



*Linda Mayes, who was named special advisor to the dean in July, helps children under 5 overcome anxieties that interfere with their development.*

## Physician at Work

### Helping children overcome emotional problems

As a developmental pediatrician, **Linda C. Mayes, MD**, helps children with problems that run the gamut from behavioral to developmental to emotional. She might see youngsters who are hitting their peers in preschool, have lost a loved one and are socially withdrawn, or have not reached milestones such as talking.

Mayes coordinates the section for children from birth to age 5 at the Child Study Center, where she conducts developmental evaluations, helps families find appropriate medical and intervention services, or works with children and their families directly. The young patients Mayes treats often have overwhelming anxieties that interfere with their development, their capacity to learn or their social skills. In individual psychotherapy sessions with children as young as 3 years, she uses approaches centered around play, since this is the way young children communicate. Using play-centered activities, such as telling stories with toys, Mayes would work with the child and her parents to understand the child's feelings and ease her worries about loss.

Since her arrival at Yale in 1982, Mayes has noticed that preschools have become more sensitive to children's developmental needs and are more aware of early learning or social development problems. "I think it reflects the increasing awareness that early detection and early intervention is effective for children," she says. Nevertheless, mental health services available to young patients are lacking. "We see a lot of families who really don't have access to good mental health care or are having trouble finding appropriate quality preschool programs for their children."

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## YMG, YNHH welcome new clinical faculty

*With the clinical practice growing 11 to 14 percent a year, recruiting new faculty members takes on added importance.*

On a Monday night in October, the Yale Medical Group and Yale-New Haven Hospital joined in welcoming new clinical faculty into the fold. The reception in the Beaumont Room for clinicians who have recently joined the faculty is part of a larger effort to grow the clinical practice at the medical school and make the medical center the destination of choice for medical care in southern New England and beyond.

This year the clinical faculty grew by almost 10 percent with the addition of about 70 new physicians. While the total number of clinicians is approximately 750, because of research and other activities the number of full-time clinical equivalents in YMG is estimated to be 300.

"Both the school and the hospital recognize the importance of new clinical faculty," **David J. Leffell, MD**, director of the YMG, said during brief remarks at the reception. He added that the joint recruitment of a number of new faculty is a symbol of the hospital and medical school working together. "We want to help you succeed in your clinical practice. ... We are at a point in the YMG where we are poised for huge growth."

"Building up the clinical practice at Yale is a very high priority," said Dean **Robert J. Alpern, MD**. "There is every indication that it is going to grow

at extraordinary rates and maintain or improve its quality. The ability to do that is based mostly on new recruitments."

**Peter N. Herbert, MD**, the hospital's chief of staff and vice president, noted a strong demand for medical experts in different fields.

Among the new faculty at the reception was otolaryngologist **Dianne C. Duffey, MD**. Formerly at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, Duffey said that the chance to work again with **Douglas A. Ross, MD**, who was her chief resident at UCLA was an important draw.

Ob/gyn **Christian M. Pettker, MD**, came to Yale as fellow three and a half years ago and has stayed on as a faculty member. In addition to his clinical duties, Pettker conducts research on risk reduction and risk perception in obstetrics, labor and delivery as well as pregnancy-related infections.

Anesthesiologist **Jill F. Arthur, MD**, said she likes being at Yale in part because it allows her to serve as a clinician while continuing her research on breast cancer. "Yale has a broad research base and opportunities for collaboration," she said.

Additional programs are planned to introduce new and existing clinical faculty to each other and the medical center at large. "It is remarkable how many faculty have been here for years and still do not know colleagues in other departments," Leffell said. "The medical center and the patient benefit when specialty referrals are made within the practice. Making sure all faculty know the breadth of experience available within YMG is a key step in this process."



*Jill Arthur, Christian Pettker and Mert Bahtiyar chatted at a reception for new faculty in October.*

*For more photos of the reception, visit [yalemedicalgroup.org/news/faculty\\_reception07.html](http://yalemedicalgroup.org/news/faculty_reception07.html)*

## Physician at Work *continued*

Mayes is a child and adult psychoanalyst as well as a pediatrician and she thrives on collaborating with colleagues to solve complex medical issues. She recently partnered with colleagues in plastic surgery to treat early cranial malformations, which can shape the growth of the brain and affect infant learning. “It’s unusual for a surgical and developmental specialty to come together but it emphasizes how much developmental processes are a part of all of medicine across the lifespan.”

In July she took on additional duties when she was named Special Advisor to the Dean. In that position she will be responsible for the oversight of scientific integrity in research conducted at the School of Medicine. She will also function as the dean’s representative in grievances by faculty and students regarding appointments, promotions or termination.

**Name:** Linda C. Mayes, MD.

**Title:** Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Development in the Yale Child Study Center; professor of pediatrics and psychology; special advisor to the dean; chairman, directorial team, Anna Freud Centre, London.

**Area of expertise:** Early childhood development; pediatrics.

**Place of birth:** Sewanee, TN.

**Age:** 55.

**College:** University of the South.

**Med School:** Vanderbilt University.

**Training:** Residency in pediatrics and fellowship in neonatology at Vanderbilt University; Robert Wood Johnson General Academic Pediatrics Fellowship at Yale; psychoanalytic training at the Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis.

**What is most challenging to you in academic medicine?** Maintaining sufficient funding for an active, productive laboratory and stepping beyond traditional disciplines to ask research questions in ways that encourage new perspectives.

**What is most rewarding?** Collaborating with colleagues in different fields for there is always a surprise, a new way of seeing something.

**What do you like most about your practice?** Being involved in the remarkable diversity of individual lives—everyone sees and experiences the world differently and every clinical problem is slightly different. Also, watching master clinicians at work is like watching master musicians who are able to hear even in a familiar melody new possibilities.

**Personal interests or pastimes?** Woodworking, movies, kite flying, literature.

**Last book read:** Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.

**What would you do to improve our clinical environment if you had a magic wand?**

Funding is clearly an issue. It is truly a tragedy, especially in my discipline, that so many families cannot access the most up to date and the most skilled clinical care and thus go underserved, with increasing family distress and sorrow that often cross generations.

## UNITED WAY FINAL PUSH

For several years Yale University has taken the lead in encouraging employees to contribute to the annual United Way campaign. “Yale faculty and staff can play a very important role in this critical effort to support the community,” said Robert J. Alpern, MD, dean of the School of Medicine. Because many of the old corporate pillars of New Haven have disappeared, it has fallen to the remaining institutions to drive the philanthropy that helps the less fortunate. Despite an increase last year, there is still substantial room for greater participation by all employees.

“One of the reasons we have not seen the participation that we can and should achieve is that many people are not really knowledgeable about what the United Way does,” said David J. Leffell, MD, deputy dean for clinical affairs. To see for himself what contributions to United Way were achieving, Leffell visited STRIVE/New Haven (Support and Training Result in Valuable Employees) last fall. The organization, located at 94 Howard Ave., almost on the medical school’s doorstep, trains people to enter the workforce. “I was astounded that fewer than two blocks from where I had worked for the past 20 years there is

an organization that trains those who have fallen on hard times to earn a living and support themselves and their family. Many of the people they have trained now work at IKEA as part of a partnership effort,” said Leffell. A contribution to the United Way is not truly charity, Leffell said. “It is an investment in New Haven, its people and our quality of life.”

Medical school staff and faculty are encouraged to contribute to the United Way this year, especially if they have never contributed before. For more information, please go to [www.yale.edu/hronline/unitedway](http://www.yale.edu/hronline/unitedway).

## Yale Practice

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