Robin Steinhorn, M.D.

Research/Academic Interests

Dr. Steinhorn, a specialist in neonatal-perinatal medicine and an expert in the area of extracorporeal life support (ECMO), is the chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Previous to coming to UC Davis, she was the Chief of the Division of Neonatology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Vice Chair of Pediatrics, and held the Raymond and Hazel Speck Berry endowed chair in Pediatrics.

The major focus of Dr. Steinhorn's academic interest has been the study of newborn vascular biology. She spent her fellowship and early faculty years studying ECMO in newborn infants when ECMO was innovative, heroic therapy. To better target the specific vascular pathophysiology of pulmonary hypertension, Dr. Steinhorn learned techniques to investigate basic mechanisms regulating vascular tone and has gone on to apply this knowledge to better understand the normal development of the perinatal pulmonary circulation, and to determine specific abnormalities that result in neonatal and pediatric pulmonary hypertension.

Her interest in vascular biology remains firmly rooted in the high clinical morbidity and mortality associated with neonatal respiratory failure and one of her major goals for her research program has been to build a robust clinical research program to complement the basic work underway in the laboratory. Recently Dr. Steinhorn has served as the lead investigator for a Phase I/II trial of intravenous sildenafil for the treatment of PPHN.

Title

Medical Director, UC Davis Children's Hospital
Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics

Specialty

Pediatric Neonatology

Department

Pediatrics

Division

Neonatology

Center/Program Affiliation

UC Davis Children's Hospital

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Education

M.D., Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1980

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B.S., University of Akron, Akron, OH, 1976

Internships Barnes Hospital Group, St Louis, MO, 1983

Residency University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1986

Fellowships University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1988

Board Certifications
American Board of Pediatrics, 1989
American Board of Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, 1989

Professional Memberships
Alpha Omega Alpha
American Academy of Pediatrics (Perinatal Section)
American Heart Association
American Pediatric Society
American Thoracic Society
Extracorporeal Life Support Organization
Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society
Perinatal Research Society
Society for Pediatric Research

Honors and Awards
Jerry Elliott Memorial Lecture, AAP Western Conference on Perinatal Research, 2012
Listed in: Chicago Top Doctors, 2012
Listed in: America's Top Doctors, 2012
Lung Club Lecture, Pediatric Academic Societies, 2008
March of Dimes Illinois Chapter, Jonas Salk Health Leadership Award for Research, 2007
Raymond and Hazel Speck Berry Chair in Neonatology (Northwestern University), 2002
Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce Service Award, 2000

Select Recent Publications
Ball MK, Steinhorn RH. Inhaled nitric oxide for preterm infants: A marksman's approach. J Pediatr 2012;161(3):379-80.
Farrow KN, Lee KJ, Lakshminrusimha S, Smith CL, Steinhorn RH, Schumacker PT. Brief hyperoxia increases mitochondrial oxidation and increases PDE5 activity in fetal pulmonary artery smooth muscle cells. Antioxid Redox Signal 2012; 17(3): 460-470.
Farrow KN, Steinhorn RH. Sildenafil therapy for bronchopulmonary dysplasia: Not quite yet. J Perinatol; 2012;32(1):1-3.
Steinhorn RH. Pharmacotherapy for Pulmonary Hypertension. Pediatr Clin. 2012 59(5): 1129-46.
Wedgwood S, Lakshminrusimha S, Gugino SF, Soares F, Russell JA, Steinhorn, RH. Apocynin

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improves oxygenation and eNOS expression in lambs with persistent pulmonary hypertension. Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol. 2012; 302(6):L616-26.

Perez M, Lakshminrusimha S, Wedgwood S, Czech L, Gugino SF, Russell JA, Farrow KN, Steinhorn RH. Hydrocortisone normalizes oxygenation and cGMP regulation in lambs with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn. Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol. 2012; 302(6): L595-603.

Porta NF, Steinhorn RH. Nitric oxide, sildenafil, and other pulmonary vasodilators. Clin Perinatol. 2012; 39(1): 149-164.

Robinson DT, Steinhorn RH. Preterm neonate with intestinal failure and feeding issues. Pediatr Ann 2011; 40:404-406.

Weisman L, Thackray H, Steinhorn R, Walsh W, Lassiter H, Dhanireddy R, Brozinski B, Palmer K, Trautman M, Escobedo M, Meissner C, Sasidharan P, Fretz J, Kokai-Kun J, Kramer W, Fischer G, Mond J. A randomized study of amonoclonal antibody (pagibaximab) to prevent staphylococcal sepsis in premature infants. Pediatrics 2011; 128:271-279.

Merrill JD, Ballard PL, Courtney SE, Durand DJ, Hamvas A, Hibbs AM, Lu KW, Ryan R, Reynolds AM, Spence K, Steinhorn RH, Truog WE, Eichenwald EC, Ballard RA. Pilot trial of late booster doses of surfactant for ventilated premature infants. J Perinatol 2011: 31(9): 599-606

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