
University of South Florida.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/inside_usf

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/inside_usf/32
USF, All Children’s recruit pediatrics chair

Dr. Robert D. Christensen has been named chairperson of the USF Department of Pediatrics and physician-in-chief at All Children's Hospital. He will hold the Lewis A. Barnes Professorship in Pediatrics.

His joint appointment strengthens the partnership that began in 1973 between USF and the nationally recognized All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, which has regional clinics in Tampa, New Port Richey, Lakeland, Sarasota and Fort Myers.

Christensen will arrive at USF Aug. 1 from the University of Florida, where he was associate chairperson and division chief of neonatology.

"Dr. Christensen brings an intense interest in medical education and an impressive research career that will substantially increase the scholarly productivity of the Department of Pediatrics and the College of Medicine," said Dr. Robert Daugherty, dean of the college and vice president of Health Sciences.

All Children's Hospital President J. Dennis Sexton said, "Dr. Christensen's commitment to the care of high-risk newborn infants and his desire to improve their opportunities in life through treatment and research made him a superb candidate as chairman of USF pediatrics and physician-in-chief at our hospital. His contribution to the field of neonatology in the past and his strong vision for the future of pediatric care made him the candidate of choice."

Already nationally recognized for its excellence in patient care, All Children's has the potential to become one of the top 10 children’s hospitals in the United States, Christensen said. "I'm convinced that the administration at both All Children's and the USF College of Medicine have identified and committed the resources needed to raise All Children's to national prominence in patient-related research as well as clinical care."

Christensen will maintain the educational partnership with ACH and Tampa General Hospital. The Pediatrics department operates a joint residency training program at Tampa General Hospital and All Children’s, and USF faculty physicians direct the neonatal intensive care unit at TGH.

Christensen is a neonatologist who specializes in blood disorders affecting premature infants, including anemias and abnormalities in red and white blood cells.

His clinical research projects have been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for the last 15 years.

He will oversee faculty working out of the Developmental Hematology Laboratories on the second floor of the USF Children’s Research Institute, a facility built by USF and All Children’s.

Christensen will recruit physician scientists to fill four remaining USF/All Children’s endowed chairs dedicated exclusively to pediatric research in children's cancer, pediatric immunology, children's cardiovascular disease and child health policy. Endowed chairs in molecular genetics and child development have previously been established.

He will also develop an NIH-sponsored Clinical Research Center at USF/All Children’s — similar to one he helped direct at UF/Shands Hospital. These prestigious centers are located at 70 major teaching hospitals across the U.S.

Christensen is the editor of two definitive textbooks on neonatal hematology used widely in medical schools and has published more than 140 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

He and his wife Wendy have four children, ranging in age from 2 to 7.

by Anne DeLotto Baier

History Center earns second $1 million grant

Talk about deja vu. On her first day as USF President, Judy Genshaft received a $1 million gift from the Tampa Bay History Center. One year later, Genshaft got another gift from the center — this time for $1,000,001.

The $2 million total endowment for USF’s Resource Center for Florida History and Politics will qualify for a $2 million match from the state. The endowment will fund educational and research activities related to Tampa Bay history, in partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center.

"When the museum first announced this gift, we knew it would be the most important endeavor we would undertake," said George Howell, president of the Tampa Bay History Center. "Our relationship with USF has exceeded all expectations."

Genshaft stressed the importance of the USF-History Center collaboration for the Tampa Bay area. "We are committed to building a strong sense of community among the youth in this area," she said. "By providing students with a better understanding of our history, we can help achieve this goal. I am extremely pleased with our continuing partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center."

In addition to the presentation, a resolution was read in memory of Resource Center director Pat Riordan, who died from cancer on June 1.

The USF Resource Center and the Tampa History Center are working together to offer educational opportunities for local residents, including the development of supplemental educational materials to help educators teach students about Florida and Bay area history.

These materials will be accessible to teachers via the Internet on a new USF/Tampa Bay History Center Web site. With these items, the History Center will forge links with local and private schools; expose every fourth-grade student in the Bay area to USF and History Center resources; and allow USF faculty and graduate students to use and contribute to the History Center’s information.

Based in the library on the Tampa campus, USF’s Resource Center for Florida History and Politics was dedicated in December 1999.

by Ron Faig
Knox earns $1.7 million grant for AIDS education

USF Distinguished Professor Michael Knox received a $1.7 million federal grant to continue the work of the Florida AIDS Education and Training Center. The funds ensure that physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and other health care professionals in Florida will receive state-of-the-art information and training on new drug and health treatments for HIV and AIDS.

This goal is accomplished through continuing education programs, mini-residencies, case conferences and clinical consultations.

Newsletter to grow larger on Aug. 13

This is the largest grant ever received by the USF Center for HIV Education and Research, which was founded by Knox in 1988 at USF’s Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute.

Dr. John T. Sinnott, Cullison Professor of Medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases in Internal Medicine, and Michael Sharinus, a professor and the center’s associate director, will work with Knox on the project.

“This National Center grant will increase the number of primary health care providers in Florida who are able to counsel, diagnose, treat and manage the care of individuals with HIV and AIDS,” Knox said.

The program places emphasis on reaching health-care providers serving minority and poor populations that are now increasingly affected by HIV. Elizabeth Onjojo coordinates the minority train-the-trainer program.

For 13 years, the center has provided training to more than 80,000 health and mental health care providers. Organizational ties to the de la Parte Institute allow it to serve as a state-of-the-art center for the development of effective HIV mental health care and AIDS prevention programs.

The Florida center is one of 14 AIDS Education and Training Centers funded nationwide. All are based in leading academic centers across the country, including Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, the University of California and Emory University.

The USF center works closely with the University of Florida, the University of Miami, and the Florida Department of Health’s Bureau of HIV/AIDS to develop education and training programs.

With more than 84,000 cases of AIDS reported to date, Florida is ranked second among all states in the annual rate of AIDS cases. Since the first AIDS cases were identified, knowledge of the disease and its treatment have increased greatly, Knox said.

St. Petersburg employees find new home

USF St. Petersburg has created facilities for 40 new offices, in an area of campus called the East Terrace, for faculty and staff.

Customized offices represent the first step toward easing the campus’ space crunch, as officials scurry to find office space for more than 50 new faculty arriving this fall.

On the shady corner lot between the campus bookstore and Davis Hall, East Terrace will hold four customized housing buildings with temporary offices surrounded by a landscaped courtyard and boardwalks.

“This is a short-term solution to our continued campus growth, but it will be an effective and attractive solution,” said Campus Vice President Bill Heller. “These facilities are being built just for us and will be specific to our particular needs.

They’re not the typical portable. Very contemporary in design, they come with big picture windows and new furniture.

Those aren’t the reasons, however, that College of Education employees volunteered to move. If the college didn’t relocate, the five new faculty members coming this fall would have been dispersed around campus.

“I jumped at the opportunity to keep our college intact, because that helps our students — they need to be able to connect with all their professors in one setting,” said Sonia Helton, College of Education coordinator.