

## UCSF diabetes specialist to lead Pediatric Endocrinology Division

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*Dr. Stephen Gitelman to assume leadership position on July 1*

This week, [Stephen E. Gitelman, M.D.](#) [1] -- Director of the Pediatric Diabetes Program at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital and the Mary B. Olney, MD / KAK Chair in Pediatric Diabetes and Clinical Research -- was named chief of the [Pediatric Endocrinology Division](#) [2]. Gitelman will assume this leadership position on July 1, 2014.

"I am honored to assume this post and try to build on the tremendous legacy left by my past mentors, including our current division Chief [Walter Miller](#) [3],? Gitelman said.

Gitelman currently oversees a multidisciplinary team of pediatric diabetes experts who provide care to more than 800 children, adolescents and young adults with [type 1](#) [4] and [type 2](#) [5] diabetes, a disorder that develops when the body's immune system disrupts the way insulin regulates blood sugar.

In terms of clinical research, Gitelman aims to better understand the cause for immune-mediated destruction of insulin-producing beta cells -- as well as to find safe and effective means to alter the natural course of diabetes, by preserving insulin producing beta cells.

"I am involved in a variety of different translational and clinical research projects -- for which the majority of work occurs in clinical trials," said Gitelman, who serves as Clinical Center Director for the National Institutes of Health-funded [TrialNet](#) [6], a research consortium that develop trials to delay or prevent the onset of type 1 diabetes in those at risk.

"I am also partnering with colleagues at UCSF Diabetes Center to pursue other clinical trials and translational studies that may help us better understand the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes," he said.

One such effort is a partnership with [Jeff Bluestone](#) [7] to use regulatory T cells a novel therapy for autoimmunity, and another is a recently launched trial with the cancer drug Gleevec for new onset type 1 diabetes. "As technology advances, we anticipate to one day be able to use beta cells derived from stem cells as a cell replacement therapy for type 1 diabetes."

[Matthias Hebrok](#) [8], the Director of the Diabetes Center at UCSF, was delighted to hear that Steve Gitelman was chosen to lead the Division.

"Steve is an excellent choice for this position," Hebrok said. "We have worked together for more than a decade and I am excited to continue our efforts to strengthen the Diabetes efforts at UCSF over the next years."

Gitelman earned an undergraduate degree at Princeton University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*, and he earned his medical degree from the University of North Carolina. Gitelman then completed a residency in pediatrics and fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at UCSF, where he is currently a professor of clinical pediatrics.

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### **About the Diabetes Center at University of California, San Francisco**

At the [Diabetes Center at UCSF](#) [9], leading experts in diabetes research, patient care, and patient education work as one cohesive team to improve the quality of life of those living with the disease and to ultimately discover a cure. For more information, visit [diabetes.ucsf.edu](http://diabetes.ucsf.edu) [9] or send email to [news@diabetes.ucsf.edu](mailto:news@diabetes.ucsf.edu) [10].

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[2] <http://pediatrics.ucsf.edu/pediatric-specialties/endocrinology>

[3] <http://pediatrics.ucsf.edu/faculty/walter-l-miller-md>

[4] <http://dtc.ucsf.edu/types-of-diabetes/type1/understanding-type-1-diabetes/what-is-type-1-diabetes/>

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[6] <https://www.diabetestrialnet.org/>

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