

### GMC Hearing Update

The prosecution's case is due to finish in the UK on Oct. 19. The case will resume for two weeks in January for half-time submissions (the defense can suggest that certain charges be dropped because the prosecution failed to make its case).

Dr. Wakefield will return to the UK to give his testimony in late March; the case is unlikely to be concluded until the end of 2008.

Dr. Wakefield is now in Texas working on vitally needed autism research. He and his family are enormously grateful to all those who have written in support. Martin Walker's *GMC Hearings Diary* has been posted on [www.cryshame.com](http://www.cryshame.com).



### New Staff at THFCF

We are pleased to announce the addition of Paul Lucas Ramirez. Lucas began his career as a registered nurse in a coronary intensive care unit in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1998. He and his wife Shara began their family there, but moved to the Central Valley of California (where Lucas was raised) in 2001.

While continuing his career in critical care, he completed his Master's degree at California State University, Fresno. It was at this time that Lucas and Shara's



## Thoughtful House

*Center for Children*

youngest of four children was diagnosed with autism. Lucas's exploration of possible treatments led him to a DAN! Conference in the spring of 2007.

Inspired by new scientific information, he left his position as nurse practitioner for two interventional cardiologists, and accepted a position at Thoughtful House.

"I am excited about being a part of something special. I am grateful for the chance to be able to help kids and their families here at the Thoughtful House," he says.

Until his Texas nurse practitioner license comes through, he is working as an RN. He gathers medical history information, orders labs, and starts basic nutritional treatment under protocol. More advanced medical interventions are done by Dr. Jepson. Once licensed, Lucas will see patients independently, but each case will continue to receive close supervision and consultation with Dr. Jepson.

### Board Member Honored

Dr. Deborah Peel was recently ranked fourth on *Modern Healthcare's* "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" list. Deborah founded the Patient Privacy Rights

Foundation in 2004, to educate and empower Americans to preserve and protect their right to medical privacy.

"My time with Thoughtful House--the amazing people who work there, and the families who seek help--has been a most wonderful and moving experience.

"I founded Patient Privacy Rights for my children. No child should be discriminated against because of a diagnosis, medication, treatment, diet, past illness, or future genetic risk.

"The parents of children with ASD want the same thing all parents want for their children: that they be judged for themselves. We all want our children to be judged for their knowledge, their skills, their capabilities, their experience, and their strengths.

"I am deeply honored to be a founding board member of Thoughtful House."



### Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, October 31, 2007, 4:00, the second annual Thoughtful House Halloween Party
- Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., Research Update
- Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 4:00, the second annual Thoughtful House Holiday Party