

Pedi Press 2.0

A Monthly Publication of the Department of Pediatrics



from the desk of Lara Shekerdeman . . .

Hello Team –

There has been no slowing down this summer when it comes to the incredible work being done in our Department of Pediatrics. It has been just over a year since I took on the role of Chair/Pediatrician-In-Chief, and this felt like the perfect time to reinvigorate our departmental newsletter, with a more condensed format and focus on the people who make the department what it is today.

I am so proud of our divisions for an amazing showing in the US News and World Report, with both Pulmonary and Cardiology remaining ranked #1 and with Nephrology also joining the #1 ranking, but all of our divisions, not just those who are ranked, make us the brilliant department that we are today! The Department of Pediatrics welcomed Dr. Kelley Slack, an industrial/organizational psychologist to our full time faculty and she has leapt into to partnering with our division chiefs to make the workplace more fulfilling, engaging, and enjoyable. Finally, we announced several new leaders in the Department, including Dr. Debra (Deb) Palazzi as Division Chief, Infectious Disease and Dr. Kathryn (Katy) Ostermaier as Division Chief, Development Pediatrics. We also welcomed Wendy Quiroz Nasser DNP as Associate Vice Chair for the Advance Practice Providers.

I hope that each of you has had some time to enjoy some personal time with your own loved ones during the long Houston summer! I was so fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel this summer with my family, taking my parents to Armenia which is my motherland. I was filled with both sadness and pride at the resilience of my surviving relatives who were a part of the Armenian Diaspora in 1915. It was an incredibly moving trip that connected me with my own ancestry.

As we spend more time in the workplace, through the stories we share, the hurdles we navigate, and the moments we celebrate together, our own sense of community can continue to grow in our big and busy department. My hope is that this newsletter will enhance that sense of community, by providing a venue where we might get to know our colleagues better and share information more broadly across this vast department.

I continue to be so thankful to you all for welcoming me into my new role, and for being patient as I have found my footing this past year. I am truly surrounded by and feel supported by a brilliant team of leaders and a department full of passionate individuals whom I am proud to lead. Thank you for being a part of this department and for all that you do for our patients, the community, our families, and especially for one another.

Happy reading,

Lara



In This Issue

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Appointments & Transitions | 2 |
| Focus: Department Administration | 4 |
| Spotlight on Cardiology | 5 |
| Events | 6 |
| Awards & Honors | 11 |
| Family, Friends, Other Fun Stuff | 13 |
| Save the Date | 14 |

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Appointments & Transitions



Dr. Wendy Quiroz Nasser was appointed the Associate Vice Chair for DoP Advanced Practice Providers. She completed her MSN at the University of Texas at Houston, her Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate at Rush University, and, most recently, completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), Executive Track with the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center. She currently holds the titles of Associate Division Chief and Director of the PICU Advanced Practice Providers.



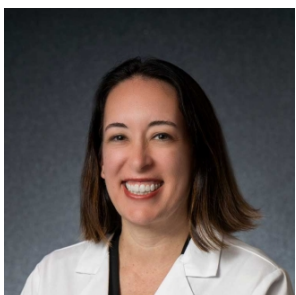
Dr. Rachel Marek was appointed the new CMO at TCH The Woodlands. She received her medical degree from University of Michigan Medical School and completed a residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. She is Assoc. Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine and was previously Medical Director of PHM at TCH The Woodlands. Since joining BCM and TCH, Dr. Marek has excelled as a clinician and has also focused her efforts on building collaborations across specialties and departments, and on faculty and team development.



Dr. Debra Palazzi was named Chief of Infectious Diseases. Dr. Palazzi is Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at TCH and a member the of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society's Pediatric Committee on Antimicrobial Stewardship. She participates in the SHARPS (SHaring Antimicrobial Reports for Pediatric Stewardship) group, a collaborative of more than 30 children's hospitals focused on establishing best practices for the use of antimicrobials in children. Dr. Palazzi is Director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program and served as Associate Division Head of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.



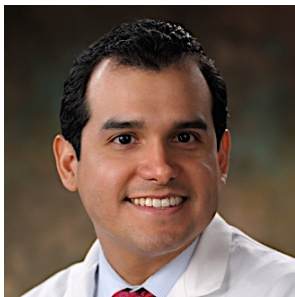
Dr. Kathryn Ostermaier was named Chief of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics. She graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Genetics. She completed medical school and a pediatric residency at BCM, after which she joined the BCM faculty. She started the Special Needs Clinic at Ben Taub General Hospital in 2001, one of only two such clinics in the area at the time. Board certified in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics since 2004, she has served as Clinic Chief for the TCH Spina Bifida Clinic; started the Special Needs Primary Care Clinic at TCH, which is now the largest clinic of its kind in southeast Texas; and became the Clinic Chief for the Down Syndrome Clinic of Houston at TCH in 2009.



Dr. Jackie Powers has been named as the Division Chief of Hematology at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center. In this position, Dr. Powers will lead the section toward improving outcomes for children with blood disorders. She also serves as Associate Professor in the DoP Division of Hematology-Oncology. Dr. Powers is internationally recognized for her expertise in iron deficiency anemia, which impacts more than 1.2 billion individuals worldwide and is the most common blood condition in the world. Chronic iron deficiency anemia can result in neurocognitive dysfunction in young children, as well as iron overload disorders.



Dr. Michael Taylor, a molecular biologist and an international leader in pediatric neuro-oncology, has joined TCH and BCM to become the inaugural Director of the institutions' Childhood Brain Cancer Research Program. He will focus on pursuing therapies for difficult-to-treat brain tumors. "Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the cancer research taking place at Texas Children's, and I am honored to be joining this collaborative, cutting-edge team," said Taylor. "While I am dedicated to curing medulloblastoma and ependymoma, most of all, I look forward to continuing my research into preventing these aggressive cancers. My vision is that no family ever has to face this devastating diagnosis."



Dr. Bruno Chumpitazi, Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Neurogastroenterology and Motility, has accepted the position of Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Duke Children's Hospital and the Department of Pediatrics at the Duke University School of Medicine.



Dr. Kathleen (Kay) J. Motil, Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and the Children's Nutrition Research Center, retired after more than 40 years on faculty at BCM. Dr. Motil completed her fellowship in Gastroenterology at Boston Children's Hospital and her PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980. She joined the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine in 1981. She is internationally renowned as an expert in nutrition and the specialized gastroenterological and nutritional issues of individuals with Rett Syndrome. Dr. Motil has been recognized for her tireless and impactful volunteer work for Casa de Esperanza de los Ninos. Dr. Motil was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, one of the three top awards of the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

2023 – 2024 Chiefs of Pediatric Specialty Programs Announced

The following Chiefs were announced for their respective Specialty Programs:



Dr. Megan Carey
Pediatric Global Health Program



Dr. Christianah Ogunleye
Primary Care LEAD Program



Dr. Audra Iness
Pediatrician Scientist Program



on department administration

We recently welcomed a Sr. Associate Administrator, **Alex Ledesma**, to the team. Alex's primary focus in our big and busy department will involve working closely with several of our divisions, as well as with House Staff Administration, and he will provide much needed backup for Bill Jones.



*Interview with
ALEX LEDESMA*

Tell us briefly about your professional background? How did you get to where you are?

I started working with BCM as a student helper in the Molecular and Human Genetics Department in 2002. I did that for a few years and then left BCM only to find my way back in March of 2010 in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Critical Care. I started as an Admin Secretary and worked my way up to the role of Senior Manager of Business Ops. During my 13 years in Critical Care, I have completed my Bachelor of Business Administration, with a minor in Human Resources Management and my MBA, with a focus in Human Resources Management. I most recently started my new role as Sr. Assoc. Administrator in Pediatrics Administration, in April. I am really excited about this role, as well as getting to know more of my colleagues in the department.

How do you usually like to start your day?

Unfortunately I am NOT a morning person, despite wishing I were! I like to spend a little part of my morning walking my dog, Kirby, and getting myself mentally ready to tackle the day. I am not a coffee drinker, but I won't say "no" to a green tea lemonade from Starbucks.

What book are you currently reading or what TV series are you watching?

I love anything sci fi, Marvel, or historical drama. My favorite shows/series at the moment are Black Mirror, House of the Dragon, The Crown. I also really love rewatching shows and movies. One show I have started to rewatch is "Lost."

How do you practice self-care?

My favorite thing to do right now is to spend time playing with and training Kirby. I love showing him how to do tricks and taking him on walks to let him explore. I find it to be relaxing.

What is your favorite part about working here?

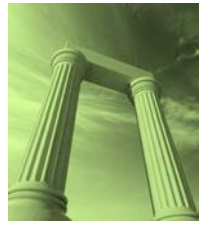
The reason I have stayed with BCM/TCH for so long is that I think the work that we do here is really inspiring. It's really easy to get caught up in the day-to-day things, but when I feel like I am in a funk, I think about all of the amazing work our providers do in the DoP, providing care to the most vulnerable population. Being able to provide our teams even a small level of support is truly a privilege.





SPOTLIGHT ON CARDIOLOGY

Strategic Pillars of the Division's Vision of
Excellence in Lifelong Care for Those Impacted by Cardiovascular Diseases



*Provide Excellence in
Team-Based Care*

*Extend Care Beyond the
Hospital and Into the Community*

The **Heart Failure Society of America**

recently named
The Texas Children's
Hospital Pediatric
Heart Failure

Team as the **2023 Outstanding Heart Failure Care Team Award** winner.



The announcement noted several important accomplishments for this multidisciplinary team, which include:-

- Establishing the nation's first dedicated pediatric Heart Failure ICU
- Leading the world in the use of percutaneous devices in children
- Assisting in the innovation of miniaturized LVADs
- Identifying new genetic mutations in cardiomyopathy
- Creating evidence-based guidelines for the evaluation and management of pediatric acute decompensated heart failure
- Describing the neurohormonal profile of pediatric heart failure
- Describing the cardiorenal syndrome in children

The nomination concluded how every day, "this dedicated and talented team strives to make a difference for their patients and families with pediatric heart failure. They recognize that success depends on the unique skill set and value of each team member. And even though some days are daunting, this team remains committed to healing sick children."

Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) is a partnership created to help prevent Sudden Cardiac Death at Houston area schools. We have collaborated with schools in the greater Houston area to make sure they are adequately prepared to respond in case of a cardiac arrest at their schools, meaning that they are "Heart Safe." The effort has been multidisciplinary from across the DoP and TCH. Our team includes Dr. Santiago Valdes (Medical Director), Dr. Jeff Kim, Jennifer Bard (Program Coordinator), Miranda Rodrigues, Gayle Young, Judy Swanson, Sara Stephens, Brittany Hainesworth and Sarah McMaster. Previous members of the team included Melody Stephens (former Program Coordinator) and Ryan Ramphul.



Project ADAM—TCH has certified 118 schools in the greater Houston area as "Heart Safe." All the schools in Crosby ISD and Katy ISD are certified as "Heart Safe." The ultimate goal is to have all schools in the greater Houston area certified as "Heart Safe." There have been at least two lives directly saved from cardiac arrest, which occurred in schools with which we have worked to become Heart Safe (most recent one in May 2023). In both cases, the schools performed admirably and provided high quality CPR and prompt defibrillation to the students, ensuring both had great outcomes.

Ceremony Celebrating Crosby ISD becoming 1st fully Heart Safe School District



EVENTS

GHN Celebrates Fellows' Graduation

GHN Fellowship

Kristin Borovsky, Isha Kaul,
Rebecca Mercedes Shruti
Sakhuja

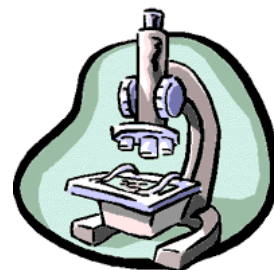
Transplant Hepatology

Fellowship – Madelyn Cohen



CNRC Group Discovers Novel Mechanism

Dr. Yong Xu's group discovered a novel mechanism for brain glucose sensing and the whole body glycemic control, which was published in a *Journal of Clinical Investigation* article, entitled "Anoctamin 4 channel currents activate glucose-inhibited neurons in the mouse ventromedial hypothalamus during hypoglycemia."



Rheumatology Participates in Two Walks

Team members (Drs. Eyal Muscal, Marietta de Guzman, Angela Chun, Yiressy Pina, Research Coordinators, Monica Guevara, Priscilla Vasquez, Nurses Kimberly Teran, Martha Curry, and Social Services, Amy Bragman) participated in two walks: Walk to Cure Arthritis at Buffalo Bayou Trail, and the Lupus Walk at Texas Southern University on May 6, 2023.





Rheumatology Well-Represented at the PRSYM

Rheumatology Faculty consisting of **Drs. Eyal Muscal, Marietta de Guzman, Miriah Gillispie-Taylor, MaiLan Nguyen, Andrea Ramirez, Tiphonie Vogel, Amit Thakral, Cagri Toruner**, as well as Rheumatology Fellows (past and present), Residents, Rheumatology Coordinators, and Medical Students (approximately 32 people in attendance) attended the Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA)/2023 Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium (PRSYM) on March 25 – April 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Orleans, where they presented abstracts/posters.

Endocrine & Psychology Host Education Conference



The Type 1 Transition program, led by **Drs. Marisa Hilliard and Sarah Lyons** (left), hosted a half-day CME conference, “Receiving Young Adults with Diabetes in Your Practice: Medical and Psychosocial Considerations,” at the Hotel ZaZa, Museum District. Sessions focused on essential components of young adult-focused medical care, tailoring diabetes education for young adults, addressing common mental and behavioral health concerns, staying updated on diabetes technology, addressing reproductive health, and prioritizing considerations for young adults with lower resources. A panel including young adults with diabetes, a parent of a young adult with diabetes, and pediatric and adult endocrinologists shared their experiences with the participants over lunch. This event was possible through generous philanthropic support from the P. and C. Carroll Foundation.

Dialysis Unit Holds Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

In June, the Renal team hosted the ribbon cutting for its new 24,000-square-foot dialysis facility on the 6th floor of West Tower. The Lewis Jeweler’s Chronic Dialysis and Apheresis Center sets a new standard for outpatient pediatric dialysis facilities. This facility also provides new space for the growing apheresis program and for hospitalized patients needing acute dialysis. Texas Oilman’s Bass Invitational (TOBI), held their 33rd annual tournament, which supports our quality of life program for dialysis patients. They named the championship trophy in memory of Kyle Almaguer, a long-time patient of the dialysis unit.



USNWR ranked the program the best in the nation for 202e-2024, a return to the #1 spot for the first time since 2009-2010.

GHN Honored at Gala

The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition was a Texas Children's Hospital's 2023 Healthcare Partner Honoree for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Gala



Pediatrics Annual Quality Day Inaugurated

TCH and BCM recently hosted their first DoP **Annual Quality Day**. The day kicked off with Pediatric Grand Rounds presented by Dr. Osagie Ebekozien, Chief Medical Officer of T1D Exchange, on improving lives through collaboration and learning systems. Following breakout sessions, quality leaders from all departments had the opportunity to lunch-and-learn with Dr. Ebekozien on advancing health equity. To round out the agenda, the following top abstract authors presented their quality improvement projects:

Craig Pymonto, MD (Critical Care)
Bonnie McCann-Crosby, MD (Diabetes and Endocrinology)
Bianca Saenz, MD (Pediatrics Residency)
Titilope Fasipe, MD, PhD (Hematology-Oncology)
Chelsey Ortman, MD (Neurology)
Jamie Thuy Lai, MD (Rheumatology)

Quality Day was a great success, bringing together new and established experts in quality to network, learn from each other, and share experiences. Comments afterwards emphasized the importance of the event:

“As the only resident selected as a presenter, I realized this experience was a huge opportunity for me to learn from more experienced physicians, and also share my perspective as a trainee,” said **Dr. Bianca Saenz**. “Research should be shared as a means to learn and inspire each other.”

“Quality improvement has and always will be integral to the care we provide,” added **Dr. Craig Pymonto**. “The first annual Pediatrics Quality Day amplifies our success stories, and challenges each and every one of us to find ways to provide our state-of-the-art care in a safer, more efficient way.”

“This has been a dream for many years, and we could not be more pleased with how the inaugural event was received!” said Chief of Quality & Safety, Emergency Medicine, **Dr. Binita Patel**. “It was a day full of shared learning, and we hope many left inspired to elevate their QI efforts to improve the care of our patients.”

The event was created and planned by Department of Pediatrics quality leaders
Drs. Binita Patel, Rona Sonabend, Joyee Vachani and Thomas Fogarty.



Celebration Raises Awareness

A celebration was held on June 19 for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, honoring those who courageously live with sickle cell disease and recognizing the advances that are helping affected patients live longer, healthier lives. Patients and families visiting the Lester and Sue Smith Outpatient Clinic at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center participated in arts and crafts activities, along with staff who joined to show their support. Pictured are **Dr. Susan Blaney**, Director, Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center; **Dr. Jackie Powers**, Chief of Hematology and Director, Iron Disorders and Nutritional Anemias Program; and **Dr. Titilope Fasipe**, Co-Director of the Sickle Cell Program with staff.

19th Annual Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center Research Symposium



Researchers discussed cutting-edge, translational and clinical research focusing on the epidemiology, biology, pathology, prevention, and treatment in pediatric hematology and oncology. The symposium featured two keynote speakers, oral presentations, and a poster session, culminating with an awards ceremony. The first speaker, Dr. Charles Quinn, Professor of Pediatrics at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, discussed cardiac studies in "Sickle Cell Disease: Getting to the Heart of the Problem." **Dr. Michael D. Taylor**, the second speaker and Professor at BCM addressed "Medulloblastoma as a Proximate Cost of the Evolution of Cerebellar Development in Homo Sapiens. Brain Cancer as Part of the Cost of Being human."

HEMATOLOGY/ ONCOLOGY UPCOMING EVENTS



Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Event

Main Campus
September 7, 2023, 10:30 am
4th floor, PFW, Conf A, B, C

Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Event

West Campus
September 15, 2023, 10:00 am Lobby

Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Event

The Woodlands Campus
September 8, 2023, 2:00 pm Lobby

Texas Sickle Cell State Action Plan Initiative

September 15, 2023
Registration required

Sickle Cell Education and Research Day

September 16, 2023
Event for Patient-Families Registration
required

Going Gold for Childhood Cancer Awareness Event

Vannie Cook Children's Clinic McAllen,
TX
September 16, 2023, 6:00 pm Clinic
Parking Lot

Symposium on Childhood Cancer Health Disparities: Environmental Health Disparities in Pediatric Cancer

September 26, 2023
Registration required

Salute to Champions October 6, 2023

Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Quality and Safety Conference

November 9-10, 2023
Registration required

David's Dream Annual Run Raises Funds for Center

David's Dream Run was in person on Saturday, April 29, at Woodforest Bank Stadium. The community-wide 5K run/walk raises money for The David Center at TCH in Houston. The Center was established after David's death, through partnership with David Elementary School. It is supported by Ms. Carol Ann Demert, mother of David, the "Bubble Boy." This year, it raised \$32,012.59 for The David Center.



David's Dream Run depends on the support of the local and corporate sponsors. The David Center, led by **Dr. Javier Chinen**, is part of the Allergy and Immunology Clinic, which provides care in many areas, including allergy, asthma, immune dysfunction, and HIV/AIDS. (**Dr. Carla M. Davis** and Ms. Carol Ann Demert, David's mother, pictured at the school, left).

William T. Shearer Education Symposium Held

William T. Shearer Education Day/Symposium on Innovations in PID and Clinical Immunology was a roaring success! **Dr. Ivan Chinn**, Course Director and Director of the TCH Immunogenetics Program, led this effort, including lining up nationally renowned speakers in the field of immunogenetics. The academic and private practice communities came together with many attendees who trained under **Dr. William T Shearer** and reflected on his influence. **Christina Cowperthwait** was thanked for organizing the entire event. It was a magnificent day of learning and coming together!





Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi was selected for the **2023 Vilcek-Gold Award** for her leadership in the development of a patent-free open-source vaccine for COVID-19, and for her career-long work to support healthcare education and access in vulnerable populations globally. The Vilcek-Gold Award celebrates the contributions of outstanding immigrant professionals to humanism in healthcare in the United States and recognizes the positive impact of accessible, compassionate care on public health.

Dr. Sheldon Kaplan was selected as the 2023 recipient of the **2023 Award for Lifetime Contribution to Infectious Diseases** by the **American Academy of Pediatrics, Section of Infectious Diseases**.

Dr. David Poplack received the **Excellence in Teaching Award** from the **American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)**. This award recognizes teaching as a vital part of cancer care, brings awareness to the need for teachers to train more oncologists for the future, and underscores ASCO's belief that teaching is as important to the future of cancer medicine as are research, care delivery, and clinical work.

Dr. Kiyetta Alade was the winner of the Golden Probe award.

Dr. Aikaterini Anagnostou

- was appointed Chair of Adverse Reactions to Food Committee for the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.
- was selected Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Food Allergy*

Dr. Sara Anvari

- received the Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Teaching and Evaluation
- received the TCH Young Investigator Award
- received the Texas Top Doctors Award
- received the Texas Super Doctors Award

Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi was inducted into Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce's Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Ashley Butler was selected to participate in the first-ever cohort of the TRANSFORM program at the University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Clinical Research Education.

Dr. Joseph Chorley was selected as recipient of the BCM Master Clinician Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

Dr. Angela Chun received a MEd from the University of Houston.

Dr. Joshua Eubanks received the Outcomes in Allergy and Immunology Fellows Research Award from the Texas Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Society.

Dr. Jennifer Foster was awarded a National Cancer Institute Research Specialist-Clinician Scientist award.

Dr. Anne Gill was elected a distinguished fellow in the National Academies of Practice.

Dr. Catherine Gordon was elected Secretary/Treasurer-elect of the American Pediatric Society for 2023-2024.

Bambi Grilley was selected as chief regulatory officer of the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy for a two-year term.

Dr. Joud Hajjar was elected fellow in the Clinical Immunology Society.

Dr. Heather Haq was selected to serve as an Academic Editor for the journal *PLOS Global Public Health*.

Dr. Meen Hegde received an RO1 award from the NIH totaling more than \$3 million.

Dr. Helen Heslop was the recipient of the American Society of Hematology Mentor Award, given to hematologists who have had a sustained career commitment to mentoring.

Dr. John Hollier was awarded the mHealth Scholar award.

Dr. Peace Imani

- received Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship
- received Sister Renal Centers Program Education Award, International Society of Nephrology.

Dr. Katherine King was appointed Chair of the NIH study section on Basic Biology of Blood Heart and Vasculature for the 2023-24 academic year.

Kara Lenahan, RN, was recognized for 34 years of service at TCH

Dr. Stephanie Leung received the NRF Award for Teaching and Evaluation.

Dr. Casey McAtee was awarded an American Society of Hematology (ASH) Junior Faculty Clinical Scholar Award to conduct a clinical trial of an intensity-adapted acute myeloid leukemia protocol in Malawi.

Dr. Eyal Muscal

- was invited on behalf of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium Planning Committee, to serve as Abstract Moderator at the 2023 Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium (PRSYM).
- was moderator for the virtual Inflammatory Central Nervous System Disease conference for the Neuroimmune Foundation.

Dr. Sara Nandiwada was the recipient of the 2023 Association of Medical Laboratory Immunologists' Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Mohan Pammi was selected to serve on the Committee on Pediatric Research for the AAP; the committee makes policy recommendations to the AAP Board of Directors on aspects of child health research.

Dr. Rayne Rouse

- was elected a Cellular Immunotherapy Data Resource (CIDR) Executive Committee Member for the Center for International Blood Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR).
- received the Award for Excellence in Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy.

Dr. Michael Scheurer was elected President-Elect for two years of the American Society of Preventive Oncology.

Dr. Lara Shekerdemian spoke at the Inaugural International Women's Day Symposium in March 2023

Dr. David Steffin was named co-chair of the Blood & Marrow Transplant Clinic Trials Network Cellular Therapy for Solid Tumors State of Science Symposia Committee.

Dr. Poyyapakkam Srivaths appointed chair of Nephrology Subcommittee of American Society of Apheresis

Dr. Sarah Swartz was elected to Renal Physician Association Board.

Dr. Satid Thammasitboon was one of twelve individuals selected worldwide as a KIPRIME (Karolinska Institutet Prize for Research in Medical Education) Fellow

Dr. Huda Zoghbi was inducted into Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce's Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

Congratulations



New Members of the Society of Pediatric Research

Dr. Hsiao-Tuan Chao
Dr. Ivan Chinn
Dr. Jennette Moreno
Dr. Monika Patil
Dr. Geoffrey Preidis
Dr. Nathan Sundgren

The follow Faculty Members were
recipients of the
**Women of Excellence
Awards for 2022-2023**

Dr. Rebeca Cavatos
Dr. Regine Fortunov
Dr. Michelle Lopez
Dr. Lisa Forbes Satter
Dr. Rita Shah

Recipients of the 2023 Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care

Ms. Terry Armstrong
Dr. Athis Arunachalam
Dr. Mir Reza Bekheirnia
Dr. Jennifer Bell
Dr. Shannon DiCarlo
Dr. Edward Espineli
Dr. Sharada Gowda
Dr. Madhulika Kulkarni
Dr. Rossana Malatesta
Dr. Rossana Malatesta Muncher
Dr. Alvaro Orjuela
Dr. Ashraf Resheidat
Dr. Gary Stapleton
Dr. Jennifer Tran
Dr. Yen Tran
Ms. Mili Vakharia
Dr. Joanna Yi

Four BCM pediatric cancer researchers were among the recipients of grants from the **Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research**, an organization that has awarded \$25.4 million in childhood cancer research grants since 2005.

Dr. Atreyi Dasgupta, received an **award for research** on “Tumor Derived Extracellular Vesicle in Preparation of Lung Metastatic Niche.”

Dr. Casey McAtee, received an **award for research** on “Eliminating Abandonment of Pediatric Cancer Therapy in Malawi.”

Dr. Rachel Rau, received an **award for research** on “High-throughput Sequencing of the Ig loci for Refined Risk Stratification in Pediatric B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.”

Dr. Jeremy Schraw, received a **career development award** for research on “Integrating Epidemiology and Genomics to Characterize Rare Childhood Tumors.”

Highlights from Pediatric Research Symposium

From 145 abstracts submitted,
the following 5 trainees won the top abstract awards and
delivered oral presentations of their research:

Gabriel Barragan (Hem/Onc, mentor: Dr. Leonid Metelitsa)
Dr. Heba El Ayash (Diabetes and Endocrinology, mentor:
Dr. Fida Bacha)
Dr. Jennifer Geris (Hem/Onc, Mentor: Dr. Michael Scheurer)
Dr. Julie Lovin (Cardiology, mentor: Dr. Shaine Morris)
Dr. Jason Lucavs (Surgery, mentor: Huda Zoghbi)

Recipients of the 2022 Research Award Plaques

Young Investigator Awardees

Drs. Sara Anvari, Hsiao-Tuan Chao, Ivan Chinn,
Nader Kim El-Mallawany, Jimmy Holder, Alexander Kay,
Geoffrey Preidis

Research Mentorship Awardees

Drs. Lisa Bouchier-Hayes, Katherine King, Robin Kochel,
Robin Parihar



The Critical Care team at CHRISTUS Children's was named one of *San Antonio Business Journal's* 2023 Health Care Heroes.

FRIENDS, AND OTHER FUN STUFF



CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Mary Paul has a new grandbaby!

Dr. Mary Paul's new grandchild, Lina Mei Paul was born June 30, 2023, weighing in at 7 lb. 5 oz. !



Dr. Joud Hajjar Received PhD

Dr. Joud Hajjar received her PhD in May. Her dissertation title was "Fecal Microbiota Transplant from Common Variable Immunodeficiency Patients to Germ-free Mice Recapitulates Gut Dysbiosis."



Dr. Carla Davis' Daughter Graduated!

Dr. Carla Davis' daughter, Ruth Davis, graduated from Howard University with degree in Mechanical Engineering and will be attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Aerospace Engineering

SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**

Friday September 15, 2023

12 noon – 3 pm

Annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship

(Abstracts Due August 14, 2023)

BCM's Academy of Distinguished Educators will hold its Annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship from noon – 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, in Rayzor Lounge at main Baylor, providing a formal mechanism to showcase educational research projects. Educational research abstracts can be submitted for the event through **August 14**. Top presentations in each of two categories – trainees and faculty/staff – will be presented an Educational Scholarship Recognition Award. See the [event website](#) for more information, including submission guidelines. With questions, email Debbie Fernandez at faced@bcm.edu.

Friday, September 22, 2023

13th Annual Colloquium for Educators

The Center for Research, Innovation and Scholarship (CRIS) in Health Professions Education and the planning committee are delighted to invite you to attend the 13th Annual Colloquium for Educators (Formerly The Educator Orientation). To celebrate our ongoing great work and dedication in education, we bring together health professions and medical science educators to share educational best practices, refine instructional methods, and learn new educational technology.

October 16 – 17, 2023

**Pediatric Paracorporeal and Extracorporeal
Therapies Summit (PPETS)**

The PPETS conference will bring together expert faculty from around the world in the fields of ECMO, renal replacement therapies, ventricular assist devices, pheresis and extracorporeal liver support together for the first time to discuss not only the current state of the technology, but where we should focus as we move these fields forward. This year, the two-day meeting will be offered via a hybrid approach: live in-person in Houston, Texas, and an interactive virtual platform followed by an optional third day of in-person only simulation in all of the extracorporeal modalities on **October 18, 2023**. Experts from across the world are looking forward to tackling the many challenges remaining to be conquered in conjunction with conference attendees. To learn more about the conference, including agenda updates and speakers as they are announced, please visit our conference website by [clicking here](#).

FEEDBACK ON PEDI PRESS 2.0

We would love to have your feedback on PEDI Press 2.0! You can go to the link below and enter the code (7FPJJCKMW), or scan the QR Code.

<https://tch-redcap.texaschildrens.org/REDCap/surveys>

