

FACING THE FUTURE

Web Corner

We invite you to visit our newly updated website at www.facesofchildren.org!

Before the school year begins, look for "Connor's Book" under "News and Events." Connor, who was born with Apert syndrome, shared this fun photo scrapbook with classmates to emphasize the similarities, not differences, among them. And now, thanks to Picaboo, you can make your own photo book for free. See our website for details.

Festschrift for Dr. Mulliken

by A. Portia Chiou, MD

Festschrift | 'fest,shrift | n, [German, from *fest* festival + *schrift* writings]: a volume of writings presented in tribute to a scholar for a lifetime of contributions.

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, colleagues, mentors, friends, and former fellows assembled from five continents for a Festschrift celebration to honor Dr. John B. Mulliken. Scores of guests from as far as Australia, South Korea, Canada, Argentina, and Belgium attended the one-day symposium at Children's Hospital Boston. The program consisted of nearly 30 presentations in fields of plastic surgery, pediatric surgery, oral-maxillofacial surgery, radiology, psychiatry, molecular biology, and genetics. Friends and colleagues highlighted their collaborative work with Dr. Mulliken in cleft lip/palate surgery, craniofacial surgery, and vascular anomalies—the three areas of expertise in Dr. Mulliken's professional career.

It was clear to all that Dr. Mulliken had not only transformed the lives of countless patients and their families, but also had elevated the professional lives of many colleagues. He was recognized for his dedication to patients, immense generosity in teaching, collaborative work reaching across varied disciplines, and drive to seek answers to challenging clinical problems through basic science.

The tribute to Dr. Mulliken was initiated by a colleague and friend, Dr. M. Michael Cohen, Jr., internationally renowned syndromologist and author, and emeritus professor at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia. The organizing committee also included Dr. Leonard Kaban, chief of oral-maxillofacial surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH); Dr. Angela Lin, geneticist at MGH; Dr. John Meara, chief of plastic surgery at



Dr. John B. Mulliken at the gala with Dr. Anthony Holmes of Australia and Dotty MacDonald, RN (front); and pictured with former fellows (rear).

Children's Hospital; Dr. Robert Goldwyn, retired plastic surgeon and past editor of the journal, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*; and Dr. Joseph E. Murray, retired chief of plastic surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, mentor of Dr. Mulliken, and Nobel Laureate.

Over 150 guests participated in the evening's gala hosted at the nearby Hotel Commonwealth. Dr. Mulliken's esteemed teachers, Drs. John Constable, Hardy Hendren, and Robert Goldwyn, came to honor their 'surgical son.' Speeches by his former medical school classmates, Dr. Joseph McCarthy and Dr. Lawrence Cervino (both plastic surgeons), were particularly humorous and moving. Throughout the evening, prepared remarks were filled with warmth and fond memories of the honoree at all stages of his illustrious career.

Dr. Mulliken emphasized that his Festschrift celebration was not a retirement party. He continues to work at full tilt. The papers presented at the symposium will be published in a supplement to the *Journal of Craniofacial Surgery*.



Dr. Mulliken with Dr. Hardy Hendren, his former teacher and past chief of surgery at Children's Hospital.

Save the Date!
October 5, 2008
See inside for
Family Picnic &
Walk info

Brendan Condon, a graduate of Notre Dame in 2004, wrote the following essay as part of his recent application to business school. We're glad to report he has been accepted into the Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business where he will be attending in the fall.

Upon my return to Notre Dame's campus after one fall break, there was a chill in the air and an early snow was expected. As I had done many times before, I gathered my bags and hailed a cab. The ride was uneventful until I was standing beside the cab preparing to pay the driver. He asked me if I had been born with a cleft lip and palate. I paused for a moment, and I said that I had. He smiled, reached into his wallet and retrieved a picture of his son, who was due for surgery soon. The cab driver said he hoped his son could attend Notre Dame one day, wished me well, and drove off.



Brendan Condon

This brief encounter was near the end of a journey that began the day I was born with cleft lip and palate. Even though the next 20 years involved many surgeries and required a great deal of support from both my family and friends, I had a fairly normal childhood. While in some ways it is difficult to quantify the effect that this has had on my life, upon reflection, it has shaped me in subtle but important ways.

The most profound impact has probably been in developing empathy for others. Often times I would sit in a waiting room at Boston Children's Hospital and look around to see other children with conditions far more severe than mine. After my own experience, it is difficult not to have a deep appreciation for the hardships they have had to endure. As a result, I have tried to be more compassionate of those around me and to understand the path that they have traveled.

I also feel that having to deal with so many surgeries has imparted a degree of perseverance and determination. Since there was no straight line between my ultimate goal of a successful resolution and the day I was born in Fort Worth, Texas, I was left with the reality that perseverance was the principal component in achieving one's goals. So, when faced with challenges in my own life, I have concentrated on focused progress towards achieving strong personal relationships as well as professional success.

This experience strengthened my bonds with my family, gave me empathy to understand not only those who have dealt with hardship but also those who simply approach life differently than I have, and allowed me the perspective to approach my goals with determination and vigor. I will always remember my encounter that fall morning, and it would not have been possible without the 20-year journey that preceded it.

— Brendan Condon
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Faceoff Benefits FFC

FFC's name was up in lights at a charity hockey game, sponsored by the Syracuse Crunch Hockey Club, on April 12. The game raised \$1,250, which was donated to FFC in honor of Madison Hannah Parks, four-year-old daughter of Teri and John Parks. This was the third time the club has held a benefit for FFC.



Both Madison's father and grandfather played in the charity event along with team alumni, family, and friends who sold tickets. Later in the evening, Madison got to drop the first puck in the game between the Syracuse Crunch and Binghamton Senators, both American Hockey League farm teams.

Madison, who lives with her family in Clay, New York, was born with unilateral craniosynostosis, a condition in which one of the bony sutures on the head closes prematurely. She visits doctors at Children's Hospital Boston regularly and is scheduled

in August for a third eye surgery to help correct strabismus (commonly called "lazy eye") caused by the craniosynostosis.

Many thanks to the Parks family, the Syracuse Crunch, and team general manager Vance Lederman for their continued support.



Madison Parks drops the first puck (above) and on the ice with her dad, grandfather, and younger brother Gavin.

A Meaningful Gift

Support for the educational endeavors of FFC comes solely from donations, grants, and fundraising initiatives. We need your help to continue our work and make a difference for children with craniofacial conditions and their families. Here are some of the many ways you can support FFC:

- donate in honor of your favorite physician,
- take part in the "Paces for Faces Walk" or sponsor a walker,
- celebrate a wedding or other special occasion with a gift to FFC,
- remember a loved one with a memorial gift,
- make a donation of appreciated stock, and
- host a benefit, such as a concert or sporting event.

To donate to FFC, use the enclosed envelope or go to www.facesofchildren.org and click on "Make a Donation Today." Together we help children to put their best faces forward.



Preregister by contacting FFC Director Mairi Bleakie at **781-545-5086** or via email at **mbleakie@facesofchildren.org**. Let her know how many will be in your group and their T-shirt sizes.

- Volunteer to make the event a success! Contact Mairi to sign up.
- Encourage friends and family to sponsor you.
- Visit www.facesofchildren.org for directions and sponsor sheets.
- Be sure to bring your sponsor sheet the day of the walk along with any pledges already collected. Mail remaining pledges no later than November 5, 2008 to: *Foundation for Faces of Children, 258 Harvard Street, #367, Brookline, MA 02446*

QUESTIONS?

Call Mairi Bleakie at **781-545-5086** or visit the FFC website, www.facesofchildren.org.

We look forward to seeing you on October 5, 2008 for the "Paces for Faces" walkathon and family picnic at Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield!



The Foundation for Faces of Children is dedicated to improving the lives of children with craniofacial conditions, including cleft lip, cleft palate, and other head and facial differences. We concentrate our efforts on education, training, family support systems, and the dissemination of accurate and timely information. We also fund targeted research about the causes, treatments, and outcomes of these congenital conditions. The goals and strategies of the Foundation for Faces of Children are to...

- Provide leadership and advocacy through research and education.
- Distribute accurate and timely information as quickly and widely as possible to children, families, medical professionals, and the community at large.
- Endorse the team approach to treatment of craniofacial conditions; we believe that the best outcomes result from collaborative treatment by an experienced group of specialists.
- Partner with organizations that have similar goals and values.

We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization supported entirely by private donations, grants, and fund-raising initiatives. We receive no government funding. If you are interested in having a board member speak to your group about our organization, or if you wish to participate in or sponsor a fundraising event, please call us at **617-355-8299** or write to:

**Foundation for Faces of Children,
258 Harvard Street, #367
Brookline, MA 02446**

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