## Gretchen Golas, CRNP

Gretchen Golas is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She has worked in various health care settings since 1982 and joined the NIH team in 2005. She serves as the primary point of contact for pediatric HPS patients and their families who wish to participate in the natural history study or just have questions about HPS. She also works with families with CHS. Her warm nature always makes families feel at home.

## Wendy Introne, MD

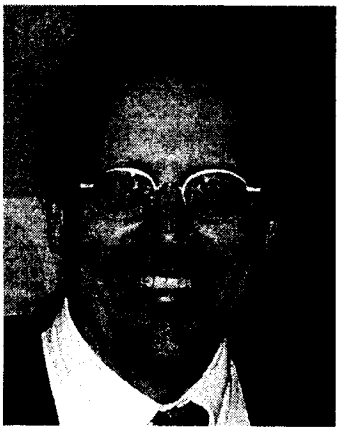
Dr. Wendy Introne is a pediatrician, clinical and biochemical geneticist involved in clinical research on rare genetic conditions at the NIH. After completing pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, Dr. Introne continued in her fellowship training in clinical and biochemical genetics at the NIH. Following fellowship, Dr. Introne worked in the Pediatric Genetic Division of the Department of Pediatrics at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. She returned to the NIH in 2004 as an Associate Investigator in the NHGRI in the Office of the Clinical Director. Her current work includes clinical protocols investigating rare disorders such as Chediak-Higashi syndrome, Alkaptonuria, and Smith-Magenis syndrome.

## Takuma Ishii, MD

Dr. Takuma Ishii is accompanying the delegation of people with HPS and albinism from Japan. He is an Assistant Professor and MD. He is also a Certified Pediatrician, Certified Clinical Geneticist and Certified Clinical Cytogeneticist at the Department of Public Health and Genetic Counseling Program, Graduate School of Medicine,

Chiba University. He works at the Division of Genetic Counseling, Chiba University Hospital and the Division of Clinical Genetics, Chiba Children's Hospital. He is also a part-time lecturer at Toho University Sakura School of Nursing. His special interests include genetic counseling, supporting patients and their families and teaching medical students from all walks of the medical profession.

## Thomas Markello, MD



Dr. Markello is reviewing possible new drugs for future trials. He is the principal investigator for the multi-drug trial to treat the pulmonary fibrosis of HPS. He has also obtained the necessary credentials to be able to prescribe Thalidomide to HPS patients with the cough associated with advanced pulmonary fibrosis. Dr. Markello is also actively studying families with storage pool deficiency who do not have HPS. He hopes this study may yield clues about HPS. He's always looking out for HPS'ers in big ways and in smaller ways. Dr. Markello's CV is quite extensive, but he says he'd prefer it if we thought of him as "a simple country doctor that trained in biochemical genetics." He's also a big photography and astronomy fan.

## Melissa Merideth, MD

The HPS community is very grateful to have Dr. Merideth join us once again this year. She is the only OB/GYN that has shown a real interest in HPS and in serving the HPS community. A genetics researcher at the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Merideth is board certified in Obstetrics/Gynecology, Clinical Genetics and Biochemical Genetics. Dr. Merideth finished her ob/gyn residency at the Mayo Clinic in 2001, and after practicing in Arizona for two years, headed to the NIH in 2003, where she completed fellowships