With a comprehensive team finally in place in 2006, the Section of Pediatric Surgical Specialties, which includes Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Pediatric Urology, was able to focus all of its attention on its mission: to provide outstanding emergent, maintenance, and preventive health care to the children we serve, to educate and support their families, to advance our disciplines by innovative research, and to train future health care providers.

**Patient Care**

The successful recruitment of a second Pediatric Urologist, Dr. Daniel Herz, completed our ‘two of every specialty’ quest and enables the Section to provide around-the-clock pediatric coverage in all three surgical specialties. Dr. Herz trained in Pediatric Urology at the Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto, Ontario, and brings added expertise in the area of minimally invasive urologic procedures.

In order to improve patient access and convenience, each specialty added clinics at the CHaD outpatient facility in Manchester this year. Pediatric General and Thoracic surgeons are available in Manchester one day a week, Pediatric Urologists two days a week, and Pediatric Neurosurgeons twice a month. In addition, Dr. Laurie Latchaw and Dr. Paul Merguerian continue to perform day surgical procedures at the Manchester Ambulatory Surgery Center.

The Section also provides patients with highly specialized treatments and multidisciplinary clinics. Dr. Susan Durham offers a clinic to evaluate and treat lesions and injuries of peripheral nerves in both children and adults. Dr. Ann-Christine Duhaime performs deep brain stimulation and now provides the added safety of intraoperative brainstem monitoring. Working together with Dr. Doug Hyder and Dr. Candice Aitken, Dr. Duhaime established a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of pediatric brain tumors. Dr. Daniel Croitoru, a world renowned expert and creator of the minimally invasive repair of pectus excavatum deformities, established a chest wall deformity program that is continuing to grow and recently began to offer shared medical appointments. Dr. Latchaw, along with Neonatology and Maternal Fetal Medicine, provides a comprehensive consultation for parents with prenatal diagnosis of congenital anomalies. Pediatric Urology provides sophisticated urodynamic studies and...
innovative nonsurgical treatment of VUR for their patients.

**Education**

Educational activities for the Section of Pediatric Surgical Specialists included didactic and informal sessions with residents in General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology, and Pediatrics. Dr. Merguerian gave Urology Grand Rounds in May 2006, Dr. Croitoru gave General Surgery Grand Rounds in August 2006, and Dr. Durham gave Pediatric Grand Rounds in February 2006.

The Section’s physicians and nurse practitioners traveled across the globe presenting and participating in specialty specific conferences. Dr. Merguerian presented to both the American Urological Association and American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Durham presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons, and Dr. Duhaime served as an invited speaker and visiting professor at numerous conferences and institutions as far away as the International Neurotrauma Society Meeting in The Netherlands and as close as Richmond Middle School in Hanover, NH.

As a testament to our mission to train future providers, three DHMC surgical residents, Dr. Erin Rowell, Dr. Dimitrios Nikas, and Dr. Sean Corbett have been accepted into fellowships in Pediatric Surgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Pediatric Urology, respectively.

**Research**

Research productivity by Section members was high this year. Dr. Croitoru published two papers in peer reviewed journals. Dr. Merguerian had two papers accepted for publication in 2006, and received a scholarship to pursue his Masters in Clinical Science at the CECS program starting in the fall of 2006. He continued to serve as the Director of the Section of Urology Research Program and mentor the Urology residents assigned to their laboratory year. Dr. Herz, the new Pediatric Urologist, who joined the Section from Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, will pursue his laboratory research in bladder smooth muscle and urothelial cell tissue engineering for use in genitourinary reconstruction at DHMC.

Dr. Duhaime is the Resident Research Coordinator for the Section of Neurosurgery. She continues her research in traumatic injury to the immature brain and has present outside funding as well as additional grant applications awaiting review. Recent productivity from her research includes three book chapters, seven peer-reviewed journal articles and three additional abstracts submitted. She has an active laboratory with a post-doctoral fellow as well as one of the Neurosurgery residents. She is also the mentor for Dr. Durham, as Dr. Durham has applied for a K 08 grant. In addition, Dr. Durham was awarded the Harmes Scholarship by the Department of Surgery for her study entitled “An Analysis of Head Acceleration Impact in Helmeted Alpine Sports.”

**Section Highlights**

Dr. Merguerian, as Chair of the Resource Committee for the CHaD Ambulatory Clinic and Dr. Duhaime, as Chair of the CHaD Radiology, Anesthesia, and Surgical Specialities Committee, were named to the new CHaD Operations committee.

Dr. Duhaime continues to serve as Secretary of the Joint Section for Pediatric Neurosurgery of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. In addition, she served on the Nominating Committee for the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons.

Dr. Latchaw was elected to membership in the New England Surgical Society.

Ms. Sharon Haire, ARNP, is an Associate Professor for Clinical Instruction for the University of New Hampshire School of Nursing responsible for pediatric inpatient nursing education.