Pediatrix Medical Group of Texas, San Antonio, is hosting a conference entitled *Innovations in Neonatal Care – The Surgical Neonate and Fetus*. The conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, on September 18-20, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio is located on San Antonio’s famous Riverwalk.

**Program Goals**

The purpose of the conference is to educate attendees regarding innovative and up to date techniques that will continue to advance the care and long-term outcomes of children requiring surgical correction of congenital or acquired conditions. The *Innovations in Neonatal Care – The Surgical Neonate and Fetus* conference proposes to address issues related to the initial management and stabilization, as well as, the peri-operative management to optimize patient outcomes. The attendees will also appreciate the ethical, quality and safety issues involved in the initiation and continuation of care for these medically fragile patients together with the societal and economic forces which influence them.

The comprehensive multidisciplinary care of the surgical neonate involves a team approach, requiring the integration of subspecialists including but not limited to neonatologists, pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists, pediatric and general surgeons, pediatric surgical subspecialists, anesthesiologists, and advanced practitioners.

Recent advances in technology and refinements in surgical techniques have allowed increasing numbers of infants to survive with complex anatomical lesions and functional deficits amenable to surgical correction or palliation. Infants who, in the past, would have succumbed to their malformations or anatomical dysfunctions early in the neonatal period or infancy are now able to survive beyond their initial hospital stay into childhood and later adulthood with the close monitoring and care of their primary care physician.

During the initial critical stage of diagnosis and management, neonatologists, intensivists, and advanced practitioners are increasingly called upon to assess and treat surgical infants with complex medical issues. A complete and thorough understanding of these infants’ unique anatomy and physiology is crucial. Ongoing and continuing education related to new techniques and treatments are required to make the most appropriate moment to moment clinical medical decisions allowing these infants to have a high quality long-term outcome.

Many significant improvements have been achieved in pediatric surgery in recent decades. Surgical mortality for neonates has decreased to less than 10 percent, and the morbidity of major operations has become miniscule. The physiologic and anatomic stress associated with surgery often compromises short term growth and development. Optimization of inter-operative care greatly enhances the immediate recovery and survival of these patients. Long-term effects of anesthesia and surgical manipulations continue to be studied and results applied to the fine tuning of surgical approaches for common and rare neonatal conditions. These patients have unique feeding and nutritional issues that not only occur in the acute hospital setting, but also frequently extend into the outpatient management by the primary care physician. As an example, The Joint Council on Congenital Heart Disease Quality Improvement Task Force in 2009 determined that proper nutrition and growth are a crucial determinant in survival. The Task Force developed a Pediatric Cardiology Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Collaborative (J. Kugler, *Congenital Heart Disease*, 2009: 4:318-328). This CQI Collaborative was created to optimize the nutritional growth of infants with HLHS (infants with highest mortality and morbidity) and its relationship to the interstage (time between surgical stage repair of their heart) morbidity and mortality.
Conference Background

In a survey conducted at the end of our 2011 Conference, 200+ attendees indicated significant interest in the area of fetal and neonatal surgery. There is much in the literature regarding improved survival for infants with conditions amenable to surgical correction. Some of the factors which have influenced this trend are:

1. Growth of pediatric surgery as a specialty
2. Growth of pediatric anesthesia as a subspecialty
3. Improved understanding of newborn physiology
4. Technological advances allowing improved monitoring
5. Advances in pediatric and neonatal airway management
6. The development of total parenteral nutrition
7. The advent of effective antibiotics
8. The establishment of neonatal intensive care units

Questions and controversies related to diagnostic necessities, adjuncts, and therapeutic approach are abundant and each physician/practitioner involved in the care of the surgical infant is obligated to keep abreast of new developments in this growing specialty. This conference is designed to not only enhance the knowledge base of the medical care providers involved in managing these complex and challenging patients, but to facilitate collegial discussions with other providers on newer techniques and treatment.

Program Speakers

In order to meet our above goals, the conference has confirmed speakers known locally, regionally and nationally. The confirmed speakers are listed below in alphabetical order by last name:

1. Sunny Anand, MD, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
2. Lisa Buckmiller, MD, Children’s Hospital of San Antonio
3. Beth Carter, MD, Texas Children’s Hospital
4. Reese Clark, MD, Pediatrix Medical Group
5. Barry Cofer, MD, San Antonio Pediatric Surgery Associates
6. Timothy Crombleholme, MD, Children’s Hospital of Colorado
7. Karen Fairchild, MD, University of Virginia
8. Jonathan Fanaroff, MD, JD, Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital
9. John Gearhart, MD, Johns Hopkins Children’s Center
10. David Hackam, MD, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
11. Anthony Johnson, DO, University of Texas at Houston
12. Francois Luks, MD, Brown University
13. John Meehan, MD, Seattle Children’s Hospital
14. Tom Novak, MD, San Antonio Military Medical Center
15. Oluyinka Olutoye, MD, Texas Children’s Hospital
16. Richard Redett, MD, Johns Hopkins Children’s Center
17. Greg Tiao, MD, Cincinnati’s Hospital Medical Center
18. Moritz Ziegler, MD, retired

During our 3-day conference we will have a total of 18 faculty with 24 talks covering a broad range of topics related to advances in surgical intervention for neonate
Program Attendance

Innovations in Neonatal Care – The Surgical Neonate and Fetus has been marketed at other national and regional meetings with “Save the Date” handouts. Conference invitations will be emailed nationally based on commercially licensed distribution lists. The target audience will include but is not limited to neonatologists, pediatric intensivists, pediatric anesthesiologists, general and subspecialty pediatric surgeons, advanced pediatric and neonatal nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists and neonatal/pediatric critical care fellows. We anticipate approximately 250 attendees, but the facility can provide us the opportunity to increase the space as the number of attendees may increase. The cost for attendance is as follows: Physician $445.00 and Non-Physicians (Advanced Practitioners and Fellows) $345.00.

Continuing education credit to include one hour or more of ethics has been applied for.

Thank you for consideration of support for Innovations in Neonatal Care – The Surgical Neonate and Fetus. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Anabel Gutierrez (anabel_gutierrez@pediatrix.com) at 210-541-8281 x 266 or mobile: 210-379-7475, Timothy Biela, MD timothy_biola@pediatrix.com at (210) 601-8996 or Kathy Ballard (kathy_ballard@pediatrix.com) at (830) 660-7641).

Sincerely,

Kathy Ballard, MS, RN, NNP-BC
Education Team, NNP Lead
San Antonio Pediatrix Medical Group