

## Careforce Connection

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### Infection Prevention is Everyone's Business—Read about Children's Heroes of Healthcare Prevention

This week is National Infection Prevention Week, and the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) has chosen the slogan "Infection Prevention is Everyone's Business" as its theme.

At Children's, we already embrace that responsibility and infection prevention is part of our everyday lives—hand hygiene stations, disinfecting wipes, protocols and processes to reduce the spread of infection. In addition, Children's has a dedicated team of professionals with a shared vision who guide practices to prevent or eliminate infections in our patients. This team includes nurses, industrial hygienists, epidemiologists and other public health professionals.

Renee Watson, Manager, Infection Control, also would like to recognize those members of the infection prevention department as well as others in the organization—outside of the Infection Control department—who go above and beyond to help prevent infection at Children's.

**Children's at Egleston**

- **Thomas Olson, M.D.**: Dr. Olson, Hematology/Oncology, works with some of our most vulnerable patients. Dr. Olson never accepts the common wisdom that this population "is just going to get infected, no matter what you do." He educates his physician peers and is a champion for infection prevention processes and practices. He attends every bloodstream infection huddle in his area to educate himself on the pathogen and the patient's individual factors to see if he can medically manage a patient differently to avoid bloodstream infections.
- **Lauren Derrigo, RN**: Lauren is a nurse in the PICU. The Infection Prevention Practitioners on that campus refer to her as the "bomb digity" for her tireless efforts to reach "zero infections" in her critical care area. She actively seeks out the Infection Control department for resources to support her ongoing battle against infection and serves as a liaison between Infection Control and her physician and clinical staff.

**Neighborhood Locations**

- **Vivian Lennon M.D.**: Medical Director, Primary Care. Dr. Lennon is a tireless champion for childhood immunization. She knows prevention is paramount and that any missed opportunity for immunizing a child could have dire consequences. This is especially true for children without a medical home.
- **Joelle Hodges, RN**: Jonelle is a Clinical Team Leader at Primary Care in Chamblee. She actively pursues public health intervention for her population with TB. Her advocacy exemplifies the Children's value of "teamwork," as well as infection prevention. She is a champion for the vaccination of her patient population and a proponent for the state immunization registry-GRITS.

**Children's at Hughes Spalding**



**Thanks for Getting Your Flu Vaccine**

Children's is pleased with the tremendous response to our flu immunization clinics during the first three weeks of the flu campaign. To date, 6,010 employees and affiliate staff have received the flu vaccine and taken the stand for patient, employee and community safety this season.

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**Children's Recognizes October Catch Me at My Best Winners**

Congratulations to the following employees for winning this month's Catch Me at My Best drawing for a Children's duffle bag.

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**National Institute of Health Grants Funding to Sickle Cell Disease Research**

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has granted Manu Platt, Ph.D., an assistant professor and researcher from the biomedical engineering department operated by Georgia Tech and Emory University, a \$1.5 million NIH Director's New Innovator Award to support a project aimed at reducing the incidence of stroke in children with sickle cell disease.

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**Review Changes to the Children's Travel and Expense Policy**

Effective Oct. 15, Children's implemented changes to our [Travel and Expense Policy 1.38](#). All staff requesting reimbursement of expenses must adhere to this policy.

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**Children's Celebrates Accounts Payable Week**

Please help us recognize the excellent service that the [Accounts Payable](#) department provides us by celebrating Accounts Payable Week, Oct. 18–22.

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**2011 Benefits: Open Enrollment Overview**

Open Enrollment is mandatory. Even if you aren't making any

- **Robert "Bob" Pettignano, M.D.:** Medical Director, Hughes Spalding is the "go to" guy for any infection control issue. He initiated Infection Control orientation for all new physicians at Children's at Hughes Spalding. He has encouraged, escorted and held hands of staff and employees who are fearful, superstitious or misinformed about the flu vaccine to raise the awareness and compliance at his facility.
- **Kimberly Brentum, RN:** Level IVs in the Emergency department, Children's at Hughes Spalding. She initiated isolation carts in the Emergency department and was the first Infection Prevention Advocate at the hospital. Kimberly looks for opportunities to improve the standard of care as it relates to infection control and is taking the lead in helping ensure a 100 percent influenza vaccination rate in their ED.

### Children's at Scottish Rite

- **Pat Spafford, M.D.:** Dr. Spafford is a medical leader and practitioner in the NICU, PICU and TICU at Children's at Scottish Rite. Dr. Spafford is a supporter of processes to reduce infections in his vulnerable patient population and engages the Infection Control staff to seek out ways of driving infection rates to zero. He constantly pushes us to be better, even when we are doing well.
- **Debbie Rigby, RN:** Clinical Educator. Debbie is the Chairperson for the Infection Prevention Advocate subcommittee. She has worked hard to create a link between the Infection Control department and the care level staff. She is often the "pulse check" in process planning and helps with feasibility of implementing change.

**Happy Infection Prevention Week.** Get vaccinated, foam up and cover your cough!

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changes to your benefit plans, you must re-enroll between Oct. 25 and Nov. 19. If you don't re-enroll, you won't have health coverage in 2011. Make an informed decision about next year's benefits, and plan to attend one of the Benefit Fairs.

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### Children's is Advance for Nurses Readers' Choice Winner

Children's recently received the highest scores on *Advance for Nurses' Readers' Choice Hospital Survey*, making us the winner for the second year in a row.

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### Get Fit4Fall in Strong4Life's New Challenge

Strong4Life's Fit4Fall Challenge is an exercise competition for all employees. Teams of no more than 20 members will compete against one another. The top five teams and the top 50 individuals with the highest average exercise minutes.

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### The Latest Careforce Chronicle Highlights the Difference Children's Can Make

Being cared for in the right hospital fosters better quality of care, improved outcomes and greater satisfaction for patients and families.

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### Erika: It's Not You, It's Me

"I'm going through a breakup. And unfortunately, my exes (yes, exes plural) have kind of become stalkers."

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### Attend the Employee Fall Arts and Crafts Festival, Oct. 26

Come see your coworkers' artistic and creative talents at the Children's Employee Fall Arts and Crafts Festival.

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### Help Children's Win \$10,000

The Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service of Children's is in the running to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Livestrong Community Engagement Program.

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### Marcus Autism Center