Any parent who’s been there will admit that there’s nothing “normal” about having a baby in the NICU. It’s a difficult journey and one many parents may wish they could forget. But the fact is, this is their baby’s beginning, and it is one that their preemie and family will want to remember.

This past April, Licensed Creative Arts Therapist Gabrielle Grimaldi Bellettieri, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT, and Certified Child Life Specialist Lauren Brown, MS, CCLS, implemented a scrapbooking group for parents who have preemies in the RNICU at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital entitled, “Let Your Star Shine Bright.” This special group provides an opportunity for parents to celebrate the unique milestones their preemies have reached. Each participating NICU family is given materials, including a 12x12 scrapbook, baby-themed embellishments, and NICU-specific stickers.

Parents are encouraged to take photos of their baby, engage in conversations with other parents, utilize journaling techniques, and create visual memories that will illustrate their baby’s first few months of life. In addition to photos, parents incorporate mementos with the hope that their child

**Continued on page 2**

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**WMC Offers On-Site High-Risk Perinatal Services At Three Affiliate Hospitals**

Westchester Medical Center (WMC) is now offering on-site perinatal services at three of its regional affiliate hospitals to expectant mothers with high-risk health conditions or obstetrical complications. The Obstetrical division at WMC has partnered with Orange Regional Medical Center (ORMC) Horton Campus, Middletown, NY; Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Cortlandt Manor, NY; and Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern, NY, providing one full day each week at each affiliate hospital site the expertise and service of James Smith, Jr., M.D, a board-certified perinatologist who is specially trained to perform complex diagnostic and therapeutic procedures during pregnancy. Dr. Smith is Section Chief of Perinatology at Westchester Medical Center and is a graduate of St. Louis University School of Medicine in Missouri. He completed his internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia and a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of New Mexico. Before joining Westchester Medical Center, he was a clinical associate professor, Maternal and Fetal Medicine, at Stanford University School of Medicine in California. We look forward to working with our obstetrical colleagues in this exciting endeavor.

For further Information please call: 914-594-4360.
**Continued from page 1 - “Let Your Star Shine Bright”**

will appreciate them when they get older, such as their little diapers, hospital ID bracelets, monitor leads and feeding tubes.

These items are displayed within the scrapbook to help further create a memorable keepsake of the preemie’s journey. As one parent expressed, “Everyone loves the scrapbook I made and I just wanted to thank you for helping me make it.”

Recently “Let Your Star Shine Bright” received a grant from an organization called Futures and Options for Kids, whose mission is to raise funds for children in need, that will help with the purchase of scrapbooking materials. Gabrielle and Lauren also hosted “Scrappin’ For Preemies”, an afternoon of scrapbooking to benefit the group. The event was held on Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 11:00am-5:00pm in the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital first floor conference center and allowed people the time to enjoy scrapbooking, gift bags, door prizes and light refreshments as well as a number of local vendors and their wares.

For further information about the event or other ways to donate, please contact Gabrielle or Lauren at (914) 493-6640.

**All proceeds and donations from this event directly benefited “Let Your Star Shine Bright.”**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Heather Brumberg was appointed as a member of the AAP’s Committee on Environmental Health (COEH) for a 2-year period effective July 1, 2009. Dr. Brumberg has also been awarded a Special Achievement Award for 2009 from New York Chapter 3 of the AAP for development of the Genetics Visiting Professorship for the Lower Hudson Valley Network.

Drs. Vanessa Mercado and Jordan Kase, who are now Co-chairpersons for the AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn and to Dr. Lance Parton as he assumes the role of Vice President of the Chapter.

Dr. Praveen Ballabh for his NIH award for his project entitled “Chondroitin Sulfate Proteoglycan and Myelination in Intraventricular Hemorrhage.”

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**Regional Perinatal Center Website**

[www.worldclassmedicine.com/rpc](http://www.worldclassmedicine.com/rpc)

Interested in cutting-edge perinatal educational presentations; applying for a mini-grant; regional perinatal statistics; viewing back issues of The Perinatal Gazette newsletter?

**Please visit our website for this valuable information and more**

*New data and presentations recently added*

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**Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center**

**Annual RNICU Graduate Reunion Party**

More than 100 children let loose the afternoon of September 16th. It may sound like it was a crazy day to some, but the sound of Regional Intensive Care Unit graduates laughing, singing and enjoying themselves at this year’s Graduate Reunion Party at Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital was music to the ears of many Hudson Valley parents who thought the day might never come.

Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, which is celebrating its fifth birthday, is home to the only Level IV neonatal intensive care unit in the Hudson Valley, receiving transfers from community hospitals from around the region. As such, the unit cares for the area’s smallest and sickest newborns. Even with this case severity, the survival and outcome statistics for the center rival or exceed those of the best medical centers in the United States.

Overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds and now thriving, more than 100 of these miracle children and their families from around the Hudson Valley attended the reunion, which included games, ice cream and conversations with other RNICU parents.

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**Drugs and Lactation Database**

**LactMed**


LactMed is a peer-reviewed and fully referenced database launched by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in 2006. It is part of NLM’s Toxicology Data Network [http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov) and provides health care practitioners and nursing mothers with freely accessible, evidence-based information on drugs to which breastfeeding mothers may be exposed and the effects of those agents on nursing infants and lactation. It is updated monthly.
Welcome...  

Westchester Medical Center welcomes Dr. Sean Tedjarati to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as the Chief of Gynecologic Oncology and Gynecologic Robotic Surgery and as Associate Professor at New York Medical College/Westchester Medical Center. Dr. Tedjarati previously served as an Associate Professor and Associate Residency Program Director in Gynecologic Oncology at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Tedjarati held a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of South Florida, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. He was named the interim Division Chief in the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center for a part of his time there.

Dr. Tedjarati was raised in Montréal, Canada and studied biochemistry at Concordia University in Montréal, Canada. He earned a medical degree from Spartan Health Sciences University and participated in the medical student program at Griffin Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Yale University, School of Medicine, during which time he was awarded the Outstanding Medical Student of the Year Award. He then completed a residency in Family Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University. He subsequently completed a fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology at The MD Anderson Cancer Center and Research Institute in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Tedjarati holds a Master of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health. During his training and practice he has won numerous awards including, six Outstanding Teacher of the Year awards, appointment as the Chief Medical Resident, Ohio’s Academy of Family Physicians Honored Resident of the Year award. He was the recipient of the National Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Council on Residency Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2007. In 2008 he was awarded the Dean’s Faculty Teaching Award at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Tedjarati has also been published in prestigious peer reviewed journals and presented scientific work in national and international meetings. He worked with internationally recognized cancer researcher Dr. Isaiah Fidler in developing drugs to block the new vessel formation (Angiogenesis) in ovarian cancer. His work on Pegylated Interferon-Alpha, lead to a clinical trial at MD Anderson Cancer Center evaluating the role of this novel agent in patients with relapsed ovarian cancer. He was awarded first prize at the Felix Rutledge Honor Society’s 35th annual scientific conference. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Dr. Tedjarati has membership in multiple medical organizations and prestigious societies including Society of Gynecologic Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, International Gynecologic Cancer Society, Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons, Felix Rutledge Society, among others. He is on multiple speaker bureaus and has lectured extensively around the country on gynecologic cancers.

He served as the principal investigator of the Gynecologic Oncology Group for Tampa Bay Consortium for part of his time at University of South Florida. He has also served as the principal investigator on multiple other investigated initiated trials with emphasis on antiangiogenic and targeted therapies in relapsed ovarian carcinoma. He has initiated investigator initiated, industry-sponsored protocols and an NCI grant as a co-investigator focusing on cervical cancer screening as a sustainable model in reducing health disparities with Dr. Cathy Meade. He is also been founded recently as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator of grants at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He is currently mentoring multiple resident research projects.

Dr. Tedjarati serves as reviewer for the Journal of Gynecologic Oncology and The International Journal of Gynecologic Cancers. He also has conducted a post-graduate course at the 36th annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists titled Cancer Care and Research in Developing Nations held in Miami, Florida. He co-authored the chapter on the Uterine Cervix in the 5th edition of Principles and Practice of Gynecologic Oncology, one of the main reference textbooks of gynecologic oncology.

Dr. Tedjarati has been active and has strong interest in international and women’s health. He has volunteered in Israel, Africa, China, the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, working on medical projects. He has participated in health and prevention programs internationally and has traveled to other countries giving lectures and talks on the topic of women’s health and gynecologic cancers. His main focus remains practice of academic gynecologic oncology and clinical research in ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancers. His other interests include women’s health care disparities and cancer care in the minority population and in developing nations.

Dr. Tedjarati held board certification in Family Medicine through 2004. He is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is board-certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology. He is also board-certified through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Tedjarati has been active in minimally invasive surgery with emphasis on robotic-assisted laparoscopy. He was instrumental and one of the leaders in establishing the robotic program in Amarillo, Texas, and has researched and lectured on the topic widely.

He is fluent in French, English and Persian and conversational in Spanish.

To contact Dr. Tedjarati please call his office at 914-493-2181.
8th Annual Regional Perinatal Forum Conference

Going Green: Making Healthy Choices for a Safe Pregnancy and Family

This year’s conference, held at The Marriott Westchester in Tarrytown, NY on Wednesday, November 4th, 2009, drew a total of 223 attendees. A pre-conference session was given as Pediatric Grand Rounds at the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center. Seventy five health care professionals attended the Grand Rounds Closing the Environmental Health Gap given by Judith Qualters, PhD, MPH. Dr. Qualters, Chief of Environmental Health Tracking Branch Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, National Center for Environmental Health, Center for Disease Control, also gave the morning keynote address entitled Bridging the Environmental Health Gap to Improve the Health of Communities at the main conference, which centered on the development of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. This network links environmental exposures with health outcomes. For more information on the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network and to join the Network’s mailing list, please visit www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking.

Dr. Edmund LaGamma, Chief, Division of Newborn Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College, gave the Regional Perinatal Forum state of the Hudson Valley Region Report entitled: Toward Achieving “Better” Outcomes, Comments on the State of the Region. He presented on rising rates of late preterm births and provided regional data on contributing factors such as unnecessary cesarean section deliveries. An evidence-based talk on The Uterine Scar: Maternal and Fetal Implications was given by Dr. Howard Blanchette, Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, New York Medical College, which described the complications associated with cesarean births and the dangers of elective, late pre-term deliveries.

The morning session was devoted to perinatal topics, whereas the afternoon session was related to neonatal and childhood health. The afternoon keynote speaker, Dr. Philip Landrigan, Professor of Pediatrics and Preventative Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Community and Preventative Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, provided information on the history and future implication of children’s environmental health. Our first guest speaker was Dr. Y. Cathy Kim, Co-Director, Children’s Environmental Health Center, Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, who spoke on Environmental Triggers of Pediatric Asthma. Dr. Kim provided information on various indoor and outdoor triggers of pediatric asthma. Following Dr. Kim was Dr. Shetal Shah, Assistant Professor of Neonatal Medicine, School of Medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center. Dr. Shah stressed the importance of vaccinating parents of NICU infants during his presentation entitled Vaccination During and After Pregnancy. For more information and data related to this year’s conference, please visit www.worldclassmedicine.com/rpc.

The Annual Hudson Valley Regional Perinatal Forum Conference is a collaborative effort between the Regional Perinatal Center at Westchester Medical Center, The Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Maternal-Infant Services Network, Inc., public health stakeholders and community-based organizations committed to improving the health of mothers and babies we serve in our region.

We are interested in providing you with a newsletter that is relevant and of interest to you. Please contact us with perinatal topics you would like to see addressed. For a copy of our newsletter or to be placed on our mailing list, contact us by phone or e-mail. Please visit http://www.worldclassmedicine.com/RPC for information about the Regional Perinatal Center at the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center and to locate other issues of The Perinatal Gazette.

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