

PEDI PRESS 2.0

A monthly publication of the Department of Pediatrics

From the Desk of Lara Shekerdemian



Hello Team -

It is certainly beginning to feel like summer as this May brings warmer temperatures and longer days. I, like many of you, find myself looking forward to some time, seeing more of my son during the week, and enjoying warm evenings with family and friends.

This is also the season for Graduations, and I would be remiss to pass on an opportunity to congratulate our graduating students, residents, and fellows. Your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have led you to this significant milestone. Whether your 'next steps' are to pursue additional subspecialty training, primary care, faculty positions, or private practice, we are incredibly proud of your achievements and excited for the bright futures that await you.

The importance of resilience cannot be overstated, especially as our institutions navigate both the expected and unexpected headwinds this year. I like to think of these as opportunities, and with opportunities, comes innovation. Simon Sinek wrote "innovation is born from the struggle" (Book: Start with Why), and I am confident in our department's innovative and resilient spirit. I would like to give a huge shout out for our Division Chiefs, Vice Chairs, and other leaders in the department for all your hard work and partnership, and for your unwavering advocacy for your teams as we focus on a great future for our department and for our patients.

Happy reading and take care,

Lara

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Transitions



Dr. Kendal Hirschi, Professor, will be retiring from his position within the Children's Nutrition Research Center and will be transitioning to the position of Department Head in Biological Sciences at the University of Texas El Paso. He noted that the decision brings him closer to his brother and his mother. In bidding farewell to CNRC, he gave special recognition to Dr. Bier, who embodies the spirit of a plant scientists who understands that nutrition starts with the food supply and any program that fails to understand the improvement of plant nutrient content and productivity is overlooking a crucial aspect of its mission. He bade the department "Farewell but not Goodbye."



Dr. Angelo P. Giardino, Wilma T. Gibson Presidential Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at University of Utah's Spencer F. Eccles School of Medicine and Chief Medical Officer at Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital, Utah, (left) launched the department's Quality Day with a keynote address. The title was "Where Are We at 25 Years After the IOM's To Err is Human and Crossing the Quality Chasm: The Pediatric Experience." Presenting authors of the top six abstracts were **Jennifer Cervantes, MSW, LCSW**, **Dr. Patrick Day**, **Dr. Mikael Guzman Karlsson**, **Elisabeth Hastings, MPH, RD, CSP, LD**, **Dr. Sharanya Joginpalli**, and **Dr. Sarah Lyons**.

Celebrating Our Nurses!

In May, we celebrated **National Nurses Week**, which concluded on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. A big shout out to all the nurses at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, as well as those in our affiliate hospitals and those in our local, national, and international communities for the incredible care they provide each and every day. Our more than 4,400 nurses are the heart and soul of our organization. From late nights to early mornings and everything in between, you bring hope and healing to our patients, their families and the communities we are so privileged to serve. We could not do without you!

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>



Food Insecurities Addressed by Centers for Children and Women

By **Drs. Avni Bhalakia M** and **Suratha Elango**

Food insecurity is a problem that affects millions of individuals across the United States. According to Feeding America, nearly 1 in 5 children younger than 18 years old in Harris County experience food insecurity. In 2017, the Texas Children's Health Plan Centers for Children and Women Greenspoint and Southwest were among the first sites in the hospital system to systematically screen for food insecurity. At each well check, parents or caregivers were asked the 2-question Hunger Vital Sign. If they screened positive for food insecurity, they were provided a list of local community resources.



Beginning in January 2020, the Centers entered a partnership with the Houston Food Bank's Food Prescription (Food Rx) Program, which provides participants with a "prescription" for nutritious foods to improve their health. We enrolled eligible families with children under the age of 5 to receive home-delivered food from a community partner, Kids Meals Inc. We partnered with the Houston Food Bank by having their Market Trailer come to the Greenspoint Center twice a month as a food distribution site. In the 30 months the trailer was at Greenspoint, it served 3,500 families. We also enrolled more than 1,300 Center patients into the Food Rx program. Additionally, the Health Plan's Field Resource Coordinators worked with families that screened positive for food insecurity to complete a Health Risk Assessment; this was a way to begin understanding and addressing a family's overall social needs and how it affects their health.

We would especially like to thank everyone from the Centers and from the TCH Health Plan, whose enthusiasm and hard work made all of the work we did possible!

HAPPY GRADUATION SEASON!



JUNE GRADUATIONS for PP 2.0

Please share a picture of your recent Grad for
Pedi Press 2.0.
Kindergarten through graduate/medical school, we
are excited to celebrate all!

Email photos with details to Dr. Ligon at
Lee.Ligon@bcm.edu



NEU Holds Brain Fair for Middle School Students

The **Neuroscience Equity and Unity (NEU)** group is a multidisciplinary team from TCH, BCM, and NRI that includes pediatric and adult neurologists, neuroscientists, and other allied health professionals who are committed to reshaping neuroscience by promoting equitable access, fostering inclusive educational ecosystems, and pioneering innovative research for the well-being of diverse communities.

The NEU held a Brain Fair on April 5 for 41 Yes Prep Northbrook Middle School students. The event aimed to inspire and educate students about brain function, research methods, and neurological disorders, aligning with NEU's mission to promote equitable access and inclusive educational opportunities in neurosciences.

TCH The Woodlands Celebrates Anniversary

TCH The Woodlands celebrated its 7th Anniversary on Thursday, April 11, with the TCH The Woodlands Annual Values Awards. The winners were:

Live Compassionately:
Jay Mennel and Dr. Kylie Durand (PHM)

Embrace Freedom:
Tracie Stone and Dr. Swati Karmarkar (neurology)

Amplify Unity:
Jackie Reames and Bonny Buruca
Lead Tirelessly:
Jessica Smith and Dr. Christian Erikson (CCM).



TCH The Woodlands Also Celebrates Doctor's Day

Enthusiastic engagement as The Woodlands pep rally visited morning report to share news from around the hospital on Friday, April 26.



Cardiology Hosts Another Camp Pump It Up

The **Cardiology Division** hosted Camp Pump It Up - a weekend camp for children with heart disease that are cared for at our Heart Center. This event has been ongoing now for more than 20 years.



The kids “get to be kids” sometimes for the first time as there's a medical team from cardiology on site making the families more comfortable. The campers can ride horses, fish, canoe, and do a ropes course and giant swing, among other things. And . . . get to meet children with the same medical issues they face each day. Some comments from the campers include: "It was the best weekend ever." "I can't wait for next year." "It was my first weekend away from home and I wasn't scared like I thought I'd be." Some patients even came back as junior counselors and one such counselor stated, "It was amazing - I'm so happy I could come back after being a camper years ago - this camp just changes you for the better knowing you're not alone".

The lasting impact the camp has had on faculty who attend can also not be understated. “It is often tough to care for patients in the cardiac intensive care unit without seeing the other side of things - the patients doing well and being kids.” Several faculty counselors said it made them see their jobs in the Heart Center differently. It revitalized them to continue doing what they do.

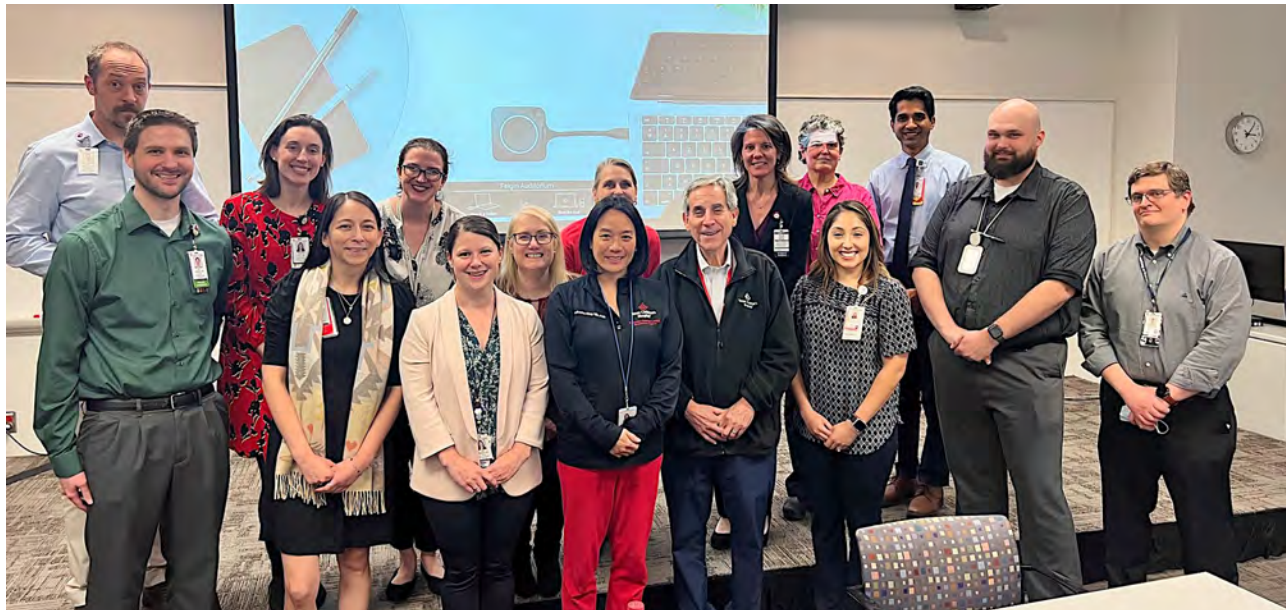
CNRC Celebrates its Fellowship Training Program



The **Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Program** at the **Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC)** is preparing postdoctoral fellows to be highly competent and competitive nutrition scientists. The training program is designed for individuals with a Ph.D. and/or M.D. degree who are interested in careers that will impact the nutritional well-being of mothers, infants, children, and/or adolescents. For those with an M.D. degree, training is usually in conjunction with a clinical subspecialty training program.

First ID Research Retreat Held

The Division of Infectious Diseases held its first Research Retreat on April 12. This full-day event was kicked off by **Dr. Katherine King** and ID Division Chief **Dr. Deb Palazzi**. The event consisted of showcasing research by the ID faculty in platform



and poster sessions, as well as a keynote speech by **Dr. Lisa Forbes Satter**, Medical Director of the Center for Research Advancement. These activities were followed by brainstorming sessions to enhance research work in the division. The planning committee consisted of **Dr. Katherine King**, **Dr. Mary Healy**, **Dr. Ankhi Dutta**, **Dr. Erin Nicholson**, **Dr. Ryan Rochat**, and coordinators, **Madiha Charania**, **Robin Schroeder** and **Rachel Alvarado**.

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition team celebrated “Go Texan Day” (right) and “Thank a Fellow Day,” to acknowledge GHN Fellows (below):



Neelima Agrawal, Gabriela Baez, Donovan Berens, Carine Halaby, Stephanie Leon, Jasmine Pendergrass, Anitta Philip, Shruti Sakhuja, David Simon, Tanya Su, Minoti Vather, Ashleigh Watson, Sloane Zimmerman.



Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Provider Group Hosts Symposium

The Pediatric **Hematology/Oncology Advanced Practice Provider** group hosted an “APP Symposium” on April 26 that highlighted speakers and topics including palliative care, communication, and professional development. 40 APPs spanning multiple service areas (Hematology, Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant) and multiple campuses were able to meet as a group to discuss issues affecting their patients and enjoy each other’s company!

Critical Care Celebrates First Annual May Day Party



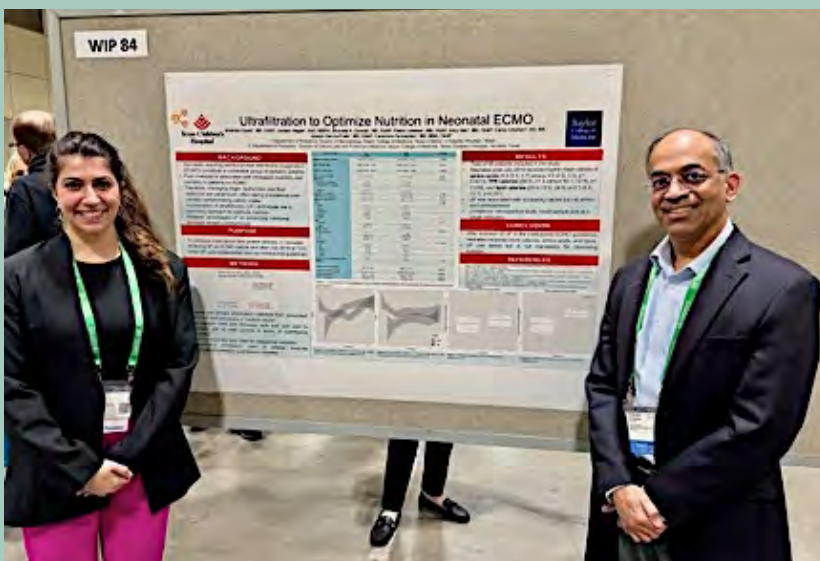
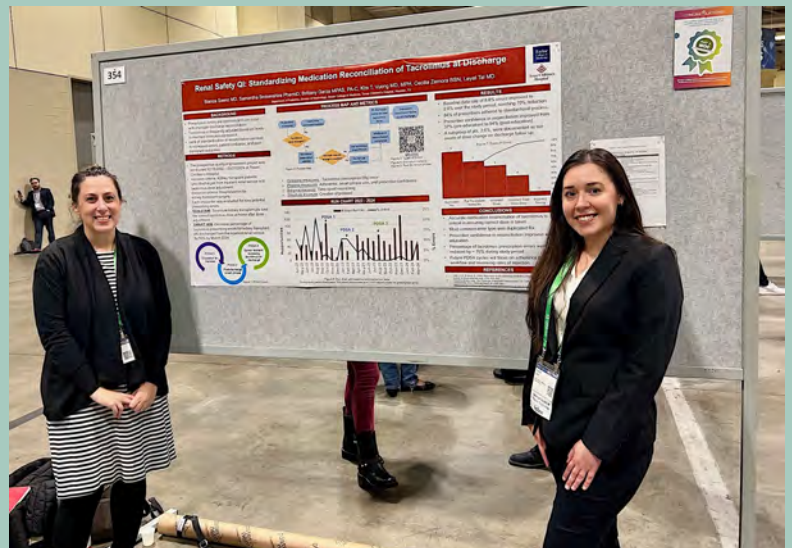
Pediatric Critical Care had its first annual “Cinco de Mayo Day” party to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, May Day, and the division’s diverse team composition. The event was an international potluck with a hay ride, volleyball, badminton, good food and great teambuilding.



The Department of Pediatrics at the 2024 National PAS



Baylor College of Medicine/
Texas Children's Hospital
hosted a booth that drew the
crowds throughout the meeting
that was held in Toronto.



Several DoP members presented posters, and
Dr. Gordon Schutze and his wife Suzette
both completed the Toronto Half-Marathon!



Presentations by Emergency Medicine Members

Friday, May 3

Dr. Andrea Cruz, "From Daunting to Doable: Introducing a Practical Framework to Complete a Journal Peer-Review"

Saturday, May 4

Dr. Andrea Cruz, "Variation in Care for Hypothermic Infants"

Dr. Daniel Castro, "Pediatric Chief Residents and Their Immediate Post Residency Plans: A National Cross-Sectional Analysis from 2005 to 2020"

Dr. Nidhi Vaidya Singh, "Contaminant Organism Growth in Febrile Infants at Low-Risk for Invasive Bacterial Infection"

Sunday, May 5

Dr. Elizabeth Camp, "Factors Associated with Pediatric Patients at Low Risk for Clinically Important Drowning Associated Lung Injury"

Jennifer A. Hoffmann, "Clinically Significant Neuroimaging Findings Among Youth Presenting to the Emergency Department with Psychosis: A Multicenter Study"

Dr. Zachary C. Foughty, "Caregiver Preferences Related to Language-Concordant Physicians and Interpretations Services in the Pediatric Emergency Department"

Monday, May 6

Dr. Nidhi Vaidya, "Abdominal Trauma in Suspected Child Abuse Evaluation in the Emergency Department"

Dr. Shekerdemian hosted a DoP Reception at Irene on the Harbor Front in Toronto





Immunology, Allergy and Retrovirology honored their administrative assistants on Administrative Professionals day on April 24

Dr. Christie Gardner was featured in an interview on Channel 2, KPRC, in Houston regarding psychology for children and adolescents.

Dr. Jamie Gilley gave two presentations at the CDH International Conference, held in France, at the end of April.

Dr. Lisa Bouchier-Hayes was awarded grant from the National Institutes of Health for her project, "Inflammatory Caspase Activation in Sickle Cell Disease."

Dr. Victoria Hardwick is PI on a grant for Neurology Equity and Unity (NEU), which was a recipient of the 2024 Health Equity Grant presented by the AAP's Section on Early Career Physicians (SOECP) for the development of the Brain Fair and an associated longitudinal middle school mentorship program.

Dr. Peter Hotez was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential persons in healthcare.

Dr. Tammy Kang was accepted as a Visionary in Hospice and Palliative Care by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Guzman Karlsson was selected as a recipient of a health equity grant presented by the Section on Pediatric Trainees, American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Katherine King received the Leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the International Society for Experimental Hematology.

Dr. Mariana Carretero Murillo was awarded a 2024 Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant by the AAP's Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (SODBP) for a project entitled "Mobile Clinics Expanding Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Care."

Dr. Karin Price, Chief of Psychology at TCH, was featured in an article in *People* magazine.

Dr. Ashna Pudupakkam, 2nd year fellow, won an ASPN Fellow Presentation Award for her work through the SUPERHERO registry.

Dr. Brian Rissmiller was accepted to the APPD LEAD program.

Dr. Jared Rubenstein was recognized as a Visionary in Hospice and Palliative Care by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Bianca Saenz, former TCH resident, received the ASPN Fellow Presentation Award for her QI project that she presented at PAS this past weekend in Toronto.