

The History of the Department of Pediatrics

at
The University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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Preface

The Department of Pediatrics at the institution now known as The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas was born because Baylor Medical College moved to Houston, Texas, in [1943](#). Some of the Baylor faculty were not enthusiastic about translocation and a group of local businessmen decided that it was important for Dallas to have a medical school. With the support of Southwestern Medical Foundation, which had been formed in 1939 by E.H. Carey, Southwestern Medical College was formed.



UT Southwestern Medical School - 1943



Parkland Baby Camp

The history of the department has been intimately intertwined with that of Parkland Memorial Hospital and Children's Hospital since its inception. The first pediatric facility in Dallas was a unit called Baby Camp (1913), followed by the Presbyterian Clinic, later called the Richmond Freeman Clinic, which evolved into Children's Hospital and was located a block from Parkland Hospital, the city-county hospital for the medically indigent. Bradford Babies Hospital, a Spanish hacienda style structure, was built in 1929 a block from the Children's Hospital. Care for indigent children provided by community pediatricians and surgeons was facilitated by the propinquity of the three medical facilities and they formed the core of the clinical teaching venues. The departmental offices and research laboratories were housed in U.S. Army barracks buildings situated behind Parkland Hospital at the intersection of Maple and Oak Lawn Avenues when Southwestern Medical College was established.



Bradford Babies
Hospital

The histories of Children's Medical Center and of the medical school are recorded elsewhere. What follows is a history of the Department of Pediatrics.

Overview

Any pediatrics department in a medical school evolves through stages of development analogous to the developmental stages of a newborn child progressing through infancy, childhood and adolescence toward maturity. The history of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is presented in that sequence in this record.

The cast of characters is an integral part of any history and the leading players in this story are the faculty members. I was astonished to discover that personnel records of faculty

and staff are discarded by UT Southwestern, Children's Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital after six years, leaving no verifiable record of the tenure dates. I have been at this institution since 1957 so I have more than 50 years of memory augmented by personal documents and photographs, recollections of other aged colleagues whose memory banks can still be tapped, records provided by Helen Mayo and Bill Maina of UT Southwestern's Library and major help from the comprehensive history of the medical school compiled by George Race. Suffice it to say that the dates and names are as accurate as is feasible given the limiting circumstances.

The 1940s - Newborn and Infancy



H. Leslie Moore

In 1943 Hugh Leslie Moore was named the first Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, and in 1944 Tinsley R. Harrison, the famed editor of the textbook of medicine, was named Dean of the medical school.

The budget for the entire medical school in July, 1943, was \$250,000. The top professors' annual salary was \$5,000, and most faculty members received \$300 per month. Without voluntary work by community physicians clinical teaching would have been financially and physically impossible.

Records of the Dallas County Medical Society provide the names of the private pediatricians who formed the cadre of teachers in 1943. Many of these stalwarts were still volunteering their teaching skills twenty years later.

- Professors: Hugh Leslie Moore and John Garnett Young
- Associate Professors: Gladys J. Fashena, Jo Shirley Hodges, Percy Edgar Luecke, Gordon McFarland, Robert Leslie Moore, and Harold Thompson Nesbit
- Assistant Professors: John E. Ashby, William M. Bradford, Fred S. Bruchsalter (later spelled Brooksaler), John Elbert Dunlap, Guy Leon Hacker, Bruce A. Knickerbocker, Halcuit Moore, Ramsey H. Moore, and Jack Furman Perkins
- Instructors: Anthony Louis Alfieri, Robert Arthur Knox, George S. Littell, George Leslie Porter, and Dorothy Wyvell

Gladys Fashena and Fred Brooksaler were full-time faculty members and became the most honored teachers in the history of the department in terms of awards from students and residents.

The initial pediatrics curriculum for third year students was 55 hours of "lectures and recitations" on the normal infant and child, methods of examination, general care and feeding of the growing infant and the diseases of children conducted by Dr. McFarland assisted by Doctors Fashena and Young. The fourth year pediatrics curriculum comprised 77 hours in the Dispensary, 48 hours of clinic and ward bedside instruction, eight hours on feeding of normal infants at Hope Cottage, an adoption facility, and four hours in clinics at Children's Hospital and Bradford Hospital.



Gladys
Fashena

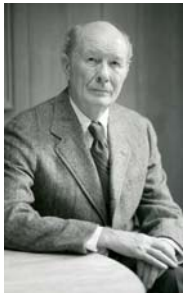


Fred
Brooksaler

Annual tuition was \$525, hospitalization \$8, optional year book \$5 and graduation fee \$25. Expenses for books, instruments, including microscope, and supplies were estimated at \$500 for the first year and \$100 annually for subsequent years. There was no breakage deposit but students were charged for breaking things.

Throughout the first years of the department, the Chairman, H. Leslie Moore, was in almost full time private practice. There is no record of research being done or published.

The 1950s - Childhood



Gilbert Forbes

Ownership of Southwestern Medical College was transferred to the University of Texas in 1949. Gilbert Forbes became Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics as a full-time faculty member in 1950 and began assembling other full-time members. This marked the beginnings of the full scope of lectures and bedside teaching, clinical research and bench research that characterize a functioning department.

An important development in the 1950s was the naming of Children's Medical Center as the Texas center for diagnosis and correction of congenital heart defects, the so-called crippled children's program, with Gladys Fashena as the titular head of the program. Dr. Fashena was trained as a clinical pathologist; she was a superb clinician and teacher and she evolved into a skilled cardiologist. Alvis Johnson and his trainee, Kathryn Willis, actually ran the cardiac program. Although they were employees of the hospital and never faculty members, they were de facto faculty in that they established an excellent cardiology program and taught a generation of pediatric residents. This was the onset of the era when congenital cardiac defects could be corrected, surgically a landmark time in pediatrics.



UT Southwestern Medical School - 1956

The 1950s also brought the first pediatric surgeon, George Dorman, who had been trained by the famous C. Everett Koop. Dr. Dorman was joined a couple of years later by Theodore Votteler, also a Dr. Koop trainee, who ran the pediatric surgery program for many years. The excellence of surgery was a boon for the overall pediatrics program.



Edward Pratt

Edward Pratt replaced Dr. Forbes as Chairman in 1954. He was more successful than his predecessor in recruiting faculty, and by the end of the 1950s there were faculty trained in neonatology, rheumatology, infectious disease, hematology and oncology. They were doing clinical research and publishing. It was beginning to look like a real department of pediatrics.

In 1958 clinical departments moved to the new clinical sciences building on the site of the present day campus of the medical school. The school was growing. There were about 150 full-time faculty members, including nine in

pediatrics. The resident pediatric house staff numbered 16 by the end of the 1950s. There was optimism that UT Southwestern was developing into a good school with much camaraderie among basic science and clinical faculties. Everyone knew everyone else by first name and there was great interchange of knowledge and collaborative work.

Each entering class numbered about 110 students and tuition remained low — miniscule by today's standards — at about \$600 per year. The State of Texas was generous in its support of medical education. Faculty salaries were fully funded by the State and faculty did not bill patients for their services; it was *pro bono* work. Those financial wonders did not survive the ensuing decades.

The 1960s and 1970s - Adolescence

Dr. Pratt had established a solid nucleus on which his successor, Heinz Eichenwald, was able to guide the department towards its full potential. Dr. Eichenwald had the longest tenure to date of any Chairman, the 17 years from 1964 to 1981. Faculty members increased to almost one hundred, the residency program grew rapidly to more than 50 house staff, fellowship programs developed in many subspecialty areas, research flourished and was productive, clinical services including community outreach programs expanded and money flowed in from the NIH, foundations and other granting agencies. The Department of Pediatrics was beginning to make itself known nationally.



Heinz Eichenwald

All this activity was accompanied by a huge expansion of physical facilities on the medical school campus and at Children's Medical Center. Medical school entering classes increased to 220 to 240 annually.

Research output from several subspecialty areas and participation of faculty members in governmental, medical and policy-making organizations was gaining national and international recognition.

The 1980s to Present - Maturity

When Joseph Warshaw arrived as the new chairman in 1982, he stated that it was his firm belief that any chairman should remain in that position for only five years. Innovations could be cemented in that period of time and he opined that infusions of new ideas every five years would keep a department fresh and vigorous. True to his philosophy, Dr. Warshaw resigned in 1987. A notable introduction during his tenure was the formal designation of departmental divisions and division directors.



Joseph
Warshaw



Charles
Ginsburg

Dr. Warshaw was less successful than his predecessor at recruiting new faculty to meet the needs of normal attrition and the expanding clinical work generated by burgeoning services at the teaching hospitals. That situation changed rapidly when Charles Ginsburg assumed the chairmanship in 1988 for what would ultimately be the second longest tenure, 15 years. Dr. Ginsburg brought great energy and enthusiasm to the job and successfully expanded the scope and size of clinical activities and research positions as well as community involvement. He had passionate interest in teaching students and house staff and spent more time in that role than any of his predecessors.

The current era began in 2003 with the appointment of George Lister as chairman. He is building on the solid foundations of his predecessors with notable changes in emphasis on improving clinical research and developing more basic research activities. His philosophy of education toward greater individuality and flexibility in curriculum for students and residents has led to substantial changes in the structure of the program. By 2009 there were 227 faculty, 86 fellows and 97 residents in the Department. Between 2005 and 2009, fifteen pediatric faculty have been selected as fellows for the Clinical Scholars Program in the Department of Clinical Sciences.



George Lister

Current and former members of the faculty have achieved considerable national prominence:

- Gilbert Forbes received the John Howland Medal from the American Pediatric Society, the highest honor in academic pediatrics (1992).
- Perrin White received the E. Mead Johnson Pediatric Research Award (1996).
- George McCracken received the Maxwell Finland Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (2004).
- George Lister received the Maureen Andrew Mentor Award of the Society for Pediatric Research (2004).
- Three faculty members have been elected President of the Society for Pediatric Research - Joseph Warshaw (1982), George Lister (1993) and Philip Shaul (2006), and George Lister was elected President of the American Pediatric Society (2008) and as Chairman of the Board of the American Board of Pediatrics (2004).
- George Buchanan received the Distinguished Career Award from the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (2007).
- Fangming Lin was the first recipient of the Norman Siegel Pediatric Research Grant Award from the American Society of Nephrology and the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (2007).
- George Lister was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of

Science, to The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (2007).

- Robert Wiebe was co-recipient of the Emergency Medical Services for Children National Heroes Award (2007).

In little more than 50 years the Department of Pediatrics at UT Southwestern has grown and developed to a maturity that should instill pride in the faculty who nurtured it. The succeeding pages detail the activities and accomplishments of the departmental divisions.