PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

For kids and particularly adolescents, dermatologic problems can be devastating. But with pediatric dermatologist Jennifer Sorrell, MD, of our JMH + SCH partnership, offering multiple treatment modalities, kids and parents can feel more at ease... – continued inside

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- 25th Annual Pediatric Update
- Office-Based Pediatric Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

REFERRAL INFO
INTRODUCING
Jennifer Basurto, MSW, LCSW
Cindy Eppstein, physician liaison
Dr. Jennifer Sorrell is a pediatric dermatologist in the partnership between John Muir Health and Stanford Children’s Health. She also holds a faculty position at Stanford as a clinical assistant professor in both dermatology and pediatrics.

She is excited to be in Walnut Creek, at 106 La Casa Via, each Wednesday. “Pediatric dermatology is a shortage field, and now we can provide treatment close to home for many families so they don’t have to trek far from their home.”
Conditions she treats
For babies, Dr. Sorrell says, the top three diagnoses are eczema, diaper rash and hemangiomas. In older children, it’s eczema and acne.

“Adolescence is a particularly challenging time. I tend to transition from counseling the parent to counseling the child, giving the child a chance to be more grown up and speak with me about his or her own health. I tell the child, ‘this is your visit.’ I love when my patients take charge and come back telling me exactly how they used their cleansers, eczema dilute bleach baths and other medicinal resources.”

Acne, eczema and other skin conditions often crop up right when adolescents are developing their self-esteem. “For a teen, just three pimples can be devastating; it can have a real effect on their overall quality of life. I look at it from their perspective. It makes me happy to know that I have the tools to help them,” she says.

Partnering with pediatricians
Dr. Sorrell loves the team approach to patient care. “I try to keep the pediatrician abreast of all we are doing. I incorporate literature in my notes if a condition is uncommon. I like to pick up the phone to speak directly with the pediatrician and ensure that we’re all on the same page in more challenging cases. I’m happy to treat the mundane — warts and all.”

“Additionally, if something unusual is going on, pediatricians and parents should know that there is a robust team of pediatric dermatologists and services available at Stanford, and that we all collaborate often to discuss tricky management and diagnostic issues,” she adds.

Parental concerns
“When parents bring their child in, their biggest concern is improving the condition with the fewest side effects. We want to present them with evidence-based treatments. I also like them to know we have multiple treatments we can use, not just prescription medicines,” she says. “There is a balance of medications, product recommendations and counseling. One of my favorite parts of the visit is the education my team and I can provide for our patients.”

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Future treatments
Several new medications are coming to fruition for eczema, including a new topical non-steroidal medicine. “Time will tell its safety and efficacy. There is also a new oral medication, Dupilumab, that looks exciting in the adult literature, and Stanford will shortly be enrolling in the clinical trial for children. This could be important for severe eczema patients failing typical therapy,” Dr. Sorrell notes.

“Overall,” she says enthusiastically, “we continue to evolve, and there is a lot to look forward to as medical science advances.”

Jennifer Sorrell, MD, laughs as she describes a recent patient visit. A young boy’s bumps from a skin infection (Molluscum contagiosum) had fully resolved, and the two of them spontaneously broke into a victory dance.

“I really enjoy working with my patients,” she says. “They are wonderful. Sometimes, they are hilarious.”
Each quarter, the OR Nursing team at John Muir Health votes to bestow its “Doc that Rocks” award, which honors a physician who is professional, receptive to nursing concerns and a great communicator.

This quarter’s winner is Dr. William Kennedy, the first pediatric specialist to receive the award. He’s an experienced and much-loved Stanford pediatric urologist, as well as a pioneer of the John Muir Health + Stanford Children’s Health partnership.

OR Nurse Stephanie Soares explained why she voted for Dr. Kennedy: “He provides the most outstanding and comprehensive written and oral education to every one of his patients and their parents. He anticipates and addresses every possible patient scenario. His communication, compassion and caring demeanor leave the family with a sense of well-being and [give them] confidence that they can provide safe care to their child. It is such a privilege to work with Dr. Kennedy.”

Dr. Kennedy was full of reciprocal praise for the OR nursing staff. “I appreciate their cheerful enthusiasm. It can be overwhelming, when you are primarily an adult care facility, to have someone do microsurgery on 6-month-old babies. But John Muir Health has great people. Working with the OR nursing team has been a delight. They are such perfectionists about what they do.”

Dr. Kennedy was drawn to pediatric care because of the impact he is able to make on young lives. “I can affect the quality of life in the long term. Surgically, I can correct a birth anomaly, and the child may never know or remember that they had it.”

His care and concern for his patients is obvious. He happily bragged that “this is the first year that I’ve been asked to write more college recommendations than medical residency recommendations. The cohort of kids that I started taking care of when I began practicing 20 years ago are heading off to college, and they’re all doing great. [I’ve] helped these kids with severe congenital anomalies or spina bifida, and now they’re about to go to college. It’s very rewarding.”

One of Dr. Kennedy’s favorite parts of his job includes the puzzled looks he gets from the young patients who come in for follow ups. “I have labored over a pediatric patient’s surgery for multiple hours with microsurgical reconstruction. But If I’ve done my job very well, that same patient may really have no idea who I am.”

Although his pediatric patients don’t always remember him, the nursing staff certainly does. Congratulations, Dr. Kennedy. You really are a “Doc that Rocks.”
Pre-Conference: The role of the PCP in transgender health care
July 20, 2017
Location: The Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center Stanford University

25th Annual Pediatric Update
July 21 – 22, 2017
Location: The Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center Stanford University
For registration and more information, please visit: www.cme.stanfordchildrens.org
Contact: Marifin Besona, CME Coordinator — lpchcme@stanfordchildrens.org, or call (650) 498-6757.

Office-Based Pediatric Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
September 16, 2017
Location: Renaissance Sports Club Walnut Creek
For registration and more information, please visit: www.cme.stanfordchildrens.org
Contact: Marifin Besona, CME Coordinator — lpchcme@stanfordchildrens.org, or call (650) 498-6757.

John Muir Medical Center
1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Ball Auditorium, Lower Level

June
15  Pediatric CME/M&M
*22  Psychopharmacology for General Pediatricians, David Ansel, MD
*29  Bronchiolitis update, Alan Schroeder, MD

July
*5  C-Difficile, David Vu, MD
*13  Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome, Margo Thienemann, MD
20  Perinatal CME/M&M

*Webinars | Webinars are available via the internet starting at 7:30 a.m.
To access navigate to: https://johnmuirgm.globalmeet.com/CMEConcord
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Pleasanton, CA 94566
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ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP

Through our partnership, patients can now see Stanford Children’s Health specialists locally in the East Bay. When hospital-based care is needed, patients can be treated at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek. It all adds up to: your patients can receive excellent quality specialty pediatric care, close to home.

johnmuirhealth.stanfordchildrens.org  johnmuirhealth.com/ChildrensSpecialty