

# American Academy of Pediatrics



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NEWSLETTER – Winter 2024

## SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE





# SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

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## RAISING OUR VOICES: SONPM’S AWARD-WINNING ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

*Lily Lou MD, FAAP*  
*Shetal Shah MD, FAAP*

Advocacy has always been an essential skill for pediatricians. Only recently has the need for neonatologists to raise their voices in support of their patients been recognized. This year marks three years since the formation of our SONPM Advocacy Committee Leadership Council (AACL), which formalizes our wide-ranging advocacy activities across all Section interest groups.

Despite only recently becoming a recognized priority in our strategic plan, our work in this area has been robust and lauded, earning two consecutive AAP Section Forum Management Committee Outstanding Service in Advocacy Awards in 2022 and 2023.

These awards reflect work to promote a baby-first legislative agenda, educate our colleagues about policy priorities that impact newborns and mothers, and rally neonatologists on state-based issues which impact the care they deliver.

To activate neonatologists to communicate with legislators regarding AAP priorities, the Section has created neonatal-specific “Legislative Action Alerts,” to motivate constituents to push their representatives to support neonatal-friendly measures. Alerts on the federal Subspecialty Loan Repayment allocation, strengthening the Vaccines for Children Act, The MOMS Act, Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program regulations, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, reauthorizing the PREEMIE Act, and the Access to Donor Milk Act – which the Committee helped shape – have made it easier for our members to engage with their federal elected officials. The Committee has actively assisted Section members with letters to their members of Congress, op-eds and scholarly articles.

In order to foster the development of advocacy as a scholarly focus into the next generation of neonatologists, the AACL partnered with the *Journal of Perinatology*, the Section’s official journal, on a series of eight advocacy articles intended to educate members about current policy issues impacting newborns. To embed mentorship within AACL’s activities, all papers were co-written by senior and junior authors. Articles can be found at <https://www.nature.com/collections/hifcabcaec>.

To take advantage of the burgeoning interest in neonatal educational podcasts, the Section partnered with *The Incubator*, a leading, popular neonatal podcast to discuss the importance of several policies on newborn health, increasing outreach. Topics included: The Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, Medicaid



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Unwinding, Prematurity and Vaccine Hesitancy, and Post-partum Medicaid Expansion. The AAP podcast, *Pediatrics on Call*, featured two SONPM members discussing donor milk advocacy.

Work at the federal level only partially explains our efforts. The Section has been focused on expanding state-based Medicaid coverage for pasteurized human donor milk as a means of increasing equity to this vital tool for NICU care. The Committee developed a state advocacy Donor Milk Toolkit and committed grassroots funding for SONPM members working with their state AAP chapters on this issue. One grant, awarded in Georgia, successfully obtained preliminary funding for Medicaid coverage of donor milk in the NICU. Since then, the SONPM has worked with AAP chapters in Ohio, South Carolina, California and Washington, with additional states utilizing the Toolkit's resources in their policy work. Dr. Shetal Shah and grant recipient Dr. Emily Miller presented the case for human donor milk coverage to the Association of State Medicaid Directors, piquing the interest of several other states. ACLC Co-Chairs Drs. Shah and Lily Lou also led a subspecialty breakout session at the 2023 AAP Annual Legislative Conference. This work was further highlighted by Dr. Allison Rose in her presentation at the District VI Annual Controversies in Neonatal and Perinatal Clinical Care Conference and in a talk presented at the 2023 AAP NCE. These state advocacy efforts led to introduction of the national Access to Donor Milk Act in August of 2023. Our Advocacy Committee is regularly consulted in the crafting of such bills. The Access for Donor Milk Act will be a focus of neonatal advocacy over the next several years and represents the first federal commitment to making this resource more widely available to babies.

The SONPM also provides scholarships to the AAP Advocacy Conference, both virtual and in-person. In 2021, 40 neonatologists attended, learning policy skills before visiting directly with their federal offices to promote child-friendly legislation. This energizing conference is directed toward a general pediatric audience, so not all issues are directly relevant to subspecialists, but the education is vital building capacity for the large sector of our neonatology community interested in advocacy.

In another "first," the Section held the first-ever virtual "Neonatology Day-on-the-Hill" last fall. The conference included a welcome from AAP President Dr. Sandy Chung, general information about how Congress works, and information on neonatal-specific legislation currently debated on Capitol Hill. The conference focused on reauthorization of the PREEMIE Act and neonatal-specific handouts summarizing the key points of the PREEMIE Act were developed for congressional staff. By the end of the day, neonatologists from around the country held 70 meetings with congressional offices.

Advocacy is alive and well in our neonatology community! We welcome all neonatologists to step away from the isolette and work toward creating a legislative environment that benefits babies across the country. Committee members hone their advocacy skills, learn about current issues in Washington DC and promote ACLC efforts among their peers. The SONPM ACLC includes representation from all career phases, WiN and NICU parents. Monthly meetings of the ACLC take place on the second Monday at 2:00pm central time and are open to any interested Section members. Please contact Lily Lou (lilylou@mindspring.com), Shetal Shah (Shetal.Shah@wmchealth.org) to be added to the listserv or to receive the ACLC meeting invite.

# TECAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Anisha Bhatia, MD  
Chair Update 2024

## 1

### Mythbuster Podcast Series

Series with Incubator Podcast  
Focused on survey study  
busting career myths in NPM



## 2

### Career Development

Launch of Physician-Scientist Café  
Relaunch of TECaN QI Summer School  
Relaunch of fellowship program delegates

## 3

### Education

Launch of AAP Neonatology-  
Cardiology Collaboration -- Big  
Dreams for Tiny Hearts Series



## 4

### Board Review

Relaunch of TECaN led National Board  
Review Curriculum Signal Group;  
members complete a 9-month study  
schedule with weekly quizzes & board Q's

## 5

### Early Career Workforce

Launched Early Career Webinar Series  
with first session focused on malpractice  
and risk mitigation

## Newly Elected Council Members:

Mackenzie Frost, MD, MEd (CHOP) - TECaN Mentor

Ashley Osborne, MD (MUSC)

Cynthia Perez, MD (Cornell)

Ravi D'Cruz, MD (Mednax Seattle)

Shannon Dunn, MD, RDN (Winnie Palmer)

Piyawat 'Paul' Arichai, MD (USC CHLA LAGMC)

Michelle Bartlett, MD, MS (CHOP)

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR: THE SCOPE OF THE SECTION

**Munish Gupta MD, MMSc, FAAP**

Greetings!

I would like to use this column to try to summarize the different activities and projects of our Section, the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SONPM). I say, “try,” as this will be a challenge. Thanks to the energy and commitment of our membership, our Section initiatives and subgroups have steadily grown, and the organizational structure of the Section has become more and more complicated. On the other hand, describing this framework is an intentional effort with clear goals; hopefully, many of you will be inspired by something on this list and will reach out to join a working group or committee. Undoubtedly, the strength of our Section is defined by the engagement of our members, and the more we can capture your expertise and enthusiasm, the more impact we can have.

The following is not a complete list of all Section activities, but rather is meant to highlight those groups and initiatives driven by member participation and interest. This list captures most of the breadth of what the Section does, but not all. For each item, I have listed the current lead or chair; many of their emails are elsewhere in this Newsletter, and you can always reach out to me to be connected with one of the leads.

So, here goes....the “scope” of the Section!

### Committees

Committees are long-term Section structures tasked with addressing areas of ongoing need. Committee chairs are appointed by the Executive Committee.

The **Advocacy Committee** identifies opportunities for advocacy on behalf of newborns and their families. The Committee works closely with the AAP offices for federal and state affairs. Current chairs are Shetal Shah and Lily Lou.

The **Coding Committee** works with the AAP and other organizations to review billing codes for neonatology, including promoting development of new codes when necessary. The Committee also works to educate members around coding and billing, including the annual coding seminars at the spring workshop in Scottsdale. Current chair is Scott Duncan.

The **Communications and Digital Media Committee** utilizes social media to disseminate and share Section updates and activities. The Committee works with several media platforms including Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, and X/Twitter. Current chair is Clara Song.

The **Global Health Committee** supports SONPM members actively engaged in international partnerships seeking to improve care and outcomes for newborns and families across

the world. The Committee works closely with the AAP’s Global Health and Life Support groups as well as other organizations with similar goals. Current chair is Sharla Rent.

The **Journal Club** supports two activities designed to engage trainees in critical review of the literature while learning evidence-based medicine, research methods, and strategies for publication. One activity is an in-depth article review combined with a research method overview, led by a fellow with mentorship from an editorial board member and published in the *Journal of Perinatology*. The second is a periodic on-line live journal club, led by a fellow with participation by senior faculty (often the authors of the article in review). Journal Club has been led throughout by Viral Jain, Matt Rysavy, and Sai Mukthapuram, with Mattie Wolf and Brian King joining the leadership team this year.

The **Publications Committee** generates the monthly “Articles of Interest” newsletter, a review of key publications in neonatology. This is one of the mostly widely used SONPM resources. Current chair and page editor is Ayan Rajgarhia.

The **NeOPREP Planning Committee** oversees planning and administration of the NeOPREP board review course, held every two years. Current chairs are Clara Song and Jae Kim, with leadership transitioning soon to Chair-Elect Wendy Timpson.

The **Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies Planning Committee** plans the spring workshop in Scottsdale, the Section’s premier educational conference and primary annual meeting. Current chair is Josh Petrikin.

The **Research Committee** oversees the Section’s Marshall Klaus Perinatal Research Awards, given to fellows each year through a competitive process in the areas of bench or clinical research, health services research, and education research. Current chair is Hendrik Weitkamp, transitioning soon to Chair-Elect Krithika Lingappan.

The **Website Committee** develops and coordinates website content for the Section, and works closely with AAP staff to maintain the Section webpage. Many SONPM groups and committees have representation on the Website Committee. Current chair is Jenny Koo.

### Special Interest Groups

A Special Interest Group (SIG) focuses on the interests of a discrete subset of SONPM members, based on special needs or characteristics of that group. Generally, SIGs are anticipated to be long-term Section structures with ongoing programming, rather than groups addressing a short-term goal or need.

**Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists (TECaN)** brings together trainees and neonatologists within seven years of fellowship completion, with activities that target numerous aspects of training and early career transitions. TECaN was the first SIG of our Section and has been a model for other AAP Sections; their many, many achievements have been

well documented in these pages. Current TECaN chair is Anisha Bhatia.

**Mid-Career Neonatologists (MidCaN)** fosters leadership and community among neonatologists between eight and 18 years of fellowship completion (although from personal experience, you are still welcome in MidCaN even past 18 years...). Current chair is Jennifer Helderman.

**Well-Established Career Neonatologists (WECaN)** supports continuing professional activities and personal wellness of senior neonatologists, as well as providing partnership and mentorship to TECaN and MidCaN. Current chair is Stephen Pearlman.

**Women in Neonatology (WIN)** tackles the essential need of advancing gender equity in all aspects of professional and personal development for women neonatologists. Annual programming at the Scottsdale workshop and at NCE complement regular newsletters and webinars in support of numerous WIN initiatives and activities. Current chair is Dena Hubbard.

**All-Pathways** seeks to expand SONPM activities beyond traditional academic neonatology by engaging, supporting, and representing the diversity of potential career pathways in neonatal-perinatal medicine. Activities include multiple sub-committees and regular programming at the Scottsdale workshop. Current chairs are Clara Song and Lily Lou.

**Clinical Leaders Group (CLG)** provides a community and forum for NICU medical directors, quality directors, and others interested in clinical leadership. An active list-serve helps CLG members gain advice and input from peers on common challenges and various virtual and in-person workshops target specific aspects of clinical leadership. Current chair is Jessica Davidson.

## Task Forces and Working Groups

The Section creates task forces and working groups to address a specific aim or need, often linked to the Section's strategic plan. These groups generally target short-term, discrete deliverables.

**NICU Follow-Up Group** brings together neonatologists and others with a particular focus on post-discharge care of the NICU graduate. In collaboration with the Committee on Fetus and Newborn, the group hopes to develop national standards for NICU follow-up. Current chair is Ricky Goldstein.

**Representation and Equity in Neonatology (REIN)** is targeting the critical goal of increasing diversity of the neonatology workforce through innovative activities to support the recruitment, retention, and advancement of underrepresented populations in our field. Their work with medical students and residents is particularly exciting. Current chair is Liz Bonachea, with vice-chairs Michelle Peña and Uchenna Anani.

**Staffing and Workforce Appropriate for Neonatology (SWAN)** is examining important issues related to the neonatology workforce and equity across centers, including the difficult challenge of defining a full-time neonatologist position. Current chair is DeAnn Pillars.

## Other Section Appointed Positions and Activities

The **History Chair** seeks to maintain an archive of key milestones in neonatology, including taped interviews with Apgar Award winners and other senior faculty. Sergio Golombek has long been the champion of this activity and serves as the History Chair for the Section.

The **Fellow Education Chairs** oversee the two series of fellow educational conferences: The Seminars in Perinatal Medicine, which are twice yearly; and the Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposia, which are currently three times a year. These conferences are widely acknowledged as highlights of fellowship training. Current education chairs are Misty Good and Heather French.

The **Journal of Perinatology** is the official publication of SON-PM, with joint selection of the Editor-in-Chief by the Section's Executive Committee. The current *Journal* Editor-in-Chief is Patrick Gallagher.

The **Section Newsletter Editor** coordinates and edits the document you are currently reading, published twice yearly. The Newsletter is our primary vehicle for sharing Section activities and initiatives, including achievements and updates for individual Section members. Flipping through the back half of the newsletter is always fun. The current newsletter editor is Mary Nock.

There is more, but this is a good overview. If you are interested in joining any of the groups listed above, please do reach out. Many of these groups and activities are open to any interested Section member. Some require an application and appointment process. Regardless, we are eager to see more members actively engaged, and we will work with you to identify appropriate opportunities.

Stay well, and hope to see you Scottsdale!

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## UPDATES FROM THE ONTPD

*Megan Gray MD, FAAP*  
*Deirdre O'Reilly MD, FAAP*

Congratulations on another fellowship match season complete! This year there were 278 applicants to the 106 Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (NPM) fellowships across the US, with 96% of applicants matching and 79% of programs filling their slots. This is on par with the success rates of Peds Critical Care and Peds Emergency Medicine. The trends over the past five years tell us that there are more NPM fellowship programs (96 to 106) and fellowship slots (263 to 302), but a variable number of applicants (2018-20: approximately 240 applicants/year, 2021: 270 applicants, 2022: 310 applicants, 2023: 278 applicants) leading to many programs (22 in 2023) and positions (34 in 2023) going unfilled. As we anticipate a further reduction in pediatric resident time in the NICU with the upcoming ACGME changes in July 2025, it's vitally important that we all continue our efforts to ensure that medical learners feel welcome in the NICU and have a chance to see the value of a career in Neonatology.

Program leaders are hard at work implementing the new NPM ACGME Milestones 2.0. These new milestones more accurately reflect the skills and learning trajectories we expect fellows to gain during training. The language has been significantly simplified and efficient evaluations based on the new milestones were made available to all Neonatology training programs. We encourage the whole community to get to know these new milestones (available on the ACGME website) and thank you for all the teaching you do to help your fellows become outstanding Neonatologists.

ONTPD's Online with Experts continues to have bi-monthly virtual lectures. A repository of past lectures can be found online under the pediatrics tab at MedEd On The Go. Contact your local fellowship director or Dr. Deirdre O'Reilly ([deirdre.o'reilly@uvmhealth.org](mailto:deirdre.o'reilly@uvmhealth.org)) to get a link. Some highlights for the upcoming season include: From Fetus to Neonate at 22-23 Weeks Gestation on December 20th (Jonathan Klein) and Medicolegal Issues in Neonatology January 17th (Jonathan Fanaroff).

## CODING QUESTIONS

*Scott Duncan MD, MHA, FAAP*

While making rounds with the practice-employed NNP and university-based residents, a shout comes from the charge nurse, "We need another nurse in the OR and Dr. Smith has asked that the attending neonatologist come to the OR!" Knowing that a routine cesarean section was being done for fetal growth restriction at 37 weeks gestation, you interrupt rounds and respond to the call, along with your NNP. You arrive at three minutes of age to find the Infant Stabilization Team providing positive pressure ventilation with a t-piece and mask. The infant is floppy and cyanotic with poor, ineffective respiratory effort. You take the head of the bed and assess the baby. Determining that the infant needs an airway, you instruct the NNP to intubate the infant, which she accomplishes on the first attempt, at five minutes of life. The infant responds to the intubation with improved respiratory effort, increasing heart rate and improving color and tone. You transfer the infant to the NICU at ten minutes of life. Upon arrival to the NICU, the birth weight is noted to be 1950 grams, with length and head circumference in the 25th percentile for gestational age.

1. Given the following, select the correct code for the neonatologist and NNP:

99465 - attendance at delivery and resuscitation  
31500 - emergency intubation

- A. 99465 neonatologist
- B. 99465 neonatologist, 31500 NNP
- C. 99465, 31500 neonatologist
- D. No charge, as the neonatologist and NNP were not present at the actual time of delivery

2. ICD-10 codes would include all the following EXCEPT:

- A. Z38.01 - single liveborn infant, delivered by cesarean
- B. Z3A.37 - 37 weeks gestation of pregnancy
- C. P28.5 - respiratory failure of newborn
- D. P05.07 - newborn light for gestational age, 1750-1999 g

# 2024 Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies

Sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SONPM)

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Abstracts due October 1, 2023



## MidCaN WINTER 2024 UPDATE

### Jennifer Helderman MD, MS

MidCaN members and leadership were busy this fall! We collaborated with the AAP SONPM Coding Committee to offer a joint webinar, “NICU Provider-Based Revenue: A Review of RVU, Finding Wealth in Telehealth, and Exploring the Provider Divider.” We had over 160 participants for the webinar and slides are available through the MidCaN website for those who were unable to attend. A special thank you to Scott Duncan, Lisa Owens, Jane Lee, David Kanter, Ted Rosenkrantz, and Stephen Pearlman for sharing their expertise and to Deirdre O’Reilly, Eric Horowitz and Caitlin Schweder for making it all come together!

We have two exciting upcoming webinars coordinated by our Communications Committee in the next few months. The first is being offered by Dr. Alvaro Moreira on January 19th at 3pm EST: **“From Data to Discovery: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are Revolutionizing Neonatal Medicine.”**

#### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the potential applications of AI and ML in neonatology, and how they can enhance clinical decision-making and patient care.
2. Explore the current and emerging technologies in AI and ML that are being used in neonatology, such as predictive analytics, computer vision, and natural language processing.
3. Learn about specific use cases of AI and ML in neonatology, including early detection and diagnosis of neonatal diseases, personalized treatment planning, and improved patient monitoring.
4. Discuss the ethical considerations and challenges associated with integrating AI and ML into neonatal care, including data privacy, algorithm bias, and the importance of human oversight and accountability.

The second webinar will be offered by Dr. Kanekal Gautham in February or March (TBA): **“Improving Communication to Enhance Clinical Outcomes, Team Functioning, and Academic Success.”**

#### Learning Objectives:

1. List common communication problems that affect clinical care, teamwork and academic success.
2. Describe methods to improve communication during clinical care, team interactions and academic work.
3. Formulate a personal communication improvement plan.

We are also excited to brag on our own executive committee member, Dr. Misty Good. She is the Division Chief of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and co-leads our MidCaN Research Committee. She delivered the Merenstein Lecture at the AAP NCE in

Washington, DC in October and is an incredible leader, mentor, and dedicated researcher.

Our Quality Improvement leaders, Roopali Bapat and Hanna Fischer, presented jointly at Hot Topics in Neonatology. Their session, “Flip the Script: Overcoming Common Pitfalls in QI,” was offered twice during the Pre-Conference QI Curriculum.

Need evidence of participation in national committees? Here is your chance!

We are requesting MidCaN members to join our subcommittees based on interest:

#### Communication (Twitter: @MidCareerNeo)

Co-Leads: Sheria Wilson (sheria.wilson@nationwidechildrens.org) and Murali Premkumar (premkuma@bcm.edu)  
The Communications Committee strives to keep the members informed about the resources that contribute to their personal and professional growth, and create a channel to collaborate and communicate within MidCaN and other bodies in SONPM. We are looking for new and innovative ways to stay connected, especially at this crucial time in our career development and networking!

#### Leadership

Co-Leads: Hussnain Mirza (drhussnain@gmail.com) and Deirdre O’Reilly (Deirdre.OReilly@uvmhealth.org)

#### Quality Improvement

Co-Leads: Hannah Fischer (hmryan01@louisville.edu) and Roopali Bapat (Roopali.Bapat@nationwidechildrens.org)  
Our goal is to connect our MidCaN colleagues with opportunities and resources to grow their improvement work. We have a few ideas that we hope to share with you in the coming months, so stay tuned!!

#### Research

Co-Leads: Kaashif Ahmad (kaashif.ahmad@gmail.com) and Misty Good (mistygood@unc.edu)  
Stay up to date with research webinars in our community and connect with others with similar interests.

#### Wellness

Co-Leads: Ramesh Krishnan (rkrishn4@uthsc.edu) and Sharada Gowda (shgowda@bcm.edu)  
Our wellness leaders are hoping to offer some exciting opportunities at the Scottsdale meeting in March. Register today!

Contact the MidCaN Executive Council at MidCaN@aap.org or me at jhelderm@wakehealth.edu with any questions, ideas, or feedback!



## SECTION SPONSORED FELLOWS CONFERENCES PROVIDE EDUCATION, CAREER ADVICE, and NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

*Heather French MD, MEd*  
*Misty Good MD, MS*

The Section continues to sponsor highly successful clinically-oriented and research conferences for NPM fellows. The 49th and 50th clinically-oriented national Seminars in Perinatal Medicine for NPM and MFM fellows, supported by an unrestricted grant to the AAP from Abbott Nutrition, were held in June in Santa Fe, NM, and November in Clearwater, FL. The seven-member Planning Committees included previous speakers from leaders in neonatology and MFM who hold academic or private practice positions, as well as the Section Chair. These conferences include didactic and interactive sessions that address clinical and career topics and ample opportunity to network with faculty, Planning Committee members, and other fellows during meals and free time. Program Directors from NPM and MFM fellowships can nominate one fellow from their programs to attend.

The research-oriented Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposia programs have been consolidated into three national conferences and are supported by an unrestricted grant from Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition. These meetings include state-of-the-art talks by invited faculty and opportunities for fellows to network with faculty and meet co-chairs and other fellow attendees. Planning group members, often selected after being a faculty speaker, are chosen for their expertise, organizational ability, sufficient seniority to provide career advice, and reputation for enjoying interacting with fellows. For these conferences, Program Directors can nominate one fellow from their program to submit an abstract, and the Planning Committee selects fellows to attend through competitive abstract review. Attendees present their research as a ten-minute or five-minute platform presentation. Faculty and conference co-chairs provide written anonymous feedback on the individual presentations, which is much appreciated by the fellows.

Fellows who attend the Section-sponsored conferences write consistently positive reviews. They clearly appreciate the learning and networking opportunities and interacting with the other fellows who attend. Fellows especially value these conferences' informal and formal focus on career development. Topics often include when to start the job application process, what to ask in an interview, and how to negotiate after a job offer. Other topics include research funding and career trajectory, managing work-life integration, and other inquiries about life after fellowship. These discussions give fellows opportunities to hear from faculty outside their own program about their experiences and guidance.

To allow for advance planning and facilitate fellow attendance at these events, dates and locations for fellow conferences for an entire academic year will be provided to Program Di-

rectors each spring. The remaining conferences for this academic year are the 104th Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium in January 2024 in Indian Wells, CA, and the 51st Annual Seminar on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in June 2024 in Santa Fe, NM.

### **For additional information, contact:**

Heather French MD, MEd, Co-Chair, SONPM Fellow Education Committee (frenchh@chop.edu)

Misty Good MD, MS, Co-Chair, SONPM Fellow Education Committee (mistygood@unc.edu)

Jim Couto MA, Director, Hospital and Surgical Subspecialties (jcouto@aap.org)

## WOMEN IN NEONATOLOGY (WiN) UPDATE

*Dena K Hubbard MD, FAAP*

Save the date for the WiN spring meeting Thursday afternoon (March 21st) and Friday morning (March 22nd) prior to the Section Perinatal Practices Workshop in Scottsdale (March 22-24, 2024). Dr. Christine Gleason will present on "One Life to Live: Reflections from a Senior Neonatologist." Workshop registration is open, and there is no additional cost to join the WiN events. Be on the lookout for an RSVP email so we can plan accordingly. There will be plenty of time to learn, grow, and network together. We look forward to seeing you there!

The 2023 fall WiN meeting at NCE was held on Sunday afternoon in Washington DC. As we gathered in the nation's capital, presentations centered on how to advocate for yourself and other women in medicine. Our plenary speaker was Dr. Kimberley Nichols, an anesthesiologist and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Student Education at the University of North Carolina. Drs. Christiane Dammann and Dena Hubbard presented briefly on advocacy in career advancement/promotion and how to advocate safely and respectfully before attendees broke out into small groups to discuss successes and challenges in implementing lessons learned. We were pleased to invite, and have, several of our male colleagues and leaders join us for the didactic and breakout sessions. Thank you to those who attended with humble curiosity and willingness to be our allies. A reception following the afternoon session provided more opportunities to connect. Thank you to Rick Skaar for hosting! We will plan to meet again on Sunday afternoon at the 2024 NCE in Orlando, FL.

The 2023 NCE also provided the opportunity to celebrate one of our very accomplished WiNners, Dr. Marilyn Escobedo, as she received the Virginia Apgar Award, widely recognized as the highest honor in our field. The Apgar Award is given annually to an individual whose career has had a profound continuing influence on the well-being of newborn infants. Congratulations Marilyn! We plan to continue to celebrate and honor Dr. Escobedo in Scottsdale, where she will deliver the annual Joseph Butterfield Lecture!

There are plenty of opportunities for you to engage in the WiN community. Regardless of your practice type or location, we are here to listen and support you and your needs. Recent activities from two of our committees are highlighted below. Please visit our website <https://www.aap.org/en/community/aap-sections/sonpm/win/> and reach out to any of our WiN Steering Committee members. You can also email directly to [dkhubbard@gmail.com](mailto:dkhubbard@gmail.com).

The WiN Career Development Group, led by Dr. Lindsay Johnston (Yale) and Dr. Kristen Leeman (Boston Children's), received funding from the AAP Strategic Grant and Chiesi for a Novel National Women in Neonatology Mentorship Program. The one-year pilot program included 245 members and utilized a flipped classroom hybrid approach to address significant deficiencies in mentorship of female neonatologists. The participants rated the program highly and importantly, 28% of participants reported that the mentorship program directly led to a career advancement opportunity (e.g. a research collaboration, speaking opportunity, project involvement or new important connection). Participants reported positive outcomes of the program as networking/collaborations, sharing of strategies/advice, educational content, and connections/support offered. Additionally, nine validated burnout and imposter syndrome questions showed improvement between pre and post program surveys. Based on the pilot year feedback, we have recruited ~160 participants for the upcoming 2024 WiN Mentorship Program 2.0, where we will continue our mission to fill gaps in mentorship in areas of career development, wellness and work life balance for female neonatologists. This year we will pre-schedule sessions, include small-group mentorship activities, and develop new high-quality content for group discussions to foster connections and networking across career levels and geography.

Members of the WiN Advocacy Committee have been busy in the past few months with their work on staffing transparen-

cy and equity. Members have recently collaborated with other members of SONPM on a publication in the *Journal of Perinatology* titled "Academic Neonatology: A Species on the Brink of Extinction?" and a workshop at the 2023 CHNC meeting about neonatology staffing transparency and equity. Drs. Kerri Machut and Christine Bishop were guests on *The Incubator* podcast at the CHNC meeting and spoke with the hosts, Drs. Barbeau and Courchia about the work. The Advocacy Committee also hosted Dr. Christine Vo for a WiN Advocacy Webinar, "The Heart and Soul of Advocacy," in November. WiN Webinars can be found on the AAP SONPM website.

WiN would like to recognize and acknowledge the work of our immediate-past WiN Chair, Dr. Christiane Dammann. Dr. Dammann is co-lead for the WiN Advocacy Committee alongside Dr. Kerri Machut. Dr. Dammann has spearheaded advocacy for gender equity in neonatology as well as all pediatric subspecialties by leading the AAP FLEX PEDS Summit in April 2022. She led the authorship of five peer-reviewed publications, two AAP resolutions, and one op-ed. She co-leads the WiN Equity Initiative, which was awarded an SONPM Strategic Grant in 2020, and was the driving force behind numerous webinars and workshops at PAS, NCE and the SONPM Scottsdale Workshop. Dr. Dammann is one of the founding members of WiN, and has kept us on track with the mission to achieve gender equity in neonatology careers. This quote by Maya Angelou embodies Dr. Dammann's daring leadership, "Develop enough courage so that you can stand up for yourself, and then stand up for somebody else." Thank you Christiane for all you have done and continue to do to advocate for others!

We hope WiN can be a source of courage, motivation, and encouragement to help you stay strong and resilient in whatever you're pursuing in 2024!

**Save the Date!**

**47th Annual AAP District VIII SONPM Conference**

**June 20 – 23, 2024**  
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Image by Rita Taylor, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

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Terrie Inder

Rashmin Savani

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SAN Contacts: Barry D. Chandler, MD, Executive Director

E-mail: [bdchandler@aol.com](mailto:bdchandler@aol.com)

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## WECaN: DO YOU KNOW A PIONEER?

**Stephen A Pearlman MD, MS, FAAP**  
**WECaN Chair**

*Now the long day is through on the prairie,*

*There's a long hangin' sun in the sky,*

*Round the home corral we will tarry,*

*And we'll sing of the round-ups in days gone by.*

This song, "A Cowboy Has to Sing," was written in the 1930s and performed by the group called the Sons of Pioneers. Their most famous member was Roy Rogers (I know I am dating myself). From 1935 until 1984, this group appeared in 87 films. They continue to perform to this day and were inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

For those of us getting ready to ride off into the sunset, a little recognition for our efforts is welcome. Recognition may take a variety of forms including dinners or parties, gifts, and awards. As one of our neonatal colleagues, Joan Hodgman, once said, "The road to retirement is paved with plaques!" Some of you may be aware of an award from the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine called the Pioneer Award. This award has been given sporadically over the years and never had the official standing of the other Section awards, namely the Fanaroff Education Award, the Landmark Award, and the Apgar Award.

Several months ago, I was contacted by the Section leadership to see if WECaN would be interested in working on this award. Members rose to the occasion and a small committee was formed comprised of WECaN members Marilyn Escobedo, De-Ann Pillers, Ann Stark, and myself. We got busy in redesigning the purpose, eligibility, nominations process, and how the awardee will be recognized. Before I share those details, I want to let you know that this award has now been approved as an official award of the Section which has sponsorship.

The purpose of the Pioneer Award is to recognize the accomplishments of an individual in the US or Canada who has championed the health and well-being of newborns and thereby contributed to newborn care world-wide. By definition, a pioneer is someone who has developed or was the first to use a new method, area of knowledge or activity.

Any living individual whose achievement had a lasting influence on the care of newborns is eligible. This individual may or may not be a clinician. Candidates who were nominated but not selected for the other Section awards are eligible. A notification of a call for nominations will be sent out. The WECaN committee formed for this award will participate in the selection process making recommendations to the Section Executive Committee, which will make the final selection. The recipient will be announced at the Perinatal Practice Strategies Workshop held annually in Scottsdale. The awardee will be recognized in the Section Newsletter and the AAP News.

Pioneers exist in many different eras of world history. Explorers such as Ferdinand Magellan or Amerigo Vespucci discovered new lands. Historical figures like Laura Smith Haviland, who was a prominent figure in the Underground Railroad. There are many medical pioneers including Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first African American woman in the US to be granted an MD and Antonia Novello, the first Latina to be named US Surgeon General. There are modern day medical pioneers such as Anthony Atala, a physician-scientist, who is growing functioning organs from immature cells. The field of neonatology is abounding with pioneers of our own! It is our hope that Section members will nominate candidates so that our pioneers will receive the recognition they rightly deserve.

## 2023 SONPM PIONEER AWARD RECIPIENT - DR. ARTHUR I. EIDELMAN

**Munish Gupta MD, MMSc, FAAP**  
**Stephen Pearlman MD, MS, FAAP**

We are extremely pleased to announce the recipient of the 2023 SONPM Pioneer Award, Dr. Arthur I. Eidelman. This award honors pioneers in neonatology who, through their lifelong accomplishments, have championed the health and well-being of newborns and thereby contributed to newborn care worldwide. Nominated by Gil Martin, Vinod Bhutani, and Jeffrey Maisels, Dr. Eidelman has a long career of pioneering accomplishments spanning the world. Summarizing these accomplishments would be challenging! Perhaps the best summary is provided by Dr. Martin's nomination letter.

We had planned to give Dr. Eidelman the Pioneer Award at the Annual International Meeting of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine held in November 2023. However, Dr. Eidelman changed his plans at the last minute as he volunteered to provide much needed clinical service in Israel. His pioneering work continues, and we will present the award at a future time.

Below are excerpts from Dr. Martin's letter nominating Dr. Eidelman:

Dr. Eidelman's pioneering began in 1965 where he received his fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine under the tutelage of another "Pioneer and Icon" Louis Gluck and received the E. Mead Johnson Award of Pediatric Research in Neonatology.

After completing his military service (USPHS Lt Commander) in 1969, he established and served as the first Director of the NICUs in the affiliated hospitals of the Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He was one of the individuals who organized the first statewide Perinatal Society of New York and was President in 1977-79. He worked tirelessly and effectively in developing modern programs for newborn care which dealt with the issues of financing and reimbursement. This pioneering example has been adopted by many other state perinatal organizations since that time.

After becoming Board Certified in Perinatology/Neonatology in 1975 (the first Neonatal Board Exam) he was invited to join the Editorial Board of the AMA's *American Journal of Diseases of Children*.

After spending a sabbatical year in Israel, he decided to change his professional home-base to Jerusalem, where he established a Department of Neonatology, was elected as the first President of the Israel Neonatal Society, and ultimately became Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Shaare Zedek Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev and the Hebrew University School of Medicine. He also continued to serve as Visiting Professor of Pediatrics at Einstein.

Dr. Eidelman has a major interest in infant nutrition and the role of breast milk, and was chosen to serve as the Chair of the AAP Policy Committee of the Section of Breastfeeding Medicine and was co-author of both the 2005 and 2012 AAP Policy Statements on Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk. He served as President of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) from 2011-13 and he in 2015, was appointed as the Editor-in-Chief of *Breastfeeding Medicine*, the official journal of ABM.

He continues his national and international involvement with lectureships in many countries throughout the world. He has edited several volumes of the *Perinatal Clinics of North America* which remains a mainstay for information regarding the care of the newborn.

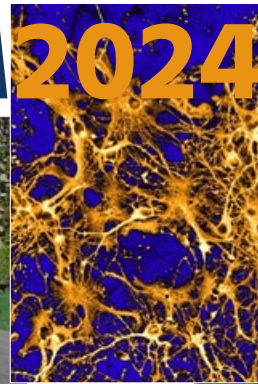
There is a lighter side of Dr. Eidelman as well. He currently serves as the Scientific Coordinator and Advisor to the Dream Doctors Project of Medical Clowning. The concept of medical clowning as a para-medical subspecialty has become an integral part of the modern neonatal healthcare team.

Dr. Eidelman is not only a pioneer, but a true champion for neonatal-perinatal medicine. He is well deserving of the 2023 AAP SONPM Pioneer Award.

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## CLINICAL LEADERS GROUP UPDATE

*Jessica Davidson MD, FAAP*

The Clinical Leaders Group has a full offering of deliverables this academic year. We will deliver three virtual workshops, which cover “Building a Clinical Leaders Portfolio,” “Building the Case for New Technology or Initiatives,” and “Examining the Morbidity and Mortality Conference.” We have also started CLG Office Hours and these have been well received and appreciated. The last new opportunity this year will be the Medical Directors Boot Camp, which will be a three-hour conference held in Scottsdale alongside the main SONPM Workshop on Perinatal Practice Strategies. We continue to have a robust, active listserv for clinical discussion and collaborative support. As a reminder, record-

ings and resources from previous and future workshops, and a growing archive of listserv queries, are available on our CLG collaboration site, which can be accessed from the AAP SONPM homepage.

If you would like to join over 500 users on our active listserv or would like to stay informed about CLG workshops and events, please email us at [clinicalleadersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:clinicalleadersgroup@gmail.com). We look forward to another productive and collaborative year!

## CODING ANSWERS

*Scott Duncan MD, MHA, FAAP*

1. Correct answer B: 99465 by the neonatologist and 31500 by the NNP
2. Correct answer B: Z3A.37 - 37 weeks gestation of pregnancy

To no one's surprise, the content of the internet often displays incorrect information, including rules surrounding CPT® coding. In some cases, the information is outdated, whereas in other cases, it's simply incorrect. The preceding scenario brings forward several significant points. First, it is not required that the qualified healthcare provider be present at the actual time of delivery for billing purposes. In this scenario, the neonatologist and NNP responded to the call by the obstetrician to come and attend to the infant in the delivery room. Arriving at three minutes of age, the neonatologist directed and materially participated in the resuscitation of the infant. The direction and material participation threshold demonstrates that the neonatologist managed the delivery room resuscitation. Should a scenario arise such that the neonatologist arrived after the infant was already stabilized and being prepared for transfer, there would be no identifiable service in the delivery room.

Secondly, this scenario demonstrates the relationship between the neonatologist and the practice-employed NNP. It is worth repeating, NNPs are not considered trainees by PATH (Physician at Teaching Hospitals) guidelines, and a physician cannot bill for procedures performed by a nurse practitioner as a supervisor. Given that state and hospital

regulations and scope of practice allow the NNP to bill independently, the NNP would bill for the intubation.

In terms of ICD-10 coding, Z38.01 identifies the infant as being born via cesarean section. This code is exclusive to the birthing hospital and should not be used if an infant is transferred to another healthcare facility. As the infant demonstrated ineffective respiratory effort, respiratory failure would be appropriate for coding in the delivery room. Should subsequent evaluation demonstrate other pathophysiologic conditions, the admitting code can be changed to the more specific condition. P05.07 is reserved for infants who are light for gestational age, where the length is >10th percentile. There is no ICD-10 code that considers head circumference, aside from Q02, which is reserved for abnormal development of the brain as a causative factor. Finally, the Z3A.XX code set is reserved for use on the maternal chart only; while there are codes within the P chapter of ICD-10 for short gestation (P07.XX) and long gestation (P08.XX) there are no applicable codes for term infants to be used on the baby's chart.





## MEET MidCaN RISING STAR ... Kerri Machut MD

**What has been your education and career path so far?** I started my education at Northwestern University, circled my way through Chicago institutions (University of Illinois, University of Chicago, plus a stint as a computer programmer in a Chicago firm), and back to Northwestern for fellowship and faculty (and I even live a mile down the same street as my freshman dorm!). I love patient care and enjoy the many opportunities as a clinician-educator.

**What do you hope to accomplish in the next five years?** Our neonatology workforce is in a critical moment, with staffing, training changes, racial, ethnic, and gender equity concerns, among others. I'm hoping to contribute to advancing the workforce through various paths with my research teams and as a member on the AAP Committee on Pediatric Workforce, Women in Neonatology (WiN), and Staffing and Workload Appropriate for Neonatology (SWAN). Neonatology is the best field in medicine (in my humble opinion), and with these efforts I'm hopeful these issues will be better for its clinicians in five years. I'm also focusing more on my main passion for family-centered care given its proven benefits for infant, family, and even clinician outcomes. I'm engaging in various educational, programming, and investigative endeavors, with an ultimate goal to bring elements of the Family-Integrated Care model to US centers.

**What was the best advice you've gotten?** This is hard. So many people in so many avenues of life have shared great insights with me over the years, it is hard to

separate and choose one. Perhaps some conglomeration that essentially distills to, "Life is short, do something that matters and make the most of it."

**What advice would you give to your TECaN colleagues?** Find your people early, and cast a wide net. Collaborators, mentors, mentees and students to support, multidisciplinary colleagues, friends. Both internal and external to your center/organization. Getting involved in an existing group can open a lot of doors (the various AAP options, CHNC, and BPD collaboratives are a few examples). Almost as much as the babies and families, colleagues make the job worth doing.

**What was the smartest career move you've made thus far?** Saying yes. Typically, folks say to focus your career and say no to things that don't support your primary goal. When I was trying to get my career jumpstarted after working part time, saying yes allowed me to explore several opportunities and find what brings me joy and the areas in which I could contribute to our field and patients.

**What would you like to change about your career or life if you could have a do over?** Hmm, I can't really think of anything to change in the past. At some point, I suppose I'd like to try living outside Illinois, but it's important for me to be close to family and I actually like the weather and change of seasons!

**What helps to balance career and out-of-hospital life?** Working and raising three adolescent daughters has made protecting my various time buckets very important! Realizing the time buckets in our field are often flexible has helped me meet professional and personal needs. We can work on a project or paper at 5 am or 10 pm if we need an afternoon for something personal. We work weekends, but that might be balanced with the flexibility to run errands or see a friend on a Friday afternoon. Personally, I need to do something active every day, typically outside - my favorite is slipping in early morning paddleboard time on Lake Michigan on my way into the hospital, although some days it's just stairs at the hospital. Certainly, the time I spend with, and great support I receive from family, friends, and our amazing longtime caretaker is vital. Teaching my girls to be self-sufficient has helped me, and I hope them too, in the long run (or maybe they'll be complaining to their therapist about having to make their own lunch since preschool).

**What made you get involved with MidCaN and what do you hope that the group will do?** They kicked me out of TECaN! MidCaN's been an awesome group that makes folks from all over the country feel like colleagues and friends. Would be great to see continued programming that supports career development. And maybe more happy hours at meetings!

## 2023 AAP NCE SONPM SCIENTIFIC SESSION AND 2024 SECTION PROGRAM PREVIEW

Brian Hackett MD, PhD, FAAP



KlausAwardees at NCE

The SONPM Scientific Session at the 2023 AAP NCE continued the tradition of highlighting the amazing breadth of excellent scholarly work being done by members of the Section. From 173 submitted abstracts, ten were chosen for oral presentations and 94 for poster presentations. The oral sessions were lively with insightful questions and comments and expertly moderated by Anisha Bhatia (TECaN member), Alexis Davis (SONPM Executive Committee member), Nicole Lock (TECaN member), and John Loyd (SONPM Executive Committee member). Poster facilitators ensured that each poster presenter would have the opportunity to present and discuss their poster. Other highlights of the session included presentation of the **Marshall Klaus Awards** and the **2023 Vermont Oxford Scholars: Sarah Swenson, Kwai Tei Chan Poon, Avery Zierk, Megan Aurora, and Alexandra Iacob.**

**Best Abstract Awards** were given to the top ten abstracts by a trainee or student as judged by the abstract reviewers. These were:

1. **Sheila Razdan** from Stanford University for *Disparities in breastmilk use at discharge among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander very low birth weight infants in California*
2. **Alissa M. D’Gama** from Boston Children’s Hospital for *Prospective cohort pilot study of rapid genome sequencing in neonatal and infantile epilepsy*
3. **Paravathy Krishan** from Westchester Medical Center for *Thrombospondin gene (THBS1) polymorphisms and airway thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1) protein expression in extremely low birth weight infants with and without bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD)*
4. **Mausma Bawa** from Boston Children’s Hospital for two abstracts: *What is the optimal duration of umbilical cord clamping in a preterm asphyxiated ovine model?* and *Effect of epinephrine on myocardial perfusion and coronary vasculature in a large ovine model of neonatal resuscitation*

5. **Lina Kalenga** from University of Virginia for *A quality improvement initiative to decrease the rate of extra-uterine growth restriction in very low birth weight infants*
6. **Karishma Kashyap** from Sam Houston State University for *Evaluation of copy number losses in the MBD5 5'-untranslated region: Expression matters*
7. **Teryn Igawa** from University of California, Los Angeles for *Erythrocyte polyunsaturated fatty acid content and chronic lung disease*
8. **Srishti Jayakumar** from Johns Hopkins University for *Neurodevelopmental outcomes of neonates with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy: Role of socioeconomic vulnerability*
9. **Issa Hanna** from University of Florida for *Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) as an alternative to x-ray for confirming feeding tube placement in neonates: A feasibility study*
10. **Sarah Swenson** from University of Minnesota for *Who is seen by the screens? An equity-focused quality improvement project to implement perinatal depression and anxiety screening in a neonatal intensive care unit*

**Young Investigator Awards** were presented for the best oral abstract presentations by a trainee or early career neonatologist as voted by the SONPM Executive Committee. These awards went to **Sheila Razdan**, a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at Stanford University, for *Disparities in breastmilk use at discharge among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander very low birth weight infants in California* and **Kate Wilson**, an early career neonatologist at the University of Michigan, for *Cost-effectiveness of screening strategies for congenital cytomegalovirus infection: The U.S. healthcare perspective.*

Mark your calendars for the 2024 AAP NCE which will be held in Orlando, FL on September 27 to October 1, 2024. We are in the early stages of planning an exciting program for the Section that will include:

- Friday (09/27): update on the Section from Executive Committee Chair, Munish Gupta; the Thomas Cone and Gerald Merenstein lectureships.
- Saturday (09/28): morning session on Artificial Intelligence in the NICU, examining the role that rapidly evolving AI technology is playing in patient management in the NICU; an afternoon scientific session with oral abstract presentations, presentation of Section awards including Fanaroff, Landmark, and Apgar Awards; presentation of Marshall Klaus, VON Scholar, Young Investigator, and Best Abstract Awards.
- Sunday (09/29): joint session with the Section on Bioethics and Section on Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine examining the limitations placed on shared decision-making outside the control of families and clinicians, and approaches to these scenarios.

We hope to see you there!



## 2023 AAP NATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION SECTION H-PROGRAM RECAP

*Ravi Mangal Patel MD, MSc, FAAP*



SONPM EC at NCE



Merenstein Lecture

We had a fantastic AAP NCE 2023, with 353 Section members registered for the meeting. Hosted in Washington DC from October 20-24, 2023, the program was crafted in close collaboration with other AAP partners, societies and organizations. Here are some of the meeting highlights:

We started the program with an update by our SONPM Chairperson, Dr. Munish Gupta, followed by the Thomas Cone Lectureship by Dr. Myra Wyckoff and the Gerald Merenstein Lecture by Dr. Misty Good. Both were fantastic lectures, with the entire audience holding two thumbs up at the end of Dr. Wyckoff's talk on resuscitation, and Mrs. Bonnie Merenstein and her family joining to celebrate Dr. Good's lecture and impressive accomplishments in NEC research.

For the joint programs this year, we wanted to center patients and families. Our first joint symposium was with the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) and was titled Optimizing Counseling and Resuscitation for Newborns and their Families, and featured a robust discussion on perinatal counseling. The session was kicked off by a powerful talk by parent faculty, Kelly French. Her talk titled, "Juniper's Story: A Personal Reflection on Perinatal Counseling," told the story of her daughter born at 23 weeks' gestation, who she brought along to attend the talk (and is now reading her book). The session featured excellent presentations from Drs. Ursula Guillen, Matthew Rysavy, Elizabeth Foglia and Vishal Kapadia, including new initiatives by the NRP.

Our second joint program was with the Section on Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition that focused on acute and chronic management of infants and children with gastrointestinal and liver diseases, with a focus on necrotizing enterocolitis. The session was also led by a parent faculty speaker, Jennifer Canvasser, who is the Founder and Executive Director of the NEC Society. The session included presentations from neonatologists Drs. Allison Rose, Jae Kim, pediatric surgeon Dr. Gail Besner, and pediatric gastroenterologists and hepatologists Drs. Conrad Cole and Sanjiv Harpavat. Dr. Harpavat is the lead author of a forthcoming AAP statement on the diagnosis and management of infants with cholestasis.

We concluded the H-program with a session on advocacy and communication led by the Women in Neonatology, with faculty including Drs. Christiane Dammann and Dena Hubbard. The keynote speaker, Dr. Kimberley Nichols, gave a talk titled, "How You Can Use Your Story to Advocate for Yourself and for Others."

## NANN ORGANIZATIONAL LIAISON REPORT

*Luann Jones DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, NE-BC*

The National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) is an inclusive, diverse membership organization devoted to registered nursing professionals who care for newborn infants with health challenges and to advancing the neonatal nursing profession through excellence in practice, education, research, leadership, advocacy, and professional development.

NANN has 7,000 members representing tens of thousands of neonatal nursing professionals both nationally and internationally and across all career stages and nursing roles. NANN also has 36 chapters, nine special interest groups, and an advanced practice division of 1200 neonatal nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist members.

In July 2023, NANN appointed new Interim Executive Director, Molly Anderson. Molly has been a dedicated member of the NANN staff for over eight years in the role of Director of Membership, Marketing and Communications and brings both NANN institutional knowledge and years of nonprofit and corporate experience to the role.

NANN's strategic plan consists of four goal areas: Education, Professional Development, and Leadership; Research, Evidence-Based Practice, and Quality Improvement; Advocacy; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Over the next year, our strategic priorities include the following:

- Create a best-in-class neonatal conference that brings together experts from across the neonatal field
- Design a best-in-class Essentials in NICU Orientation online course for all NICU levels
- Increase the number of CEs and expand the topics areas offered through NANN's new learning management system
- Host NANN's Research Summit Program at the NANN Annual Conference beginning in 2023



- Increase the visibility of members' EBP, QI, and research projects, including translation of neonatal nursing research for bedside nurses
- Increase the visibility and support for NANN's Health Policy and Advocacy Agenda
- Continue and expand strategic partnerships with recognized leaders in the neonatal field
- Promote the importance of health equity and workforce diversity through advocacy, research, policy statements, education, and community building
- Host international delegation to Fiji in February 2024

NANN has achieved a number of successes since our last update. Some of them include:

- Hosted NANN's Research Summit Program at the 2023 NANN Annual Conference
- Released *Practice Standards in Neonatal Transport*, 4th edition in July 2023
- Offered the 2023 Annual Conference to both in-person and on-demand audiences, available through October 31, 2023
- Launched new Clinical Nurse Specialist special interest group.
- Hosted free webinar to introduce 2nd edition of *Education Standards: Curriculum Guidelines and Education Competencies for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Programs*
- Increased number of CEs available in NANN's learning management system, iLearn
- Launched RNC Certification Review Course for individual and institutional purchases in October 2023

The upcoming NANN Convention will be held September 18-20, 2024 in Orlando, FL.

## FAMILY-CENTERED CARE (FCC) TASKFORCE UPDATES

**Malathi Balasundaram MD, FAAP**  
**Colby Day MD, FAAP**

We are thankful for the partnership with AAP Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine (SONPM) and Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists (TECaN) and are excited to share updates with you! Founded in May 2022, the Family-Centered Care (FCC) Taskforce stands as a pioneering force, being the FIRST international, multicenter, collaborative initiative solely dedicated to quality improvement in FCC. Its core principle of equal partnership between healthcare professionals and family partners embodies a critical component of FCC, creating an environment where collaboration and shared decision-making thrive. To deepen our commitment to partnering with families, we have recruited a family partner, Keira Sorrells, Founder and Executive Director of NICU Parent Network, to be one of our Co-Chairs.

The FCC Taskforce aims to encourage education, create guidelines, and facilitate unit-based interventions related to FCC in NICUs. One of the key strengths of the FCC Taskforce lies in its ability to break down the silos that often hinder progress in healthcare. If you want to help strengthen FCC in your NICU or learn more about FCC, join our community of 740+ members from 250 NICUs across 36 states and 16 countries by scanning this QR code:



Select 2023 Accomplishments:

- We provided six free educational webinars featuring FCC work by healthcare partners, researchers, and family partners. These have received robust attendance live, and recordings are widely shared and viewed. We have six more webinars already scheduled for 2024.
- We successfully mentored five small groups that meet bi-monthly to discuss barriers to FCC and successes in overcoming them in phase 3 QI work. In six months, these small groups were able to achieve an increase in the percentage of centers that have FCC Committees from 20% to 32% and Family Partnership Councils from 16% to 20%.
- We have partnered with several esteemed national organizations including AAP SONPM and TECaN; California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative; Perinatal Advisory Council: Leadership, Advocacy, and Consultation; *Neonatology Today*, Loma Linda Publishing Company; National Association of Neonatal Nurses; National Association of Neonatal Therapists; NICU Parent Network; and Hope for HIE.

## 2024 SPRING WORKSHOP MARCH 22-24

**Joshua E Petrikin MD, FAAP**

Please make plans to join us in Scottsdale for the 2024 Spring Perinatal Workshop on March 22-24. We have an exciting slate of plenary presentations and breakout sessions on topics ranging from leadership development, caring for the caretaker, clinical controversies, and changes in the practice of neonatology from political changes, technologic advancement, or interpersonal struggles. Special this year is the kickoff of a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine! The Scottsdale Workshop always provides opportunities for catching up with colleagues from around the country, as well as mingling with leaders in the field and the AAP, but this year includes a celebration of the Section on Saturday night to which past luminaries in the Section and all conference registrants are invited.

The conference provides an opportunity to learn and advance your career on topics seldom found in other medical education offerings. We program a unique blend of topics to appeal to all providers in every stage of career and professional pathway. The meeting kicks off, as always, with the Butterfield Lecture given this year by 2023 Apgar Awardee Dr. Marilyn Escobedo, followed by an address by the AAP President Dr. Ben Hoffman.

The general sessions include professional development topics, leadership coaching, defining an FTE across multiple practice pathways, and understanding NICU finances for medical directors. In addition, we focus on caring for the caretaker with talks on removing barriers to mental health access and identifying when you or your colleague's clinical performance declines with concrete steps for how to manage these difficult situations.

We are excited to bring clinical topics that focus on current clinical controversies, including latest evidence of effects of marijuana in pregnancy and breastfeeding, equitable application of drug testing in the NICU, growing complexity of newborn screenings, and managing conflict between published evidence and the physiology you are confronted with in the NICU. Especially relevant are a series of talks

placing artificial intelligence in the neonatal context and understanding the likely coming impact on medical practice.

We continue our focus on advocacy with an update on the political environment by AAP CEO Mark Del Monte followed by talks investigating the ethical implications of practice in the NICU after the Dobbs decision and neonatal advocacy in the present era. A highlight will be an exploration of neonatal advocacy in a combined breakout by both Ben Hoffman and Mark Del Monte.

We continue to offer an optional focused seminar on billing and coding on Friday morning with Drs. Scott Duncan and Kate Stanley. The Saturday afternoon session is a Quality Improvement Boot Camp led by Drs. Carly Gisondo and Danielle Ehret. The keynote session on Sunday morning explores when care becomes experimental at the extremes of viability. We are also happy to have a COFN update on coming publications with an opportunity for questions and answers.

As mentioned above, we will have a special reception celebrating the 50th year of the SONPM in the AAP. We are excited to have you join us for this kickoff to a yearlong jubilee that will involve recognition of the history of the Section and the advancement of care of neonates.

SONPM All Pathways presents

# Tour de Scottsdale

Come explore neonatology career options you may never have considered before!



Saturday March 23, 2024  
3:30–5:00 pm  
Rattlers

## March 2024 Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies

Afternoon breakout sessions on Saturday, March 23 include an option to join the All Pathways team on an inspiring “bicycle” ride where you will learn about different career experiences in Neonatology: advocacy, university/private practice, leadership/administration, industry, public health, global health, locums, and more. The format is interactive, including choose your own adventure (think racing, leisure, mountain)! Road trips are fun, and one never knows where the next route might lead them. This is a unique opportunity to gain insight from neonatologists who have taken various roads less traveled. Hope to see you there!

California Association of Neonatologists (CAN) and  
AAP District IX Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

# Cool Topics in Neonatology

30th Annual Conference

*A Hybrid CME Conference*

*Available as both a live in-person and live virtual activity*

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

March 1-3, 2024

Coronado Island Marriott Resort

Coronado, California



**UCLA**

**David Geffen School of Medicine**  
Office of Continuing Medical Education



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER

## Munish Gupta MD FAAP

*Chair*  
Boston, MA  
mgupta@bidmc.harvard.edu

## Clara Song MD FAAP

*Chair-Elect*  
Anaheim, CA  
clarasong@me.com

## Lily J Lou MD FAAP

*Immediate Past Chair*  
Chicago, IL  
lilylou@mindspring.com

## Wendy Timpson MD FAAP

*DISTRICT I, Exec Comm Member*  
Boston, MA  
wendy.timpson@umassmemorial.org

## Shetal Indravadan Shah MD FAAP

*DISTRICT II, Exec Comm Member*  
Syosset, NY  
shetaldoc@hotmail.com

## Michael Alan Posencheg MD FAAP

*DISTRICT III, Exec Comm Member*  
Newtown Square, PA  
posencheg@email.chop.edu

## Brian Paul Hackett MD FAAP

*DISTRICT IV, Exec Comm Member*  
Nashville, TN  
brian.hackett@vumc.org

## Craig Nankervis MD FAAP

*DISTRICT V, Exec Comm Member*  
Columbus, OH  
craig.nankervis@nationwidechildrens.org

## Joshua Erin Petrikin MD FAAP

*DISTRICT VI, Exec Comm Member*  
Kansas City, MO  
jepetrikin@cmh.edu

## John Loyd MD FAAP

*DISTRICT VII, Exec Comm Member*  
Austin, TX  
john.loyd@austin.utexas.edu

## James Scott Barry MD FAAP

*DISTRICT VIII, Exec Comm Member*  
Aurora, CO  
james.barry@ucdenver.edu

## Alexis S Davis MD FAAP

*DISTRICT IX, Exec Comm Member*  
Palo Alto, CA  
alexisdavismd@gmail.com

## Ravi Mangal Patel MD MSc FAAP

*DISTRICT X, Exec Comm Member*  
Atlanta, GA  
rmpatel@emory.edu

## Carl L Bose MD MPH FAAP

*Of Counsel*  
Chapel Hill, NC  
cbose@med.unc.edu

## SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

### Mackenzie Frost MD Med FAAP

*TECaN Mentor*  
Philadelphia, PA  
FROSTMS@chop.edu

### Dmitry Dukhovny MD FAAP

*TECaN Mentor*  
Portland, OR  
dukhovny@ohsu.edu

### Anisha Bhatia Attawala MD FAAP

*Chair, TECaN*  
Chicago, IL  
anishabhatia2@gmail.com

### Sergio G Golombek MD MPH FAAP

*Chair, History Committee*  
Scarsdale, NY  
sgolombek2@gmail.com

### Scott Duncan MD FAAP

*Chair, Coding Committee*  
Louisville, KY  
scottd.duncan@louisville.edu

### Mary Nock MD FAAP

*Editor, Section Newsletter*  
Cleveland, OH  
mnock9@hotmail.com

### Stephen Pearlman MD MS FAAP

*Chair, WECaN*  
Newark, DE  
spearlman@christianacare.org

### Dena Hubbard MD FAAP

*Chair, Women in Neonatology*  
Kansas City, MO  
Dkhubbard@gmail.com

### Heather French MD MEd FAAP

*Co-Chair, Fellow Education Committee*  
Philadelphia, PA  
frenchhh@email.chop.edu

### Misty Good MD MS FAAP

*Co-Chair, Fellow Education Committee*  
Chapel Hill, NC  
mistygood@unc.edu

### Jenny Koo MD FAAP

*Chair, Website Committee*  
San Diego, CA  
jennykkoo@gmail.com

### Joern-Hendrik Weitkamp MD FAAP

*Chair, Research Committee*  
Nashville, TN  
hendrik.weitkamp@vanderbilt.edu

### Jennifer Helderman, MD FAAP

*Chair, MidCaN*  
Winston-Salem, NC  
jhhelderm@wakehealth.edu

### Mark Hudak MD FAAP

*Chair, Finance Committee*  
Jacksonville, FL  
mhudak@ufl.edu

## Patrick Gallagher MD FAAP

*Editor, Journal of Perinatology*  
Columbus, OH  
Patrick.Gallagher@nationwidechildrens.org

## ORGANIZATION LIAISONS

### Ronald Ariagno MD FAAP

*Liaison, Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology*  
Palo Alto, CA  
rla@stanford.edu

### Rakhi Gupta Basuray MD FAAP

*Section on Hospital Medicine Liaison*  
New Albany, OH  
rakhibasuray@gmail.com

### Wanda Barfield MD MPH FAAP

*Liaison, Centers for Disease Control*  
Atlanta, GA  
Wjb5@cdc.gov

### Luann R Jones DNP APRN NNP-BC NE-BC

*NANN Liaison*  
Little Rock, AR  
luannrjones@gmail.com

### Megan Gray MD FAAP

*Co-Chair, Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors*  
Seattle, WA  
graym1@uw.edu

### Deirdre O'Reilly MD FAAP

*Co-Chair, Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors*  
Burlington, VT  
Deirdre.O'Reilly@uvmhealth.org

### Judette Louis MD MPH

*Liaison, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine*  
Tampa, FL  
jlouis1@usf.edu

## AAP STAFF

### Jim Couto MA

*Director, Perinatal & Neonatal Initiatives*  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Phone: (630) 626-6656  
jcouto@aap.org

### Laura Navarro

*Project Coordinator*  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Phone: (630) 626-6668  
lnavarro@aap.org

# DISTRICT NEWS

## District I: Wendy Timpson

### CONNECTICUT

*Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford*

We welcome new neonatologists **Amy Patel**, **Poonam Thakore**, **Hala Saneh** and **DonnaMaria Cortezzo**, who also practices Neonatal Palliative Care.

Welcome to our incoming fellows **Surabhi Khasgiwala** and **Zohaib Sayyed**.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Shenberger** on his new position as Chief of Neonatology.

Congratulations to **James Hagadorn** who was promoted to Professor and **Shikha Sarkar** and **Adam Czynski** who were promoted to Associate Professor.

**Adam Czynski** has been appointed as Senior Health Systems Development Officer.

**Annamarie Golioto** has been appointed as Associate Chair of Clinical Affairs.

We are happy to announce our new Fetal Care Center surgical program, led by **Timothy Crombleholme**.

*Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital*

**Matt Bizzarro** was named Chief Medical Officer of Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

**Bunmi Olaloye** and **Priyal Mukherjee** joined the Yale Neonatal Perinatal Medicine faculty as Assistant Professors.

**Mark Mercurio** received the AAP William G. Bartholome Award for Ethical Excellence.

**Brooke Redmond** joined the AAP First Aid and Safety Programs for Lay Audiences Steering Committee.

**Katie Fletcher** was chosen to attend the AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Seminar.

**Lindsay Johnston** was chosen to attend the AAMC Mid-Career Women Leadership Development Seminar.

**Angela Montgomery** received the Compassionate Care Award from the non-profit foundation Hope after Loss.

**Anthi Velagala**, a Yale NPM fellow, was elected Networking Chair for the SPR Junior Section.

*Stamford Health*

After 38 years at Stamford Health, including 34 years as Director of Neonatology and 20 as Chair of Pediatrics, **Gerry Rakos** has retired. Congratulations!

### MASSACHUSETTS

*Baystate Medical Center, Springfield*

Congratulations to **Ruben Vaidya**, who was promoted to Associate Professor and elected to SPR.

*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston*

**Asimena Angelidou** and **Kristyn Beam** were elected as new members of the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Roseanne Buck** received the Advanced Practice Provider Award for Excellence in Patient Care and Advocacy at BIDMC.

**Yarden Fraiman** was named to the Boston Combined Residency Program Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Honor Roll and received the 2023 Harvard Medical School Equity Social Justice and Advocacy Award.

**Sarah Kunz** was selected for the 2024 Harvard Medical School Leadership Development Course for Physicians and Scientists.

*Boston Children's Hospital*

**Esra Abaci Turk** and **Ai Wern Chung** were selected for the 2023 Office of Faculty Development Fellowship for junior faculty.

**Christy Cummings** received the 24th Braden Griffin Memorial Lectureship Award at the Griffin Symposium at UMass.

**Lillian Juttukonda** received a Thrasher Early Career Award titled, "Nasal Response to Rhinovirus Infection in Early Childhood."

**Amy O'Connell** received a Child Health Award from the Charles H. Hood Foundation, "Postnatal Exposure to Hyperoxia Causes Maladaptation of the Premature Intestine."

**Ajay Rajaram** won the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship Award and ranked in the top 7% of submissions.

**Nikita Kalluri** received the BCH Alumni Association Academic Development Award.

**Stella Kourembanas** was named in the top three best teachers encountered by the Boston Combined Residency Program Faculty Teaching Honor Roll for the 2022-2023 academic year.

**Kristen Leeman** was awarded the 2023 Early Achievement Award from UVA School of Medicine.

*Boston Medical Center*

**Elisha Wachman** was appointed Vice Chair for Research for the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center/Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine and received a R01 grant from NICHD, "Association of Maternal, Fetal and Placental Biomarkers with Neonatal Neuroimaging and Development Following In-Utero Opioid Exposure (POD Study)."

**Vincent Smith** received a grant from the AAP, "Pediatric Public Health Partnership on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Program."

*Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston*

**Alyssa Thomas** joined as an attending neonatologist in July 2024.

**Serbattama "Rimi" Sen** transitioned to Women and Infants Hospital and Brown University, where she serves as Vice Chair for Pediatric Research.

**Megan Reyes-Wang** moved to Albany Medical College, where she will be starting a NICU follow-up program and leading simulation-based education.

**Simon Manning**, **Tanzeema Hossain** and **Katherine Bell** were promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

**Sailaja Ghanta** was the recipient of a Charles Hood Child Health Research Grant, "The Role of Mesenchymal Stem Cells to Enhance Immune Function in a Model of Neonatal Infection."

**Helen Christou** presented an invited talk at the International Neonatology Association Conference in Dublin on the pathophysiology of pulmonary hypertension.

*Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

We wish **Sergei Roumiantsev** all the best and are immensely grateful for his contributions at MGH as he transitions from SONPM District I to III; he will become faculty at University of Pennsylvania in July 2024.

**Lyra Burch** and **Stephanie Lie** joined as newborn hospitalists.

**Xingbin Ai** received an R21, "COVID-19 Imprints Airway Basal Cells to Impair Epithelium Regeneration."

**Juan Matute** received a K08, "Intestinal Intelectin-1 Regulation of Obesity Development."

**Yan Bai** received a Charles H. Hood Foundation Child Health Award, "Deciphering the Mechanism Underlying Short- and Long-Term Airway Hyper-Responsiveness Following Early-Life RSV Infection."

**Juan Matute** received a Nutrition Obesity Research Center at Harvard Pilot and Feasibility Award.

*South Shore Hospital, Weymouth*

After a successful period as Interim Director of the NICU, **Zuzanna Kubicka** was appointed permanently to the role.

*Tufts Medical Center, Boston*

**Brooke Krbec**, **Indrani Bhattacharjee** and **Michael Zujkowski** successfully hosted the 7th Annual New England Senior Fellows Simulation Boot Camp. The program is supported by an AAP SONPM grant and was attended by 16 Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellows from Dartmouth, Tufts, UConn, UMass, Yale and University of Vermont.

**Rachana Singh** was nominated and accepted as a member of the American Pediatric Society, a recognition of her work as a "child health leader of extraordinary achievement who work together to shape the future of academic pediatrics."

**Jonathan Davis** was appointed Associate Editor for *Pediatric Research*.

*UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester*

**Erin DeTorie** joined the APP group.

**Megan Horgan** was appointed Associate Medical Director for the NICU and **Dani Kowitz** as the Director of St. Vincent's Hospital Newborn Services.

**Meg Parker** received an R01 from NICHD, "Get Social Media and Risk Reduction Training," as well as an award from the March of Dimes, "Understanding the Impact of Racism on Neonatal Care Quality."

## RHODE ISLAND

*Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, Providence*

**Betty Vohr** was ranked 355th in the United States and 587th in the world in the 2023 Edition of Top 1000 Female Scientists by *Research.com*.

## VERMONT

*Vermont Oxford Network*

Congratulations to the 2023 AAP/VON Scholars: **Megan Aurora, Kwai Tei Chan Poon, Alexandra Iacob, Sarah A. Swenson** and **Avery Zierk**.

VON's innovative ongoing programming includes All Care is Brain Care: A Collaborative for Neuroprotective Quality Improvement. More than 150 teams are participating in year two of the collaborative to create a culture of neuroprotection at their center.

Online education for entire care teams includes Quality Improvement Foundations (3.5 CME/CNE) which provides a practical guide to QI using VON's Sequence to Achieve Change. Responding to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (8.25 CME/CNE) offers lessons for multidisciplinary teams to partner with families and standardize care (including the Eat, Sleep, Console method). VON also supported a new free video series with the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare to help teams develop coordinated care plans for families with substance use in pregnancy.

VON Grand Rounds is a free webinar and discussion series to advance evidence-based quality improvement in newborn care. Topics for 2024 include management of pain and discomfort in critically ill infants, management of oxygen in preterm infants, preventing hypothermia, and follow-up and follow-through. Recordings of the webinars are available on the VON website.

**District II:**  
**Shetal Shah**

## NEW YORK

*Children's Hospital at Montefiore/Albert Einstein, Bronx*

Congratulations to four members of the Division of Neonatology at Einstein who were promoted to senior academic ranks in 2023: **Marlyse Haward** to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, **Mamta Fuloria** to Professor of Pediatrics, **Katie Forman** to Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and **Alecia (Lisa) Thompson-Branch** to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

**Deborah Campbell** has been appointed by the Westchester Board of Legislators to serve as a member of the Westchester Board of Health beginning in January 2024.

**Sheri Nemerofsky** is Associate Editor for the upcoming 2025 edition of *AAP Coding for Pediatrics*.

The Division of Neonatology wished a fond farewell to **Tomas Havranek**, Professor of Pediatrics, in October. Tom has joined faculty at Stony Brook Children's Hospital and the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.

In January 2024, **Alecia (Lisa) Thompson-Branch**, will join the faculty at Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital and Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

*Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York/ Northwell Health, Queens*

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members. **Mindy Hwang** joined us after completing her fellowship training at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. **Michael Furlong** stayed on as a faculty member after finishing his fellowship here at CCMC.

We congratulate two of our 3rd year fellows, **Venkata Gupta** and **Olubusayo Akiniyemi**, for being selected to present their research at the 102nd Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium in September in Baltimore, MD.

**Annemarie Stroustrup** was a recipient of three major grants in September. An UG3/UH3 with the goal to compare exposure-outcome relationships in preterm compared to term population. An UG3/UH3 grant with the goal to test the hypothesis that in-utero chemical and maternal psychosocial exposures during pregnancy interact to create differential childhood growth trajectories (growth latency and growth spurts) from birth to age five. And, together with **Shahana Perveen**, an NIH R01 grant to study phthalate metabolism and its effect in the development of bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

**Vita Boyar** has published a chapter, "Noise: The Importance of Silencing the Loud NICU," in *Best Practices in Neonatal Care and Safety*.

**Vita Boyar** and the Neonatal Education Team were recipients of a Daisy Award for Interprofessional Team Work for their work, "Carpediem- Revolutionizing Care for Neonates."

**Howard Heiman** received a Nightingale Award for best physician collaborator in November.

**Andrew Steele** was an invited speaker at Becker's 8th Annual Health IT + Digital Health + RCM Annual Meeting: The Future of Business and Clinical Technologies in October in Chicago, IL.

*Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, New York Medical College, Valhalla*

Under the leadership of **Boriana Parvez**, the Human Donor Milk Bank at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is the first hospital-based milk bank in the state to produce and provide kosher donor milk.

**Jordan Kase** received a certificate of excellence from New York Medical College for having one of the most highly cited articles among medical school faculty for his publication in *International Journal of Telerehabilitation*.

Westchester Medical Center was elected to chair the Association of Regional Perinatal Programs, leading NYS Regional Perinatal Centers through implementation of new regulations, quality projects and advocacy for newborns.

**Shetal Shah** and **Lily Lou** co-organized the first national Neonatal Advocacy Day, with the SONPM. The virtual event was attended by about 50 neonatologists from around the country, holding around 70 meetings with legislators on the importance of reauthorizing the PREEMIE Act.

Chief Fellow **Parvathy Krishnan** presented her fellow project, "Association of Variants of Thrombospondin-1 Gene and Airway Protein Expression with BPD in ELBW Infants," at the 102nd Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium.

*Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital/Columbia University, New York*

**Anna Penn** is chairing a symposium on Placental Steroids and Neurodevelopment at the 12th International Steroids and the Nervous System meeting and co-chairing a 2024 PAS Scholarly Session on Neuroplacentology.

**Elvira Parravicini** was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC and received a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and a donation from the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation for support of the Neonatal Comfort Care Program.

**Richard Polin** spoke at a Maternal and Infant Health Seminar alongside **Kathleen Brennan** in Oaxaca, Mexico.

**Sandhya Brachio**, in collaboration with **Tamara Kalhan** of Children's Hospital at Montefiore, has developed a network of high-risk infant follow-up (HRIF) programs in New York City. The goal of the NYC Regional HRIF Network is to collaboratively address the care needs for high-risk newborn infants and their families following NICU discharge through a coordinated program of clinical evaluation, education, advocacy and research. Initial efforts have focused on partnership with NYC and NYS Early Intervention.

**Christina Orfali** was an invited speaker by **Jean Tirole** (2014 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences recipient) to the 1st international CEPR Conference in Health Economics in Toulouse, France in June.

**Toni Iurcotta**, 3rd year fellow, will be presenting an abstract at the AAP's 104th Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium in Indian Wells, CA.

NeoHeart 2024, Cardiovascular Management of the Neonate, will be hosted as an in-person conference by Columbia University in New York City, July 30-Aug 2, 2024. Registration will be opening soon!



**Thomas Hays** won the Top Abstract Award at the 14th Annual Midatlantic Neonatology Associates NeoForum.

**Wendi Gu, Toni Iurcotta, Jisha Jose, Qais Karim, and Danielle LoRe** will graduate from our fellowship program in June 2024.

Joining our fellowship in July 2024 are **Sam Kase** (Mt. Sinai), **Nick Santaniello** (CHOP), **Faith Williams** (NYPH Columbia), **Sheetal Sriraman** and **Pavani Chitammani** (SUNY Downstate).

*Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital, New York*

Mount Sinai is proud to announce the appointment of **Jennifer Bragg**, Director of the NICU Neurodevelopmental Follow-up Program, to the position of Site Director of the Mount Sinai West Campus NICU. We thank **Veniamin Ratner** for his capable leadership as the Interim Site Director over the last 12 months.

**Evelyne St. John Sutton** was promoted from Associate Program Director to Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program Director in January 2023. Under her amazing leadership, we just wrapped up an extremely successful interview season and are thrilled to have **Megan Carney, Prithvi Mohan** and **Charlyn Laserna** joining us as 1st year fellows in July 2024.

We have recently welcomed several new team members including **Jessica Mollard**, who joins as Director for Neonatal Surgical Services; **Sarah Bennet** as Program Coordinator for Newborn Medicine; and **Vidhya Venkatesan** as Senior Quality Data Analyst.

Three new Advanced Practice Providers, **Jessica Bolz, Gabby Maccariello, and Najah Boyd** have joined our stellar clinical team.

**Matthew Drago** was invited to speak at the Master of Bioethics Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Alumni Colloquium series.

Our 3rd year fellows, **Caroline Massarelli** and **Melis Suner**, were selected to present their research findings at the AAP 102nd and 103rd Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposia in Baltimore and Florida.

**Katherine Guttmann, Andrea Weintraub** and **Malorie Meshkati** ran the second novel NeoTalk course, a curriculum aimed at improving communication skills for challenging conversations with families/caregivers. Faculty, fellows, and other team members attended the two-day course. This year, excitedly, participants also included members of our OB and MFM team, who have been working collaboratively with our group to improve communication efforts surrounding prenatal counseling.

We are happy to share that we have added Carpediem to our armamentarium for renal replacement modalities, which allows us to offer CVVH and CVVHD to even our tiniest infants with renal failure.

We have now enrolled the 120th patient in our Chronic Lung Care Program. This program, led by **Douglas Bush** and **Courtney Juliano**, provides care to inborn patients as well as out-born patients referred from hospitals throughout the tristate region with all forms of chronic respiratory failure including severe BPD.

*New York Presbyterian Hospital/Komanksy Children's Hospital/Weill Cornell School of Medicine, New York*

At the start of the academic year, we welcomed new fellows **Gabriela Ulloa** (New York University) and **Melania Gao** (Weill Cornell Medicine).

Fellows anticipating graduation in June are **Yafa Davydova, Justin Kotliar, Rebecca Miller, and Cynthia Perez**.

**Cynthia Perez** was elected as the TECaN Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair.

**Cynthia Perez** was named the NYP Graduate Staff of the Month for December 2023 for her clinical excellence and compassionate care.

**Justin Kotliar** presented his work titled, "Sixty Golden Minutes: A Golden Hour for High-Risk Preterm Infants" at PAS, AAP NCE, ESPR, and VON meetings.

**Rebecca Miller** received the WCM 2023 Award for Healthcare Disparities Research in Newborn Medicine for her project titled, "Addressing Postpartum Depression (PPD) among Parents with Infants Admitted to a Level IV NICU." Her faculty mentors include **Emily Echevarria** and **Priyanka Tiwari**.

**Lauren Blatt** and **Jeffrey Perlman** are Co-Investigators on a recently awarded NIH/NHLBI R01, "Physiology Phenotyping of Chronic Lung Disease of Prematurity Using MRI."

**Lauren Blatt** is Co-PI with WCM pulmonologist, **Andrea Heras**, on a WCM 2023 Award for Healthcare Disparities Research in Newborn Medicine, "Racial/Ethnic Disparities and Its Impact on Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in Two New York Hospitals."

**Camilia Martin** was invited speaker for the 2023 **James Thullen** Lectureship at The University of North Carolina and the 2023 John S. Curran Lecture at the University of South Florida.

**Jeffrey Perlman** was awarded the 2023 ILCOR Resuscitation Giant Award and was Co-Editor with **Terrie Inder** for the 4th edition of *Neonatology Questions and Controversies*.

*New York University Hassenfeld Children's Hospital/NYU Grossman School of Medicine, New York*

The 5th Annual PICNIC (Pediatric Intensive, Cardiac, and Neonatal Intensive Care) Conference was held on November 3rd at NYU Langone Medical Center, with talks on bicarbonate usage, neuroprotective strategies and ethics in end of life care. The conference was well attended, with around 100 in-person participants. The event featured keynote presentations, panel discussions and our inaugural research poster sessions for residents, fellows and junior faculty. Please mark your calendars for November 1, 2024 for the 6th Annual PICNIC Conference.

Fellow **Tatiana Nuzum** won the Best Poster Award at the PICNIC Conference for her poster on her work with NIRS and therapeutic hypothermia.

**Matthew Lin** joined our team this summer after completing his Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital and his Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at Children's National Medical Center.

**Sarah Fleishaker** joined our team after completing her fellowship at NYU Grossman School of Medicine this summer.

**Heather Howell** was promoted to Associate Professor in Pediatrics at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

*State University of New York at Buffalo/John R. Oishei Children's Hospital*

The Division of Neonatology welcomes **Rupa Mandala** and **Tien Phan** to our fellowship program.

We welcome **Hamza Abbasi** and **Srinivasan Mani** as attending physicians to our family of neonatologists.

We had several presentations at the 5th Congress of Joint European Neonatal Societies, Rome, Italy, and at the AAP NCE in Washington, DC with our former fellows, **Mausma Bawa** and **Clariss Blanco**, being the recipients of travel grants.

**Mausma Bawa** had two abstracts chosen for Best Abstract Awards at the SONPM Program at the AAP NCE from research performed at SUNY Buffalo.

**N Ja Hpa** has taken the role of Medical Director, Perinatal Outreach Program at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital.

**Munmun Rawat** and **Deepali Handa** were promoted by the University at Buffalo as Clinical Associate Professors. They both successfully hosted our 3rd annual Upstate New York Neonatology Fellowship Simulation Boot Camp along with colleagues from Rochester and Albany fellowship programs.

The Asian American Physician Association of Western New York 2023 recognized **Deepali Handa** with a special award.

**Praveen Chandrasekharan** was an invited speaker at the 2023 AAP District VI Association of Neonatologists Annual Conference and at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He was also a panel discussant at the 6th Annual Neonatal Resuscitation Symposium at Indiana University.

*State University of New York at Stony Brook*

**Thomas Diacovo** was recruited by the Department of Pediatrics at the Renaissance School of Medicine to be the Chief of the Division of Neonatology and Vice Chair of Pediatric Research. As Chief, he oversees physicians and NNPs that, in partnership with the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, serve as the foundation for the New York State Department of Health-designated Regional Perinatal Center. As Vice Chair of Pediatric Research, he will provide leadership and strategic oversight of the research mission for the Department of Pediatrics and its academic affiliates.

Congratulations to **Echezona Maduekwe** for being nominated as a Council Member for the Irish Paediatric Association, with the responsibility of being directly involved in Annual Conference planning and abstract selections for presentations.

Congratulations to **Shanthy Sridhar** for receiving a grant from the NYS Department of Health to develop a Suffolk County RPC Neonatal Telehealth Consultation Program.

Congratulations to **Thomas Diacovo** for being awarded a grant by the New York Fund for Innovation in Research and Scientific Talent, an Empire State Development-funded grant program designed to encourage recruitment of exceptional life science researchers and world class talent from institutions outside of New York State. He also received a NICHD R56 to study the role of platelets in the development and progression of NEC.

We are excited to announce the institution of point-of-care ultrasonography in the unit to aid in obtaining vascular access in newborns of all gestational ages.

Stony Brook welcomes our new fellows, **Abeer Islam** from Staten Island University Hospital and **Omar Ibarra Aleman** from UCONN.

*University of Rochester Medical Center/Golisano Children's Hospital*

Congratulations to **Colby Day Richardson**, who has been promoted to Medical Director of the Golisano Children's Hospital (GCH) NICU and **Julie Riccio**, who has been chosen as the Medical Director of the Rochester General Hospital (RGH) NICU. These leadership changes follow the promotion of **Jeffrey Meyers**, prior Medical Director at GCH, to Associate Chief Quality Officer of GCH and **Nirupama Laroia** stepping down after more than 20 years as the Medical Director at RGH.

**Colby Day Richardson** has recently been appointed as Section Editor for Quality Improvement at *NeoReviews*.

We welcome **Cynthia Bliss** to our faculty in January 2024, when she will become Medical Director of the Nurseries at Highland Hospital. She joins her husband, **Joseph Bliss**, who arrived from a 20-year career at Brown University and Women & Infants' Hospital of Rhode Island this past fall.

### District III: Michael Posencheg

## DELAWARE

*ChristianaCare, Wilmington*

We are delighted to announce our upcoming 6th Biennial Perinatal Palliative Care Symposium, which will be held live at ChristianaCare's Newark Campus on Friday, March 15, 2024. This year's Symposium focuses on trauma-informed perinatal palliative care and the speakers include **Mary Coughlin**, the founder of Caring Essentials Collaborative, LLC, and **Lani Nelson-Zlupko**, a psychotherapist and executive coach who specializes in trauma-informed care. Registration information will be available at [www.christianacare.org/cme](http://www.christianacare.org/cme) in January 2024.

**Kelley Kovatis** was selected to participate in in the 2024 Leadership Delaware program.

**Ursula Guillén** has been appointed Division Chief of Neonatology. **Shazia Bhat** remains in her role as Associate Division Chief of Neonatology.

**Drew Ellefson** has been appointed Medical Director of the ChristianaCare NICU and remains in his roles as Medical Director of the Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus NICU and Chair of Pediatrics for Bayhealth.

## MARYLAND

*Johns Hopkins, Baltimore*

We welcomed four new fellows who started in July: **Daphne Clermont-Chung**, from St. Louis University/Cardinal Glennon Hospital; **Elizabeth Lee**, from Johns Hopkins Harriet Lane Program; **Jessica Messier**, from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center/Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; and **Lemaat Michael** from Children's National Medical Center.

Graduating fellows **Leslie Doucette** and **Alex Gall** moved on to faculty positions at Inova Fairfax and The University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, respectively.

Faculty member **Julie Nogee** will be leaving JHUSOM to accept a position at Greater Baltimore Medical Center as of January 1, 2024.

**Michelle Gontasz** and **Nethra Madurai** were promoted to Assistant Professor in November.

Fellow **Nazli Kuter** received a Marshall-Klaus Perinatal Research Award.

Fellow **Srishti Jayakumar** received the 2024 PROSPER Diversity Award from the Society for Pediatric Research and the Best Abstract Award for her presentation, "Neurodevelopmental Outcomes of Neonates with Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy: Role of Socioeconomic Vulnerability" at the AAP NCE.

**W. Christopher Golden** assumed the role of Chair of the Pediatric Section of the National Medical Association on August 1, 2023.

**Amaris Keiser** has been selected as the inaugural fellow by *JAMA Pediatrics* for their newly developed *JAMA Pediatrics* Editorial Fellowship, beginning January 1, 2024.

**Frances J. Northington** was a visiting professor at the University of Auckland and gave the Geoffrey Dawes Keynote address to the Fetal Neonatal Physiologic Society Meeting in Queensland, New Zealand in September.

Interim Division Director **Larry Nogee** will step down from this role and a search is underway for a permanent Division Director.

**Larry Nogee** gave invited talks to the Sharing Progress in Neonatology Congress/38th International Workshop on Surfactant Replacement in Gdansk, Poland in June and to the annual meeting of the European Respiratory Society in Milan, Italy in September.

*University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore*

**Brenda Hussey-Gardner**, Director of Maryland's Pride and Co-Director of NICU Follow-Up Program, received the Child Advocate of the Year Award for her work in Early Intervention from the AAP Maryland Chapter at the Chapter's annual meeting in September 2023. Through her partnership with the Chapter and advocacy efforts, she made a significant contribution to the well-being of children and adolescents in Maryland.

**Erin Schofield**, Medical Director for Maryland Regional Neonatal Transport Program, was interviewed by ABC national news in November and talked about the unique risks posed to premature infants and sick newborns that reside in and are born into conflict zones. She highlighted the humanitarian crisis of NICU babies that is ongoing in the Israel-Gaza war and emphasized the vulnerability of the premature infants, especially when transported, being the most technology-dependent and the most resource-dependent group in any hospital.

**Natalie Davis**, Associate Professor, joined as a member of the Editorial Board of *Pediatrics* in July 2023.

**Natalie Davis**, Director of Pediatric Resident Research, provided oversight and conducted the Annual Pediatric Resident/Fellow Research Day at UMSOM on Dec 7, 2023.

We welcome our three new incoming NPM fellows: **Pei-Shan (Iris) Lee** from University of California, San Diego; **Sara Abdelnour** from University of Maryland Medical Center; and **Daniel Ben-Moyal** from University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston.

## NEW JERSEY

*The Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper, Camden*

**Vishwanath Bhat** was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

**Diana Yanni** was appointed as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

**Vineet Bhandari** was an invited international faculty at the 42nd Annual Convention of the National Neonatology Forum NEOCON 2023 in Nagpur, India. He was an invited speaker for a virtual presentation at Perth Children's Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital, The University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia.

*Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital at Hackensack University Medical Center*

After five years of service as the Marvin I. Gottlieb MD, PhD Chair of Pediatrics at Hackensack University Medical Center, Physician-in-Chief, Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital and Hackensack Meridian Children's Health, **Judy Aschner** is transitioning to a new role as Director, Physician Scientist Member at the Center for Discovery and Innovation, Hackensack Meridian Health. Dr. Aschner has brought a wealth of exceptional clinical, academic and administrative experience to her roles. Her visionary leadership has transformed all aspects of the Department of Pediatrics, advancing patient care, research, advocacy and educational missions of the Department and the Children's Hospitals. In her new role, Dr. Aschner will continue to mentor and advance the careers of faculty and trainees in their research endeavors, expand research opportunities and the pediatric research portfolio at Hackensack Meridian Health, and work closely with the leadership of the Center for Innovation and Discovery and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine to provide innovative and state-of-the-art medical and research education and programs.



**Judy Aschner** is the recipient of a \$5.6 million NIH UG3 grant earmarked for the study of how environmental factors affect pregnant women and children, especially those with a disability, as part of the nationwide Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) study. The new funding, which began on September 1, 2023, will continue the long-term ECHO research of Dr. Aschner, who has been an ECHO PI for the past seven years.

**Judy Aschner** was an invited speaker at The Best of IPOKRaTES in Leuven, Belgium, in October, and at the PICNIC Collaborative 2023, at NYU Langone Health.

**Tashalee McGrath Blagrove** and **Robert Sciulla** joined our fellowship program in July 2023. **Roumaissa Zouai** and **Hayley Shackelford** will join the program in July 2024.

JMSCH NICU became one of 10 NICUs nationwide designated as a Reach Out and Read Program site.

Save the date February 22, 2024 for Building a Small Baby Unit meeting. In 2020, the JMSCH NICU was awarded the Joint Commission Disease Specific Certification for Prematurity for implementing a small baby unit to improve survival without major morbidities in inborn infants less than 30 weeks' gestational age. Based on lessons learned, the team involved in the establishment and maintenance of this accreditation will share a framework, strategies and tools for building an optimal multidisciplinary approach to care of extreme preterm infants that spans from the prenatal consultation through hospital discharge. This conference is supported by grants from SONPM Districts II and III.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

The 18 bed, Level III NICU at the Middleman Family Pavilion at CHOP King of Prussia Hospital opened on December 18, 2023.

The NICU will be staffed by **Jennifer Cohen**, Medical Director, **Perri Donenfeld**, **Mark Ogino** and **Kimberly Parsons**.

Congratulations to the following faculty on their promotions at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine: **Maria Fraga**, Professor of Pediatrics Academic-Clinician track; **Heather French**, Professor of Pediatrics Academic-Clinician track; **Kathryn Maschhoff**, Professor of Pediatrics Academic-Clinician track; **Sagori Mukhopadhyay**, Associate Professor Clinician-Educator track.

Save the date for the 10th Annual Chronic Lung Disease Conference on March 5-6, 2024 at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing. Registration is now open! Abstract submission deadline is February 11, 2024. Register on line at <https://chop.cloud-cme.com>. Questions? Email Kathy Nilan [nilan@chop.edu](mailto:nilan@chop.edu).

The 19th Annual CHOP Neonatology Advances in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Conference, organized by **Janet Lioy**, was held in October at Convene in Center City, Philadelphia. Guest speakers included internationally renowned perinatologist **Ronald Wapner**, Columbia University, who spoke about advances in prenatal genetics and neonatology. **Scott Guthrie**, Vanderbilt University, who spoke

on, "Advances in Non-Invasive Surfactant Administration in the US and Developing Countries." In addition, **Eric Eichenwald**, CHOP Division Chief, spoke about upcoming AAP verification programs addressing neonatal levels of care nationwide.

Save the date for the Annual CDH International Conference, being held in Lille, France, April 24-26, 2024. Look for additional information in the upcoming months.

**Mary Haggerty** will serve as the Associate Medical Director of Neonatal Outreach for ExPERT. In 2023, under the leadership of from the CHOP Division of Emergency Medicine, the CHOP Outreach Center for Expertise in Pediatric Emergency Readiness and Training (ExPERT) was established to expand the effort to provide high quality pediatric and neonatal emergency readiness and training to surrounding community healthcare providers. ExPERT offers simulation-based training sessions designed to improve pediatric and neonatal emergency readiness within their own clinical environments. Additional information can be found at [www.open.chop.edu/expert](http://www.open.chop.edu/expert).

**Heather French** was selected to be Co-Chair of the Fellows Education Committee for the AAP SONPM.

**Joanna Parga-Belinkie** co-hosted the 2023 AAP NCE in Washington, DC. Other CHOP speakers included: **Elizabeth Foglia**, "Optimizing Counseling and Resuscitation for Newborns and their Families;" **Anne Ades**, "Simulation for Neonatal Skills Training;" and **Karen Puopolo**, "Neonatal CMV Testing: Universal, Targeted or Something Else?"

**Sara Handley**, **Carolyn McGann**, and **Kesi Yang** were named to CHOP's Early Career Honor Roll.

**Anne Ades**, **Natalie Rintoul**, and the rest of the ECMO team received the Platinum Certification, ESLO's highest honor.

**Katharine Callahan** was named one of 2023 Stat's Wunderkinds (<https://www.statnews.com/wunderkinds-2023/katharine-p-callahan/>).

**Scott Lorch** received an R01 from the NIH for his project, "Measuring Neonatal Regionalization."

**Sara DeMauro** is the recipient of an NIH U24 Grant for the NICHD Neonatal Research Network.

**Erik Jensen** received an R01 from the NIH for his study, "Multidimensional Phenotype Classification in Grade 3 BPD."

**Scott Gordon** received an NIH K08 administrative supplement for his project, "Functions for Novel IL15-Responsive Macrophages in the Uterus during Pregnancy."

**Danielle Callaway** received CHOP's Parker B. Francis Award for her research, "Type 1 Alveolar Cells Control Lung Development via Microsome Remodeling by TGFβ."

**Shaon Sengupta** received the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Add-an-Aim Internal Grant for her study, "The Mesenchymal Clock in the Lung: What, Where and When."

**Elizabeth Foglia** received an NIH R35 grant for, "A Digital Coach for the Delivery Room of the Future: Enhanced Newborn Care for Patients with Congenital Anomalies."

**Colin Conine** is the recipient of the Percival Roberts, Jr. Trust Foundation Grant for his study, "Developing *C. elegans* as a Model to Understand tRNA-Fragment Biogenesis and Function."

**Sarah Coggins** received an internal grant from CHOP for, "Transplacental Antibiotic Exposures in Newborn Infants."

**Katharine Callahan** is the recipient of an NIH K01 grant for her study, "Managing the Uncertainty of Genetic Information in Neonates."

**Heather Burris** received an NIH R01 grant for her research, "The Role of Urban Heat and PM2.5 Exposure in Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy, Chronic Hypertension, and Racial Disparities in Maternal Morbidity."

**Colin Conine** presented a lecture at the 24th International *C. elegans* Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

**Eric Eichenwald** was invited faculty and session chair at the 12th International Neonatology Conference Hottest Topics in Neonatal Medicine in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**Natalie Rintoul**, **Heidi Herrick**, and **Erik Jensen** were invited faculty at the 12th International Neonatology Conference Hottest Topics in Neonatal Medicine in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**Liz Foglia** was invited faculty at the Annual International Neonatal Conference, The James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, UK; the SAFER Neonatal Resuscitation Research Symposium, Stavanger, Norway; and the 5th Congress of the Joint European Neonatal Societies Meeting, Rome, Italy.

**Anne Ades** was invited to speak at the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society, Visby-Stockholm, Sweden and the Pedi STARS Simulus 8 Conference, West Bengal, India.

**Natalie Rintoul** was invited to speak at the ELSO Virtual Neonatal and Pediatric ECMO Training Course, the EURO ELSO Conference, Lisbon, Portugal; the 12th International Neonatology Conference on Hottest Issues in Neonatal Medicine, Abu Dhabi; and the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society, Visby-Stockholm, Sweden.

**Katherine Wild** spoke at the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Maria Fraga** gave virtual talks for Jornadas de Neonatología, Hospital Garrahan, Buenos Aires; Lung Ultrasound in Neonates and Children (LAUNCH), Milano, Italy; and was a virtual panelist for National POCUS Collaborative in November.

Fellow **Jon Knowlton** has been selected as a Fellow of the Pediatric Scientist Development Program (PSDP). This is a very competitive national program supported by the NICHD and private foundations. Jon's selection is attributed to his outstanding contributions to the scientific community to date as well as his incredible



potential as a physician-scientist. The PSDP provides intensive training in research for fellows committed to a career in academic medicine.

Fellow **Ben Fensterheim** received the Marshall Klaus Award and this year's Thrasher Early Career Award for his project "Longitudinal Immune Profiling of Preterm Infants."

*Jefferson Einstein Montgomery, Philadelphia*

**Celina Migone, Amy Lembeck, Melissa Hewitt** and the entire NAS QI team at Einstein Montgomery were awarded one of the Top 10 Safety Awards in HCIF's 2023 Excellence in Health Care Awards. The QI team also received a grant from the PA Perinatal Quality Collaborative towards the QI initiative for NAS and maternal OUD.

*Nemours Children's Health at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia*

**Amy J. Sloane** and **Geetika Kennady** were each awarded a Mentored Research Development Award from the Delaware CTR ACCEL program to develop their research projects and prepare their individual proposals for targeted grant application.

Welcome to our newly matched fellows:

**Lauren Benzinger** (Geisinger Health System), **Jonathan de Guzman** (The Children's Hospital at Montefiore), **Bradley Hutton** (Westchester Medical Center), and **Jessica Knapp** (Sidney Kimmel Medical College/TJU/NCH-D).

Effective November 2023, our Fellowship Site Directors have been elevated to the position of Associate Program Directors (APD). Along with Program Director **Zubair Aghai**, our three APDs are **Ursula Guillen**, Christiana Care Health System; **Amy J. Sloane**, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital; and **Kevin M. Sullivan**, Nemours Children's Health-Delaware.

*University of Pittsburgh*

We welcomed several new faculty members to the Division. **Ashley Kimble, Dosalyn Thompson** and **Esther Kisseih** all joined our core group providing coverage at our Pittsburgh sites. **Mohamed Al Kanjo** and **Kimberly Costello** joined our central PA group providing coverage in the Harrisburg region.

We welcomed four new fellows to our program: **Chelsea Bitler, Madalyn Lutz, Daniel Mohan,** and **Matthew Sanfilippo**.

Congratulations to **Briana Bertoni** on being named Interim Clinical Director of the UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital NICU.

**Edward Hurley** and **Burhan Mahmood** were both named members of the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Onome Oghifobibi** was elected to the Board of Healthy Start Pittsburgh and was accepted into the Executive Leadership Academy sponsored through The Advanced Leadership Institute and the Carnegie Mellon University Tepper School of Business.

**Abeer Azzuqa** received the UPMC Physician Excellence in Leadership Award.

**Christine Bishop** received the inaugural Advancing Women in Pediatric Medicine and Science Award from the UPMC Department of Pediatrics.

**Jessica O'Neal** received the AAP's Marshall Klaus/Beth Israel Deaconess Neonatology Education Research Award.

**Darren Bodkin** received the Clinical Research Training Award at the UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital Research Day and was recognized as having the Best Abstract by a Trainee at the Children's Hospitals Neonatal Consortium Annual Symposium.

**Anusha Chinthaparthi** and **Mia Harton** were awarded grants from The Beckwith Institute.

**Tara Beck** and **Hayley Varela** received Clinical Trainee Research Awards from the Magee-Womens Research Institute.

## WASHINGTON, DC

*Children's National Hospital*

We congratulate **Lamia Soghier** for her promotion to Professor of Pediatrics and **Sudeepta Basu** for his promotion to Associate Professor of Pediatrics with tenure at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

**Lamia Soghier** secured a \$1.8 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that will fund a Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Learning Lab. Neonatologists, pediatric emergency medicine physicians, psychologists, computer scientists, and the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder team from Children's National will partner with **Niyousha Hosseinichimeh**, Assistant Professor at the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, and human factors experts at MedStar Patient Safety Institute to set up a learning lab that will improve maternal mental health screening, referral, and treatment of caregivers at the hospital.

**Katherine Ottolini**, under the Department of Neonatology and the Developing Brain Institute at Children's National Hospital, has been awarded a three-year grant from the Gerber Foundation to support a randomized-controlled trial studying the efficacy of different methods of individualized human milk fortification in improving somatic growth and brain development in very premature infants, using innovative methods of human milk analysis and quantitative brain MRI.

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## District IV: Brian Hackett

## NORTH CAROLINA

*Duke University, Durham*

**Ron Goldberg** became emeritus faculty. He was joined in celebration by many of Duke's former fellows, current and past faculty and partners in delivering great care in the NICU, as well as his family and his very good friends **Eduardo Bancalari** from University of Miami and **Richard Martin** from Rainbow Babies. It was a wonderful weekend, which included grand rounds by our guest faculty.

We welcomed our recent Duke Neonatology Fellowship graduate **Kwai Tei Chan "Candy" Poon** to the faculty. Candy will work in the NICU

and concentrate on the ongoing development of our ever-growing antenatal consult service that **Margarita Bidegain**, who started the program, and **Sue Izatt** have been leading.

**Kevin Williams**, a University of Miami fellowship graduate, and **Simone Schneider**, a UNC fellowship graduate, have joined our group. Simone is doing double duty in the NICU and the follow-up clinic and Transitions Medical Home Program. Kevin has started developing sim training and has been named as a faculty instructor in the Duke School of Medicine longitudinal point-of-care ultrasound course.

Duke pediatric residency and neonatology fellowship alum **Chris DeRienzo** became Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Executive of the American Hospital Association. He has given grand rounds for Duke Children's and joined us as adjunct faculty. He is working with the education branch in the Department to develop a clinician leadership curriculum.

**Lakshmi Katakam**, our Clinical Operations and NICU Medical Director, and **Keyaria Gray**, our Associate Medical Director, continue leading efforts at Duke to optimize patient flow in the ever-shifting, not-always-predictable NICU landscape of providers and resources. We identified that Duke is well above the VON 75th percentile for the percent of infants transferred vs. discharged home, and even with our long-awaited expansion, we have had a peak daily census over 90% of capacity more than 90% of the days.

**Sharla Rent** completed her Master's in Global Health, and has received a Trent Foundation award for her project, "Assessing Perspectives and Implementation Strategies for a Donor Milk Program in Ethiopia."

**Eric Benner's** groundbreaking work on inflammatory injury in the subependymal zone and the potential of oxysterols found in breast milk to rescue the brain was published in August. This was a massive years-long effort. He is on to the next steps of exploring clinical correlates and pre-clinical studies of oxysterol as an intervention.

*East Carolina University Health Neonatology, Greenville*

**Juan Guillen-Hernandez** is now the Director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic.

**Uduak Akpan** was elected to SPR membership and took over as the NICU Medical Director.

**Ryan Moore** has been appointed the Medical Director of Maynard and Connie Children's Hospital at ECU Health. He continues as the Division Chief of the NICU.

**Weili Chang** was appointed the Director of the LINC Scholar Program at the Brody School of Medicine, a Health System Transformation and Leadership Distinction Track program of the medical school.

We are excited to welcome our new fellows.

**Eric Mendenhall** joined us from the pediatrics residency program at Marshall University in West Virginia, while **Mary Iwaszewski** joined us from our own residency program at ECU Health.

We also welcomed new faculty member, **Jessica Gancar**, who joined us from the Pediatric Neo group in Columbia, SC.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

**Melissa Bauserman** was awarded a grant renewal for their partnership with the Kinshasa School of Public Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a research site in the NICHD Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research. Dr. Bauserman also earned a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Lauren Frazer** was awarded an NIH Loan Repayment Award from NIAID, the UNC School of Medicine Junior Faculty Development Award, and received a UNC School of Medicine Physician Scientist Training Program Faculty Award for her research focused on understanding the immune signaling pathway dysregulation that leads to necrotizing enterocolitis.

**Misty Good** was selected as the AAP Fellow Education Co-Chair with **Heather French** at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Additional new leadership roles include the American Pediatric Society/Society of Pediatric Research Journeys and Frontiers Cohort Leader and the AAP MidCAN Research Committee Co-Chair.

In collaboration with Mother's Milk is Best, Inc., **Misty Good** was awarded an NIH grant titled, "Point of Care Maternal Milk Concentration Device to Optimize Neonatal Growth with Targeted Nutrition Support."

**Wes Jackson** was awarded an NIH K23 for his grant titled, "Dose Optimization for Novel Drugs for Infants with Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy."

**Matt Laughon** was awarded an NIH R01 for the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic study of montelukast in infants with developing BPD (PRISM) trial.

**Marty McCaffrey** directs the Perinatal Quality Collaborative of North Carolina (PQCNC), which continues its annual funding from NC DHHS as the Perinatal Quality Arm for NC Division of Health Benefits (Medicaid). Dr. McCaffrey and PQCNC were awarded a HRSA grant titled, "Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health State Capacity Program."

**Marty McCaffrey** was appointed to another two-year term on the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.

**Mike O'Shea** was awarded a renewal of the NIH ECHO grant titled "Environment, Epigenetics, Neurodevelopment and Health of Extremely Preterm Children."

**Wayne Price** and collaborators were awarded a \$4 million CDC grant titled, "Enhancing Partnerships to Address Birth Defects, Infant Disorders and Related Conditions, and the Health of Pregnant and Postpartum People."

Our fellow, **Macrina Liguori**, received the UNC Emonson Award, which was established in 2006 to annually recognize the nurse, trainee, and faculty member who best represents the mission and spirit of UNC Children's.

Fellow **Kelly Orgel** was selected into the prestigious Pediatric Scientist Development Program K12 for her proposal titled, "Regulation of Interleukin-22 Signaling in Intestinal Development and Necrotizing Enterocolitis."

We are excited to announce that we matched two amazing fellows into our fellowship program for July 2024: **Anna DePrenger** from UNC, and **Rachel Levy** from the University of Utah School of Medicine.

## TENNESSEE

*UTHSC Memphis/Regional One Health/Le Bonheur Children's Hospital*

**Steph Martinez** will complete her training and join us as Assistant Professor in July 2024.

We welcomed three new fellows, **Marshall Anderson**, **Tanner Cabbage** and **Ihinosen Edgal** in July 2023.

The Division of Neonatology at UTHSC and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital hosted the 17th Annual Mid-South Complex Newborn Conference on October 27, 2022.

**Rishika Sakaria** received the Young Faculty Travel Award for her abstract presentation at Southern Regional Meetings in New Orleans.

The level IV NICU at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital is under expansion and will open 14 new single patient rooms in March 2024.

*Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville*

**John Benjamin** was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics with tenure.

**Stephen Patrick** was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy and named the William R. Long Director of Child Health Policy. He is the recipient of a new R01 award from NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse for his project, "Improving Outcomes for Substance-Affected Families in the Child Welfare System". He was also elected to membership in the American Pediatric Society.

**Ryan Skeens** was appointed Associate Medical Director for the 116-bed level IV NICU at Monroe Carell, Jr, Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. She also received the Bill Walsh Award in recognition of her bedside teaching for the fellows.

**Uchenna Anani** and **Emily Morris** were elected to the Vanderbilt Academy of Excellence in Clinical Medicine.

**Jeff Reese** gave an invited lecture at the Combined NeoHeart Annual Conference and International PDA Symposium in Anaheim, CA in August.

We are sad to see **Kristin Veneman**, Medical Director of the NICU at Tennova - Clarksville Hospital, leave and wish her all the best in the future.

**Kelley McManigle** from Advocate Medical Group and Carle Physician Group, Neonatology, Park Ridge, IL, joined as faculty July 2023.

**Cassandra Coleman** completed her fellowship at Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston and joined as faculty in August 2023.

This summer **Erin O'Brien**, after completing fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, and **Vanessa Riley**, who will be completing fellowship at the University of South Florida, will be joining our faculty.

We are excited to be welcoming the following trainees to our fellowship program in July of 2024: **Katherine Bischoff De Caires** from

Eastern Virginia Medical School, **Katherine Boyer** from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, **Chondraah Holmes** from Medical College of Wisconsin, and **Ranjani Ponnazhagan** from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Under the directorship of **Helen Nation** and **Jörn-Hendrik Weitkamp**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center Department of Nursing Education and Professional Development and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Division of Neonatology hosted the 42nd Annual Neonatology Symposium, Advances and Controversies in Neonatal Medicine, in Nashville on November 2-3, 2023. Guest faculty included **Satyan Lakshminrusimha** from University of California at Davis as the Jayant Shenai Keynote Speaker, **Michael Castaldo** from University of British Columbia, **Lina Chalak** from UT Southwestern Medical Center, **Meg Parker** from UMass Memorial Health and **Christina Valentine** from University of Arizona. Vanderbilt speakers were **Sumit Pruthi**, **Michael Smith**, and **Courtney Sutton**. State-of-the-art presentations gave updates on the pathophysiology and management of PPHN, diagnosis and management of perinatal brain injury and neonatal encephalopathy, the role of maternal diet on neonatal outcomes, application and interpretation of functional MRI in the NICU, differential diagnosis of dermatological findings in neonates, updates on neonatal pharmacology, and social determinants of breastfeeding and neonatal outcomes in the NICU. Attendees earned 13.5 AMA PRA category 1 credits. The symposium was very well attended by over 82 neonatologists, fellows, NNPs, respiratory therapists, nurses, and others from more than 12 states and Canada. The symposium was supported in part by unrestricted educational grants from Chiesi USA, Prolacta Bioscience Foundation, Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition and a 2023 SONPM District IV grant.

## VIRGINIA

*Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU*

We are very excited to welcome **Dara Azuma** as a new faculty into our Division. She is joining us after serving as faculty for the Division of Neonatology at Tufts

**Miheret Yitayew** is the recipient of the RAPID Grant.

**Nayef Chahin** has been appointed as Associate Program Director.

**Karen Hendricks-Muñoz** is the recipient of the 2023 WISDOM Professional Achievement Award.

**Jenny Fox** was accepted as a general member of the AAP NRP Steering Committee.

*University of Virginia Children's Hospital, Charlottesville*

**Rob Sinkin** finished his service to the National Board for Respiratory Care in December 2023, having served with that organization for 25 years as a consultant and board member. In that role, he contributed his expertise in promoting excellence in respiratory care by writing and developing examinations focusing on competencies expected of respiratory care providers to protect and enhance patient lives.

**David Kaufman** presented at the 4th International Neonatal Intensive Care Update on Infectious Disease in Rome, Italy in December 2023.

**Karen Fairchild** presented the results of VentFirst, a multicenter randomized controlled trial of assisted ventilation during delayed cord clamping for extremely preterm infants at Hot Topics 2023.

**Bryne Sullivan** presented at the Artificial Intelligence 101: Applications in Neonatology Hot Topics pre-conference workshop. The speaker panel for the workshop represented the newly formed NeoMIND-AI group (<https://neomindai.com/>).

**Bryne Sullivan** was awarded an NIH grant titled, "POWS for NOWS: Using Physiometers as an Objective Tool for Assessing the Withdrawing Infant." The award is for \$3.1 million over three years to study physiologic patterns of NOWS and develop technology for objective assessment using pulse oximetry data.

**Santina Zanelli** was named the Associate Editor for CME for *NeoReviews* in July 2023.

**Brooke Vergales** was appointed to the ONTPD Executive Council in October 2023.

**Peter Murray** was named the Chair of the Ethics Committee at UVA Health.

Third-year fellow **Lina Kalenga** was awarded one of the Best Abstract Awards by the SONPM at the 2023 AAP NCE. She presented her QI work focusing on reducing extra-uterine growth restriction through the implementation of a best practice nutrition bundle.

## District V: Craig Nankervis

### INDIANA

*Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health, Indianapolis*

Welcome to new faculty members **Kelsey Montgomery, Blair Welch, Jacquelyn Lajiness, Neelakanta Kanike, Cara Slagle, Sibel Guzel,** and **Suyog Kmatkar.**

Best wishes to retiring faculty **Scott Denne** and **Sherri Bucher**, who was promoted to Chair of the Department of Community and Global Health at the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health.

**Osayame Ekhaguere** received the Award to Enhance Diversity in the Research Workforce for the Midwest Region.

Mark your calendars for the 7th annual Neonatal Resuscitation Symposium and Human Factors Simulation Workshop on September 12-13, 2024.

Best wishes to graduating fellows **Merve Denizli, Caitlin Irwin,** and **Alyx Posorske.**

Welcome to incoming fellows **Anna Cole, Sara Grant,** and **MacKenzie LeMay.**

**Caitlin Irwin** presented her work in an oral presentation at NASPGHAN national meeting in October in San Diego.

**Merve Denizli** presented her work in an oral presentation at the American Society of Hematology in San Diego in December.

**Alyx Posorske** presented her work in an oral presentation at the Pediatric Academic Societies meeting in Washington, DC in May.

**Jackie Lajiness** won the Grzegorz Nalepa Fellowship Research Award and the AAP Marshal Klaus Fellow Research Award.

Established in 2013 by the Division of Neonatology, the NeuroNICU program provides expert care, targeted surveillance, neuroprotective interventions, and evidence-based treatment options and support for newborns with serious neurologic problems. A collaboration between the highly ranked level IV NICU and the Child Neurology Division, the NeuroNICU program is the only neonatal neurocritical care program in the state of Indiana. This innovative program is currently participating in two large grants: 1) "A Phase 2, Two-Stage, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multiple-Ascending Dose Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics, and Preliminary Efficacy of RLS-0071 in Newborns with Moderate or Severe Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy Undergoing Therapeutic Hypothermia with Long-Term Follow-Up (STAR)," and 2) "Optimizing Time to Complete Intravenous Anticonvulsant Medication Infusion in Neonates."

**Rebecca Rose** presented "Adjusting Ventilator Settings in Evolving BPD" at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH on December 6, 2023.

### MICHIGAN

*Detroit Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Michigan*

Welcome to new fellows **Jeremiah Olabiya** from NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln, NY; **Matthew Toma** from Mercer University School of Medicine/Memorial Health University Medical Center, GA; and **Kristy Patel** from University of Mississippi Medical Center, MS.

Welcome to new faculty **Kriti Damodaran** and **Hannah Sampath**, both completed their fellowship training at the New York Medical College/Westchester Medical Center Health Network, NY.

Welcome to incoming fellows in 2024: **Jenny Impemba** from DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan; **Neelam Neupane** from Flushing Hospital Medical Center, NY; and **Kaushgra Chaudhari** from Corewell Health (Beaumont), MI.

The Sophie Womack Conference was held on May 19, 2023. Invited speaker was **Jae Kim** who presented "Lessons from Focusing on Neonatal Nutrition." Later, he presented "Building a World without NEC" as a career development talk for the fellows.

### OHIO

*Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Division of Neonatology and Pulmonary Biology*

NPM Fellow, **Eric Raynal**, participated in the 45th Annual North American Society for Medical Decision Making meeting, presenting his work titled, "Factors that Influence Parental Decision Making during Periviable Consultation." Co-

authored by **Isabella Pallotto, Jennifer Brady, DonnaMaria Cortezzo,** and **Ellen Lipstein**, this presentation won the Anne Stiggebout Award for Outstanding Presentation in Patient and Stakeholder Preferences and Engagement.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital was named the #1 Children's Hospital in the nation by the US News and World Report's Best Children's Hospitals 2023-24 rankings. In addition, the Division of Neonatology was ranked #1 in the pediatric specialty category.

Cincinnati Children's has again been named a top employer on Forbes' annual list of America's Best Large Employers. This year we ranked #10! We were the third-highest rated hospital (behind Houston Methodist and the Mayo Clinic), but the #1 pediatric hospital on the list.

**Alan Jobe** was honored with the American Pediatric Society John Howland Award, the highest honor bestowed by the APS. The award will be presented during the APS Presidential Plenary at the Pediatric Academic Societies 2024 Meeting in Toronto, Ontario in May.

Fellow **Joshua Sheak** received the Pediatric Physician Scientist Development program award through the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs.

Congratulations to **Amy Nathan** who was elected President of the Cincinnati Children's Medical Staff.

**Jae Kim** was this year's Medical Honoree in the March of Dimes Signature Chef Gala event.

**Stephanie Merhar** was awarded an NIH supplement.

**Laura Ward** received an AAP Section on Breastfeeding Education Grant Award.

**Shelby Steinmeyer**, 3rd year fellow, received an AAP Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award.

**Samantha Simpson**, 3rd year fellow, received a CCHMC Young Investigator Diversity Research Award.

**Meredith Smith** was appointed to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's new Maternal Mental Health Task Force Subcommittee.

We would like to recognize the following neonatologists promoted in the past six months: **Heather Kaplan** and **Stephanie Merhar** were promoted to Professor; **Alan Kenny, Maria Barnes-Davis,** and **Kevin Dufendac** were promoted to Associate Professor.

Cincinnati Children's is the first pediatric hospital to install the Ascent 3T neonatal magnetic resonance imaging system, a groundbreaking type of MRI developed by physicist **Charles Dumoulin.**

Cincinnati Children's Hospital has a robust Neonatal Kidney Program. The program serves as the lead site for the ICONIC study, a multicenter, multidisciplinary international collaborative with 33 sites aimed at improving outcomes of neonates receiving continuous renal replacement therapy. To date, 23 infants have received Carpediem therapy at CCHMC, representing nearly 25% of all patients treated in the US.



The Cincinnati Children's Level II Fellowship Program has graduated three physicians: **Megan Ranck**, **Annemarie Kelly**, and **Emily Willey**. This program is designed to help develop procedural and diagnostic skills for physicians to provide delivery room and ongoing care for moderately ill and preterm infants.

**Cara Slagle** presented "AKI Vulnerability of Neonatal Kidneys and Solutions" at NEPHQUEST 2023 held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India in September.

**Stefanie Riddle** presented "Neonatal Outcomes within the Children's Hospitals Neonatal Consortium Following Fetal MMC Surgery" at the 40th Annual International Fetal Medicine and Surgical Society Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Jaе Kim** presented "Improving the Prevention, Diagnosis and Medical Treatment of NEC" at the AAP NCE joint session of SONPM and SOGHN on Updates in the Care of Infants with Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases held in Washington, DC.

Cincinnati Children's co-sponsored the NEC Symposium 2023, held in San Diego, CA, which was a huge success despite a last minute change in venue. A post-conference summary can be found at [necsociety.org](https://necsociety.org). The next conference will be held in the fall of 2025 in Chicago.

The 2023 Annual Meeting for Society for Craniofacial Genetics and Developmental Biology was held at Cincinnati Children's on October 10-12, 2023.

NEOFEST 2024: Family Centered Care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit will be held at Cincinnati Children's on March 8, 2024.

*Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University, Columbus*

**Jon Slaughter** and **Carl Backes** have been appointed Co-Directors of the Ohio Perinatal Research Network.

**Patrick Gallagher** joined us from Yale University and is the new Director of the Center for Perinatal Research.

**Gurpreet Kaur**, after completing her neonatology fellowship, started as fellow in the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital. This one-year, one-of-a-kind advanced fellowship program is directed by **Sudarshan Jadcherla**. Scholars learn about investigating complex NICU feeding problems using high resolution manometry, pH-impedance testing, neonatal aerodigestive and pulmonary assessment, and development of personalized management strategies.

**Jenny Bellodas** will join as faculty in the Division of Neonatology and the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program at the Nationwide Children's Hospital in March 2024. She has completed a formal one-year advanced fellowship in the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program.

**Sudarshan Jadcherla** was recently awarded an R01 by the NIH/NIDDK to undertake a pathophysiology-based clinical trial for evaluation and management of gastroesophageal reflux disease in infants.

Diagnostic criteria and therapeutic options for high-risk NICU infants are addressed in this study.

**Carl Backes** is the contact MPI on an NIH grant entitled, "1/2 CORD-CHD: Clamp OR Delay among Neonates with Congenital Heart Disease."

*UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Cleveland*

The 12th edition of Fanaroff and Martin's two volume *Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine* will be published on schedule by Elsevier in Spring 2024. The co-editorship of this text by **Richard Martin** and **Avroy Fanaroff** dates back over 40 years to 1983. It would not exist if it were not for the timely commitment of so many US and international contributors.

**Mary Nock**, together with fellow **Nadine-Stella Achenjang** and occupational therapist **Sheri Ricciardi**, received a \$10k grant from the Rainbow Babies and Children's Foundation Board of Trustees for their QI work on safe sleep in the NICU and for development of an intensive safe sleep class including simulation for NICU parents. The funds will go towards take-home sleep swaddle sacks for infants whose families participate in the class.

We are excited to have four new fellows join our team in July of 2024! **Kristen Lambert** is from University of Cincinnati. **Shreya Patel** is from Memorial Health, Savannah, GA. **Kayla Schlosser** and **Diana Vasilakos** are from University of Akron.

**Cynthia Bearer** began her 8th year as Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatric Research*, the official journal of the American Pediatric Society, the European Society of Pediatric Research and the Society for Pediatric Research. During her tenure, the two-year impact factor has risen from 2.76 to 3.6 and submissions to the journal have increased from 752 to 1266 this year. Neonatology remains the topic of the highest number of submissions.

## District VI: Joshua Petrikin

### ILLINOIS

*Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's and Prentice Women's Hospitals, Chicago*

We were excited to welcome **Tonia Branche** as a new faculty member this year.

Congratulations to **Cassie Montoya** on her promotion to Assistant Professor and **Kerri Machut** on her promotion to Associate Professor.

Two of our neonatologists received 2023 Department of Pediatrics Excellence Awards. Congratulations to **Arika Gupta** (Education) and **Aaron Hamvas** (Scholarship).

**Maria Dizon** was appointed Co-Chair of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine's Women Faculty Organization. She is also a member of the Northwestern University Faculty Senate.

The Division of Neonatology at Lurie Children's Hospital (**Aaron Hamvas, m-PI**) and their Maternal-Fetal Medicine colleagues at Northwestern University (**Lynn Yee, m-PI**) were selected as a site for the NIH Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes. In collaboration with Hackensack Meridian Medical Center in New Jersey, they are one of 14 new sites to develop prospective longitudinal pregnancy/childhood cohorts that will serve as a foundation to identify early determinants of child health.

### IOWA

*University of Iowa, Iowa City*

**Regan Giesinger** was posthumously awarded the University of Iowa Clinician of the Year Award.

**Tarah Colaizy** was elected Chair of the NICHD Neonatal Research Network Publications Subcommittee.

**John Dagle**, **Danielle Rios**, and **Lindsey Knake** co-chaired the very successful Annual Iowa Neonatology Day with participation from a statewide audience. The theme was "Lifelong Care of the Extremely Premature Infant," and the invited speaker was **Kara Goss** (UT Southwestern).

**Lindsey Knake** was re-elected to and voted Vice Chair for the Epic Neonatology Steering Board.

**Lindsey Knake** was awarded a Savvy Ferentz research grant to study the value of machine learning in predicting extubation success.

**Julie Lindower** is Co-PI on a CDC grant entitled, "Cooperative Agreements to Support State-Based Safe Motherhood and Infant Health Initiative Programs," which will support the creation and maintenance of a single Iowa Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

**Patrick McNamara** was named the Regan Giesinger Endowed Professor of Neonatology.

**Adrienne Rahde Bischoff** received the Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography designation. She was also elected to Society of Pediatric Research.

**Adrienne Rahde Bischoff** was appointed a standing member of the Neonatal Hemodynamics Advisory to the PAS Neonatal Hemodynamics Club and was appointed Co-Chair of the Academic Committee of the Neonatal Hemodynamics Research Center.

**Danielle Rios** was appointed a standing member of the Neonatal Hemodynamics Advisory to the PAS Neonatal Hemodynamics Club and was elected to serve on the leadership team of the Neonatal Hemodynamics Specialty Interest Group at the American Society of Echocardiography.

**TJ Boly** was awarded a Savvy Ferentz research grant to study the impact of chorioamnionitis on lung inflammation and the development of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in extremely premature infants.

**Samuel Wong** was named Interim Medical Director for the Neonatal Transport Team.

**Stephanie Lee** was appointed the Co-Director of the Iowa Neonatal Neurocritical Care program.

**Jeremy Sandgren** (2nd year fellow, Bermick Lab) was awarded the Frederic M. Kenny Memorial Award given for outstanding research presentation by a fellow at Midwest SPR.

**Jessie Knobbe** (Bermick Lab) received the 2023 Student Award at Midwest SPR for her project, "Murine Chorioamnionitis Alters the Neonatal Immune Response to Respiratory Syncytial Virus."

**Malika Karimi** (Iowa Hemodynamics Lab) was awarded the 2023 MidWest Pediatric Cardiology Society award for her research, "Echocardiographic Evaluation of Left Atrial Volumes in Comparison to Left Atrial to Aortic Root Ratio in Premature Neonates and Infants with Patent Ductus Arteriosus."

## MINNESOTA

*Children's Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul/Coon Rapids*

We are pleased that **Jameel Winter** joined the practice in January 2024. Following his graduation from the University of Virginia NPM Fellowship, Jameel had been faculty in the Division of Neonatology at the University of Minnesota where his focus was in neonatal global health, having developed a longstanding relationship with The Lake Clinic and Chenla Children's Healthcare in Cambodia. He has extensive experience in medical education and has worked with the AAP on development of global health curricula and resources.

*Mayo Clinic, Rochester*

The Division of Neonatal Medicine welcomed two new faculty members. **Amara Heard Stittum** joined in August. Dr. Heard Stittum completed her fellowship in NPM at the University of Vermont and completed her residency in pediatrics at St. Louis University. She has academic interests in global health and medical education. **Brianna Leigh** joined in September. Dr. Leigh completed her fellowship at the University of Utah and completed her residency in pediatrics at Mayo Clinic. Prior to joining Mayo Clinic, she was in practice at Sanford Medical Center Fargo. Dr. Leigh is a published investigator in the field of neonatal hematology.

**Jennifer Fang** was awarded an R01 grant from the NICHD for "The TELENEO Trial: A Multicenter Trial of Telemedicine for Advanced Neonatal Resuscitations in Community Hospitals."

**William Carey** and **Candice Hobbs** returned to the Republic of Georgia to provide education on advanced neonatal and pediatric imaging techniques, necrotizing enterocolitis, and peripherally inserted central catheters.

*University of Minnesota, Minneapolis*

**Catherine Bendel** received the University of Minnesota Graduate Medical Education Lifetime Achievement Award when she stepped down after 25 years as the Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program Director. Johannah Scheurer is now the PD.

**Raghavendra Rao** received the 2023 Midwest Society for Pediatric Research Founders Award at the 2023 annual meeting in October in Chicago. The Award is in recognition of his

contributions to the development of the careers of academic pediatricians and advancement of pediatric research.

Fellow **Sarah Swenson** received the AAP/VON Scholar Award and a Best Abstract Award at the AAP NCE.

**Phu Tran** was invited as a keynote speaker at the Latin America DOHaD Society Congress in Chile and organized the US DOHaD Society Annual Meeting in Kansas City. He was also gave a symposium talk at the International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology meeting in London.

**Phu Tran** was invited to serve as ad hoc reviewer for NIH Study Sections MNG and ZRG1-CN-T.

## MISSOURI

*Children's Mercy Kansas City*

We welcomed our new NPM fellows in July 2023. **Trevor Cabrera** joined us after practicing as a pediatric hospitalist for two years after completing his residency at University of Texas Health Houston. **Carlie Gatlin** joined after completing her residency at University of Oklahoma. **John Morelli** returned to his hometown of Kansas City after completing his residency at Vanderbilt University. In addition, our fellowship welcomed a unique opportunity when **Kedar Tilak** joined us after completing his residency at the Brooklyn Hospital Center in NY. Dr. Tilak will do a combined neonatology-infectious disease fellowship.

Our Division welcomed new faculty this academic year, **Jacob Ward** and **Susan McAnany**, both of whom completed their Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship with us at Children Mercy Kansas City.

**Brian Carter** continues to teach and advocate for perinatal palliative care both nationally and internationally. He was an invited speaker at the International Conference on Perinatal Palliative Care in Bologna, Italy in October, organized and moderated by **Chiara Locatelli**. He was a virtual faculty speaker at the 2nd Colombian Conference on Palliative Care in Bogota, sponsored by the Association of Colombian Neonatology in November, moderated by **Susy Niño**.

**Venkatesh Sampath** and team have been awarded a two-year Paul Henson Award for the proposal, "Immunogenetics of Neonatal HSV disease." The research follows up on prior work from the lab, which discovered that severe forms of neonatal herpes simplex infections are potential phenotypes for inborn errors in innate immune signaling. The study will combine genome wide sequencing with ScRNA sequencing and functional assays in brain enteroids and fibroblasts to determine the immunogenetic basis of neonatal HSV disease.

**Venkatesh Sampath** gave two presentations at the recent NEC Society international meeting.

**Lovya George** recently became board certified in Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine.

**Gangaram (Sanjay) Akangire** was recently elected to the Society of Pediatric Research and was an invited professor at the 19th Annual Mahaneocon Conference, in Solapur, Maharashtra, India.

The Children's Mercy ECMO Team was re-designated a Platinum Center of Excellence by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) this past October. The Platinum level is the highest level of recognition that exists within ELSO. The ECMO Program continues to grow and innovate each year. The team continues to develop a robust rehabilitation program for older children such as ambulatory ECMO, and in infants, removal of endotracheal tubes to allow for PO feedings while on ECMO support. The ECMO transport team continues to be active with transport and regular simulation training. The team also has developed a robust research QI, hiring the first full time ECMO QI Coordinator this year. Active research projects include: bivalirudin cost analyses in infants and children, awake ECMO and rehab, and neuroimaging using portable MRI for patients on ECMO.

*Washington University Division of Newborn Medicine/St. Louis Children's Hospital*

Our ECMO Team was awarded the ELSO Center of Excellence Platinum Level this year. This level is given to those centers that have achieved the highest scores across criteria encompassing workforce, knowledge, quality and family focus among others.

Washington University/Barnes Jewish partners at Memorial Hospital, Shiloh, IL (**Shawn O'Conner**, Medical Director), received four awards at the 11th Annual ILPQC Conference including Birth Equity QI Excellence Award, Neonatal Abstract of Excellence Award for work on neonatal jaundice, and 2023 Best Neonatal Project Implementation.

**Anna Lijowska** was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

**Beverly Brozanski** was installed as the Susan and James C. Gould Professor of Pediatric Quality and Safety.

**Barbara Warner** was named to the Executive Board of the North American Fetal Therapy Network.

**Ellen Schill** received the 2023 WUSM Kornfeld-Mallinckrodt Fellowship Award for her research on the effects of early life antibiotic exposure on the postnatal development of the enteric nervous system. She was also selected as junior president for the Midwest SPR.

**Lila Nolan** was awarded the departmental Child Health Research Center Health (K12) grant examining the role of the gut microbiota dysbiosis as a mechanism underlying antibiotic associated bone marrow suppression.

**Danielle Alfano** was awarded an NIH K08 award examining ADAM10 as a molecular specifier of sepsis.

**Erin Hickey** was named Assistant Director for the Washington University American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Care Medicine Fellowship Grant Program.

**Jennifer Wambach** was awarded funding from the St. Louis Children's Hospital Foundation for the inaugural Wiedemann-Rautenstrauch Syndrome/Neonatal Progeroid Syndrome Clinical Research Day and Family Symposium that drew families from across the country and internationally to meet with clinical experts,

interact with other affected families, and learn about relevant research on this ultra-rare disease.

**Jennifer Wambach** serves as Co-PI for the NIH Undiagnosed Disease Network (UDN) Clinical Site at Washington University and recently received a UDN sub-award to apply long-read sequencing to increase diagnostic success among UDN participants whose clinical phenotypes remain unsolved after whole genome sequencing.

**Jennifer Wambach** received funding from the WUSM Center for Drug Discovery to identify pharmacologic correctors for ABCA3 deficiency, the most common monogenic cause of lethal neonatal respiratory failure among term infants.

**Zach Vesoulis** was awarded an NIH R18 grant, “POWS for NOWS: Using Physiobiomarkers as an Objective Tool for Assessing the Withdrawing Infant.”

**Cynthia Ortinau** was invited for platform presentation at the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery regarding analysis from the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative for which she serves as Vice-Chair.

**Gillian Pet** was accepted into the competitive Association of American Medical Colleges Early Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Seminar for 2024.

**Kylie Bushroe** was selected as one of two national fellows of the Children’s Hospital Neonatal Consortium (CHNC) and recently presented her research at the CHNC national meeting in Denver, CO in October 2023.

Welcome to our newly named fellows for July 2024: **Samer Bou Karroum** (Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center), **Trisha Khambadkone** (Washington University in St. Louis/St. Louis Children’s Hospital), **Nicole Majachani** (University of Wisconsin), **Karen Schaeffer** (NYC Health + Hospitals Jacobi of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine), **Sydney Sherman** (University of Connecticut), and **Margaret Urschler** (Washington University in St. Louis/St. Louis Children’s Hospital). We are excited to have them start their neonatology careers with us!

## NEBRASKA

*Bryan Health, Lincoln*

**Craig Sitzman** was appointed Chair of Women’s and Children’s Health and Pediatrics Division Chair at Bryan Health in Lincoln, NE.

*University of Nebraska, Omaha*

Senior fellow **Shannon Haines** was awarded Outstanding Child Advocate of the Year from the Nebraska AAP Chapter for her work with Nebraska Advocates for Child Health.

**Monti Sharma** will join our practice at UNMC in January 2024 after completing neonatology and pediatric pulmonary fellowships at Lurie Children’s Hospital and UNMC respectively.

**Ann Anderson Berry** was elected to the American Pediatric Society’s class of 2024.

## District VII: John Loyd

### ARKANSAS

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences/  
Arkansas Children’s Hospital, Little Rock*

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin is awarding \$50 million of opioid settlement funds to Arkansas Children’s to pioneer one of the nation’s most ambitious research efforts dedicated to opioids’ impact on children. The National Center for Opioid Research and Clinical Effectiveness (NCOR) will position Arkansas as a national leader in understanding the impacts of the opioid crisis on the fetus, newborn and developing children. **Richard (Whit) Hall, Jared Beavers, Tara Venable, Clare Nesmith, and Gwen White** of the Section of Neonatology collaborated on writing the grant and will help lead this effort.

**Robert Arrington** started his 50th year at UAMS/ACH on July 31, 2023.

**Misty Virmani** was appointed by the Dean of the College of Medicine to be the Executive Medical Director of the UAMS Milk Bank.

**Bobby McGehee** received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentorship.

**Misty Virmani, David Matlock and Vikas Chowdhary** were promoted to Associate Professor at UAMS.

**Richard (Whit) Hall** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ronald McDonald House for his support and work with this organization over the years. He also was elected a Fellow in the Every Town Survivor Network for gun safety.

**Angela Chandler and Megha Sharma** were elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

**Robert Lyle** was invested as the recipient and steward of the Rockefeller Endowed Chair for Children with Special Healthcare Needs.

**Ankita Shukla** received a K12 award for her work, “Persistent Effects of Intrauterine Growth Restriction on Infant Brain Development: A Comparative MEG Study.”

UAMS/ACH Department of Pediatrics bestowed the following awards to these members of the Section of Neonatology: the Billy Thomas Diversity and Health Equity Award to **Carla Brown**, the Resident Medical Educator of the Year Award to **Jared Beavers**, and the Undergraduate Medical Educator of the Year Award to **Gwenevere White**.

### MISSISSIPPI

*University of Mississippi Medical Center,  
Jackson*

We have been elected to join the NICHD Neonatal Research Network. **Abhay Bhatt** is the Site PI and **Bolaji Famuyide** is the alternate PI. **Courtney Walker** is the Follow-Up PI and **Leigh Campbell** supports her as the Director of our Developmental Follow-Up Clinic.

**Bolaji Famuyide** and **Ira Holla** will serve as site Co-PIs on a sub-award for an NIH R01 award titled, “Implementation of a Social Determinants of Health Screening and Referral Model in the NICU.”

**Billy Mink** and **Bolaji Famuyide** will serve as site Co-PIs on a sub-award for an NIH R01 award titled, “Get Social Media and Risk-Reduction Training (GET SMART).”

**Maher Ajour** was awarded funding as an early-stage investigator in the ECHO IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network. The funding will provide protected time to be mentored and to participate in the Network to learn team science and to prepare him for a career in clinical investigations.

**Leigh Campbell** was selected for the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Leadership Academy, a yearlong program that provides participants with transferable leadership skills, mentoring from breastfeeding experts, and experience leading a project that advances breastfeeding medicine.

Through funding from the WKKF-sponsored Express Yourself Mississippi NICU Breastmilk Project, **Bolaji Famuyide** secured two minivans to provide mobile lactation and NICU developmental follow-up clinic services in rural locations across the state.

**Angelle Klar** was promoted to Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and was appointed the President of the UMMC Chapter of the AAMC Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS). **Rebecca Moore** was appointed Membership Lead and **Sarah Nelin** was appointed Trainee Representative for UMMC Chapter GWIMS.

We welcomed a new fellow, **Rameshkumar Dihora**.

The Division welcomes **Maher Ajour** (University of Kentucky) and **Juan Velasquez** (USC) as neonatologists at our Jackson campus, and **Loro Adeleke** (University of Tennessee) at our outreach site in Tupelo.

We welcome **Justine Ibale** (University of Mississippi) and **Rosalyn May** (University of Mississippi) as neonatal hospitalists at our Jackson campus.

The Division hosted a lecture series on ECMO including an ECMO boot camp. Special gratitude to **Billie Short** and **Sarah Keene**, who were our Keynote Speakers.

### OKLAHOMA

*The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City*

We have opened a new Level 2 nursery within the OUHSC complex, which increased total bed capacity to 104 with an anticipated 107 beds once fully operational.

The NPM Fellowship Program, led by Fellowship Director **Erynn Bergner** and Associate Fellowship Director **Douglas Dannaway**, was approved to expand to nine positions for the 2024-2025 academic year, and filled all three open positions in the recent match.

**Trent Tipple** received the AMA Women Physicians Section Inspiration Award in September for his support of women in the field of neonatology.



**Kathryn Burge**, with Co-Investigators **Hala Chaaban** and **Catherine Hunter**, was awarded an R21 from the NIH entitled, “Role of Creatine Metabolism in Necrotizing Enterocolitis.”

**Peter Vitiello** was invited to chair the Environmental Determinants of Disease NIH Study Section in November.

**Trassannee “Pearl” Chatmethakul** was invited to give a talk entitled, “Case Studies in Neonatal Physiology,” at the Dr. Regan Giesinger Clinical Cardiopulmonary Physiology for the Care of the Sick Newborn Course hosted by the Neonatal Hemodynamics Research Center and Pan-American Hemodynamics Collaborative in October.

**Ulana Pogribna** was appointed Pediatric Safety Medical Director for Oklahoma Children’s Hospital.

## TEXAS

*Dallas South Pediatrics*

**Arpitha Chiruvolu** has been elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Priya Sharma** joined the neonatology practice in August 2023. She completed her fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern.

*Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston*

**Mohan Pammi** is the PI for “Machine Learning and Multiomics for Predictive Models and Biomarker Discovery in Preterm Infants.”

**Charleta Guillory** was elected as Chair of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies, the state perinatal QI collaborative. Dr. Guillory was also appointed to the Pediatric Advisory Committee by the Office of the Commissioner to the FDA for five years effective July 2023.

**Charleta Guillory** is the recipient of the 2023 Charles W. Daeschner Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Pediatric Society. This is the highest award bestowed by the organization and recognizes Dr. Guillory’s lifetime contributions to the health and welfare of children. At the meeting, she also received the AAP Special Achievement Award in recognition of her exceptional commitment to serving the needs of Texas infants and families.

*The University of Texas Dell Medical School, Austin*

The University of Texas Dell Medical School and Dell Children’s Hospital team held a two-day Point of Care Ultrasound course in Austin, jointly with faculty from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, for 45 learners from 19 states.

*The University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio*

**Alice Gong** was elected President of the Texas Pediatric Society in 2023.

**Margarita Vasquez** was elected to serve in the ACGME Review Committee for Pediatrics for 2024.

**Cynthia Blanco** was elected to continue to serve on the Committee on Nutrition for the AAP and is chairing the Perinatal Nutrition and Metabolism Club session at the Pediatric Academic Society Meeting in Toronto in 2024.

NPM fellow **Noah Bierwirth** was accepted to the APS SPR Journeys and Frontiers in Pediatric Research Program.

*The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston*

Renovation of the John Sealy Hospital into a Women and Children’s Hospital is reaching completion with the move to the new NICU planned for January 16, 2024. The unit will have a total of 61 beds with single and double patient rooms.

**Sunil Jain** is now the Fellowship Program Director and plans are underway to increase the number of neonatal fellows from one per year of training to two per year.

**Charles Mullins** joined the Neonatology Division in July.

UTMB is now affiliated with UT Houston as a satellite participant in the NICHD Neonatal Network clinical trials group.

## District VIII: James Barry

Please join us in the splendor of Banff, Canada for the 47th Annual AAP District VIII SONPM Conference on June 20-23, 2024. It will take place at the breathtaking and family friendly Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

## COLORADO

*University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora*

**Stephanie Bourque** became the inaugural Niermeyer Family Distinguished Professorship in Neonatology Chair.

**Theresa Powell** was invited to give the Lucille Hurley Distinguished Lecture in Nutrition and Development at the University of California, Davis, in January 2024.

**Jane Stremming** was awarded the Children’s Hospital Colorado Research Scholar Award 2023 and received the WSPR Abbott Nutrition Young Investigator Award.

**Paul Rozance** was elected President of the Perinatal Research Society and named to the Board of the Fetal and Neonatal Physiological Society.

**Stephanie Wesolowski** received the 2023 NORC Outstanding Faculty Award.

**Theresa Grover** was named as Associate Executive Director Children’s Hospitals Neonatal Consortium.

**Thomas Parker** was named the Vice Chair of Education, Department of Pediatrics for the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**Robert Dietz** and **Erica Wymore** were promoted to Associate Professor within the Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**Jason Gien** and **Clyde Wright** were promoted to Professor within the Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**Paula Dias Maia** won the 2023 WSPR-PROSPER Award in Diversity Research and the 2023-2024 WSPR Abbott Nutrition David W. Smith Pediatric Trainee Research Award.

**Nata Balasubramaniyan** has joined the research faculty.

## HAWAII

*Kapi’olani Medical Center, Honolulu*

**Charles Neal** will be stepping down from his role as the Division Head and Medical Director of the NICU. **Christopher Gibu** will be assuming the role of the Medical Director of the NICU.

**Alexandra Ramnath** is now the Division Head for Neonatology at the Hawai’i Pacific Health Medical Group.

**Sheree Kuo** has been formally named the Medical Director of Transport at Kapi’olani Medical Center and will be responsible for oversight of the pediatric and neonatal transport services.

Kapi’olani Medical Center for Women and Children’s Pediatric Heart Center continues to grow. The program has been doing pediatric heart surgeries since 1994, mostly in older pediatric patients. This will be the first year that neonatal open-heart surgery will be done at the Center.

*Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu*

**Michael Guindon** and **Cassandra Pekar** joined the neonatology group. They both finished their training at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

**Mathew Harrell** moved back to Washington DC to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and **Lee Brock** retired from the military and relocated to California.

The program will welcome two new trainees to begin the Joint UH/Tripler Fellowship Program starting in July 2024: **Elisabeth Young**, currently a neonatal hospitalist in Chicago, and **Abigail Cox** from the graduating class of pediatric residents at Tripler Army Medical Center.

## IDAHO

*Saint Luke’s Health System, Boise*

**Robert DiGeronimo** joined the neonatology group at SLHS.

SLHS was proud and excited to accept four residents into their inaugural Pediatric Residency class in the fall of 2023.

## UTAH

*Intermountain Healthcare/Primary Children’s Hospital/University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City*

**Luca Brunelli**, along with **Audrey R. Chapman** from UConn, presented at Primary Children’s Hospital Grand Rounds in December on, “Promoting Children’s Rights to Health and Well-Being.”

**Michelle Yang** was accepted into the Vice President’s Clinical and Translational Research Scholars Program, a two-year program that provides intensive mentorship and support to junior faculty committed to clinical or translational research careers.

**Elizabeth O'Brien** was promoted to Professor, Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine.

**Ryann Bierer** was promoted to Associate Professor, Sections of Neonatology and Palliative Care, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine.

**Nicholas Carr, Jessica Davidson, and Sabrina Malone-Jenkins** were promoted to Associate Professor, Section of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine.

## WASHINGTON

*University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle*

On July 1, 2023, **Craig Jackson**, a distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, transitioned to Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, acknowledging his lifetime contributions to our Division, Department, institutions, and the field.

**Ulrike Mietzsch** has been invited to join the Medical Advisory Board for HOPE for HIE starting the fall of 2023.

**Taylor Hendrixson** received a NIH K23 award for his study, "The Effect of the Maternal Plasma and Breastmilk Metabolome on the Infant Gut Microbiome and Growth."

Congratulations to **Rachel Umoren** for the R18 grant entitled, "Pediatric Transport Learning Laboratory (PTLL) Study," and for the TELENEO Trial: A Multicenter Trial of Telemedicine for Advanced Neonatal Resuscitations in Community Hospitals.

**Rebecca Stark** and **Mihai Puia-Dumitrescu** received The Academic Enrichment Fund for the study entitled, "Exploring Quality of Life for Survivors of CDH: A Prospective Cohort Study."

Congratulations to **Tommy Wood** for being selected as the highlighted Early Career Investigator for the January 2024 issue of *Pediatric Research*.

We are pleased to announce that **Christina Long** will assume the role of Interim Division Head for Clinical Operations, starting on January 1, 2024. In this capacity, Christina will continue to fulfill her responsibilities as the Medical Director of the NICU at Valley Medical Center.

**Steven Welty** retired on December 31, 2023. He has been a tremendous leader in our Division and will be missed. His legacy will most certainly endure for many years.

We are pleased to announce **Rachel Umoren** is now an elected member of the American Pediatric Society and **Krystle Perez** has been accepted as a core member of the Washington State Perinatal Collaborative.

**Mihai Puia-Dumitrescu** is the Chair-Elect of AAP District VIII SONPM. **Krystle Perez** will take over as the Washington state representative to District VIII.

**Megan Garrido** will join us as fellow after completing her residency at the University of New Mexico. She completed medical school at the University of Vermont and undergrad at Utah State. Megan's research has focused on brain activity in infants exposed to in-utero opioids and metabolic bone disease of prematurity.

**Rachel LaFontaine** is continuing with us after completing her residency at Seattle Children's. She completed medical school at UW and undergrad at Gonzaga. Rachel's residency research has been focused on access to donor human milk and health equity.

**Valeria Teano** will join us as fellow after completing her residency at the University of Colorado. She completed her medical school at Creighton and undergrad at UC San Diego. Val's research has looked into cannabis use in the perinatal period and she is part of the global health pathway at University of Colorado.

We are welcoming new attendings. **Carolyn Fall** will start on August 1, 2024 as a Clinical Assistant Professor. She is coming to us from the University California, San Diego. **Brennan Kim** will start on August 1, 2024 as Assistant Professor after finishing her fellowship at University of Washington. **Devin McKissic** will start with us on August 15, 2024 as a Clinical Assistant Professor after finishing her fellowship at University of Washington.

## District IX: Alexis Davis

## CALIFORNIA

*California Association of Neonatologists (CAN)*

The 30th Annual CAN/AAP District IX Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Conference, Cool Topics in Neonatology, and the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC) Pre-Conference will be held in a hybrid format with in-person and virtual attendance options on March 1-3, 2024. **Thomas Shimotake**, CAN President, and the Planning Committee have put together a great agenda for this conference. Due to popular demand, there are several themed breakout sessions similar to last year. The topics include hands-on sessions on POCUS, MIST/LISA techniques, and other topics such as wellness in the NICU. Pre-conference activities include the CPQCC Improvement-Palooza, which will focus on health equity improvement efforts, and the 20th annual Life after Fellowship Workshop, which is jointly sponsored by CAN and District IX SONPM. Please visit <https://medschool.ucla.edu/events/cool-topics-in-neonatology-symposium> for more details.

The CAN website, <http://canneo.org>, is being updated to provide information about the work of the research, practice/standards and membership subcommittees; conference information; archives from previous years' meetings; and membership renewals.

CAN continues to be actively involved in state advocacy efforts through its unique partnership with Children's Specialty Care Coalition to improve the health and wellbeing of infants and children in California and beyond.

*California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC)*

CPQCC has been awarded a NIH R01 grant to promote breastfeeding among Safety Net NICUs in California. With this grant, CPQCC plans to develop a community of learning among safety net NICUs, build QI capacity, and

better understand the factors that differentiate these NICUs and the care they provide. At the core of this effort will be a CPQCC-led QI collaborative, MOMMS (Motivating and Optimizing Maternal Milk in Safety Net NICUs), free of charge to participating NICUs. To learn more and to register your interest please visit: <https://www.cpqcc.org/improvement/current-projects/momms>.

In November 2023, CPQCC revised a QI toolkit for primary care of preterm infants and children that serves as an easily accessible reference for busy primary care providers in a clinic setting. This revised toolkit highlights screening requirements for preterm infants and children; consolidates recommendations from AAP, ACIP, and CDC (i.e., new RSV prevention recommendations); and includes a supplemental NICU Discharge Provider Template for NICUs. This toolkit can be found at <https://www.cpqcc.org/preterm-primary-care-toolkit>.

CPQCC's 5th annual Improvement-Palooza, Roadmap to Community Engagement: Neonatal Equity and Advocacy, is designed to inform teams about the critical importance of health-related social needs and the impact these have on families, equity, health and mental health. Attendees will learn how to develop a multifaceted approach to promote health equity and understand the impact of racial disparities across the continuum of care delivery.

*Cedars Sinai/Harbor UCLA*

**Kanika Deora, Kinsa Thi Oo, Keerthana Srinivasan, and Anusree Unnikrishnan** will be joining The Harbor UCLA-Cedars Sinai Neonatal Perinatal Medicine Fellowship as 1st year fellows in July 2024.

*Children's Hospital of Orange County*

We are excited to welcome two new physician additions to our group: **Izabella Oluwole** completed fellowship at Loma Linda University and joined in September 2023; **Ayan Rajgarhia** completed fellowship at Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and will join the group in early 2024.

CHOC hosted the 21st Annual Academic Day for Neonatologists in person at the Westin Anaheim Resort on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The Planning Committee included **Vijay Dhar, Terrie Inder, Virender Rehan, and Rangasamy Ramanathan**. Topic highlights included surfactant replacement therapy, cardiovascular care in preterm infants, antenatal steroids, probiotic therapy for NEC, diagnostic errors, and human milk. Save the date for next year's meeting on November 7, 2024! Unique this year, Academic Day shared an event week and venue with CHOC's inaugural meeting, NeoBrain: An Interactive Educational Forum. The event opened with a welcome from **Joseph Volpe**, and the program included discussion on EEGs, NIRS, cranial ultrasound, MRI, neonatal seizures, preterm encephalopathy, HIE, stroke, neonatal neurosurgery and more. We anticipate the next gathering to take place in February 2025.

*Kaiser Permanente, Southern California*

The Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Virtual Grand Rounds series from Southern California Permanente Medical Group has concluded its



2nd year, with 11 seminars offered. Webinars will resume in 2024 on February 20 with **Terrie Inder** discussing “Neurological Outcomes of the Preterm Infant: How Can We Improve Them in 2024?” Join us on the 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Contact ClaraSong@me.com for details.

**Fu-Shang Chou** presented his work on postnatal weight growth trajectory in preterm infants born less than 34 4/7 weeks at the 2023 SONPM Scientific Program at AAP NCE. His work is now published and can be found at <https://nucugrowth.app>

**Kevin Rezaie** will take over as Chief of Neonatology at Panorama City Kaiser Permanente NICU. Many thanks to **Maria Fe Villosis** who completed her 12-year tenure as Panorama City Chief at the end of 2023.

**Clara Song** will oversee simulation team training for Critical Events in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine for the Kaiser Permanente NICUs in Southern California region. She will also co-chair the 2024 NeoPrep in Baltimore, MD on January 22-25, alongside **Jaе Kim**.

#### *Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital*

In celebrating 25 years of dedicated service, **Munaf Kadri**, one of the members of the founding board of the University Muslim Medical Association (UMMA) Community Clinic, was recently honored for his outstanding contributions to community healthcare. Commencing his journey in the aftermath of the 1992 riots, Dr. Kadri initiated the UMMA Community Clinic as a volunteer effort, transforming it from an abandoned building into a Federally Qualified Health Center across six locations, annually serving over 35,000 patients and in the process, growing from two to one hundred employees. This milestone aligns with UMMA’s 25th anniversary, highlighting its unwavering commitment to delivering comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, and community services. Dr. Kadri’s impactful leadership has evolved from a dedicated volunteer physician to his role as Chairman of the Board and Chair of Development and Quality Improvement, steering UMMA’s growth and success. Dr. Kadri’s influence extends globally, evidenced by his leadership in mission-driven healthcare projects, establishing clinics in South Asia, and providing essential care in the Middle East. National recognition bestowed upon him includes the US Congress Certificate of Recognition and honors from the California State Assembly.

Loma Linda Publishing Company recently marked the 5th anniversary of acquiring *Neonatology Today*, a peer-reviewed journal focused on Neonatology, Perinatology, and Pediatrics. The journal maintains a commitment to rigorous peer review of all submitted manuscripts and ensures timely reviews, responses to letters to the editor, and correction of erratum. Additionally, the company practices transparency by disclosing related conflicts of interest in published manuscripts. Notably, there are no charges for manuscript submission, review, processing of artwork, color, layout, or length. Publication in electronic or digital form is also provided at no cost. Furthermore, the company emphasizes ethical treatment in research involving humans and animals, including documentation of informed consent where applicable.

The Loma Linda Publishing Company is proud to host the 37th Annual Gravens Conference on the Environment of Care for High-Risk Newborns for the 3rd consecutive year. This year’s conference theme is The Power of Voice: Using Your Voice for Babies, Family, Staff, and Beyond. The event is scheduled to take place at the Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach, FL, from March 6-9, 2024. Additional registration information can be accessed at <https://paclac.org/https-paclac-org-gravens-conference>.

#### *Sharp Mary Birch, San Diego*

Sharp Neonatology welcomes **Samuel Zoucha**, who completed fellowship training in Utah and brings with him an interest in bioinformatics and clinical informatics.

Sharp Neonatal Research Institute (NRI) hosted the first Neonatal Research Network (NRN) meeting outside of Washington DC. We hosted over 80 investigators to see and tour our Sharp Simulation Center and Hospital. Sharp NRI is proud to be the first and only non-university affiliated site to join the NRN.

**Anup Katheria** and **Jenny Koo** were recently featured on the *Hand to Hold* podcast.

#### *Stanford University/Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Palo Alto*

We welcomed several new faculty to our group this year: **Nicole Anderson** has joined our satellite nurseries in the Central Coast; **Fatima Eskandar-Afshari** and **Anand Rajani** will be staffing our main NICU in Palo Alto; **Arishna Patel** has joined as a neonatal hospitalist.

**Krisa Van Meurs** will be retiring effective January 2024. She joined the Division in 1990 and has served in a multitude of roles, notably as ECMO Medical Director (1993-2023), Stanford NRN site PI (2006-2023), and the co-founder of our NeuroNICU (2014-2023). Krisa leaves an incredible legacy of mentorship and sponsorship for junior faculty in our Division. **Janene Fuerch** will assume the ECMO Medical Director Role, **Valerie Chock** will take on duties as the NRN PI for Stanford, and **Sonia Bonifacio** will be the Co-Director of the NeuroNICU.

We were delighted to welcome our new Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellows over the summer: **Igbagbosanmi “Sanmi” Oredein** (Michigan State), **Daphne Darmawan** (UC Davis), and **Cristina Gutierrez** (UCLA).

Our 2nd year fellow, **May Szeto**, was selected as a March of Dimes Physician Scientist Development Program Scholar.

**Sheila Razdan**, 3rd year fellow, received the AAP SONPM Young Investigator Award at the NCE in Washington, DC.

**Faith Myers** received the Western Society for Pediatric Research (WSPR) Reckitt/Mead Johnson Subspecialty Award to present at the 2024 WSPR meeting.

**Danielle Sharp** is presenting at the WSPR meeting, receiving the Western Association of Physicians/Western Society of Clinical Investigation Travel Award.

**Melissa Scala**, Fellowship Program Director, was elected to the Executive Council of the Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Directors.

**Lisa Bain** was promoted to Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and **Valerie Chock** was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

**Sonia Bonifacio** was elected to the American Pediatric Society and was also appointed the inaugural Faculty Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Strategic Initiatives by the Stanford Medicine Department of Pediatrics.

**Meera Sankar** was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Janene Fuerch** was elected to the national Executive Committee for the AAP Section on Advances in Therapeutics and Technology.

**Janene Fuerch** will serve as Co-PI on a \$7.5 million grant awarded through the US FDA Pediatric Device Consortia Grants Program. She will partner with colleagues at University of California, San Francisco to advance the development, production, and distribution of pediatric medical devices. An additional \$5+ million will come from other grants and philanthropic support for Stanford-based Impact1, which promotes device development for pediatric and maternal health technology around the world. (Dr. Fuerch is Co-Director of Impact1.)

The US FDA approved a new, non-invasive, continuous blood pressure monitor for infants that was developed by **Bill Rhine, Anoop Rao**, and PyrAmes Health Inc. (a Stanford spinoff digital health company). This wearable device, called Boppli, is designed to be equivalent to invasive arterial lines and intermittent, cuff-based methods for monitoring blood pressure.

The FDA recently granted Breakthrough Device Designation to an innovative enteral feeding tube system that was tested in a clinical trial at Stanford by **Anoop Rao** and Gravitas Inc. This advanced feeding tube system is designed to avoid airway misplacement, monitor feeding patterns, and detect instances of reflux.

The TeleNeo Program at Stanford Medicine Children’s Health was recently launched. In this program led by **Ritu Chitkara**, Stanford Children’s attending neonatologists will be able to provide remote consultations 24/7 with select hospitals via a telehealth device, with the goal of ensuring all babies have access to high-level expertise in the delivery room and newborn nursery.

#### *UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland*

**Priscilla Joe** retired at the end of 2023. Priscilla served in many roles at Children’s Hospital Oakland. She was the ECMO Medical Director 2005-2016, Associate Medical Director of the NICU 2007-2012, Medical Director of the NICU 2013-2023, Director of NICU QI 2007-2023, and Director of the NICU Therapeutic Hypothermia Program 2007-2023. She has been a mentor to multiple pediatric residents with their research and quality projects.

Effective January 2024, **Leslie Lusk** will become the Medical Director of the NICU at Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, **James Anderson** will become the Associate Medical Director of the NICU, **Tim Sanders** will become the NeuroNICU Medical Director, and **Rebecca Carter** will become the NICU Quality Director.



**Imran Khan** joined East Bay Newborn Specialists in August 2023, which serves Children's Hospital Oakland, Alta Bates Summit in Berkeley, and John Muir Walnut Creek. Imran recently completed his fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at UCSF.

*University of California, Davis*

We welcomed two new fellows to the program this year, **Kaquanta Barlow** and **Paulina Hume**.

UC Davis Health received a Telehealth Equity Catalyst Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges for our efforts to advance health care equity and telehealth.

**Kristin Hoffman** was recognized as a collaborator for her work on expanding UC Davis Health's NICU Virtual Family-Centered Rounds program across diverse language groups. The program, implemented in March 2020 as a pilot trial, engages families in multidisciplinary bedside rounds for hospitalized patients, giving parents and caregivers a chance to be virtually present at their baby's bedside through a telehealth platform.

**Deepika Sankaran** was awarded two research grants for her work on resuscitation biology: a 2023 NRP grant on "Effect of Saline Bolus on Cerebral Hemodynamics during Neonatal Resuscitation in a Preterm Model," and an NIH R03 award, "Neonatal Hypovolemic Cardiac Arrest: Role of Early Rapid Volume Resuscitation."

**Satyan Lakshminrusimha**, Chair and Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Pediatrician-in-Chief at UC Davis Children's Hospital, received the AAP Education Award for his work on the Council on Communications and Media, the Committee on Pediatric Education and the Committee on Continuing Medical Education. He was among 60 pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and trainees who were recognized this fall.

**Kara Kuhn-Riordan** completed the Leadership Academy through the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine.

**Steven McElroy** served as President of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research and presided over the annual meeting in Chicago this past October. He has been invited to speak at the Special Interest Group for necrotizing enterocolitis in London in April 2024.

*University of California, San Diego*

UCSD welcomes the following faculty to the Division: **Nana Matoba**, **Katherine Nyman**, **Stephannie Vollmer**, **Jamie Overbey**, and **Henry Lee**. Dr. Lee joined as the UCSD Jacobs Medical Director and Co-Clinical Director of the UCSD/Rady Division of Neonatology. **David Golembeski** and **Riad Mardoum** have retired.

**Jose Honold** received the 12th annual Comunidad Award in Sept 2023 for his contributions to San Diego's Hispanic community.

**Kathy Weiss**, **Richard Song** and the Rancho Springs NICU team received the 2023 CPQCC Ten Point Nine QI Team Award.

**Yvonne Vaucher** received the Hillman Olness Global Partner Award at the AAP NCE meeting in October 2023.

**David McCulley** was recently appointed SPR Ambassador for the North American Regionals.

**Henry Lee** was appointed Associate Editor of the *Textbook of Neonatal Resuscitation*.

**Eniko Sajti** received an NIH R01 grant, "Role of Neonatal Lung Macrophages in Mediating Resilience to Hyperoxia Induced Lung Injury via TREM2 Signaling."

The UCSD Human Milk Institute was launched in March 2023.

**Sandra Leibel** received a developmental grant from the UCSD PREPARE Institute and the Human Milk Institute to encourage multidisciplinary breakthroughs in pandemic prevention and human milk research.

We will be hosting the 2nd Human Milk Institute Symposium at Scripps Seaside Forum, March 18-19, 2024. (<https://hmi.ucsd.edu/symposium/index.html>)

### District X: Ravi Patel

## ALABAMA

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

**Wally Carlo** and **Elwyn Chomba** received funding for the UAB Center for NICHD Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research.

**Joseph B. Philips III** was honored by UAB for 43 years of service!

**Ariel Salas**, Associate Professor, is the lead author on the Impact Article of the Month for August 2023 for *Evidence-Based Neonatology (EBNEO)*, "Early Human Milk Fortification in Infants Born Extremely Preterm: A Randomized Trial."

**Vivek Lal** was given the 2023 Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship.

**Samuel Gentle**, **Jegen Kandasamy** and **Vivek Shukla** were elected to the Society of Pediatric Research.

**Vivek Shukla** was featured as the highlighted Early Career Investigator in the August edition of *Pediatric Research*. He also received the Department of Pediatrics Faculty Achievement Award for Research.

**Allison Black** received the Department of Pediatrics Faculty Achievement Award for Community Educator.

**Hannah Hightower** was elected to Clinical Faculty Council

Three new faculty joined as Assistant Professors: **Hope Arnold** (fellowship at Emory University), **Vivian Valcarce** (fellowship at University of Florida Gainesville), and **Zaki Yazdi** (fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham).

## FLORIDA

*University of Florida, Gainesville*

After 37 years on faculty and 22 years as Chief of Neonatology at UF, **David Burchfield** has entered retirement but will still be involved in

education through his appointment as Professor Emeritus. Dr. Burchfield served as SONPM District X District Representative to the Executive Committee and is a past Chair of the Section.

**Catalina Bazacliu** was named Interim Chief of Neonatology.

**Marie Berg** was named Medical Director of the NICU at UF Health-Gainesville.

**Joe Neu** was awarded the Avroy Fanaroff Education Award from the Section at the 2023 NCE in Washington DC.

**Meredith Campbell Joseph** joined the faculty. Dr. Joseph, formerly on faculty at Virginia Commonwealth, studies the effects of BPD on cardiac remodeling.

*University of Miami*

New faculty include **Susana Agudelo Uribe** and **Rebecca Jones**, who both joined the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.

**Pankaj Agrawal** received the Batchelor Award for Excellence in Children's Health Research.

**April Tan** received a \$50k Batchelor Scholar Award.

**Augusto Schmidt** received a \$100k Batchelor Fellow Award.

**Eduardo Bancalari** was a Visiting Professor at Phoenix Children's, University of Arizona and also was a Visiting Professor and gave Neonatal Grand Rounds honoring **Ron Goldberg**, past Director UM-JMH NICU and Chief, Division of Neonatology at Duke University.

**Pankaj Agrawal** was a guest speaker on Telehealth Genomics in the NICU at the 42nd Annual Society of Genetic Counselors meeting, Chicago, IL.

**Eduardo Bancalari** and **Teresa del Moral** were guest speakers at the Primera Jornada Científica Sociedad Dominicana de Neonatología, Puerto Plata, República Dominicana.

**Pankaj Agrawal** was featured on CBS News regarding insurance coverage for genetic testing, in the *inventUM Magazine*, and highlighted in the APS Newsletter.

**Marta Galarza** was interviewed by Telemundo for an episode on Joseph, the Latino baby that survived born at 25 weeks.

The Division of Neonatology has launched a new Twitter/X account: @NEONATOLOGYUM.

We announce the following incoming fellows: **Adriana Hoffman** from Rainbow Babies and Children's, **Danielle Lemes** from UM-JMH, and **Angelica Trybulska** from University of Rochester.

**Silvia Vanbuskirk** retires after 35 years of dedication and service as a clinical research nurse.

**Bich Nguyen**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, is retiring after 32 years of dedicated service.

*Orlando Health Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies*

In July 2024, **Lavinia Cumpian** from Orlando Health Arnold Palmer Hospital and **Emilie Flament** from the University of South Carolina Greenville will be joining current fellows **Shannon Dunn**, **Alexandra Vega**, and **Gesca Borhardt**.

The fellowship began in 2022 using a community-based hospital teaching model directed by **Michael McMahan** and **Christa Matrone**.

We welcome the following physicians to our practice: **Jonathan Palma** has returned home from Stanford and serves as a Provider Informaticist for Orlando Health, Clinical Scientific Advisory Board Member for LactaLogics and Advisor for NeoPediX AG. **Lauren Ruoss**, who recently completed a fellowship in Neonatal Hemodynamics at the University of Iowa, will be the new Associate Medical Director for the NICU at Winnie Palmer, and is leading the POCUS and Neonatal Hemodynamics Programs. **Catherine Love** is returning to her hometown from practice in Miami and trained at the University of Illinois, Chicago. **Karla Diaz Ayllon** has joined from practice in Jacksonville and trained at University of Florida, Gainesville. **Paulina Krause** is from nearby Titusville, FL. She completed a fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH. **Daphne Pineda** attended college at Stetson University in Deland, FL and returns to Orlando from her fellowship at Medical College of Georgia, Augusta. **Zachary Anderson** is returning to his hometown and completed a fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN.

The NICU at Winnie Palmer has maintained its ranking among Best Children's Hospitals in Neonatology again for 2023-2024 and commemorated the 35th anniversary of its Neonatal ECMO Program. The 143-bed NICU covers two full floors of the hospital with 14,539 annual deliveries in FY 2023. The hospital is an ANCC Magnet Recognition Program® with an advanced Fetal Care Center and TJC Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care.

The NICU at Winnie Palmer has joined the Neonatal Hemodynamics Research Center and Tiny Baby Collaborative-International Research Group, led by **Thais Queliz** and including **Kathryn Winn**, **Michael McMahan**, **Samantha Estad**, and **Karla Diaz**, who care for extremely preterm infants using a team-based multidisciplinary model of care.

## GEORGIA

*Emory University School of Medicine and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta*

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston became the first AAP-designated Level IV unit in Georgia.

The Division of Neonatology at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta welcomes **Vedanta Dariya**, who joins as an Associate Professor and comes from UT Southwestern in Dallas. He brings a wealth of experience in neonatal transport, quality improvement, and in the management of infants with CDH and ECMO, and has been actively involved in a number of national focus groups through the CHNC.

**Mikki Pulju** will join as Assistant Professor from Cohen Children's where she led POCUS curriculum development and developed expertise in the diagnosis and management of AKI and led ICONIC (Improving Carpediem Outcomes in Neonates and Infants through Collaboration).

**Erica McArthur** will join as Assistant Professor following completion of her fellowship training at Emory. Her research interests focus on pulmonary vein stenosis among infants with severe BPD, which was funded by the CHNC.

**Puneet Sharma** will join as Assistant Professor after completing his fellowship training at Boston Children's this year. His clinical research focuses on the use of artificial intelligence to improve diagnosis and treatment through leveraging clinical data and imaging.

**Sheena Carter**, **Salathiel Kendrick**, **Jessica Roberts** and **Shilpa Vyas-Read** were promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

**Shannon Hamrick**, **Ravi Patel**, and **Anthony Piazza** were promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

**Ravi Patel** and **Anthony Piazza** were elected to the American Pediatric Society.

**Heidi Karpen** was elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

*Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University*

We welcomed **Ashleigh Rushing** as faculty in September 2023 following her neonatology fellowship at the University of Wisconsin.

**Brian Stansfield** was awarded \$808,500 from the Department of Defense for a grant entitled, "NF2/Merlin in Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells."

**Paul Mann** has been promoted to Professor and appointed Chair of the Georgia Chapter AAP Committee on the Fetus and Newborn.

Fellow **Victor Ayulo** received the 2024 SSPP David Oelberg Honorary Trainee Travel Award for his abstract entitled, "Subclinical Renal Injury Induced by AKI Persists and Impacts Pregnancy Outcomes in a Rat Model."

## The Section would like to thank the following sponsors:

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Perinatal Spring Workshop  
Women in Neonatology

### Chiesi

Women in Neonatology

## NEONATOLOGIST-LED ADVOCACY EFFORTS RESULT IN FIRST US-BASED FATWA ISSUED ENCOURAGING THE USE OF PDHM FOR MUSLIM INFANTS

*Nancy Fahim MD*  
*Leah Jordan MD*

In the Islamic faith, breastfeeding a non-biological child establishes a familial relationship (“milk kinship”) between the mother and the non-biological infant. This relationship prohibits future marriages between a woman’s children and her milk children. Some Muslim families have expressed concern about using pasteurized donor human milk (PDHM) because the anonymity of milk donors may result in a child unknowingly marrying their “milk sibling” later in life.

Minnesota is home to approximately 140,000 Muslims, including the largest population of Somali residents in the United States. We noticed that this concern was leading many Muslim families to decline PDHM, even for the smallest and most vulnerable infants in the NICU. While this concern has been addressed internationally, including a 2004 ruling from the European Council of Fatwa and Research supporting the use of PDHM (<https://www.e-cfr.org/blog/2017/11/04/twelfth-ordinary-session-european-council-fatwa-research/>), families expressed the desire to hear from their religious leaders on the subject.

In October, neonatologists from Children’s Minnesota (Drs. Leah Jordan, Tom George, and Ann Downey) and the University of Minnesota/M Health Fairview (Dr. Nancy Fahim) met with Islamic scholars from the Minnesota Islamic Council, the Minnesota Milk Bank for Babies, the Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition, and Brighter Health. The purpose of this meeting was to share the medical benefits of PDHM with the Islamic scholars and seek clarification for Muslim families on its use. After this meeting, the Islamic scholars prepared a detailed ruling (fatwa), which was signed at Children’s Minnesota on November 16th. This fatwa is the first issued in the US on the topic. The scholars concluded, “The benefits of pasteurized donor human breast milk are such that all babies, particularly preterm, low birth weight, and ill babies should be given this milk when that of their own mother is not available.”

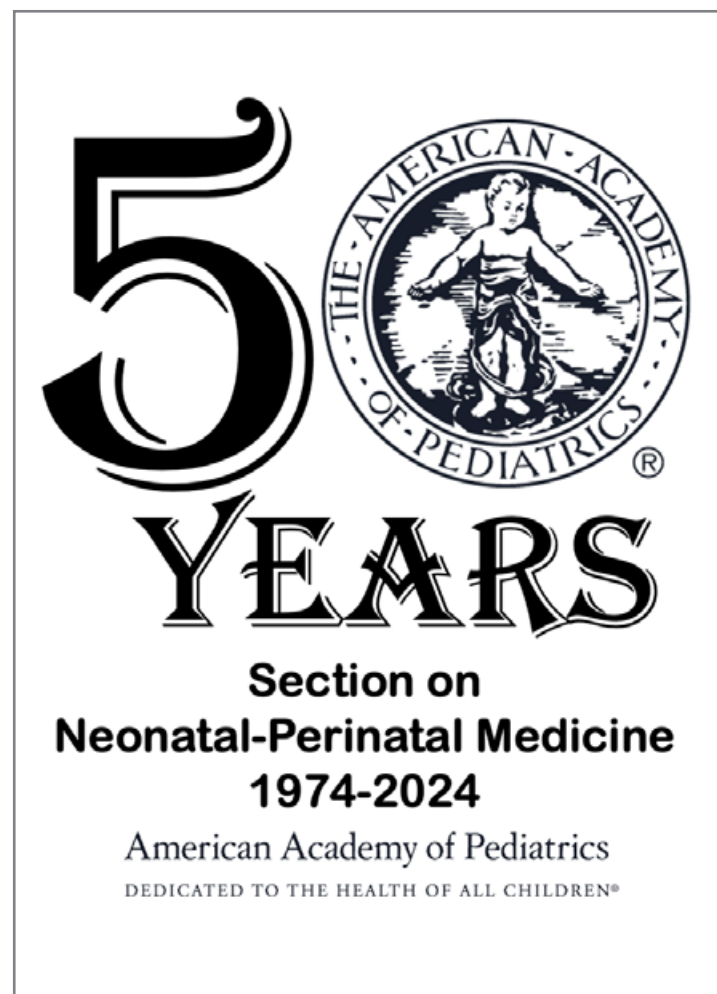
The key components of this ruling are:

1. Breast milk is highly valued in Islam.
2. Several factors make it unlikely that PDHM establishes milk kinship, including that milk is pooled and donors are anonymous.
3. Donor milk is used medicinally/therapeutically to protect the life of vulnerable infants, aligning with Sharia law in prioritizing the preservation of human life.

While we are all skilled at answering medical questions about PDHM, there are questions that families want answered from their communities and religious leaders. At a time where our world is increasingly divided, sitting with the Islamic scholars to discuss this life-saving topic with compassion, mutual respect, and understanding was a tremendous honor. Dr. Mohammed Mahad, Imam of Nurul-Iman Mosque, remarked at the signing of the fatwa, “It brings us great joy to learn that you sought out help to solve this problem by actively involving the communities in the decision-making process and jointly designing a solution with those who are most affected.”

We are excited that this fatwa provides a new tool for increasing equitable access to PDHM for Muslim infants. The Islamic scholars have assured us that the fatwa can be used for any Muslim family, regardless of where they live. We are developing handouts and videos for families on this topic, which will be available in the public domain in English, Arabic and Somali. In the interim, you can use the above points in your discussions with families and provide them with the full fatwa text in English (<https://brighterhealthmn.com/islamic-fatwa-for-p-donor-breastmilk-in-the-name-of-allah/>).

Please contact Dr. Leah Jordan ([leah.jordan@childrensmn.org](mailto:leah.jordan@childrensmn.org)) or Dr. Nancy Fahim ([nfahim@umn.edu](mailto:nfahim@umn.edu)) with questions.







*Toronto, Ontario*

**NICU Follow-Up Club**

Saturday, May 4, 2024

12:30 – 2:00 pm

**Neurodevelopmental Disability Risks in Children with Tracheostomies and Ventilators**

Sarah Sobotka, MD, MSCP

**Supporting Development in Infants with Severe BPD: Hospital to Home**

Audrey Miller, MD

**Preparing an Infant with Severe BPD for Discharge Home: A Family-Centered Interdisciplinary Approach to Optimize Development**

Connie Williams, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Moderators: Deborah Campbell, MD, FAAP

Ricki Goldstein, MD, FAAP

Yvette Johnson, MD, FAAP

Raye-Ann DeRegnier, MD, FAAP

*Supported by a grant from Abbott*

**William Silverman, MD Lecture**

Sunday, May 5, 2024

10:00-10:45 am

**Parent Voices and Evidence-Based Neonatal Care:**

**Where We've Been and Where We Need to Go**

Annie Janvier, MD, FAAP

Rebecca Pearce

Introduction by Munish Gupta, MD, FAAP

Chair, AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

*Sponsored by the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine*

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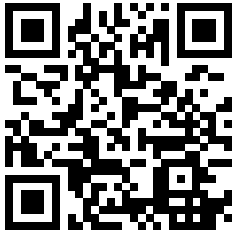


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