In 1947, the first American husband and wife team to win a Nobel Prize, Carl and Gerty Cori (née Radnitz) of Washington University Medical School, were awarded the Physiology or Medicine Prize for "the discovery on how glycogen is converted to glucose in the body, and for the effects of hypophysis hormones on sugar metabolism."

A recent Nature Communications paper from the lab of one of our fellow Department of Pediatrics colleagues, Victor Nizet, shows that the estrogen receptor modulator tamoxifen can increase the release of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps, which can help neutrophils in killing some bacteria. Tamoxifen appears to work by increasing ceramide levels in neutrophils, providing potential paths for regulating the ability of our immune system to kill invading microbes. Find out more here.

Who knew cells in our lungs could be so shifty?

Neuroendocrine bodies in the lung are poorly understood but could play really important roles in a variety of lung diseases. No one has really understood how these clusters of cells that release a variety of very active peptides actually form. In a recent Cell paper, the Krasnow lab at Stanford has shown that neuroendocrine progenitors form throughout the lung and then can escape their neighbors in the airway, crawl around, and find other cells just like them. How cells can find ways to move around inside an organ, whether in developing kids or adults, could prove to be very important in a variety of disease states. Find out more here.

Cool Stuff from the Literature

Little Giraffe Foundation 2016 Neonatal Research Initiative - Request for Proposals

Researchers are invited to submit applications for research grants directed at addressing both the long term and immediate health needs caused by premature birth.

Award Amount $5,000-$10,000. LOI must be submitted by July 15, 2016.