

## Outstanding Young Alumna

---



### Coleen K. Cunningham, MD Class of 1985

Dr. Coleen K. Cunningham is Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center, and is an Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Pediatrics. There she directs the Pediatric HIV Clinical Trials Unit and the Pediatric Clinical Research Program as well as the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship Training Program. Dr. Cunningham received her MD degree in 1985 from "SUNY Upstate Medical Center" and remained in Syracuse for her Pediatric Residency, and Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship. In 1991 she joined the faculty at Upstate as an Assistant Professor where she remained until taking on her current position at Duke. While at Upstate, Dr. Cunningham was active as a student and resident advisor and in faculty governance. She also organized a women's faculty group in the Department of Pediatrics that remains active.

Dr. Cunningham has focused her clinical and research work on the areas of treatment and prevention of HIV infection in children and adolescents. She has designed and directed multicenter clinical trials through the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group, and the Adolescent Trials Network and she participates in the Adolescent Working Group of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. She has published many original manuscripts including reports of the first use of a new class of antiretroviral agents, the fusion inhibitors, in children and on the lack of benefit of a single dose of nevirapine to pregnant women and their infants in women on standard antiretroviral therapy. She continues to actively participate in clinical trials and is currently chair or team member for 6 ongoing multicenter studies. She was an invited speaker to an FDA meeting on antiretroviral trials in treatment experienced children, a WHO/UNIADS Consultation on HIV vaccine trials in adolescents and the recent AIDS Vaccine meetings in Montreal.

Perhaps more importantly, she participated in the care of most of the HIV infected children in the CNY region starting in the late 80s and now has the pleasure of hearing that some of them are going off to college and moving on to jobs as young adults. Caring for those kids and watching the tremendous improvements in care and outcome has been one of the greatest rewards of her work. She now has the opportunity to work with a clinic in Tanzania where she will be helping to initiate training and treatment plans for scaling up antiretroviral therapy for HIV-infected children.