published a study this year citing evidence for pericyte origin of TSC-associated renal angiomyolipomas and implications for angiotensin receptor inhibition therapy.

Atherton brings additional expertise to team

Pediatric Nephrologist Jim Atherton, MD, MS, has joined Le Bonheur’s Nephrology team. Atherton completed residency and fellowship training at Le Bonheur and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Atherton also recently received a master’s degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Memphis – training that will add much value to the Nephrology team.

Multidisciplinary clinic cares for children with kidney, urinary tract anomalies

Le Bonheur Children’s Nephrologist David Hains, MD, formed a monthly CAKUT (Congenital Anomalies of the Kidney and Urinary Tract) clinic in June. The clinic brings specialists from nephrology and urology together in one setting to care for children with chronic kidney disease, recurrent urinary tract infections (UTI) and other anomalies.

“Children with congenital anomalies of the kidney and urinary tract present unique and complex medical issues that require a multidisciplinary approach,” said Hains. “By having a team of subspecialists all see a patient and their family in one visit, a collective plan can be discussed amongst the family and medical team and implemented.”

Hains is director of Le Bonheur’s Innate Immunity Translational Research Center. His lab has received National Institutes of Health funding to determine how genetic factors play a role in recurrent UTIs in children with vesicoureteral reflux.
Nephrology Update is a publication of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital.

John Bisler, MD Chief
Jim Atherton, MD
Bettina Ault, MD
Russell Chesney, MD
Noel Delos Santos, MD
David Hains, MD
Margaret Colleen Hastings, MD
Robert Wyatt, MD

About Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital

- 255-bed free-standing children’s hospital in Memphis, Tenn.
- Ranked as a best children’s hospital by U.S. News & World Report
- Designated Level 1 pediatric trauma center by the American College of Surgeons
- Pediatric partner of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
- 24-suite FedExFamilyHouse provides housing for families who travel long distances to Memphis

Publications and Presentations: 2014


Bissler. 47th Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Nephrology (ESPN), Porto, Portugal, September 10-13, 2014.


Bissler. 71st ERA-EDTA European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplantation Association Congress, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, June 4-8, 2014.


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