

# Pedi Press 2.0

A Monthly Publication of the Department of Pediatrics



from the desk of Lara Shekerdeman . . .



Dear Friends –

Welcome to this month's *Pedi Press*, where you will hear about new and existing members of the DOP family, learn more about Public Health Pediatrics and Global Health, Faculty achievements, fun facts and much more!

I'm also happy to share with you the Department of Pediatrics Annual Report. Developing the annual report this year has been a wonderful experience, giving me the opportunity as Chair to share more about some of our most innovative programs and the passionate individuals from across this department doing truly incredible work. You can read it here

<https://texaschildrens.site/bcm/2022/index.html>

I'd like to give a shout out to our Residency and Fellowship team members as we enter this year's recruitment season. Thank you to our program leaders and coordinators who work so hard to ensure we can attract the very best to our training programs. Thank you to all of our faculty who give up your time to review applications, interview candidates, provide feedback and so much more. I sincerely thank each and every one of you.

Finally, as I am writing today, I cannot but think about the tragedy that is unfolding in the Middle East. Whether directly or indirectly, through family, friends, or colleagues – we are all touched by this humanitarian crisis. As you read this month's *Pedi Press*, I ask you all to take a moment to think about our colleagues and friends who have been personally impacted by these devastating events. Our hearts go out to you all.

Best wishes,

Lara

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# Appointments & Transitions



**Dr. Stacy Pierson** was named **Associate Program Director** for the **Baylor College of Medicine (Houston) Pediatric Residency Program**. Dr. Pierson received his MD from McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston and completed his residency at Texas A&M Health Science Center/Scott and White Program in Temple, Texas. He was recently elected to a three-year term in the BCM Faculty Senate, representing the Department of Pediatrics. Of his commitment to pediatrics, Dr. Pierson has stated, "I believe that not only is it our job to keep children healthy and provide treatment recommendations for ill children, but we have a responsibility to educate parents and other physicians about why we do what we do. But to do that we need more evidence to support what we do why we do. Evidence based medicine is not only the future, but I believe it is a necessity. I look forward to finding many other ways to contributing to Pediatric Medicine using evidence based principles."

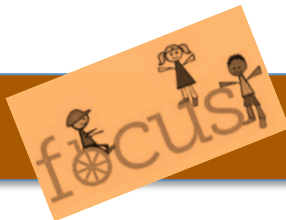


**Academic General Pediatrics** has welcomed two new members: **Dr. Katie Tran** is a Houston native who most recently worked at UT and McGovern Medical School. She is Co-Chair of the Community and School Health Committee for TPS and is a member of the AAP Council on School Health. We also welcomed **Dr. Michael Petrus-Jones** to our AGP fellowship. His primary academic interest is curriculum development for medical education, advocacy, and equity.

**Developmental Pediatrics** announced the following new faculty: **Dr. Janki Patel**, who completed her DBP fellowship with us and joined as new faculty in July 2023, and **Dr. Steven Lazar**, who completed his Neurodevelopmental Disabilities residency at BCM and also joined in July 2023.

**Diabetes and Endocrinology** welcomed three new faculty members in August: **Dr. Elizabeth Kubota-Mishra**, who will be in The Woodlands, and **Lauren Culbreth, PA**, and **Mariaha Wilson, NP**, both of whom will be at the main campus.

**Pediatric Hospital Medicine** welcomed 7 new faculty to TCH's new North Austin Campus and 10 other new faculty as it is expanding clinical services at the Main Campus in the Medical Center, The Woodlands Campus, and West Campus in Katy. The new faculty are a diverse group of physicians from internal training programs to highly experienced pediatric hospitalists from around the country.



## on administration

### *Interview with LINDSEY GURGAIOUS Administrative Advisor to the Chair*

*Tell us briefly about your professional background?*

*How did you get to where you are?*

I have always wanted to work in healthcare, ever since I can remember. Growing up, my mother was a nurse at TCH (oh, the stories I could tell about growing up with a nurse for a mom) I used to tell her that I was going to be the “big boss” one day at the hospital. I started my “career” in healthcare when I was in high school, working in the L&D unit as a volunteer on the weeknights. I then worked my senior year in the elementary school nurse’s office and after high school got my Nursing Assistant Certification. I then worked in our NICU for five years as a PCA, went on to work as an ER Registrar and Financial Counselor in an ER in Abilene, Texas, then when I returned to Houston, took a job back with TCH and BCM as the receptionist for Critical Care. From there, I was an administrative coordinator for CICU, then went to help start the Palliative Care Division as their Business Operations supervisor. Now, I am the Administrative Advisor to the Department of Pediatrics and to the Pediatrician-in-Chief. I always



*How do you practice self-care?*

I recently started attending a Brazilian Jujitsu Gym, which I have been enjoying when I am able to make it! After bedtime routines, I like to read or play a video game to unwind. It is worth it to stay up a little later to have that ‘me’ time for sure!

*How do you usually like to start your day?*

I am NOT in any sense a morning person. So I had to LOL at this question a bit because my initial thought was that I like to start my day by going back to bed! In actuality, I start my day with a decent commute to the med center from the Deer Park area. This may seem painful to most, but I appreciate the quiet drive, listening to my audio book or podcast, with my iced cinnamon dolce latte. On days off, I

enjoy a good morning snuggle with my kids, going in our pajamas for dohos (my son calls donut holes dohos) and getting outside!

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

With a 1-year-old and a 3-year-old, I watch a lot of Miss Rachel (IYKYK) and Bluey (which I probably love more than my 3-year-old does...). I do

not watch much TV in all seriousness, but I have been very committed to reading more each year! This year I had a set goal to read 27 books, and I am at 28! Currently, I am finishing *American Gods* By Neil Gaiman and just starting *If I Betray These Words* By Wendy Dean.

*What is your favorite part about working here?*

The people. I have been so fortunate to work alongside of my own family here, made the best of friends working here, learned an impossible amount from countless individuals here and have truly grown up in this place with the people of Texas Children’s and Baylor College of Medicine. Colleagues lifted me up when my father and best friend passed away, celebrated with me as my family grew, pushed me to pursue my advanced degree, cheered me on when I did well and dusted me off when I failed. The people are what make this place so special, and I genuinely believe in the idea that every single person here, no matter their title, background, creed etc have an important part to play in the incredible care that we provide to our patients and families every single day. I am proud to be a part of this community.





**Dr. Christopher Greeley**, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the **Division of Public Health Pediatrics**, serves as the Vice Chair for Community Health for the Department of Pediatrics. In that role, and in close partnership with others in the Division, he works with different stakeholders across the BCM/TCH system to develop, pilot and implement community-based initiatives intended to address the social, neighborhood, structural and policy challenges facing children and their families. Recently, the division was awarded a CDC grant to work in Infant Mortality Disparities.

Among the services that the Division provides are transportation, housing, assistance for food insecurity, financial literacy, enrollment in public benefits, child care, substance use, and mental health services. An example of one of the strategies includes a social worker and community health worker in a home-visiting program called *upLIFT*, a free service to any woman with an infant and experiencing mild to moderate postpartum depression. Included in the home visits is a dedicated care coordinator to help the mother get and stay connected to resources in her community. With the burgeoning attention to “Non-Medical Drivers of Health” (what Texas Medicaid has labeled “Social Determinants of Health”; see box below), there is growing opportunity for all members of the department to explore ways to collectively work on some of the largest non-medical challenges that families face.

In his capacity as Vice Chair, Dr. Greeley’s role is to work with any member of the department who is interested in developing programs, innovating in the clinic, or partnering with community groups, to better serve our kids and families. This assistance can include helping with grant development, program evaluation, making community connections, and cross-linking with others in the department to foster collaborations.

#### Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability

Education

Social and Community Context

Health and Health Care

Neighborhood and Built Environment

#### Examples of Underlying Factors

Employment food security, housing instability, poverty

Early childhood education and development, enrollment in higher education, high school graduation, language and literacy

Civic participation, discrimination, incarceration, social cohesion

Access to health care and primary care, health literacy

Access to foods that support healthy eating patterns, crime and violence, environmental conditions, quality of housing

#### A word from the Pedi Press 2.0 Editorial Team

Thank you for all the encouraging feedback we received after publishing the first two issues of the revised Pedi Press! Our intent is for PP 2.0 to be a place where we can celebrate one another’s accomplishments, both professional and personal, and get to know one another better. With the exponential growth in numbers that has occurred during the past few years, coupled with the unique situations posed by C-19, keeping up with colleagues became a great challenge. So, we hope to address that need here. We invite **all** members of the DoP to submit news they want to share. We will include everything we can (no publications, abstracts, grants due to limited space), in addition to what is “officially” scheduled with the different Divisions. Submissions should go to [bligon@bcm.edu](mailto:bligon@bcm.edu). We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your news with the department!





# SPOTLIGHT ON Public Health



The Public Health Pediatrics Division is excited to welcome **Katie Budolfson, MD, MPH**, to the **Foster Care Clinical Service Team**. Dr. Budolfson completed her pediatric residency training at BCM/TCH. She then completed her Academic General Pediatrics (AGP) fellowship in the division of ACP, during which time she worked toward obtaining her DrPH in Community Health Practice from UTHealth School of Public Health. She has a passion for improving the health and wellbeing

of children in foster care both in the clinical setting and by addressing systemic barriers affecting children in care utilizing a public health approach.

Dr. Budolfson joins a growing interdisciplinary team that engages in trauma-informed, comprehensive physical and behavioral healthcare for children in foster care in Houston and the surrounding regions. The team also engages in advocacy, education, and community service outreach at the local, state, and national levels. Beyond these core members, there are many additional team members from the public health division and other clinical specialties that contribute to the care of children in foster care.

As she joins this exceptional team, Dr. Budolfson is working on several areas of expansion for the foster care clinic. She is in the process of

- developing a **transition clinic** for youth in foster in care in collaboration with the Adolescent Medicine Division. This transition clinic will help improve health outcomes for youth who 'age out' of the foster care system at age 18, by preparing them to manage their healthcare needs independently and providing support after the youth has exited the system.
- developing **community-based education initiatives** for providers and families.
- generating **partnerships with community agencies** working with youth in foster care to understand the needs of the community and effectively mitigate the systemic barriers for youth in foster care.

## Foster Care Clinical Service Team

**Dr. Rachael Keefe, MD, MPH**, is a pediatrician who manages complex medical-legal cases involving children referred by the court system. In addition to her clinical role, she has been the PI on multiple research grants focusing on health outcomes of children in foster care, holds statewide and national advocacy leadership roles through the AAP, and oversees the foster care resident and medical student elective rotations.

**Dr. MacKenzie Hughes, PhD**, is a clinical psychologist who leads the behavioral health section of the foster care clinic through treating complex trauma with evidence-based therapy and interventions. She also provides education to medical professionals and the community about trauma-informed care and secondary traumatic stress.

**Umekia Lover, MSW**, is the foster care clinical coordinator who supports the children, foster families, teams caring for foster children by ensuring they receive all the services they need.

**Sharon Record, APRN, PNP**, is a nurse practitioner who brings a wealth of expertise in supporting children and families through excellent clinical care.

**Diane Kaulen, MS, CCLS**, is the community initiatives coordinator who engages in outreach efforts to the community, establishing partnerships with community organizations working to improve the wellbeing of children in foster care and mitigate childhood adversities.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## PEM GLOBAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHT

With more than 15 years of experience working in a variety of low- to middle-income countries (LMICs), endorsements by Latin American and African healthcare leaders, and in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and local Ministries of Health, Global Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) has had dramatic success. We have provided more than 25,000 hours of clinical care and shoulder-to-shoulder mentoring for emergently ill children alongside our global partners and trained more than 5,000 health professionals in 25 countries. A vital part of our commitment to developing future global child health leaders starts at home. The Baylor PEM - Global Health (PEM-GH) Fellowship was established in 2005 in response to growing interest in global health (GH) among trainees. As the first pediatric GH fellowship in the United States, our combined program is the largest in the country and is recognized as a model of excellence. Since 2005, 18 fellows have enrolled in the combined PEM-GH fellowship, 13 have graduated from the program, and an additional 8 standard-track PEM fellows have participated in components of the global health track. Nearly all of our graduates pursue academic careers, and many are leading GH programs around the country. **In 2023, the combined PEM-GH fellowship became the FIRST nationally accredited global health fellowship program in the country!**



For more information about our program please visit: <https://www.texaschildrensglobalhealth.org/pem>.

## WEST CAMPUS CONTINUES EXPANSION

**West Campus** continues growing to serve our pediatric patients of the Katy region. Since West Campus opened the outpatient doors (in 2010) and the inpatient hospital (in 2011), the hospital has quadrupled the number of inpatient beds and added additional services including expanded emergency center beds, the only pediatric biocontainment unit in the southwest, a 22-bed PICU, and an urgent care center.



The services offered by the excellent team of West Campus physicians and advance practice personnel have continued to expand too. One example is the interdisciplinary clinic led by **Drs. Jennifer Tran, Naga Jaya Yenduri, and Megan Purser**, where patients with sickle cell or other hemoglobinopathies can see their hematologist, pulmonologist, and psychologist to address the medical AND behavioral health needs related to their chronic condition in one visit.

Did you know that more than half of the visits to Texas Children's outpatient sites occur outside the 610 loop? The community campuses also perform more than 50% of the pediatric surgeries for the TCH system. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the West Campus or The Woodlands, we encourage you to visit us and see our teamwork in action. We expect the strong growth to continue as the geographic population center of the Houston metropolitan area moves westward, towards I-10 and Gessner. By 2030, the Greater West Houston Association projects an additional 300,000 people will move to West Houston.



# EVENTS

The DoP is proud to join other institutions in raising awareness of National Latino Physician Day! We are grateful for our Latino faculty, staff, residents, interns, and students for their many contributions to the department and to the improved health of our patients.



Diabetes & Endocrinology participated in Camp Rainbow again this summer

In coordination with "Be The Match," Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center collected cheek swabs for the Bone Marrow Donor Registry on the Wallace Tower Skybridge. This year, more than 200 donors volunteered to sign-up—more than any previous year!







**Drs. Joyee Vachani, Lauren Hess, Carla Falco, and Roger Nicome** (not pictured) running for "Team Kelly" during the Run for the Rose. The Marnie Rose Foundation raises awareness and funds for brain cancer research. Team Kelly is in memory of Kelly DeScioli, one of our former PHM faculty who tragically passed away from brain cancer.



**Drs. Ricardo Quiñonez, Bradford Nguyen, and Kevin Weinberger** (fellow) holding the Department of Pediatrics March Madness Basketball Tournament trophy! PHM beat Developmental Pediatrics by 1 point!



**Drs. Stacy Pierson and Rathi Asaithambi** supporting graduating BCM medical students at the 2023 graduation. **Dr. Pierson** is a recent graduate of the BCM Center of Excellence in Health Equity, Training and Research faculty development program and was recently selected as a Pediatric Residency Associate Program Director. **Dr. Asaithambi** is the PHM Division Diversity Equity and Inclusion representative, a BCM Medical Student Learning Community Advisor, and a BCM Curriculum Committee representative. We are extremely proud of all their accomplishments.



Faculty joined in for the fun at summer camp for pediatric cancer patients, along with 140 patients from **Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center**. The patients got the chance to experience a weeklong overnight Summer Camp For All! A huge thank you to The Periwinkle Foundation for making this possible for our patients!



### **Retrovirology Participates in Camp Hope**

Retrovirology Allies in Hope began Camp Hope in 1996 as a weeklong, sleep-away camp for children with HIV. Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) Retrovirology patients have been participating in Camp Hope since the beginning, and Camp Hope now includes children from all over Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Children from ages 7 – 17 meet other children with HIV and participate in camp activities that include canoeing, horseback riding, zip lining, swimming, rock wall climbing, and a Talent show. MAC cosmetic provides community support for the young women and barbers for the young men. World-renowned photographer Smiley Poole provides the children with memory books, highlighting their activities throughout the week. Camp Hope is staffed with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, child life specialists and volunteers including physicians and social service staff from the TCH Retrovirology Service. Young teens participate in a Teen Talk group (13 – 17) where they can speak openly about their struggles, the stigma, and disclosing their status with others. **This year, 2023, TCH Retrovirology sent 19 children to Camp Hope.**







The Division of Pediatric Diabetes and Endocrinology under the leadership of **Dr. Rona Sonabend**, Division Chief, was named by the *U.S. News and World Report* as #2 in the nation.



**Dr. Stacy Pierson** was the recipient of the Baylor Pediatric Award of Excellence in Teaching, presented here by **Dr. Gordon Schutze**.



**Dr. Michelle Lopez** and her **PHM Division** fan club at the national PHM conference. Dr. Lopez received a national award for **Leadership in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion!**

Latino children are at greater risk of developing certain cancers, and their short and long-term outcomes are often worse than other children with cancer. Researchers **Dr. Michael Scheurer**, **Dr. Lisa Kahalley**, and **Dr. Monica Gramatges** at Texas Children's **Cancer and Hematology** Center and Baylor College of Medicine were awarded more than \$7.6 million over four years from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to comprehensively study late effects of childhood







**Dr. Charleta Guillory** received the **Texas Pediatrics Society's Charles W. Daescher, Jr., MD Lifetime Achievement Award**, the highest award of the TPS. The award recognizes "her outstanding lifetime contributions to the health and welfare of children, her passion for advocating for vulnerable children, and her dedicated service of leadership on the TPS Executive Board, Executive Legislative Committee, Committee on Fetus and Newborn, and numerous TPS committees throughout the years."



**Dr. Michelle Lopez** is the winner of the 2023 Pediatric Hospital Medicine Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This award recognizes a pediatric hospitalist who exemplifies leadership in promoting and fostering a diverse and inclusive environment in Pediatric Hospital Medicine locally, regionally, or nationally with evidence of one or more of the following: outstanding contributions in clinical care through development of clinical services or programs which mitigate health disparities in hospitalized children; excellence in research as evidenced by significant contributions examining health equity, gender equity, diversity and inclusion data in patient care and/or in the workforce; outstanding leadership in education and advocacy on topics of diversity, health equity, gender equity, and inclusion; exemplary leadership in mentorship of faculty and/or learners who are women or underrepresented in medicine.

**Dr. Kiyetta Alade** received a School of Medicine Curriculum Renewal special recognition.

**Dr. Athis Arunachalam**

- named Physician of the Year at Houston Methodist Willobrook
- received the 2023 mid-late Career Educator Award, Texas A&M School of medicine
- received the BCM STAR award

**Dr. Jennifer Bell** received a Baylor College of Medicine Star Award.

**Dr. Susan Blaney**, division chief of pediatric hematology-oncology and director of Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center, named the Healthcare Honoree by the American Cancer Society Houston Cattle Baron's Ball.

**Dr. Malcolm Brenner** was awarded the 2023 Arthur L. Beaudet Outstanding Mentorship Award.

**Dr. Acacia Cognata** received the STAR award at CHI St. Luke's Health, Lufkin.

**Dr. Emily Crain**

- selected as an American Diabetes Association (ADA) Scholar
- received the "Health Disparities Committee's Top 10 Recommended Abstracts" at the 83rd Scientific "Disparities in Insulin Pump and CGM Use in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes."

**Dr. Megan Craven** received a Patient Experience Red Pin.

**Dr. Nicole Davis**

- appointed Chair of the Pediatric Committee of the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council of SETRAC
- awarded 2023 Educational Scholarship Award on Mass Casualty Incident Training in the Pediatric Emergency Department

**Dr. Cecilia Torres Day** named Physician of the Year at CHI St. Luke's Sugarland.

**Dr. Cara Doughty** awarded 2023 Educational Scholarship Award on Mass Casualty Incident Training in the Pediatric Emergency Department.

**Dr. Sophia Ebenezer** received a Patient Experience Red Pin.

**Dr. Daniel DeSalvo** received a Patient Experience Red Pin.

**Dr. El Ayash** selected as an American Diabetes Association (ADA) Scholar

**Dr. Aya Fanny** awarded an American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH grant to develop and implement a triage protocol in the Pediatric Emergency Department at the Cocody University Hospital in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

**Dr. Katherine Gallagher** received a Norton Rose Fulbright Award.

**Dr. Charles Gay** received the Outstanding Clinician award.

**Dr. Olivia Ginnard** was the 2023-2024 TCH Pediatric Pilot Award Recipient for "Brain Vitamin D Receptors Regulate Energy Balance."

**Dr. Sharada Gowda**

- elected as the AAP National Neonatal POCUS Collaborative Steering Committee Member and Research Chair
- re-elected as the DEI Education Co-Chair at Pediatric Diversity Council
- Focus group Co-Lead: Children's Hospital Neonatal Consortium POCUS focus group

**Dr. Charleta Guillory**

- received the AAP Special Achievement Award
- was elected by the Texas State Commissioner of Health, Executive Committee as Chair-elect
- was appointed a member to the Pediatric Advisory Committee, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

**Dr. Amy Hair** elected as the President of the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

**Dr. Helen Heslop** received the American Society of Hematology Mentor Award.

**Dr. Vince Horne** received a Baylor College of Medicine Early Career Award.

**Dr. Brent Kaziny**

- appointed to the executive committee for the AAP Council on Children and Disasters
- featured in an article in *Houston Chronicle* for his work to keep TCH power going natural disasters  
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/texas-childrens-hospital-emergency-power-grid-18130839.php>
- awarded 2023 Educational Scholarship Award on Mass Casualty Incident Training in the Pediatric Emergency Department

**Sarah Kelly, DNP, APRN, NP-C,** received Texas Children's Hospital's Super Star Award in June.

**Dr. Katherine Kothari** received a 2023 Pediatric Pilot Award on evaluating EMS utilization of oral analgesia in pediatric patients with traumatic injuries.

**Dr. Madhulika Kulkarni** received the BCM STAR Award.

**Dr. Marina Masciale** completed the national Academic Pediatric Health Policy Scholars Program.

**Dr. Bonnie McCann-Crosby**

- abstract winner for TCH Quality Day for "Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors in Texas: A Quality Improvement Success Story in Advocacy and Equity."
- received the 2023 Outstanding Clinician Award

**Dr. Kristy Murray** received the 2024 Houston Global Health Collaborative Global Health Award and invited to be the keynote speaker for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Health Conference to be held in 2024.

**Dr. Scott Osborne** appointed Neonatal APP Medical Director.

**Dr. Shweta Parmekar** appointed Associate Program Director of Neonatal Perinatal Fellowship

**Dr. Donald "Will" Parsons** invited to serve as a member of the CureSearch Scientific Advisory Council.

**Dr. Sandip Patel** named Physician of the Month in September by the Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.

**Dr. Matei Petrescu** promoted to Associate Professor.

**Dr. Ricardo Quinonez**

- elected Chair of the Health Care Delivery Committee of the Academic Pediatric Association
- appointed to the Academic Pediatric Association's Board of Directors.

**Dr. Richard Roberts** received a Patient Experience Red Pin.

**Cynthia Sanders, APRN, CPNP-PC** was board certified in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM).

**Dr. Manish Shah** received the Dr. Marianne Gausche-Hill Educational Mentorship Award from SAEM.

**Dr. Siller** selected as an American Diabetes Association (ADA) Scholar.

**Dr. Angelique Snyder** selected as CHRISTUS Children's representative for the Baylor Faculty Senate.

**Dr. Nathan Sundgren** was appointed to the AAP Neonatal Resuscitation Program Steering Committee.

**Dr. Melissa Svoboda** promoted to Associate Professor.

**Dr. Serife Uysal** received a Baylor College of Medicine Early Career Award.

**Mili Vakharia, APRN, FNP-C**

- named Texas Nurse Practitioners' 2023 Preceptor of the Year.
- received a Baylor College of Medicine Star Award.
- received a Patient Experience Red Pin.

**Dr. Margaret Wood** received the Texas Pediatrics Society's Early Career Physician Award.

**Victoria Wright, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC** was board certified in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM).

**Dr. Yong Xu** received a 2023 Michael E. DeBakey Excellence in Research award.

**Dr. Shabana Yusuf** selected by the TPS as a recipient of the chapter's Special Achievement Award for work on the Drowning Prevention MOC Program.





## FRIENDS, AND OTHER FUN STUFF



As we continue to celebrate our children returning to school, meet **Max**, son of **Dr. Lara Shekerdemian**, on his first day of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



Congratulations to **Erinn Miller, FNP**, of AGP, on her wedding in April.



Congratulations to **Sarah Kelly, DNP, APRN, NP-C**, on her wedding in June.

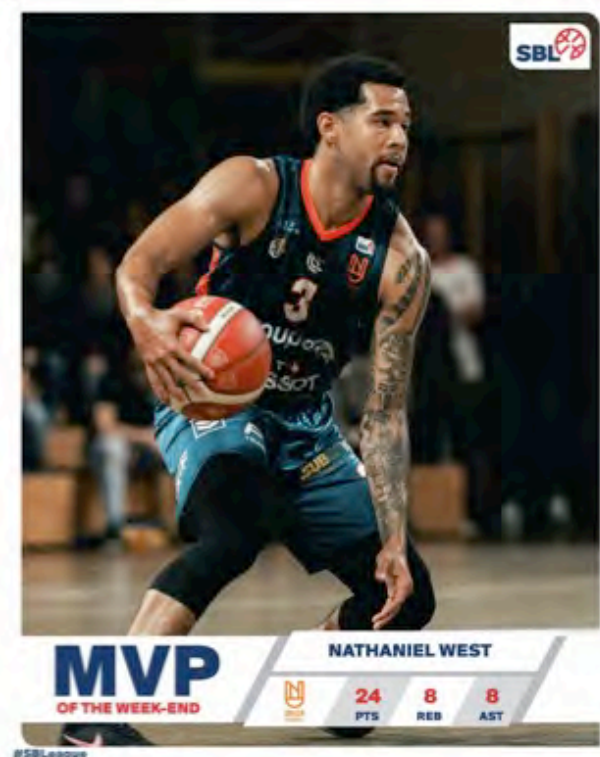
Congratulations to **Dr. Lisa Owens'** daughter, **Molly Anderson**, on her engagement.

**Dr. Xanthi Couroucli** welcomed a new grandson in May 2023.



Welcome to **Carolina Gisela Cardenas**, born in July to 2<sup>nd</sup>-year AGP Fellow, **Victoria Mitre**.





**Nathaniel (Nate) West**, son of **Anna West**, AGP, continues as the starting point guard for Union Neuchatel in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

**Congratulations** to Nate on being named  
**MVP of the Weekend!**



**Congratulations!**

**Dr. Pablo Lohmann** competed in the Peruvian Swimming Master Nationals, winning 6 gold medals and set 2 national age group records in relays. He also competed in the SouthCentral Zone US Masters Swimming Championships, winning 2 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze medals.

Baylor College of Medicine research technician **Michelle Alozie** has been in the news lately, attracting local media and *Nature* to highlight her goal-winning performances both in the laboratory and on the field. Academically, Alozie joined Texas Children's Cancer Center after studying molecular biology at Yale University. She works in the lab of Dr. Alexandra Stevens, where they study treatments for acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in children. Athletically, she was part of the Nigerian team in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. After coming second in its group, the team succumbed to England in the Round of 16, though not without a nail-biting penalty shoot-out. Michelle is continuing her goal-winning career as a professional footballer in the US National Women's Soccer League, where she plays for the Houston Dash in Texas. She aims to play for the Nigerian team again in World Cup 2027 and then turn her attention to medical school where she hopes to specialize in cardiology. (photo credit: Chris Hyde/FIFA via Getty)



**Note from PP 2.0 Team:** Pedi Press 2.0 has NO deadlines for publishing family pictures or news of children or other life events, so please send pictures as they become available. They are always welcome!





Dr. Kristy Murray has published the DoP Annual Research Report for 2022:

[https://cdn.bcm.edu/sites/default/files/2022\\_annual\\_research\\_report\\_pediatrics.pdf.pdf](https://cdn.bcm.edu/sites/default/files/2022_annual_research_report_pediatrics.pdf.pdf)



## NOVEMBER 4, 2023 DOP WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Unfortunately, many of us have been touched by the devastating effects of Alzheimer's in our personal and professional lives. The BCM Department of Pediatrics is participating as a team in the BCM-supported Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® to raise awareness and funds to support Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Last year the team raised over \$7000. Hopefully some of you can help us out!

This 2-mile walk so doesn't require any fitness or training and would be a great way to work off the Halloween candy from the week before. Children and dogs are welcome.

Registration is easy and free; visit the link below and click the button to join a team. If you're unable to participate, please consider making a donation to the fundraising campaign. No donation is too small as every dollar advances the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association®.

To join the team or donate, please visit the BCM Department of Pediatrics team page (link below): [2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Houston, TX: BCM Department of Pediatrics | Walk to End Alzheimer's](#)

### 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>

