

Pedi Press 2.0

A Publication of the Department of Pediatrics

Hello Team –

As the winter holidays feel like a distant memory and we welcome the approaching spring, I cannot help but think what an amazing start we have had to 2024. With many exciting and hard-earned transitions occurring, we have also celebrated the opening of the TCH North Austin Campus, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new Austin-based colleagues who are excited to ‘get the show on the road’ as we expand into Central Texas. I am also delighted to see our Department of Pediatrics has moved to #3 from #6 in the Blue Ridge Ranking for 2023 and would like to thank our research leaders, our research faculty, and your respective teams for making this possible. What a way to kick off this New Year!



February marks the annual Thank a Resident Day, an occasion when we pause to express appreciation for the remarkable contributions our residents and fellows make each day. Your commitment to the well-being of our patients, families, and communities does not go unnoticed, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering commitment to pediatric care.

As we transition into the warmer months ahead, now is the time to begin thinking about summer vacation plans and opportunities for rest and rejuvenation. The demands of our profession can be challenging, and it is important to prioritize self-care. Whether it's a weekend getaway or an extended vacation, I encourage each of you to take the time to recharge and reconnect with loved ones.

Additionally, as we look towards the new academic year, with Match Day right around the corner, our training programs are beginning to lay the groundwork for the future generation of pediatricians. Planning for the upcoming year brings excitement and anticipation as we prepare to welcome new residents and fellows into our community. I am so grateful to our program directors, faculty members, and staff for their dedication to providing exceptional training experiences and mentorship opportunities for our trainees.

Thank you once again for your unwavering dedication and contributions to our pediatric community. I am honored to work alongside each of you, and I look forward to the continued successes and achievements that lie ahead.

Happy reading,
Lara

Lara Shekerdemian, MD, MHA, Chair, DoP
B. Lee Ligon, PhD, MA, MA, MAR, Editor/Graphics Design
Joan Shook, MD, MBA, Contributing Editor
Lindsey M. Gurganious, MHA, Administrative Advisor
George Beasley, Technical Support

Appointments and Transitions

A welcome from **Mark Wallace** and all at BCM/TCH:

“All,

Today – January 8, 2024 – marks the start of the exciting next chapter in Texas Children’s history as we welcome our new President, **Debra Feigin Sukin, Ph.D.** . . . I am thrilled to work alongside Debbie as we celebrate a new year and a new season for Texas Children’s. I am even more excited for each of you to see what a remarkable, strong and visionary leader Debbie truly is and for all of us to experience the exceptional qualities and talents she is bringing to our organization!”



More information is available at <https://www.texaschildrens.org/content/media/texas-childrens-announces-new-president>



Dr. Kristy Murray, who has been our superb **Vice Chair for Research** and **Director of the William T. Shearer Center for Human Immunobiology**, has accepted the position of Chief Research Officer, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Executive Vice Chair for Research at Emory School of Medicine. As she makes plans for the next chapter in her career, Kristy leaves the DoP on an outstanding trajectory, now ranked #3 in the nation by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research in its listing of grant funding from the National Institutes of Health. This position is a considerable increase from its previous rank of #6. Funding from NIH is extremely competitive, and these rankings attest to Dr.

Murray’s exceptional expertise in fund raising, as well as her dedication to the department and to our researchers, for whom she has provided unparalleled training, support, and encouragement. It is a bitter-sweet moment for all of us in DoP: We are deeply sorry to see her leave and yet rejoice with her as she embarks on a new journey in her academic and professional career. We wish her all the best!

Dr. Raj Nagarajan, an esteemed pediatric hematologist-oncologist, has been named **Medical Director of Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Center** and Professor of Hematology-Oncology at BCM. Before joining Texas Children’s, Dr. Nagarajan was a professor at the University of Cincinnati Department of Pediatrics. While in Cincinnati, Nagarajan had numerous leadership roles at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, including the role of medical director of oncology for more than a decade.



“I am so honored to join the amazing team at Texas Children’s Hospital. As one of the very best cancer and hematology centers in the nation, Texas Children’s is leading the way in clinical research and family-centered patient care. Its internationally recognized faculty are experts in their fields who are tirelessly pursuing cutting-edge breakthroughs to improve outcomes for patients and their families and, ultimately, to cure childhood cancer and other blood disorders. I am excited to be a member of Texas Children’s Cancer and Hematology Center.”



Dr. Peter Hiatt announced that he will step down as **Division Chief of Pediatric Pulmonary**; a search is under way for his successor.

Dr. Aarti Bavare (Critical Care Medicine) was appointed **Associate Chief Safety Officer** for TCH

Dr. Sarah Nicholas was appointed **Medical Director of the Texas Children's Hospital Infusion Center**

Global HOPE Leadership announced the following leadership changes:

Dr. Joseph Lubega, Director

Dr. Nmazuo Ozuah, Assistant Director

Dr. David Poplack, Sr. Advisor

Medical Directors for TCH North Austin Campus

DOP Medical Directors at TCH Austin



Ryan Stewart
Endocrinology



Anitha Jayakumar
Cardiology



Mark Thompson
Neonatology



Shimona Thakrar
PHM



Ammar Morad
Hem-Onc



Eric Exelbert
ICU



Laura Masters
Neurology



Derek Linklater
PEM & Transport



Kavita Patel
Pulmonology



Kartik Pillutla
Nephrology



Getting to Know our Valentine Couples

In celebration of Valentine's Day, Pedi Press 2.0 requested that couples with both parties working at BCM/TCH share with the DoP their stories of how they met and what it means to work together. Thanks from the PP Team to all of you who shared!



Jared Rubenstein, Physician on Pediatric Palliative Care team and Fellowship Program Director, and **Leyat Tal**, Physician on Pediatric Nephrology team and Director of Quality and Patient Safety for Nephrology Division.

We met on a dating website shortly after Leyat moved to Houston. Jared's been at TCH since 2012, Leyat's been at TCH since 2013. When life gets busy, we love meeting up for lunch.

Amy Truong, Program Coordinator for Pediatric Hospital Medicine, and boyfriend **Zane Shamsber**, a Research Coordinator II for Medicine - Transition Medicine.

We met at the **University of Houston** when we were both undergraduates and lived in the same dorm. We got to know each other by passing notes with music recommendations, and we would play chess together. Fun fact is that I had all my friends teach me how to play chess just so I could impress him! Our favorite thing about working together at Baylor is that we both get to see each other grow individually in our own professions! He gets to hear about how I manage my education programs, and I get to hear about the research he does. Another favorite thing about working together at BCM is that we can see each other for lunch or dinner, since we live on opposite sides of Houston. We are thankful to have the opportunity to work for BCM, and we're excited to see where BCM will take us! Thank you!



Amy Goetz, Program Director of Acute Care Psychology, TCH Division of Psychology, and **David Steffin**, Associate Chief of Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant, TCH Cancer Center.

We met online in 2017. David was doing his peds heme/onc fellowship, and I was a pediatric psychology intern. Months before we ever swiped right, we ended up being in a sickle cell disease multidisciplinary team meeting together. One of our earliest dates after meeting was eating lunch together in Pavilion for Women! David's been with TCH/BCM since 2015. Amy did her internship at TCH/BCM in 2016-2017, moved out-of-state for a postdoc, and then rejoined TCH/BCM in 2019. She's worked in both the Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dropping off our son at daycare and then driving to work together is really nice. Unexpectedly running into each other in an area of the hospital also makes our days!



Kyle Hope, Attending Physician in Cardiology - Heart Failure/Heart Transplant, and **Kriti Puri**, Attending Physician in Critical Care Medicine & Cardiology - CICU and Heart Failure/Heart Transplant.



We met during Cardiology fellowship at TCH, while watching the Astros 2017 World Series. Kriti has been at BCM since 2015, and Kyle since 2017. Our favorite thing about working together at BCM is that we can often get lunch together. A close second is that all our patients get two doctors for the price of one - especially when we are on call. It is really nice to be able to run scenarios by each other.

Ankhi Dutta, Associate Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases and **Angshumoy Roy**, Associate Professor of Pathology & Immunology and Pediatrics Medical Director, Cancer Genomics

We met in Medical School in India and started dating during our 2nd year. Angshumoy has been at BCM/TCH since 2001 (trainee and then faculty), Ankhi since 2005-2011 (as trainee) and joined as faculty in 2014. Our favorite aspect of working together is that we cheer each other on in good times and bad.





Joan Shook, Professor in Emergency Medicine and Chief Safety Officer, and **Jeff Starke**, Professor in Infectious Diseases and TCH Infectious Disease Control Officer.

We met the first month of my internship (Jeff was a second year) on 5 south Abercrombie. We had gone to the same college and knew a few of the same people so he had heard my name. I remember seeing him a short time later by the elevators and saying to myself "I am going to marry that man—but he is wearing awful clothes (a red plaid shirt and white pants!)." We were married about 20 months later when I was a second-year resident and he was a third-year and had secured his fellowship. We have different last names, so people often STILL don't know that we are married. We have been here ever since—we have three grown children (who are all physicians and graduated from BCM!). We also have two grandchildren. We have been at TCH/BCM for almost 87 years!!!!!! when we add our times together. Isn't that crazy? There are a couple of great things about working together--we understand the other's working world and have many of the same friends—I think the best is the thought that I might (or could) run into him during the day.

Janki Patel, Physician in Developmental Behavioral, Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics, and **Maulik Patel**, Sr., Project Manager, Quality and Safety Department—Public Reporting.

We started talking through an online dating app and had our first date soon after at BCM. Janki has been at BCM since 2020 and Maulik since 2021. Our favorite thing about working together is being able to chat on our commute to work.



Jeff Dreyer, Medical Director of the Heart Transplant Program, and **ZoAnn Dreyer**, Clinical Director of the Long-Term Survivor Clinic at TCH's Children's Cancer Center.

We met at TCH 40 years ago, got engaged on Valentine's Day, and are celebrating our 38th wedding anniversary this year. "The thing that really works well for us is that we know what our worlds are . . . nobody gets mad when the other one gets home at 9 pm, that's just the way it goes, because the patients come first." (Their story was featured on Fox26 and can be read here: <https://www.fox26houston.com/news/love-blooms-at-texas-childrens-hospital-between-leading-physicians>)



SPOTLIGHT ON

Hematology / Oncology Community Outreach & Engagement



Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, at the request of Councilmember-at-Large Letitia Plummer, made a special proclamation for National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and lit City Hall gold September 22-24 to help raise awareness of childhood cancer.



The Division Celebrated **Going Gold for Childhood Cancer** in the Medical Center (main campus), at The Woodlands campus, at The West campus, and at the Vannie Cook Children's Clinic in MacArthur, in September. Our Going Gold Celebration gives our pediatric cancer patients and their families a chance to shine. Appreciation was extended to The Faris Foundation and everyone who made our parade at Texas Children's Hospital West Campus so bright!

In October, **Dr. Susan Blaney** hosted our inaugural **Research Elevator Pitch Competition!** A panel of 7 judges scored the pitches of 17 Center faculty members who competed, explaining their research in lay language in a compelling manner. Congratulations to our awardees: 1st place-**Dr. Robin Parihar**, 2nd place-**Dr. Alison Bertuch**, and 3rd place-**Dr. Raj Venkatramani**! Stay tuned for our second competition.



Sport Purple for Platelets, a celebration held annually by the Platelet Disorder Support Association, took place on September 29, with the Division taking a significant part. On the last Friday of every September, supporters don purple gear to raise awareness for immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) and other platelet disorders. The choice of purple is based on it being the perfect fusion of the calm stability of blue with the fierce energy of red; it is said to have the power to uplift, calm nerves, and encourage peace as well as to represent bravery. Purple also signifies one of the most distinctive symptoms of ITP – the spontaneous bruise. More information is available at <https://pdsa.org/patients-caregivers/itp-awareness-advocacy/sport-purple-for-platelets-day.html>.



TCH's Cancer and Hematology Center held a celebration welcoming **Michelle Alozie**, the cancer researcher/professional soccer player, back to Houston following her amazing performance at the Women's World Cup earlier this summer. Featured in *Forbes Magazine*, she is seen as being set "apart from other soccer players . . . [because she] not only pursues a professional career in the NWSL but also serves as a research technician at the Texas Children's Hospital. Her routine allows her to seamlessly navigate both careers successfully. At the top of her to-do list now that she's home? Spend time with our patients. We're thrilled to have you on our team, Michelle!

The 2023 4th **Symposium Childhood Cancer Health Disparities Symposium**, presented by Northwestern Mutual Foundation, was held on September 26 in the Texas Medical Center. The role of environmental factors on risk of developing pediatric cancers and their treatment outcomes are not well understood. The symposium brought together a transdisciplinary panel of experts "to review the current state of knowledge of environmental risk factors of pediatric cancer, introduce novel exposure assessment tools that can be applied to the field, and highlight opportunities to study the impact that environmental health disparities may contribute to pediatric cancer susceptibility and outcomes."

Information extracted from <https://www.texaschildrens.org/health-professionals/education-training/academic-events/conferences/environmental-health>

HIGHLIGHTS

A multidisciplinary **Pediatric Wound Care Clinic** started at The Woodlands Campus in February 2022 followed by a **Complex Care Wound Care Clinic** in June 2023. The clinics exemplify collaboration, teamwork and professionalism of surgical, medical and ancillary services. What is unique is that it is a “one stop shop” for complex patients with acute or chronic wounds who have several subspecialties involved in their care. This is positively influencing patient and provider time, healthcare costs, improved provider collaboration and patient satisfaction. In FY23, the wound care clinic completed 621 appointments; in the first quarter into FY24, the clinic has completed 360 appointments. Patient/Family comment:



“It was literally the most exceptional experience I’ve ever had. Overall, the patient care experience was thorough and necessary in order to ensure that the patient was able to get the appropriate treatment and support. The staff was amazing and the Doctors assistant was very knowledgeable and supportive as well. Thank you for your service!”

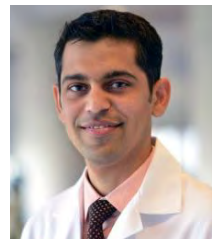
Special Announcement

The Department of Pediatrics announced a new annual department-level award in honor of **Dr. Dennis M. Bier** for the best pediatric nutrition research publication. Dr. Bier served as Director of the CNRC from September 1993 to February 2024. He also served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* from 2007 to 2019. Dr. Bier has spent his career advocating and encouraging robust, scientifically rigorous research in the area of maternal and child nutrition research, including a broad spectrum of research that impacts the knowledge and science for child nutrition and metabolism. As he retires, it is fitting that the DoP names an award in his honor for the best publication from someone in the department in the area of pediatric nutrition research.



Dr. Satid Thammasitboon and **Dr. Parag Jain** are part of an **multi-institution collaborative team of researchers at TCH, Rice University, and the Texas Heart Institute** that received a 5-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. The grant will fund the development of an innovative undergraduate bioengineering curriculum component that seeks to enhance Rice’s undergraduate bioengineering curriculum to address inequities in health care delivery and account for the complex clinical settings in which medical devices are used.

The program will allow students to observe and interact with clinical settings in the PICU and cardiology and heart surgery center. The faculty have a wide range of expertise in cardiology, pediatric critical care, medical humanities, and bioengineering.



As a major contributor to The Texas Children's Hospital Heart Center, the **Division of Cardiology** aims to "Provide extraordinary, lifelong care for patients and families impacted by pediatric cardiovascular disease by delivering exceptional, integrated clinical care; pioneering innovative therapies; educating the next generation of cardiac care leaders; and ensuring the best experience for patients, families, staff, and providers." In this edition of *PediPress*, the Division highlights



the strategic pillar of Education that supports this mission. Founded by Dr. Dan McNamara, the first Chair of Pediatric Cardiology at TCH and former President of the American College of Cardiology, fellowship training and education have been at the core of our Heart Center's mission since its inception. We remain one of the largest programs in the country for general cardiology as well as subspecialty training. Remarkably, our fellowship program has produced 32 Chiefs of Cardiology at prestigious programs throughout the country. As the field of Pediatric Cardiology continues to advance, our fellowship training program remains on the forefront as we continue to recruit and train the best and brightest young physicians in America.

Many of the members of the **Division of Critical Care** attended the SCCM Annual Congress in Phoenix, Arizona (right, top), where many gave presentations to a wonderful cheering division and four of the faculty (**Drs. Katri Typpo, Arun Saini, Kathleen Thompson, and Jorge Coss Bu**) gained FCCM status (right, bottom).



Members of the **Critical Care ECMO** team are pictured (left) at the end of a week of education and simulation in Austin, held in January.

EVENTS

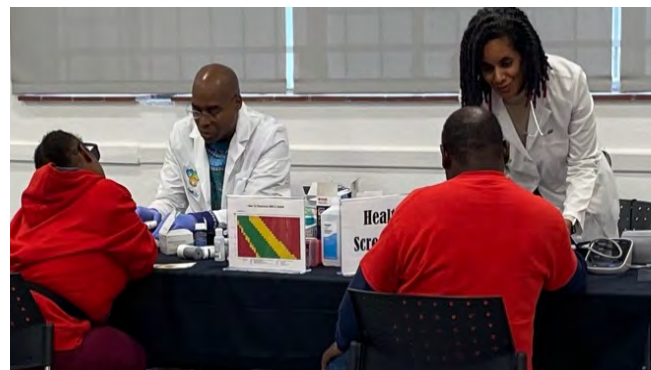
In December, **Texas Children's Cancer Center** held the **Rare Tumor Conference – Bridging the Gap: SMARCB1 Mutated Tumors**. The symposium brought together world-leading experts, researchers and medical professionals to exchange knowledge and insights on the latest advancements in the field of SMARCB1 mutated tumors.



The HIV care and research staff of **Immunology, Allergy, and Retrovirology (IAR)** gave a **Retrovirology Holiday Party** on Friday, December 8, 2023. Approximately 120 infants, children and their families participated. Almost every one of our staff participated! Special thanks go to Chivon McMullen Jackson for organizing logistics; Karen Johnson, Lori Briones, Mariam Pontifes, and Gloria Sierra for taking lead roles; and Teresa Aldape, Berangere Ross, Tania Moreno, Litty Koshy, Daisy Perez, Alejandra Martinez, Laura Reyes, Stephanie Campos, Mary Johnson, and Della Snow for helping with the party. Saul Pontifes was the best Santa on record, surpassing even Howard Rosenblatt's celebrated "Hanuclaus" of the

past. Andrew Ryal, Chivon's Brother, brought the party to life by spinning Christmas tunes, conducting musical chairs, and adding in line dancing! Youth CAB members, Daisy, and Tania's face painting skills were put to good use to the delight of the children. Donations of money, toys and gift cards were procured from organizations by Karen, Chivon, Stephanie, Mariam, and Gloria making the night a huge success. Drs. Davis and Mirani were honored guests.

Dr. Carla Davis has a vision to improve healthcare access to allergy/immunology services for all persons in the nation. In 2023, she helped launch the **Family Faith Clinic** with a mission is to give compassionate, quality medical care coupled with faith-based spiritual care in the community for uninsured patients. Some of the Family Faith Clinic volunteer opportunities this season were Health Fair at the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Health Clinics at the Blue Triangle Community Center, and Save a Life Tour with C and S Cares, which had 670 people screened in the Greater Houston area.



The **Dennis M. Bier, MD, Symposium: The Future Directions of Nutrition**, was held in January in honor of Dr. Bier at his retirement. The Dinner was hosted by the ASN, and the cocktail reception by the DoP. The department initiated an award in his name (see page 9). The first award recipient was **Chathura Gunasekara** for “Systemic Interindividual Epigenetic Variation in Humans Is Associated with Transposable Elements and Under Strong Genetic Control.”



The USDA/ARS Children’s Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) also hosted the 2nd **Veda R. and Buford L. Nichols Jr. Lectureship** on January 24, 2024. This annual lectureship was established to honor the CNRC founding director, Dr. Buford L. Nichols, Jr., and his late wife Veda R. Nichols. With the generous support by Dr. Nichols and his family, every year the CNRC invites one internationally renowned scientist who has made the most impactful contributions to the broad field of nutrition and health, to visit Houston and give the lecture. This year, Dr. Daniel J. Drucker (University of Toronto) accepted our invitation and gave his lecture, entitled “Changing Health Care Outcomes-The Glucagon-like Peptide Story.” Dr. Drucker’s lecture was attended by more than 100 scientists, physicians, trainees and staff across the entire Texas Medical Center, including those from Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas-Health Science Center at Houston, and Texas A&M-University Institute of Biosciences & Technology at Houston.



Faculty and fellows of **Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition** represented BCM and TCH well at the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, held in October in San Diego (left).

The GHN Division also gathered for its annual Holiday Party in December (below).





Congratulations to two outstanding faculty members, **Dr. Eyal Muscal** and **Dr. Marietta DeGuzman**, who were promoted to **Full Professor** in January. The accomplishments were celebrated at a lovely, warm reception.



Dr. Nancy Ayres was awarded the **2024 American Society of Echocardiography Lifetime Achievement Award**. This award recognizes a physician and/or sonographer who has had a lifetime of outstanding achievements in the field of cardiovascular ultrasound and have served as a role model through service, research and teaching for at least 25 years and are recognized at local, national and international levels. Dr. Ayres is the first pediatric recipient of this award in many years, and it is extremely well deserved. The award will be presented during ASE's Annual Scientific Sessions this June in Portland.



The vision of the **Faculty Development Committee**, launched in 2023, is "To facilitate career growth and advancement of faculty at Texas Children's Hospital, promoting the development of leaders in clinical care, education, and research." It strives to support people in their career goals and help them navigate the processes of advancement. The Promotion Consultation Service was created to assist with one component of that related to the critical aspect of academic promotion. Since its launch, 27 faculty members have used this service, several of whom have subsequently been promoted.



The winners of the inaugural
Faculty Development Mentorship Awards are

At the Assistant and Associate Professor levels:
Dr. Rachel Marek and **Dr. Satid Thammasitboon**



At the Full Professor level:
Dr. Anna Mandalakas and **Dr. Judith Campbell**



In brief . . .

Dr. Aikaterini Anagnostou

-- received the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology ACAAI Woman in Allergy Award at the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

-- was appointed to the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Board of Regents, which oversees all councils and advisory groups and makes important decisions on behalf of the College

Dr. Carla Davis was elected to the Board of Directors as the Secretary-Treasurer for the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, which ascends to serve as AAAAI President.

Dr. Jennie Foster was appointed to the NCI Investigational Drug Steering Committee (IDSC) Pharmacology Task Force.

Dr. Sharada Gowda was elected to the NeoPREP Editorial Team.

Dr. Joud Hajjar was recognized as a 2024 Castle Connolly Top Doctor! This recognition places her among the top 7% of all doctors nationally, nominated by her peers.

Caye Herzik, LVN, was honored for her 45 years of service and commitment to Texas Children's Hospital by West Campus Clinic Chief, Dr. Maria Dr.

Dr. Richard Lewis was recognized for his leadership to the National Ophthalmic Diseases Genotyping Network and renewed as chair of the eyeGENE Steering Committee, marking 18 years of service to the organization.

Suzannah Martin received a DAISY Award, a national recognition program to celebrate and recognize nurses and thank them for the care and kindness they provide.

Dr. Will Parsons was appointed to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Board of Scientific Counselors, which oversees the two NCI intramural research programs (the Center for Cancer Research and the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics).

Dr. Rayne Rouse was invited to serve as Chair of this year's American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Pediatric Cancer Research Grants Scientific Review Committee.

Dr. Lisa Forbes Satter was elected as a Councilor on the Board of Directors of the Clinical

Dr. Jeremy Schraw received the 2024 F. Clarke Fraser New Investigator Award

Dr. Sarah Swartz received the ASPN 2024 Equity, Social Justice and Advocacy Award.

Education Awards

Center for Research, Innovation, and Scholarship in Health Professions Education (CRIS)

Dr. Zoann E. Dreyer, Arnold J Rudolph Award for Lifetime Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Scott D. McLean, Arnold J Rudolph Award for Lifetime Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Marianna M. Sockrider, Excellence for Pediatric Grand Rounds

Dr. Meera R. Gupta, Excellence for Pediatric Grand Rounds

Dr. Melissa D. Svoboda, Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Faith D. Ihekweazu, Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Jared Rubenstein, Achievement in Educational Innovation

Cynthia A. Gaskill, Educational Excellence

Early Career Award for Excellence in Patient Care

Dr. Niveditha Balakumar (Christus Childrens CCM)

Dr. Kelly Banneyer (Psych)

Dr. Dalia Bashir (CCM)

Dr. Clay Cohen (Heme-Onc)

Dr. Tam Doan (Card)

Dr. Erin Doherty (Heme-Onc)

Dr. Peace Imani (Renal)

Dr. Grace Kim (Endo)

Ms. Michelle Medchill (NP-CCM)

Dr. Raysa Morales Demori (CCM)

Dr. Maria Pereira (Rheu)

Dr. Veena Ramgopal (PHM)

Dr. Katherine Saliccioli (Card)

Dr. Krystal Sully (Neurology)

Dr. Daniela Vidaurri (Christus Childrens PHM)

Dr. Julie Voeller (Christus Childrens Heme-Onc)

Dr. James Wilkinson (Card)

Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award -Fall 2023

Dr. Rathi Asaithambi (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Saul Flores (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Venessa Pinto (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Titilope Fasipe (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Eric Russell (Educational Materials Category)

Dr. Faith Ihekweazu (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Mary Shapiro (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Jennifer Hall (Educational Materials Category)

Dr. Virginia Cline (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

Dr. Marcella Donaruma-Kwoh (Teaching and Evaluation Category)

IN MEMORIAM

With profound sadness, the death of Dr. G. S. Gopalakrishna was announced this month. Considered a legendary member of the DoP, "Dr. Krishna," as he was affectionately called, was part of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition from 1976-2019. When the DoP had patients at Ben Taub General and Jefferson Davis Hospitals, Dr. Krishna worked extensively with those children and their families, and for many he was their only consistent provider. He was a truly humble individual and cared deeply for his patients and their families. He was a wonderful role model for hundreds of pediatric trainees and was respected by all those who knew him. In 1982, he received the Award of Excellence in House Staff Teaching. He will be missed by all who knew him.

