

PEDI PRESS 2.0

A monthly publication of the Department of Pediatrics

Hi Everyone,

As we settle into the holiday season, I want to take a moment to pause, reflect, and express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for each and every one of you. It is your hard work, resilience, and passion that make this exceptional department a place where children and families feel cared for, comforted, and hopeful; where trainees are immersed into a rich learning environment; and where brilliant ideas turn into innovation and discovery .



In this edition of Pedi Press 2.0, I'm delighted to share some of the wonderful highlights that remind us of the incredible people and moments that define our department. You'll find team achievements, fun activities, well-deserved recognitions, and, of course, a warm welcome for the youngest members of our DOP family! I am also happy to introduce two outstanding DOP leaders. Dr. Julia Steinke, is the new Medical Director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program, and her expertise and leadership are instrumental in transforming patient lives. Shelby Boone is Director for Advanced Practice Providers with the Cancer and Hematology Center; she brings a deep commitment to advancing care and empowering our APP team.

As we look ahead, I hope the coming weeks bring you moments of joy, peace, and time to recharge with those close to you. Whether you celebrate with family, friends, or your work family, take a moment to cherish the season and all that you've accomplished this year. To those of you who will be working through the holidays, your commitment and sacrifice ensure that every child who needs us continues to receive the care and support they deserve.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season, a prosperous New Year, and a renewed sense of hope and purpose for the year to come.

Happy reading, stay safe, and take care,
Lara

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Meet the Pediatrics Team

Julia Steinke, MD, MSc, FST

Medical Director, Pediatric Kidney Transplant
Division of Pediatric Nephrology

Tell us briefly about your professional background. How did you get to where you are? What is your current role in DOP?

I am the medical director of the kidney transplant program here at Texas Children's Hospital, having started in August 2024. I'm honored to serve in this role and follow in the footsteps of Dr Eileen Brewer, a pioneer both in the field of pediatric nephrology and in forging the way for women in high power medical careers.

I have been a practicing nephrologist for more than 20 years now (yikes!) and have served as a medical director in transplant for 15 years. I'm passionate about quality improvement and patient safety, with a focus on improving the long-term outcomes for pediatric recipients of kidney transplant.

How do you usually like to start and end your day?

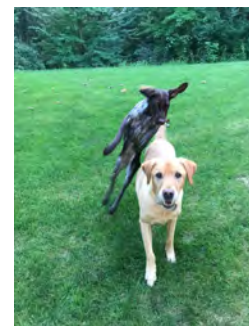
I wasn't previously a morning person, but my incredibly supportive husband is a morning person, and I'm fortunate that I wake up to coffee waiting for me every morning.

You might see me here early in the morning because I drive in quite early after dropping my 14-year-old son, Xander, to the St Pius X bus stop, where he plays on the soccer and football teams. I also have a spunky 9-year-old daughter, Izzy, who attends St Thomas More school and loves gymnastics and swimming.

We have 2 dogs, a perfect 11-year-old yellow lab named Dusty and a crazy 3-year-old German Shorthair Pointer named Wiggy.

How do you practice self-care, and what book are you currently reading or what TV series are you watching?

When I'm not at work, my interests include yoga, exercising, and painting - mostly oil and acrylic. I enjoy reading suspense novels but also historical fiction. Some of my favorites are *The Nightingale*, the *Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The Boyfriend*, and *Calamity of Souls*. I love watching cold-case documentaries and



stories of espionage and intrigue. Some of my latest favorites are *The Diplomat*, *Into the Fire*, *Killing Eve*, and *The Mindhunter*.

What is your favorite part about working here?

My favorite part of working at Texas Children's is the opportunity to collaborate with our expert surgeons and other medical disciplines on quality improvement, as

well as the research opportunities outside of our institution, given we have such a large transplant population. I look forward to improving the access to transplant for children in our community, as well as collaborating with the team members within this great institution.



Meet the Pediatrics Team

Shelby R. Boone, MSN, APRN, CPNP-AC, CPN

Director, TCH Cancer and Hematology Center Advanced Practice Providers
Division of Pediatric Np

Tell us briefly about your professional background? How did you get to where you are? What is your current role in DOP?

My background is in nursing, and I was a pediatric Heme/Onc nurse for many years before completing my Master's degree. I joined the DOP nine years ago as an APP with Critical Care Medicine. I had fantastic APP and MD mentors that I learned immensely from both clinically and as a leader. In 2020, I returned to the Heme/Onc world, taking on the role of Director of the APP Program within the Cancer and Hematology Centers. I work primarily inpatient and with our Oncofertility program. Though it may not be a topic people enjoy discussing with me at dinner parties, these two patient populations are my passion.



How do you usually like to start and end your day?

I try my best to start the day with a quiet cup of coffee and the dog (Gus) before the craziness of three kids under five begins, but most days it starts with wrangling three sleepy kids into the car. I

have Grace (4 years old), Georgia (2 years old), and Rocky (3 months) and they make each morning fun! My favorite way to end the day is reading a good book before bed with a candle lit and cup of tea. Perfection in my mind!

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

My husband and I are currently finishing the latest season of *The Bear* – so chaotic but so so great!! Book wise, I could talk about this for hours – I mentally have a running list of “best 5 books I’ve ever read” and it’s constantly changing! Come find me if you’re interested in discussing ☺. I’m currently reading *The Women*, which just might make the list. Other favorites are *The Nightingale*, *American Dirt*, *All the Light I Cannot See*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

How do you practice self-care?

I’m actually an introvert by nature, so I tend to recharge by carving out alone time for myself. Many days that’s cooking. I have a gumbo recipe that would knock your socks off, if I do say so myself. Want to debate seafood gumbo vs. chicken and sausage? I’m your gal. Many days, though, self care for me is just a hot cup of coffee and audiobook alone in the car on the way to work. To me it doesn’t matter what the activity is as long as I’m intentional about it and it gives my brain a rest.

What is your favorite part about working here?

My favorite part of working at Texas Children’s Hospital is the absolute kid-centric nature of it. All of us grown-ups working here may be talking about some very serious things, but we’re all on the same page that kids come first. Part of that is making sure they get to stay kids in some very un-kid-friendly circumstances. My first day working at Texas Children’s I’ll never forget walking across the sky bridge and there was a Frozen dance party with music and dressed up Frozen characters with tons of kids dancing and laughing. Some were bald, some had NG tubes, and many were connected to IV poles. That’s when I knew I’d found my work home.

EVENTS



Dr. Raj Nagarajan, Hematology and Oncology Division Medical Director, recently implemented an additional Safety Officer role for the inpatient acute care hematology and oncology services to bridge communication between provider and nursing staff earlier in the day and promoting a culture across the healthcare team. Since the implementation, the team has appreciated the daily check in and commented on having it as a sustained role within the division.

Dr. Nagarajan is a great sport and accepted his role and the appropriate uniform gifted to him by the inpatient APP faculty group with tremendous pride and a smile!

The **Woodlands TCH** held its **Annual Picnic** in October in Rob Flemming Park. More than 50 providers and their families joined for a fun day of games, magic show, food, outdoor activities, and a whole lot of camaraderie!



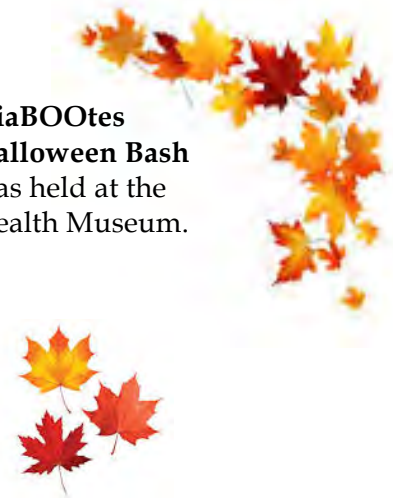
Dr. Ricky Flores -- the hematology-oncology director at the Woodlands doing his magic show for everyone -- the most popular day!



Rheumatology held its **2nd Cultural Potluck** in September. Pictured are a few of the many contributions.



**DiaBOOtes
Halloween Bash**
was held at the
Health Museum.



The **Drs. Feigin Ice Cream Cake Celebration** was held to recognize all the winners of BCM awards at The Woodlands Campus



The **Neonatal Nursing Summit** was organized by **Becky Slagle** and her team. With 100+ participants and 11 vendors, the energy was palpable. It was a fantastic learning opportunity for those in our local community and beyond to Austin.

“Human flourishing is like a tree reaching for the sky rooted deeply in rich soil, it grows stronger over time, branches out, provides shade, or bears fruits that nourishes others.”

Members of the **Network of Practice in Health Sciences Scholarship (NoP-HSS)**, an international movement dedicated to creating a collective impact in health sciences and enhancing health outcomes and well-being globally through pioneering research, innovation, and scholarship, shared their visualizations and reflections on human flourishing. Curious to know what the Network is all about? Contact diane.nguyen@bcm.edu, satidt@bcm.edu, teri.turner@bcm.edu.



Dr. Lara Shekerdeman and the Department of Pediatrics hosted the second **Faculty Promotion Celebration** on November 12, where all faculty members who had been recently promoted were invited to come together in recognition of their hard-earned and well-deserved promotions. Division Chiefs of those promoted faculty were also invited, along with the promotions committee members. It was a wonderful evening, and the department is thrilled to start this new tradition. We look forward to celebrating more promoted faculty in the spring.



Drs. Saamia Masoom and Elyse Portillo represented the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the FemInPEM (Females Working in Emergency Medicine) 2024 conference, where Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital were event sponsors.

About: FemInPEM, in partnership with FemInEM and Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, aims to provide a unique conference networking opportunity for allies and advocates of women working in pediatric emergency medicine (PEM). Their goal is to highlight challenges and solutions for promoting equity and advancement of women in our professional field.



The first **Texas Children's VitalTalk** courses were offered this fall – virtual half-day **Delivering Serious News** sessions in September and an in-person full-day **Mastering Tough Conversations** event in November. These courses equip clinicians with tools to have the toughest clinical conversations with the patients and families they care for – sharing serious news, responding to emotion, and recommending therapy that honors what's most important to them.

Enrollment for 2025 courses is now open on the [Texas Children's VitalTalk SharePoint site](#). **Amanda Padilla** and **Kim Sawyer** can also help plan private courses for groups within the Department of Pediatrics and TCH.



News from Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics and the Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics and Autism



Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics attended the annual Society for Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics meeting in Washington DC in September. In addition to fellowship and learning, they presented several workshops and posters. They also joined the society to lobby on Capitol Hill on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The Meyer Center joined many others from Texas Children's Hospital to support Gigi's Playhouse, an organization that provides programming and support for people with Down syndrome and their families.



The Meyer Center provided information to families at the annual Down Syndrome Association of Houston Buddy Walk on November 2

The Meyer Center celebrated its 3rd Annual Fall Picnic October 26 at Memorial Park.





In November, the DoP hosted its **in-person visit event** for Fellowship applicants to visit our campus, tour the hospital, and get to know the city we love. Fifty aspiring fellows learned the many ways that TCH is leading the way in education, research, and patient care. This unique opportunity



allowed participants to experience our programs and culture first-hand as they make the important decision of where they would like to further their pediatric training. We thank them for their interest in our hospital and wish them the very best in the future. Pictured: Star Gilani, Engagement Manager at Houston First (left), highlights the many attractions Houston has to offer, and **Dr. Donnchadh O'Sullivan**, Cardiology Fellow (right), explains how fellows can be productive in research during their training.



Dr. Will Parsons, Deputy Director at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center, recently spoke at the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus, founded by Rep. Michael McCaul. Dr. Parsons highlighted the importance of continued bipartisan support from Representative Mike Kelly, Congressman Ami Bera, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, and U.S. Representative Kathy Castor in the fight against childhood cancer. He also summarized the vital contributions being made by the Center as a leading pediatric cancer institution. They include initiatives such as our Global HOPE

program, our more than 250 clinical trials, vital partnerships with the National Cancer Institute and The Children's Oncology Group; and research contributions in the areas of precision medicine, neuro-oncology and survivorship care.

Texas Children's Hospital Cancer and Hematology Center hosted the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Quality Safety (PHOQS) Conference. The event, sponsored through an educational grant from Northwestern Mutual, was attended by 155 participants from 37 institutions and included a nursing pre-conference workshop, site project updates, and a keynote presentation from Dr. Trey Coffey on Translating high reliability into healthcare.



They also announced a new PHOQS Quality and Safety Leader award sponsored through an educational grant from Northwestern Mutual with applications due February 2025. You can apply at texaschildrens.org/leader-award





The Texas Children’s Hospital (TCH) **Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) and Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Program** recently made a significant stride in global collaboration by partnering with Hospital CHRISTUS MUGUERZA Hospital Alta Especialidad in Mexico. Invited by Dr. Gerardo Sepulveda, Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine at the hospital and a valued partner who often refers patients to TCH, members of our team conducted a conference aimed at improving the management of CDH in Monterrey and nearby regions. Dr. Sepulveda identified the need for standardized CDH management protocols in Monterrey and sought our help to improve care at his center and beyond. Dr. Jonathan Davies, **Dr. Pablo Lohmann** (neonatology), and Dr. Alice King (pediatric surgery) shared key insights on prenatal and postnatal medical and surgical management of CDH and post-discharge follow-up care. The event marks the beginning of a partnership aimed at helping other institutions with standardized management protocols and supporting ongoing education. By sharing our expertise, the TCH CDH/ECMO Program is not only improving outcomes for CDH patients around the globe but also solidifying its role as a leader in innovation and excellence.



The annual **Feast of Saint Arnold** was held on July 21. The Feast raises funds for IBD Research at TCH/BCM and for Camp Survived It All. Over the past decade more than a \$1,000,000 has been raised. Members of the GHN (Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) team can be seen at the Feast, and **Dr. Ben Shneider** received a very generous donation from Brock Wagner, the owner of Saint Arnold’s Brewery and organizer of the Feast.



The **GHN team** celebrated the graduation of the GHN and Transplant Hepatology Fellows at Hugo’s on June 15.



The GHN Cultural Awareness and Engagement Committee hosted its first GHN Division Cultural Meal. These meals will occur twice a year and are a time for the GHN division to gather, engage with one another, and enjoy food from various ethnic backgrounds. The section is enjoying Mediterranean and Lebanese cuisine.



IAR (Immunology, Allergy and Retrovirology) celebrated Halloween, with special thanks to **Cynthia Villarreal** for coordinating the event.

IAR had a large **Thanksgiving** celebration together.

The Texas Children's Hospital's Jeffrey Modell Foundation hosted by **Dr. Lisa Forbes Satter** and the IAR division, held its annual (JMF) **Kid's Day** at the Main Event game center. It was a wonderful success and the community came together to provide a fun and playful atmosphere for patients and families to enjoy themselves. Nearly 120 participants, including many of the IAR community members and their families were in attendance. A most special thank you was given to **Sam Johnson** and the steering committee for organizing this year's event.



The **IAR division** conducted a movie screening for the documentary, *Compromised: Life without Immunity*, filmed by the Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF). It depicts the lives of those with primary immunodeficiencies, including one of our very own patients, Jerry Shorten. Some very special guests attended the screening including, Carol Ann Demaret (mother of David Vetter, "the bubble boy"), Yvette Shorten (mother of Jerry Shorten), and Dr. Buford L. Nicholas Jr. Special thank you to **Mireya Montelongo** and the **IAR administration team** for coordinating this event. For more information about the film, please visit <https://primaryimmune.org/compromised>.

News from Rheumatology



The Wellness Committee (Drs. Eyal Muscal, Andrea Ramirez, Amit Thakral, Olivia Trzepacz, RN and Shelby Jones, NP) held the second annual **Trick or Treat Exchange** on the third floor Feigin Tower, IAR Conference Room on October 30, 2024. Candy and baked goods were shared.

Maria Pereira, Miriah Taylor, Cagri Toruner, Tiphonie Vogel, Nurses Sarah Brock, Nikisha Foster, and Patsy Keegan) were invited to the **Skeletons & Spirits Arthritis Foundation Bone Bash** fundraising event to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. The annual event is held as an opportunity to highlight a Champion of Yes: a young man, woman, or child who, despite the arthritis diagnosis, continue to say Yes! The event also held a silent auction, a live auction, provided a five star dinner, cocktails, and a comedy presentation, along with a DJ and entertainment, for a fun-filled night benefiting the Arthritis Foundation. This event was held at the River Oaks Country Club on November 1.



Rheumatology Faculty & Fellows - 2024 ACR Convergence November 15-19, 2024



The **Rheumatology division** came together to express gratitude for one another and celebrate the **Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon** on November 20, in the Feigin Tower. The Faculty provided the main fare, and featured traditional turkey and brisket catered from Demeris BBQ. In addition, delicious sides were provided by all the staff members in potluck style.



News from Diabetes and Endocrinology

Diabetes and Endocrinology Division hosted their **6th Annual Research Retreat** on September 19. The event, attended by faculty and fellows from all the TCH campuses, included a keynote lecture from Dr. Shana McCormack of the University of Pennsylvania, research presentations, brainstorming sessions, and a review of the TCH program accomplishments and new goals.



The **Diabetes and Endocrinology fellows** held a fun fall celebration.

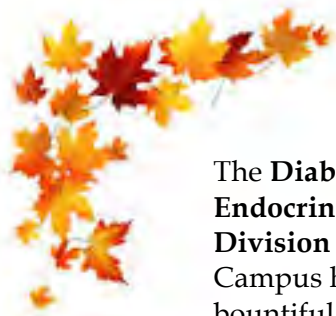


The **Austin "Where's Waldo" Endocrinology team** supported the first **Dia-BOO-tes Bash** for TCH's North Austin Campus. They had a great turn out from pediatric and women's diabetic population.



The **Diabetes and Endocrinology divisions** at the **West Campus** (left) and the **Main Campus** (below) held festive **Halloween Celebrations**.





The **Diabetes and Endocrinology Division** at the Main Campus held a bountiful **Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration**.



The **Diabetes and Endocrinology Division** teamed up with family and friends as the “Pancreas Pals” for the annual fundraiser and walk with **Breakthrough T1D** for type 1 diabetes on November 2. All of the money raised for the event goes toward research for better treatments and a cure for type 1 diabetes.



On November 16, the **Diabetes and Endocrinology Division** teamed up with family, friends, and supporters at Buffalo Bayou Park for the **American Diabetes Association’s STEP OUT: Walk to Stop Diabetes** event. Together, they took steps toward raising awareness, supporting those affected with diabetes, and contributing to vital research efforts. Every dollar raised directly supports the American Diabetes Association’s initiatives to improve the lives of people living with diabetes and fund critical research.

KUDOS

Dr. Will Parsons and **Dr. Alison Bertuch** have been appointed to prestigious Endowed Chairs at Texas Children's Hospital Cancer & Hematology Center. These honors recognize their groundbreaking work and dedication to advancing pediatric hematology and oncology.



Cancer and Hematology Center and a leader in cancer genomics, was named the **Beverly and Daniel C. Arnold Endowed Chair for Precision Medicine**.

Dr. Bertuch, renowned for her research on telomere maintenance, structure, and function, is now the **Sidney L. and Donald F. Faust Chair of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology**.



Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Awards

The following individuals are award recipients for the Fall 2024 cycle of the **Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Awards**. They will be recognized at the BCM Faculty Award Day ceremony to be held on May 21, 2025:

Dr. Elizabeth Rossmann Beel - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Tam Doan - Educational Materials

Dr. Paraskevi Georgiadis - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Holly Harris - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. John Hollier - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Taylor Howard - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Rachel Kentor - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Aura Sanchez Mejia - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Loan Nguyen - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Nmazuo Ozuah - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Rachel Wolfe - Teaching and Evaluation

Dr. Shabana Yusuf - Teaching and Evaluation, Educational Materials, and Educational Leadership

Other Honors and Recognitions

Dr. Shifaa Alkotob (graduating fellow in Joud Hajjar's lab) was awarded the Best e-Poster Oral Presentation at the European Society of Immunodeficiency (ESID) meeting in Marseille, France. Entitled "Enhanced detection of protective pneumococcal immunity using multiplexed opsonophagocytosis assay (MOPA)," the study demonstrated that MOPA offers superior sensitivity in detecting immunity against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* compared to conventional IgG measurements.

Dr. Maria Bottazzi was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Dr. Meghan Craven joined the endocrine fellowship program as the Associate Fellowship Program Director.

Dr. Teresa A. Davis was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. It recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Dr. Selorm Dei-Tutu received the BCM Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

Dr. Morven Edwards received the Walter E. Stamm Mentor Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America in recognition of her exceptional guidance of infectious diseases professionals.

Dr. Mika Guzman-Karlsson and the multidisciplinary team have been honored with the 2025 ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) David C. Leach Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to graduate medical education. The award acknowledges residents and fellows who have significantly improved the clinical learning environment, advanced humanism in patient care, and enhanced collaboration in education and healthcare delivery.

Dr. Sanjiv Harpavat received the American Liver Foundation's 2024 Pilot Research award. These awards help fund eight highly innovative projects that seek to address important questions related to primary sclerosing cholangitis, autoimmune hepatitis or biliary atresia.

Hannah Helber, MS, CGC, was named the National Bleeding Disorders Foundation 2024 Genetic Counselor of the Year.

Dr. Kelly Hicks received the Excellence in Patient Experience award for TCH fourth quarter.

Patsy Keegan, RN, received the Bronze Award for Excellence in Nursing from the Good Samaritan Foundation.

Dr. Bonnie McCann-Crosby received the Excellence in Patient Experience award for TCH fourth quarter.

Dr. Noel Mensah-Bonsu was elected to the Board of Directors for the Society for Development and Behavioral Pediatrics.

Dr. Krupa Mysore received the American Liver Foundation's 2024 Pilot Research award. These awards help fund eight highly innovative projects that seek to address important questions related to primary sclerosing cholangitis, autoimmune hepatitis or biliary atresia.

Dr. Tracy Patel received the Excellence in Patient Experience award for TCH fourth quarter.

Dr. Richard Roberts received the Excellence in Patient Experience award for TCH fourth quarter.

Dr. Shannon Ronca was awarded a new U19 entitled "Peribunyaviridae Pathogenesis and Vaccine Testing."

Dr. Suruchi Salgar (MDPhD student in the Bouchier-Hayes lab) received an abstract award to present a poster on clinical factors associated with adverse neuropsychological outcomes in children with sickle cell disease at the American Society for Hematologists in 2024.

Dr. Josie Fernandez Sanchez was one of three clinicians announced by the American Society of Hematology (ASH) as its inaugural quality improvement champions. Sanchez worked with colleagues to standardize ED management of anemia due to heavy menstrual bleeding.

Dr. Cynthia Sanders was promoted to Assistant Professor.

Dr. Alejandro Siller, Jr., is the new endocrine resident education champion.

Dr. Cagri Toruner was invited panelist at the 14th International Kawasaki Disease Symposium, held in Montreal, Canada.

Dr. Diwakar Turaga received the 2025 Catalyst to Independence from Additional Ventures, which supports outstanding early career investigators undertaking impactful research in the single ventricle field as they transition to independent research faculty.

Dr. Mili Vakharia received the Excellence in Patient Experience award for the TCH Fiscal third quarter.

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>





FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHER LIFE EVENTS



A group from CICU participated in **Waco 2024 70.3 Iron Man Relay** as a TriWithHeart Team. From the left: **Dr. Jeremy Roddy** swam, **Dr. Sebastian Tume** ran, **Dr. Bradley Scherer** did biking, and **Matthew Wisniewski, APRN** tackled the entire (70.3 miles) race on his own.

Oscar (age 8), **Andrea Dean's** (Pediatric Hospital Medicine) child, is performing at Alley Theatre in *A Christmas Carol* until the end of December. This is Oscar's stage debut! Congratulations, Oscar!



The **Kochel Lab for Clinical Autism Research** manages a registry of individuals who would like to be notified of new research opportunities, the **Research Participant Awareness List (Research PALs)**. We invite folks to share information and a photo of their pet "pal" as a way to show their support and be a friend to research. Pet pals are featured on our lab page and Facebook site as our "PAL of the Month." Submit your pet pal to be PAL of the Month today and follow us on FB to see when they are featured! Don't have a pet pal? Consider adopting a PAL in need through Friends for Life, Houston's first no-kill animal rescue. You can find more information on our lab page.



Dr. Marietta de Guzman had a full audience for her reception of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) James T. Cassidy Award at the 2024 ACR Convergence held on November 16!



We had a full nursery!



Dr. Alfonso Hoyos and his wife welcomed their second baby, **Benjamin**, on September 25

Dr. Meghan Craven welcomed her first baby, **George**, on November 6



The Meyer Center Welcomed 3 Babies!



Dr. Jennifer B. Swanson-Zamora and her husband welcomed a baby boy, **Cody**, on 12/14/23



Dr. Janki Patel and her husband welcomed a baby girl, **Ruhi**, on 3/30/24



Dr. Holly Harris and her husband welcomed a new baby girl, **Zoe**, on 8/1/24.