We are pleased to announce the 29th Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., MD Lectureship at Pediatric Grand Rounds, October 30, 2015, at Children’s Hospital Colorado. The recipient of this year’s prestigious Lectureship is Dr. Stuart H. Orkin.

Dr. Orkin’s presentation is titled, “Using Genetics, Epigenetics and Editing to Reactivate Fetal Hemoglobin for Therapy.”

Dr. Stuart H Orkin serves as Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), the David G. Nathan Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In addition, he is a principal faculty member of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute (HSCI) and an associate of the Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard.

Dr. Orkin has been engaged in molecular developmental biology and stem cell research for 3 decades and has been a training site for many students and fellows. The Orkin laboratory has been at the forefront of applications of new genetic technology to medical problems. A major goal of current efforts is to translate basic findings on the role of BCL11A in HbF silencing into new treatments for the hemoglobin disorders and to leverage vulnerabilities in epigenetic pathways for cancer therapy.

He received his BS from MIT and MD from Harvard Medical School. He completed pediatric hematology/oncology training at Boston Children’s Hospital and DRCI and trained in the laboratory of Philip Leder at NIH. His research focuses on intersections of transcriptional control with stem cell biology, hematopoiesis and cancer. His research achievements include comprehensive dissection of the molecular basis of the thalassemia syndromes, positional cloning of the first human disease gene, cloning of the first master regulator of blood cell development and identification of the major silencer of fetal hemoglobin expression.
Dr. Orkin served on the National Research Council Committee on Mapping the Human Genome and as co-chair (with Arno Motulsky) of the Panel to Assess the NIH Investment in Gene Therapy. He was the inaugural chair of the Grants Reviews Committee of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

He is also an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Institute of Medicine and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Orkin was the recipient of the E. Mead Johnson Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Warren Alpert Prize, the Helmut Horten Foundation Prize, the Distinguished Research Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Basic Science Mentor Awards from the American Society of Hematology and the Metcalf Award of the International Society of Experimental Hematology. In 2013 he received Jessie Stevenson Kovalenko Medal from the NAS for "important contributions to the medical sciences". In 2014 he was recognized by the William A. Allan Award from the American Society of Human Genetics and will receive the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award from the American Association of Blood Banks in 2016.

Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., MD

Dr. Joseph W. St Geme was Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine from January 1985 to October 1986, just shy of 21 months. In his short tenure, he is credited with helping to transform the medical school to a modern research-oriented academic center. In 1987, the St.Geme Lectureship was established and supported by the Chancellor's Office and eight Chairs of the Departments in the School of Medicine who were recruited by Dr. St. Geme. Support was also provided by Dr. Robert Schrier, then Chair of the Department of Medicine and Dr. Frederick Battaglia, then Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. St. Geme held an academic faculty position in the Department of Pediatrics during his tenure as Dean.

The St. Geme family, in honor of Dr. St. Geme, has supported the St. Geme Lectureship and the Joseph W. St. Geme Memorial Endowment. Each year, the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., MD, Medical Student Award is given at the Lectureship to a deserving fourth-year medical student who has demonstrated outstanding research with a mentor and who is interested in a career in academic pediatrics.

Please join us
Friday, October 30, 2015 – Pediatric Grand Rounds
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
“Using Genetics, Epigenetics and Editing to Reactivate Fetal Hemoglobin for Therapy”
Mt. Oxford Auditorium, 2nd Floor Conference and Education Center, Children’s Hospital Colorado
CME credit offered. Lunch is available for purchase.
A reception will follow the lecture in the lobby of the Conference and Education Center on the 2nd floor of the hospital.

For more information about the St. Geme Lectureship, please call Bobbi Siegel at (720) 777-3936 or contact her via email: Bobbi.Siegel@childrenscolorado.org