Dear Colleagues,

I am so very pleased and proud to be the new president and CEO of Kennedy Krieger Institute, and to welcome you to this edition of Clinical Connection.

This newsletter is just one way we foster important communications between our professional staff and you. Communication with each other, on behalf of our patients and their families, is critical to our mutual success in helping patients recover and thrive.

Attached to this newsletter is Potential magazine, which features stories about children, teens and young adults; their families; and the many professionals at Kennedy Krieger—and beyond—who work together to improve the trajectory of our shared patients’ lives. We hope you'll place the magazine in your waiting room for your staff members and patients to enjoy.

I’ve assumed the helm of a vibrant, vital, mission-driven organization staffed by more than 2,700 dedicated colleagues who serve in more than 80 clinical, school and community programs and hundreds of research investigations. Our mission is to improve the lives of individuals with brain, nervous system and neuromuscular disorders, diseases and injuries. We are grateful for the trust you put in us when you refer patients, as our goal is to partner with you for their very best care.

We want to hear from you! If you have questions or would like to refer a patient, please call our Physician Referral Line at 443-923-9403. And please email me at CEO@KennedyKrieger.org if you would like to share any comments with me.

Warm regards,

Bradley L. Schlaggar, MD, PhD
President and CEO
Clinical Connection News, Updates and Support for Healthcare Professionals

CDC Releases Updated Guideline on Diagnosis and Management of Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries

Dr. Stacy Suskauer, co-director of Kennedy Krieger’s Center for Brain Injury Recovery, co-authored the guideline.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 2.5 million high school students reported having had a sports- or physical activity-related concussion within the last 12 months, and more than 800,000 children seek care related to traumatic brain injuries in U.S. emergency departments each year. In an effort to improve outcomes for patients 18 years old and younger who experience concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI), the CDC recently published the “CDC Guideline on the Diagnosis and Management of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Among Children,” built from a comprehensive review of 25 years of research on the science behind pediatric mTBI.

Stacy Suskauer, MD, co-director of Kennedy Krieger Institute’s Center for Brain Injury Recovery, served as a co-author of the guideline, along with a select group of specialists in pediatric care, noting that “the guideline highlights the importance of treatment by an interdisciplinary team, and highlights an active rehabilitation approach for managing the needs of children with concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries.”

“The guideline stresses the importance of treatment by an interdisciplinary team, and highlights an active rehabilitation approach for managing the needs of children with concussions and mild traumatic brain injuries.”

– Dr. Stacy Suskauer

Published in JAMA Pediatrics, it is the first and only evidence-based pediatric guideline in the U.S. designed for healthcare professionals to use in all settings, and it covers diagnosis, prognosis, management and treatment for all causes of pediatric mTBI. The five key practice-changing takeaways from the guideline are:

• Do not routinely image pediatric patients to diagnose mTBI.
• Use validated, age-appropriate symptom scales to diagnose mTBI.
• Assess for risk factors for prolonged recovery.
• Provide patients with instructions, customized to their symptoms, on returning to activity.
• Counsel patients to return gradually to non-sports activities after no more than two to three days of rest.

Visit CDC.gov for more information about the CDC guideline.
**New President and CEO of Kennedy Krieger Institute**

Kennedy Krieger Institute welcomed Bradley L. Schlaggar, MD, PhD, as its new president and CEO this past summer. Dr. Schlaggar joined Kennedy Krieger after 19 years on the faculty of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where for the last four years he served as division head of pediatric and developmental neurology, co-director of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, and neurologist-in-chief at St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Before becoming division head, Dr. Schlaggar directed the pediatric neurology residency program for eight years.

Visit KennedyKrieger.org/CEO to read more about Dr. Schlaggar.

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**Kennedy Krieger Hires Its First d/Deaf* Psychologist**

Dr. Danielle Previ, who is d/Deaf, will work with children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing.

Kennedy Krieger Institute recently expanded its capacity to serve children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing by hiring its first d/Deaf psychologist, who will be working in the Neuropsychology Department, providing neuropsychological and psychological assessment services for children and families who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing.

Danielle Previ, PhD, received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Gallaudet University and began working at the Institute as an intern. She will be working in the deafness evaluation clinic with children who have difficulties meeting developmental milestones, learning difficulties in school, and/or behavioral or social difficulties, among other conditions.

To learn more or to make a referral to the deafness evaluation clinic, contact FindASpecialist@KennedyKrieger.org or call 443-923-9403.

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*Kennedy Krieger Institute recognizes that the word “deaf” can refer to both a condition and a culture. With a lower-case “d,” it indicates the condition of not being able to hear. With an upper-case “D,” it refers to the culture and community of individuals who cannot hear or who are hard of hearing, and who share a common language: American Sign Language. Kennedy Krieger spells the word as “d/Deaf” to be inclusive of both hearing status and cultural identity.*
PATIENT CARE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**Specialty Pediatric Hospital**
- Feeding Disorders
- Neurobehavioral Unit (NBU)
- Rehabilitation Unit—brain injury, complex medical, pain management, post-orthopedic surgery and spinal cord injury

**Outpatient Centers, Programs and Services**
- International Adoption Clinic
- Aquatic Therapy Program
- Assistive Technology Clinic
- Audiology Clinic
- Center for Autism and Related Disorders
- Barth Syndrome Clinic
- Behavior Management Clinic
- Bone Disorders Program
- Brachial Plexus Clinic
- Center for Brain Injury Recovery
- Phelps Center for Cerebral Palsy and Neurodevelopmental Medicine
- Child and Family Support Center
- Child and Family Therapy Clinic
- Community Rehabilitation Program
- Concussion Clinic
- Constraint-Induced and Bimanual Therapy Program
- Cranial Cervical Clinic
- Deafness-Related Evaluations Clinic
- Center for Development and Learning
- Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinic
- Down Syndrome Clinic and Research Center
- Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program
- Focused Interdisciplinary Therapy Program
- Fragile X Clinic
- Healthy Lifestyles Therapy Program
- Infant Neurodevelopmental Center
- Moser Center for Leukodystrophies
- Limb Differences Clinic

**Military Behavioral Health Services**
- Center for Genetic Muscle Disorders
- Neurobehavioral Unit Outpatient Program
- Neurology and Neurogenetics Clinic
- Clinical Neurophysiology Clinic and Laboratory
- Neuropsychiatry in Epilepsy Program
- Neuropsychology Outpatient Clinics
- Specialized Transition Program Neurorehabilitation

**Day Hospital**
- Nutrition Clinic
- Occupational Therapy Clinic
- Orthopedic Clinic
- Osteogenesis Imperfecta Clinic
- Pain Rehabilitation Program
- Physical Therapy Clinic
- Psychiatric Mental Health Program
- Pediatric Psychology Program
- Rehabilitation Clinic
- Seating Clinic
- Sickle Cell Neurodevelopmental Clinic
- Sleep Disorders Clinic and Laboratory
- Speech and Language Clinic
- Philip A. Keelty Center for Spina Bifida and Related Conditions
- International Center for Spinal Cord Injury

**Continuums of Care**
Continuums allow patients to be seen through all stages of care, including in 24-hour inpatient programs, day treatment, home- and community-based services, and outpatient programs. They include Pediatric Feeding Disorders, Neurobehavioral Disorders and Pediatric Rehabilitation (brain injury, complex medical, pain management, post-orthopedic surgery and spinal cord injury).

For a complete listing of all diagnoses, disorders, programs and services, visit [KennedyKrieger.org/PatientCare](http://KennedyKrieger.org/PatientCare) or call 888-554-2080. TTY users, please contact us at 443-923-2645, or dial 711 to make a Maryland Relay call.