AAP PUBLISHES NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR NEONATAL LEVELS OF CARE

Ann Stark MD, FAAP

The recently published “Standards for Levels of Neonatal Care: II, III, IV” (Pediatrics, June 2023) specifies for the first time the personnel, equipment, and processes hospitals should have in place to care for ill or preterm infants at each level. The standards were authored by the members of the AAP NICU Verification Program leadership team (SONPM members Ann Stark, Dewayne Pursley, Lu-Ann Papile, Eric Eichenwald, and Charles Hankins; NANN members Rosanne Buck, Tamara Wallace, and Patricia Bondurant); and Senior Manager (and former NICU nurse) Nicole Faster. The document aligns with the longstanding support of the AAP for risk appropriate care, the concept that outcomes for newborns are better if they are cared for in a facility with the personnel and resources that are appropriate for their degree of prematurity or illness.

The AAP NICU Verification Program was developed in response to a Texas law passed in 2013 that mandated all facilities that cared for newborns to be surveyed every three years to verify that they complied with a set of rules that were largely drawn from AAP policy. After the survey, designation of level by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is required for the facilities to receive Medicaid payment for newborn care. At the suggestion of a colleague and with the encouragement of the AAP Chief Executive Officer, we formed a team of neonatologist leaders and experienced neonatal nurses to develop processes for on-site surveys and reports. We had great support from colleagues at the American College of Surgeons who had recently launched the Children’s Surgery Verification Program, and we continue to collaborate with them. In 2016, Texas DSHS selected the AAP as one of two survey agencies. After initially conducting four pilot surveys, our NICU Verification Program has provided numerous on-site surveys through three cycles in Texas, including virtually during the COVID pandemic.
As colleagues became aware of our work, we began to receive requests from other state health departments and from independent facilities outside of Texas. Recognizing that this would require our own set of standards, we began the more than two-year process to develop these. The standards are largely based on existing AAP policies; practice standards from national professional medical, nursing, and therapy organizations; evidence-based literature; and, if no data were available, expert opinion. We held two stakeholder meetings for additional input. We are grateful for the collaboration of the Committee on Fetus and Newborn and SONPM, and especially to the Clinical Leaders Group of SONPM who contributed to the quality and safety standards that are integral to the document and provided a series of excellent webinars on these topics. We also appreciate our team of neonatologist and nurse surveyors, all of whom are either SONPM or NANN members. The standards were approved by the AAP Board of Directors prior to publication and have been adopted by the Department of Health in Georgia, where we will begin surveys in the fall.

Our vision is that wide adoption of these standards will improve standardization across all levels of care. Because the literature suggests that substantial disparities in outcome relate to variability of NICU quality, we are hopeful that these standards will have a substantive effect on improved health equity for our smallest and most vulnerable patients. In addition, we believe that parents should understand the level of care available at the hospital where they plan to deliver. We also hope that our emphasis on family-centered care will encourage facilities to increase family involvement and identify and reduce barriers to this goal.
GETTING TO KNOW … John Loyd, District VII Representative

Medical school and training: I grew up in Dallas and then did college (Biology and History at Texas A&M) and medical school (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio) in Texas before heading to North Carolina (Wake Forest) for pediatrics. I then moved to Illinois for fellowship (Northwestern) and my MPH (University of Illinois at Chicago).

Current position: Change management in Austin! I have been the Chief of the Division of Neonatology at Dell Medical School since 2016, which was also the year our first medical students started. We were then joined by our amazing Chair, Leah Harris, a couple of years ago and have added a delivery unit and fetal center at Dell Children’s Hospital and welcomed our first set of three fellows last summer. We have a great team doing a lot of great work! Additionally, I am one of five Specialty Medical Officers for Pediatrix Medical Group helping oversee the clinical care provided by over 1000 neonatologists across the country.

Family and pets: Our active home is made colorful by my supportive wife, ErinDay, four kids and a dog. The dog is the only quiet one and that crazy house is eerily getting quieter and quieter by the year! We have a daughter and a son in college and two sons that will be starting their senior and junior years this fall…the poor dog!

What would people be surprised to learn about you: I make a mean tres leche cake!

Favorite vacation of all time: So hard to choose, but having a 35 foot great white shark stick her nose into the slit in the cage I was sitting in with eight other freezing tourists near Cape Town was certainly as memorable as any other moment!

Best gift you ever received: Saddleback water bag

If you weren’t a neonatologist, you would be a: Either a history professor or a residential contractor

Best advice for early career neonatologists: Don’t forget to press into the hard and humbling personal journey of knowing, challenging, and liking yourself…this will pay rich dividends at home and in the hospital.

Hobbies: Carpentry

What books are you reading right now: Napoleon: a Life…both magnificent and monstrous, but his ability to retain and access unbelievable detail and yet not be imprisoned by minuitia is such a unique leadership skillset. Most of us can only access one end of this spectrum with regularity, but he thrived in the depths of both as few others have.

Most important thing you have learned in your career: I have learned to listen to the babies and resist my ever-present urge to do something, because “sometimes nothin’ can be a real cool hand!”

Best or favorite childhood memory: The Colorado mountains skiing with my father. This was back in the dark ages with those ski restraint straps that turned your displaced skis into tools of self-flagellation until they came loose and careened down the mountain and were impossible to reconnect...he was always there to pick me up and put me back together.

Your hidden talent: Being my children’s father and their good friend. It is not always easy to do both. The key is listening.

The best thing about where you live: Except for the housing prices, Austin is even better than advertised! The live music, food, and outdoor activities make it a unique place to live!

I have recently been inspired by: Our team, under the leadership of Alan Groves and Ashley Lucke - a tremendous team effort to start our fellowship training program!

Favorite movie: The LOTR series remains a family staple and Cool Hand Luke is without peer, but Galaxy Quest, which has always made me laugh, has recently moved way up on my list: My 17 year old recently did his best interpretation of the painful Lt. Laredo “taking her out” scene and scraped the full length of his car on another car waiting at a red light.

Favorite way to relax after a hard day: Watching TV with the two boys remaining in the house (Ted Lasso and Vinland Saga).

Do you collect anything: Kids

Who would you like to swap lives with for a day: My 21 year-old daughter studying at the Sorbonne!
Happy summer! I hope all of you have enjoyed some time to relax and enjoy nice weather with friends and family. While NICUs everywhere still seem to be over-census, some of the challenges of the winter have hopefully subsided. At the least, seeing the faces of many of our colleagues and co-workers again is a nice energy boost!

In this column, I wanted to share an update on a relatively new Section program to support our strategic plan, our strategic grants. As you hopefully know, our Section enjoys a diverse and impressive array of activities and initiatives, thanks primarily to the energy and leadership of all of you. Our strategic plan serves as a framework to help organize and plan these many activities. Last updated in 2021 under the leadership of Lily Lou, our strategic plan identifies five major domains for Section aims: education, member value, optimal care, advocacy, health of the subspecialty, and health of the Section. The plan is available on our main Section webpage in the “About SONPM” section.

The strategic grants program was launched in 2018 by then-Chair John Zupancic, with the goal of supporting new initiatives by Section members to address specific domains of the strategic plan. The program offers grants every two years, and we are currently in the third cycle. Applicants identify the domains targeted by their initiative, and proposals are expected to include a measurable outcome that can be achieved within two years. These are small grants, with average budgets of $5,000 to $20,000.

The response to these grant opportunities has been terrific. Each cycle has enjoyed high quality and innovative applications (too many to fund, unfortunately!), and the supported projects have been remarkably impactful. By any measure, this program has been an extraordinary success, entirely because of the drive and commitment of Section members. In fact, it would be a challenge to identify another grant program that has had a greater return on investment in terms of impact and sustainability than these small awards.

The projects from each cycle are summarized below. Apologies in advance, only the project leads are listed although we know each was made possible by a large team. Thank you again to all that applied for these grants, and all that led these incredible projects. And please be ready for the next grant cycle in 2024!

**CYCLE 1: 2019-2020**

**ONTPD National Neonatology Curriculum (NNC)**

With the leadership of Heather French, a team from ONTPD developed a standardized neonatology physiology curriculum using an innovative “flipped classroom” design. Experts across the country developed multiple series of on-line modules using a case-based structure, designed to be accessed by learners at any time. Multiple publications evaluating the development of the curriculum show its effectiveness and impact. This national curriculum is called “NeoFlip”, and is available for all to use and disseminate through mededonthe-go.com. The timing of this project was particularly impressive, as the value of this resource increased exponentially during a worldwide pandemic.

**Cochrane Neonatal Teaching Evidence-Based Medicine in Neonatology**

Recognizing and addressing a key gap in education, Roger Soll and team from Cochrane Neonatal and the Vermont-Oxford Network developed a comprehensive curriculum to teach the principles of evidence-based medicine (EBM). Eight high-yield webinars with supplementary resources and teaching materials provide a boot camp and practical guide for applying EBM frameworks to clinical practice. The curriculum and resources are available to all through the Cochrane Neonatal website.

**CYCLE 2: 2021-2022**

**Women in Neonatology Equity Initiative (WiNei) to Achieve Gender Equity in Neonatology Careers**

Kerry Machut and an all-star team from WiN developed a robust “Toolkit for Gender Equity,” designed to help leaders assess and address gender inequities in their group. The toolkit is full of information, key strategies, specific activities, and tons of resources. While targeted primarily to division and department leaders, the toolkit can benefit all of us interested in supporting equity. The toolkit is available on the Section website (scroll down to “In the Spotlight” on the main Section page).

**Multi-Cultural and Bi-Lingual Family Education Videos on AAP Recommended Discharge Practices for High-Risk Infants**

Meg Parker, Gaby Cordova Ramos, and team developed new family education videos focused on key elements of discharge of premature infants from the NICU. Five videos in English and five in Spanish, covering five different discharge topics, feature families teaching other families by speaking about their own experiences. Each video is four to five minutes long and can be easily viewed on a phone or tablet. Content matches approved content from AAP. The videos are freely available, and can be accessed through our Section webpage (look for “NICU Discharge Parent Videos”). Please share widely!

**National Neonatology Curriculum (NNC) Junior Council: Implicit Bias and Health Disparities Education in the NICU**

Stephanie Mavis, Catherine Caruso, and colleagues from the NNC Junior Council launched a rigorous effort to understand opportunities and barriers around implicit bias and health disparities education for neonatal providers, and to develop a widely-available curriculum to address these needs. Two publications summarize the background and needs assessment stages of this work. Curriculum development is underway.

**CYCLE 3: 2023-2024**

**Support for the Development of Physician-Scientists in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**

Misty Good, Jill Maron, Cami Martin, Steven McElroy, and James Wynn are directly addressing the pressing need for...
increasing the neonatology physician-scientist workforce by developing a community of mentorship and support through SONPM. This effort will include an on-line platform, a repository of resources, and multiple training and mentorship venues. Initial in-person meetings of this group at PAS this spring drew standing-room crowds and left participants energized and motivated. The next meeting will be at NCE (Friday, October 20, 2023, 2-3pm, at the Marriott Marquis in DC).

Promoting Sustainable, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive Staffing Models for Neonatologists

In partnership with SONPM’s SWAN and All-Pathways groups, Milenka Cuevas Guaman and team are seeking to address critical workforce concerns by improving staffing models in neonatology. Their three-stage plan includes: (1) understanding structures, challenges, and successes of current staffing models through structured stakeholder interviews; (2) developing consensus definitions and recommendations for neonatology workload and staffing through virtual and in-person convenings of key stakeholders; and (3) developing a staffing toolkit and repository of resources usable by neonatology leaders. No easy task, but this team is well-suited to see this through.

Development and Evaluation of a Novel Women in Neonatology Mentorship Program

Kristie Leeman, Lindsay Johnston, and partners have launched a new WiN mentorship program, recognizing the many mentorship challenges specifically facing women in neonatology. This innovative program groups participants into mentorship families, consisting of senior, mid-career, and early career neonatologists. Mentorship families are organized according to specific areas of interest, such as clinical research, medical education, clinical practice, and more. The program includes virtual connections and in-person sessions at SONPM meetings. Over 200 neonatologists participated in the initial sessions!

Improving Data Capture for Race and Ethnicity in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Equity cannot be targeted without good data. Lamia Soghi-er and team are systematically examining accuracy of race and ethnicity capture for infants admitted to their NICU, and developing tools and resources to improve this capture. The tools will be designed to be applicable to different centers and contexts, and the resources developed will be made widely available.


3https://www.mededonthego.com/Pediatrics/NeoFlip

ONTPD UPDATE: ACGME Changes to Pediatric Residency Delayed

Patrick Myers MD, FAAP

The ACGME Pediatric Review Committee, the governing body for all of pediatrics residencies and fellowships, announced that they are 1) delaying all changes till July 1, 2025, 2) will “conduct a more comprehensive and detailed review of the proposed revisions”... due to “a significant number of comments”, 3) and plan to open a second comment period late this summer. Once finalized these rules govern all pediatric residency programs for a 10-year period.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to comment. The neonatology community was a major driver in making the ACGME reconsider the changes to pediatric residency that might have cut residents time in the NICU to four weeks, eliminated the requirement to learn critical lifesaving procedures, and removed the mandate that a board-certified neonatologist be part of every core pediatrics residency program.

At this point it is unclear how the second version of the ACGME’s changes will impact the neonatology community. However, ONTPD (Organization of Neonatal Training Program Directors) anticipates that we will need to have a second vigorous advocacy campaign once the second comment period opens. Once the second version of the ACGME changes are announced, ONTPD, TECaN and the SONPM will work on disseminating both the information and a call to action. Thank you again for speaking out to improve the education of our trainees, advocating for the well-being of the infants we take care of, and maintaining the health of our subspecialty.


The APP is asked to evaluate a 36-hour old 35-week 1.8 kg female infant in the intermediate nursery for respiratory distress and increased work of breathing. The infant had been admitted to the intermediate nursery following vaginal delivery due to low birth weight, requiring temperature support and NG feedings. Currently, the infant is pale with a three-second capillary refill and demonstrates tachycardia, with a heart rate of 192. Blood pressure is appropriate. The respiratory rate is 80, and the infant demonstrates nasal flaring as well as intercostal and subcostal retractions. The APP is concerned that the infant may have sepsis. The infant is transferred to the NICU and placed on CPAP due to her work of breathing. A sepsis workup is performed, including a CBC, and blood cultures. The APP performs a lumbar puncture and places an umbilical venous line. Intravenous fluids and antibiotics are initiated. The neonatologist performs a physical examination and documents the history, findings on the physical examination, the assessment and plan. The neonatologist then signs the admission order and confirms the admission order set.

The correct code(s) for this encounter include:
A. 99468 (initial critical care, ≤ 28 days) by the neonatologist
B. 99468 (initial critical care, ≤ 28 days) by the APP
C. 99469 (subsequent critical care ≤ 28 days) by the neonatologist
D. 99477 (initial intensive care ≤ 28 days), 62270 (lumbar puncture), 36510 (catheterization of the umbilical vein) by the APP

The correct ICD-10 codes include all the following, except:
A. Z38.00 Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally
B. P07.17 Low birth weight 1750–1999 g
C. P07.38 Preterm newborn, gestational age 35 weeks complete
D. Z05.1 Observation and evaluation of newborn for suspected infectious condition, ruled out
E. P22.9 Respiratory distress of the newborn, unspecified
**MidCaN SUMMER 2023 UPDATE**

*Jennifer Helderman MD, MS, FAAP*

As MidCaN continues to grow in size and offerings, we want to make sure that we are open and inclusive. We do not want to exclude participation or ideas due to arbitrary cutoffs that may exclude many who could contribute to or benefit from participation in MidCaN. Qualifications for MidCaN membership: 1) Members in good standing of the AAP and the SONPM, 2) Mid-career neonatologists, typically considered to be those between eight and eighteen calendar years from completion of neonatal-perinatal fellowship, 3) Submission of the appropriate application materials. SONPM members may also elect to self-identify as being mid-career outside of these suggested guidelines.

Our vision is to create a diverse and dynamic community of leaders by supporting career and leadership development and increasing active participation in the SONPM among mid-career neonatologists. Our vision guides us, as we cannot best advocate for or engage with key stakeholders unless they have a voice and an opportunity to participate.

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! Contact Sheria or Murali for more information.

- **Leadership** Co-Leads: Hussnain Mirza (drhussnain@gmail.com) and Deirdre O’Reilly (DeirdreOReilly@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!! Please feel free to reach out to us with any updates, needs or ideas.

- **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)

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**WOMEN IN NEONATOLOGY (WiN) UPDATE**

*Christiane Dammann MD, FAAP*

The WiN Advocacy Committee’s focus for 2023 continues to be the promotion of sustainable, equitable, diverse, and inclusive staffing models for neonatologists. Drs. Milenka Cuevas Guaman (PI), Christine Bishop, Christiane Dammann, Kerri Machut, and Emily Miller have been funded by a strategic grant of the SONPM to work with advisory members: Drs. Satyan Lakshminrusimha (AMSPDC), Mark Hudak, Mark Mercurio, DeAnn Pillers (SWAN), Patrick McNamara, Annemarie Stroustrup, Stella Kour Clemens (Division Chiefs), Eric Horowitz, Marielle Nguyen, Kaashif Ahmad (non-university neonatology) and Robin Steinhorn. They will address the following aims: (I) Evaluate the current and ideal state of staffing models in neonatology, with a specific eye on equity, diversity, and barriers; (II) Arrive at a summit with expert stakeholders to develop best practices and national standards for neonatology staffing regarding clinical time and adjustments for research, education, teaching, and administrative responsibilities, and advocate for systemic change to these recommendations nationally; (III) Create a toolkit and repository of model recommendations, research, and education for institutional leaders to assess and make needed improvements to workforce staffing locally. This project has been built on the recent ALF resolution, “Promote Sustainable Staffing Models for Pediatric Physicians and Their Healthcare Teams,” which was voted by AAP leadership into the top 10 resolutions. The group also published an op-ed on *Doximity* (https://www.doximity.com/articles/1699adbc-4e74-48e2-a090-7ecf1cfbf85), a commentary in the *Journal of Perinatology* (Cuevas Guaman M, et al. Neonatologist staffing models: Urgent change is needed. *J Perinatol*. 2022 Nov;42(11):1556-1557. PMID: 36207513) and an *Incubator* podcast discussing advocacy for sustainable work models for neonatologists (https://www.the-incubator.org/podcast/win/).

The previous work on the WiN equity initiative (WiNei), which was also funded with a Section grant, resulted in an additional publication (Gadek L, et al. Gender analysis of Journal of Perinatology authorship during COVID-19. *J Perinatol*. 2022 Nov 5:1-5. PMID: 36335276) and the WiNei Toolkit for Gender Equity, which can be found on the WiN website (https://downloads.aap.org/DOSP/SONPMWiNeiGenderEquityToolkit.pdf).

The WiN Career Development Committee successfully launched their Mentoring Program, which was funded by the Section and an additional grant from Chiesi. Their recent publication on a needs assessment (Leeman KT, et al. Critical deficiency in mentorship amongst female neonatologists in the United States: A descriptive national survey by Women in Neonatology. *J Perinatol*. 2023 Jan 19. PMID: 36658203) demonstrates a significant deficiency in mentorship amongst female neonatologists at all stages in training. The Mentoring Program goals are: (I) To provide evidence-based resources for female neonatologists to facilitate career advancement as well as professional and personal satisfaction; (II) To identify...
shared strategies and resources that may allow female neonatologists to achieve comparable financial compensation and promotional/reputational recognition to their male colleagues; (III) To foster a feeling of community amongst female neonatologists across various geographic, age, and practice related differences and facilitate connectedness in a professional network. A flipped classroom model was utilized to present high-yield topics including work-life balance, career development/advancement/transition, wellness, and focus group specific topics based on participants’ interest (investigation, clinical medicine, education, quality improvement, and global health). The 240 participants were grouped into “families” with a shared career focus. The one-year program had quarterly semi-structured sessions and an in-person meeting at the Section’s Spring Workshop in Scottsdale.

Female Leadership and Excellence in Pediatric Subspecialties (FLEXPeds) continues to work on their mission to achieve workforce gender equity through advocacy, education, scholarship, leadership development, policy oversight, and connection within the AAP. They will serve as a liaison and advisor to the AAP Board to achieve this mission by acting as a resource and amplifier for the work of the AAP community on gender equity issues to foster environments that promote workforce vitality. FLEXPeds will also create mentorship, sponsorship, scholarship, networking, and professional development opportunities for women and allies. This FLEXPeds mission will be pursued with a lens to intersectionality and all broader AAP equity, diversity and inclusion priorities. Their first publication is in press in the Journal of Pediatrics (Dammann CEL, et al. Female Excellence and Leadership in Pediatrics Subspecialties (FLEXPeds) - creating a network for women across academic pediatrics).

Our recent WIN webinars are located on the collaborative site for on-demand access:

June: 23, 2022 - “How to Leverage Mentorship to Build Success and Happiness” by Drs. Lindsay Johnston and Kristen Leeman (WIN Career Development and Mentoring Committee)

August 18, 2022 – “Digital Presence: Own Your Story and Control Your Brand” by Dr. Clara Song.

September 27, 2022 - “Moral Injury - Toxic Work Environments” by Dr. Nicole King

November 9, 2022 - “Career Journey into Executive Leadership” by Dr. Robin Steinhorn

January 19, 2023 - “It’s Not About the Dishwasher: Thought Drama and Cognitive Distortions” by Dr. Kathy Stepien

March 15, 2023 - “Advocacy 101: From Schoolhouse Rock to Hamilton” by Dr. Emily Miller and panel

April 12, 2023 - “Cognitively Based Compassion Training” by Dr. Ellen Coggeshall

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WECaN: Are You a Lifelong Learner?

Stephen A Pearlman MD, MSHQS, FAAP

WECaN Chair

I hear babies cry
I watch them grow
They'll learn much more
Than I'll ever know
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world.

From “What a Wonderful World” by Weiss and Thiele, famously recorded by Louis Armstrong.

Do you consider yourself a lifelong learner? Perhaps a definition would be helpful for you to answer the question. Wikipedia defines lifelong learning as the “ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. It is important for an individual’s competitiveness and employability, but also enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development.” All of us are lifelong learners when it comes to the practice of neonatology, much of this by choice to keep up on the most recent developments in our field. Some of it is mandated by state medical boards or institutional requirements.

What about ongoing learning in other areas of your life? Have you challenged yourself to learn a different language, to play a musical instrument, to learn a new sport or game, or to study the history of a particular country or people? Certainly, lifelong learning can take many forms. My wife has taken courses in theater, art, and other subjects through a local university. I may pursue similar topics when my life is a bit less hectic, whenever that will be!

I was recently offered the possibility to participate in a special program being offered by my institution called “Total Leadership.” My initial reaction was, “Are they trying to tell me something?” In one sense I felt, if I don’t know how to be a leader by now, I’m in big trouble. But as I thought about it more, my inner lifelong learner kicked in and I felt that there may be some things that I can glean from this experience. I threw my hat in the ring and fortunately was accepted as there were more applicants than spots available.

The course takes place over several months and is taught, masterfully, by Stew Friedman, Professor at the Wharton School of Business. You are placed into small cohorts of three people and my partners are an early career interventional radiologist and an internal medicine resident. It is quite remarkable the closeness we have developed over such a short time as we have gone through the various exercises together. The course first introduces the concept that all of us spend our time in four domains: work, home, community, and self. Through various exercises you explore how much time you are spending in each of these areas versus how much time you would like to be spending in them. This exercise forces you to examine what really matters to you. One of my goals was to expand my role in community life. I thought this was going to be an important area to nurture when I am ready
to decrease the time I spend working, whenever that will be!
Throughout the program you get to see how your cohort has responded in the exercises and get to offer feedback. This is very helpful. You also have discussions with key stakeholders in your different domains to examine what their expectations are of you and how well you are meeting them. To say the least, this was illuminating and gave me a better sense of how others view me. Although I had some trepidation about some of these conversations, I was pleasantly surprised by much of the feedback I received.

In the last part of the course, you are challenged to develop an experiment to change one aspect of one of your domains. The hope is that it will also impact the other domains. I chose to stop all work-related activities once I got home. This meant not looking at email or answering calls unless they were emergent in nature. The idea was to better separate work from the rest of my life. I believe that it will improve my ability to be present in my other domains as I can focus on what I am doing at the time. The pandemic has contributed to blurring the line between work and the rest of our lives, and technology has allowed us to stay connected to work no matter where we are. I only started this a short while ago and had to first deal with my withdrawal symptoms. It’s still too early to see the impact on the rest of my life but I am hopeful that this will bear fruit.

So, I suppose I am a lifelong learner. This program has helped me to identify the people and activities that are important to me. I have been able to crystallize my goals through self-reflection. I believe that these activities will help me be better prepared for the next stages of my life when work plays less of a role. I’d be interested to know how others have approached these thorny issues and if there is something that WECaN can do to help facilitate people planning for this transition. As always, please feel free to reach out at Spearlman@christianacare.org

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**CLINICAL LEADERS GROUP (CLG) UPDATE**

*Jessica Davidson MD, FAAP*

The Clinical Leaders Group founding Executive Committee was proud to contribute to the recently published, “Standards for Levels of Neonatal Care: II, III, and IV”. We directly contributed to the quality and safety program and deployed a curriculum to support building a NICU QI infrastructure. The curriculum recordings remain available on the curriculum landing page (https://www.limelightdc.com/clients/aap-clg-2022/) and anyone is welcome to check them out! As a reminder, recordings and resources from previous and future workshops are available on our CLG collaboration site, which can be accessed from the AAP SONPM homepage.

We are excited to announce the newest members of the CLG Executive Committee: Dr. Hannah Fischer, Dr. Kristie Leeman, Dr. Deepali Handa, and Dr. Aarti Raghavan. They bring great new energy and new ideas for our Special Interest Group as we continue to serve the needs of clinical medical directors, quality directors, and other leadership roles. Moving forward, the CLG will take on initiatives to include supporting FTE advocacy and academic promotions for clinical leaders, developing quality and medical director mentorship support, and partnership with the other SONPM SIGs and nursing leadership groups.

If you would like to join our active listserv, or would like to stay informed about CLG workshops and events, please email us at clinicalleadersgroup@gmail.com. We look forward to another productive and collaborative year!
47th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 13-15, 2023
Loews Hotel, Miami Beach, FL

Sponsored by the University of Miami - Miller School of Medicine
Presented by the Division of Neonatology - Department of Pediatrics

www.miamineonatology.com
2023 SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year, the SONPM honors the outstanding clinicians, researchers, educators, leaders and visionaries in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Candidates for the Apgar Award, the Avroy Fanaroff Education Award, and the Landmark Award are nominated by their colleagues and peers in neonatology. After thoughtful discussion and deliberation, the 2023 recipients were chosen by the Section Executive Committee and they will be honored at the Section Program at the AAP NCE in Washington DC on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

The Virginia Apgar Award represents the highest honor that our Section bestows to an individual whose cumulative career accomplishments have had a profound and continuing influence on the well-being of neonates. Marilyn Escobedo is the 2023 Virginia Apgar Award recipient.

The Avroy Fanaroff Education Award is bestowed upon an individual in recognition of outstanding contributions to the dissemination of knowledge in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine for health care students, professionals or the lay public. Josef Neu has been selected as the 2023 Avroy Fanaroff Education Award recipient.

The Landmark Award has been given annually since 2001 in recognition of a distinct, seminal contribution in a specific area of neonatal-perinatal medicine. The 2023 Landmark Award will be presented to Robert Bartlett.

Congratulations and thank you to our 2023 Section award winners for their immense contributions to our field. Please join us in Washington DC on October 20-22, 2023 for our Section Program where these award winners will be honored.
We are looking forward to the AAP NCE 2023, which will be in Washington DC on October 20-24, 2023. We have an exciting Section program, which we have crafted in close collaboration with other AAP partners societies and organizations. Here are the details:

On Friday afternoon (10/20/23), we will open the formal NCE SONPM H-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.

On Saturday morning (10/21/23), we have a joint symposium between SONPM and the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) titled, “Optimizing Counseling and Resuscitation for Newborns and their Families.” This program will discuss perinatal counseling and complex decision making at very early gestational ages and highlight new efforts in neonatal resuscitation research and quality improvement. The session will open with a parent faculty speaker and author, Kelly French, with a talk titled, “Juniper’s Story: A Personal Reflection on Perinatal Counseling,” followed by presentations from Drs. Ursula Guillen, Matthew Rysavy, Elizabeth Foglia and Vishal Kapadia. Embedded in this session will be an engaging and interactive panel discussion and Q&A.

On Saturday afternoon (10/21/23), we will have our top 10 SONPM oral abstract scientific presentations. These have been selected by a rigorous process led by the Abstract Chair, Dr. Brian Hackett. This will be followed with a presentation of the Marshall Klaus Research awardees by Dr. Hendrik Weitkamp. I am always excited to see our Klaus awardees present their research during this session. Saturday’s activities will conclude with our SONPM awards. This year, we will be recognizing Dr. Josef Neu as the recipient of the Avroy Fanaroff Neonatal Education Award, Dr. Robert Bartlett as the recipient of the Neonatal Landmark Award and Dr. Marilyn Escobedo as the recipient of the Virginia Apgar Award, the Section’s highest honor.

On Sunday morning (10/22/23), we kick off with another exciting joint program with the Section on Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (SOGHN) that will address acute and chronic management of infants and children with gastrointestinal and liver diseases, with a focus on necrotizing enterocolitis, short bowel syndrome and cholestasis. The session will open with a parent faculty speaker, Jennifer Canvasser, who is Founder and Executive Director of the NEC Society, followed by presentations from neonatologists Drs. Allison Rose, Jae Kim, pediatric surgeon Dr. Gail Besner, and pediatric gastroenterologists and hepatologists Drs. Conrad Cole and Sanjiv Harpavat. An interactive panel discussion and Q&A will be integrated into this session.

The program will conclude on Sunday afternoon with a session on advocacy and communication led by the Women in Neonatology (WiN) group, with faculty including Drs. Christiane Dammann and Dena Hubbard.

I look forward to seeing you in DC!

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Abstracts due October 1, 2023
The 2023 Workshop remains as strong and unique as a cactus in a world of delicate flowers. This year the timing was unique as it was held in February, but any time is a great time to return to the desert where we stick together with SONPM. This workshop is the perfect way to connect and network with neonatology friends, old and new, while earning CME and MOC Part 2 Points. Cacti vary in type, growth rate, and environment. Similarly, 2023 Workshop faculty represented a diversity of neonatology practice types, career stages, and experience and presented on topics reflecting the mission, goals, core values, and strategic plan of the Section.

We celebrated and welcomed Wanda Barfield who presented a fantastic 2023 Butterfield Lecture, “Doing the Right Things – Leadership and Challenges in Risk Appropriate Care.” As a leader in neonatology, perinatal, and public health, Dr. Barfield inspired us to reach for the stars, even if you have to stand on a cactus, through her plenary and breakout session: “Supporting Emerging Young Leaders and Keeping Wise Counsel.” We applaud and appreciate Dr. Barfield’s continued leadership in improving morbidity and mortality of women and children.

Scott Duncan, Kate Stanley and the SONPM Coding Committee kept us looking sharp with current information in the Neonatal Coding Seminar. They shared billing and coding knowledge to help us continue to stand tall when communicating with payors, utilization review, and insurance companies. They also facilitated outstanding discussions on staffing and workforce issues in their breakout session.

Satyan Lakshminrusimha helped us better understand how to tackle the thorny but beautiful topic of “Behavioral Economics in Neonatology,” RVUs, and clinical FTEs. His breakout sessions were standing room only! Look for more on this topic in 2024. And, if a picture is worth a thousand words, how many RVUs are his awesome illustrations worth?

AAP CEO and dear friend of SONPM, Mark Del Monte, presented, “Law and Politics in Newborn Care,” on how to navigate the practice of neonatology in the current political and legal environment. While we may be tempted to tell some of our decision makers to “go sit on a cactus!” We will stick with kindness and continue to advocate for the health and well-being of all children. We explored strategies, challenges, and successes in the breakout, “Advocacy Case Conference: How to Navigate Challenges Outside the NICU.”


Thanks to the following speakers for helping us grow our knowledge in improving communication, which can be hard to handle. We heard lessons learned from AAP TECaN National Advocacy Campaign: “Carousel Care – A New Standard of Excellence for NICU Family Well-Being,” presented by TECaN leader Katie Hoge as well as, “Moving beyond Recognition into Interventions in Caring for the Caregiver.” Keith Barrington led an insightful breakout session on helping parents who have lost one of twins. Daphna Yasova Barbeau, neonatologist and co-creator of Incubator Podcast is always on point and presented on, “Communication as an Intervention through the Development of Therapeutic Relationships,” and, “The Paradigm Shift of Neonatologists on Social Media.”

Those who attended the POCUS workshop Saturday afternoon will certainly stand out! Thanks to Maria Fraga, Shazia Bhombal, William Corder, and Jason Stoller for your collaboration, coordination of equipment, expertise and hands-on training!

We extend much gratitude to Lily Lou as SONPM Immediate Past-Chair, she is always planting seeds through mentorship, sponsorship, and we can count on her to root for us as she watches us grow our advocacy skills. Thank you for your service Lily! We said “aloe” (hello) to and welcomed our new SONPM Chair, Munish Gupta, and you can’t touch this guy’s intellect, wit, and charm. Munish updated attendees on the Section activities and highlighted member benefits.

I would like to thank all the Planning Committee members: Dr. Krithika Lingappan, Dr. Josh Petrikin, Dr. Jose Perez, Dr. Ashley Lucke, and AAP staff Susan Shannon, Sonia Zamudio, and Debbie Walton, who worked many hours through much uncertainty to organize the 2023 meeting. Thank you for your patience during the dry spells when we didn’t respond to emails or make timely decisions! Thanks to Jim Couto for all his support and collaboration in our Section activities. We couldn’t be happier to have you as the AAP staff member who has stuck with us for so long!

Save the date for 2024! We invite you to join us in sunny Scottsdale, AZ for the 2024 Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies at the beautiful Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort on March 22-24. The 2024 Workshop will help your neonatology clinical knowledge bloom, emphasize your strong points through leadership and career development, and stay sharp in practice management.

The Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies is a great forum to learn, network, and get involved in your professional organization. Any pediatric professional caring for the fetus and newborn is welcome to attend. Regardless of practice type - community, university, Children’s hospital-based practice and beyond; regardless of career stage - trainee and early career, mid-career, or well-established neonatologists - you do not want to miss this fantastic Workshop! Don’t desert your SONPM friends; we hope to see you in sunny Scottsdale!
The correct encounter code answer is A.

This infant meets the definition of critical care due to respiratory distress and compensated shock. Although the infant is transferred from a different location in the hospital, the initial critical care code is appropriate, as this encounter represents the first time during this hospitalization in which critical care is required.

Critical care codes are age based, global and per diem. They can only be used once a day and cover the medical care that is provided to the infant by the entire service team. In this instance, the neonatologist provided the service elements required, with clear documentation that they were accountable for and in charge of the patient’s care.

Critical care codes are bundled codes and include many common neonatal procedures including lumbar punctures (62270) and umbilical lines (36510). Exceptions include thoracentesis, thoracostomy, partial exchange transfusion, exchange transfusion, abdominal paracentesis, peripherally inserted central catheter, subdural/reservoir or shunt tap, and circumcision.

The correct ICD-10 code answer is D.

Given that the infant remains in the birth hospital, Z38.00 is an appropriate code. The use of this code is limited to the birth hospital. If this infant had been transferred to a different hospital, Z38.00 would not be used. P22.9 is a code that denotes a condition of the newborn marked by dyspnea with cyanosis, nasal flaring, expiratory grunt, and retractions, often occurring in premature infants, infants of diabetic mothers, and infants delivered via cesarean section, and/or occasionally without an apparent etiology. As the infant’s hospital course progresses, the cause of respiratory distress may become more evident, and the ICD-10 code can be changed to reflect the actual etiology. Z05.1 is often misused as “possible sepsis”, however by definition, the use of this code is limited to suspected infection that has been excluded.

The SONPM Coding Committee assists the Section in assuring that CPT and ICD codes relevant to neonatology are up to date, appropriately valued, and that member compliance with coding rules is excellent. We advise members about ideas for new codes and assist in code development where appropriate. In addition, a major focus of the committee is to provide education on the current available codes and the guidelines for their use. Members are available for email and telephone consultations for specific coding-related questions. In addition, Committee members are available on request for educational talks and workshops for state and district AAP meetings.

Current coding committee members include:

- District I – Raja Senguttuvan
- District II - Sheri Nemerofsky
- District III – Mark Polak
- District IV – Scott Duncan (Chair)
- District V – Kate Stanley
- District VI – Jane Brumbaugh
- District VII – Lisa Owens
- District VIII – Kara Wong-Ramsey
- District IX – Jane Lee
- District X – David Kanter
- Coder – Katy O’Hara
- Emeritus
  - Stephen Pearlman
  - Ed Liechty
  - Gil Martin
  - Ted Rosenkrantz
On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SONPM) and this year's Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Fund supporters, we would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2023 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award! The Research Committee received 52 very strong applications and all applicants deserve recognition for their already strong bios, outstanding mentors, and exciting projects. This year's awards are sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pediatric Institute, Brodsky & Martin at Beth Israel Deaconess Neonatology Foundation, Inc., Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and the AAP SONPM. Thanks to our sponsors, this year we are able to fund the top 14 ranked fellows with the $5,000 award. The money will be used to support the proposed research project.

**Marshall Klaus Bench or Clinical Research Awardees**

Annica Alwine MD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

*Integrin α3β1 Regulates Alveolar Basement Membrane Formation during Postnatal Lung Development*

Mentor: Erin Plosa MD

I am currently a second year Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellow at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Throughout my training, I have been committed to understanding human development and physiology to help me become a better physician to my patients and their families. Bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) continues to be a prominent morbidity in neonates, and I have watched many families as they have grappled with this diagnosis and/or struggled to prepare to care for their infant with BPD, for a myriad of reasons. BPD may mean one thing to physicians, but, as I have learned throughout my training, it entails so much more to the families caring for their NICU graduate. I am both honored and humbled to receive the support of the Marshall Klaus Award, which will further support my clinical and research goals to better understand the pathophysiology of lung development that occurs in extremely premature infants. Under the mentoring of Dr. Erin Plosa, I have started studying integrin α3 to define its role in alveolar basement membrane formation and epithelial cell interactions that occur during late lung development. By gaining a better comprehension of abnormal lung development, I hope to use this in my practice to better treat neonatal lung diseases, as well as the potential to find therapies to improve lung outcomes in extremely premature infants. I am excited to continue learning new basic science techniques, research methods, and overall expanding my skillset to help set my foundation in understanding developmental biology and further my education in neonatology. The Marshall Klaus Award will support me to obtain the training and knowledge to accomplish this research project with Dr. Plosa, while also helping to further my long-term career goals in academic medicine to hopefully improve the survival and outcomes for premature neonates.

**Abstract:** Over the last two decades, there has been improved survival of extremely premature infants with a subsequent increase in the incidence of BPD. Infants with BPD exhibit an arrest of saccular lung development, which is the window where the epithelium closely approximates the endothelium in the distal lung. In between these cell types is the fused alveolar basement membrane (BM) responsible for facilitating gas exchange. The alveolar BM is composed of collagen and laminin. Epithelial cells connect to the BM via integrins, which are protein receptors comprised of alpha and beta subunits expressed on the surface of lung epithelial cells. Integrins bind extracellular matrix (ECM) components and regulate processes critical to development. There are many variations of integrins and their roles in development, but the laminin-binding integrins important for lung development are α6β1, α6β4, and α3β1. Focusing on integrin α3β1, we created a mouse model with a lung specific epithelial deletion of α3 at embryonic day 9.5 (E9.5) using ShhCre. Our preliminary data demonstrated that α3β1 begins to be expressed in distal lung epithelium around E18, and histological examination of these mice lungs at different timepoints determined normal branching but exhibited sacculation and alveolarization defects as they failed to form a fused basement membrane. Consistent with our model, other studies have shown keratinocytes and renal epithelium require α3 for proper organization of their simple basement membranes; however, the exact mechanisms regulating the formation of the alveolar BM and organization of alveolar epithelial cells remain undefined. We hypothesize that α3β1 integrin is required for alveolar BM formation that mediates epithelial proliferation and differentiation during late lung development. This study will allow us to study integrin α3 to define its role in assembly and organization of the alveolar BM, as well as define the role of integrin α3β1-ECM interactions in regulating epithelial cell behavior. By defining this role, we hope that it will give us a more detailed understanding of the molecular mechanisms governing epithelial behavior during these critical stages of lung development to allow for the potential to develop novel therapies to ameliorate neonatal lung diseases caused by disruptions in lung development.
My introduction to developmental pulmonary vascular biology was as a 1st year medical student in the Pediatric Heart Lung Center at the University of Colorado, and I am excited to continue towards a career as a neonatal physician-scientist as a recipient of the 2023 AAP Marshall Klaus Award. As a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow, I am driven to understand how we can improve management and ultimately decrease the burden of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and pulmonary hypertension (PH) in the preterm infants I care for clinically. I intend to spend my career as an academic neonatologist committed to studying how perinatal events contribute to neonatal cardiopulmonary disease. In preparation for my transition to an independent physician-scientist after my fellowship, I continue to dedicate my time in the lab to improve my ability to leverage animal, cellular, and molecular laboratory techniques to understand the role of endothelial cell biology in various disease states. Support from the Marshall Klaus Award will extend my previous work demonstrating that vitamin D (VD) has proangiogenic properties in an inflammatory model of BPD. The current studies will elucidate the proangiogenic effects of VD in an animal model of disrupted angiogenic signaling leading to abnormal lung and vascular development. My goal is that this work improves our understanding of the interactions between maternal and fetal disease to improve the long-term outcomes of the neonates we care for in the neonatal ICU.

Abstract: The incidence of BPD remains over 40% in preterm infants born before 28 weeks gestation, yet there are few interventions to improve outcomes for this vulnerable population due to large gaps in our understanding of the mechanisms underlying BPD pathogenesis. The pathogenesis of BPD is multifactorial and disease severity is modulated by the adverse effects of both antenatal and postnatal insults. Preterm infants born to mothers with preeclampsia (PE), a pregnancy specific vascular disorder, are at increased risk for BPD, and are more likely to develop BPD-associated PH, suggesting that abnormal maternal angiogenesis contributes to aberrant fetal vascular development. Work from our lab has developed the vascular hypothesis of BPD, which illustrates that disruption of proangiogenic signaling, such as the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) pathway, alters endothelial-epithelial cell cross talk, “angiocrine” signaling. We have previously shown that intraamniotic injection of the soluble VEGF antagonist, (soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase-1 [sFlt-1]), which is elevated in both amniotic fluid in mothers with PE and in neonatal tracheal aspirates of infants who go on to develop BPD, is sufficient to cause decreased alveolarization and vascular development associated with BPD. Prior work from our lab has demonstrated that VD has proangiogenic effects in the developing lung and placenta in an inflammatory model of BPD and that VD increases pulmonary endothelial cell growth and function during endotoxin exposure. However, whether VD can directly attenuate sFlt-1 induced abnormalities in lung development and function is not known. Using the sFlt-1 model, we will investigate the effectiveness of antenatal VD treatment of antenatal sFlt-1 exposed fetal rats in attenuating persistent abnormalities of lung development and function. These investigations will give us insight into the cellular effects of VD on lung endothelial cells responsible for coordination of distal lung development and improve our understanding of pulmonary endothelial cell signaling mechanisms.

Tristan Dear MD
University of Colorado
The Regulation of Vascular Growth and Architecture within Skeletal Muscle of the Growth Restricted Fetus
Mentor: Laura Brown MD

I have incorporated research into all stages of my education and these experiences have solidified my choice to pursue a career as a physician-scientist. After finding my passion in pediatrics, I sought experiences in basic science to bridge disease pathophysiology to bedside clinical medicine. During residency, I worked in Dr. Laura Brown’s laboratory at the Perinatal Research Center and embarked on an exciting project examining the microvascular structure in skeletal muscle from the intrauterine growth restricted (IUGR) fetus as a mechanism for reduced muscle mass. This experience fueled my passion for neonatology basic science research and helped me become a better physician, allowing me to apply what I learned in the lab to the patients I cared for. As a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow, I have come to appreciate the profound impact that growth restriction has on both the short- and long-term outcomes for affected infants. This observation is a constant motivator to continue pursuing research around IUGR fetuses. With support from the Marshall Klaus Award, I will continue to expand my work to interrogate the molecular mechanisms that regulate vascular growth in IUGR fetal skeletal muscle.

Abstract: Growth restricted infants face both short- and long-term health consequences, including alterations in early life organ growth as well as metabolic consequences in later life. Among the many fetal organ systems affected by growth restriction, skeletal muscle is particularly vulnerable. In response to placental insufficiency, the fetus preferentially shunts blood away from skeletal muscle as a survival mechanism to preserve perfusion of the vital organs. Thus, the IUGR fetus and neonate suffer from decreased muscle mass and a reduced muscle to fat ratio. These deficits persist into adult life in the form of persistently lower muscle mass, increased insulin resistance, and a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus. Our lab has previously demonstrated...
that hindlimb blood flow is similar between late gestation control and IUGR fetal sheep when normalized to hindlimb weight, indicating that hindlimb muscle growth slows to match blood supply. However, oxygen delivery rates were reduced per gram of hindlimb due to chronically lower blood content. Our preliminary data demonstrated that protein expression of the angiogenic regulator, vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGFA) is 45% lower in IUGR hindlimb muscle. Acute hypoxemia is known to stimulate angiogenesis, but how chronic hypoxemia affects angiogenesis is less well delineated. To fill this knowledge gap, we will test the hypothesis that chronic hypoxemia associated with placental insufficiency results in downregulation of VEGFA signaling pathways and disruption of microvascular architecture to limit oxygen delivery in skeletal muscle of the IUGR fetus. By using skeletal muscle from our sheep model of chronic placental insufficiency and IUGR, we have the ability to perform immunofluorescence studies, western blots, and real-time qPCR to better understand differences in microvascular growth, protein expression, and gene expression to elucidate differences in IUGR skeletal muscle development. This proposal will identify, for the first time, key factors involved in microvascular growth that may contribute to reduced fetal skeletal muscle mass in the IUGR fetus.

Benjamin Fensterheim
MD, PhD
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Longitudinal Immune Profiling of Preterm Infants
Mentor: E. John Wherry PhD

I am so thankful to have received the Marshall Klaus Research Award to support my goal of becoming an independent physician-scientist. I have long been fascinated by how complex biologic systems generate health and disease, from neuronal circuits to immune networks. In graduate school, I solidified core scientific training through studying how disruption of innate immune networks, such as in murine sepsis, can result in severe systemic and organ-specific disease. When I became a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow, it was apparent that many of the diseases impacting preterm infants resulted from immune maladaptation to medical care, but that relatively little was known about the human neonatal immune system. Expanding knowledge of the neonatal immune system to create new tools and therapeutics for infants became the goal of my fellowship work and my career. This project will be conducted with Dr. John Wherry and the Immune Health Project at Penn, both of whom provide me with the mentorship and resources needed to conduct human immunology research in preterm infants with state-of-the-art resolution, and the infrastructure needed to translate discoveries to patients. This project will provide a foundation to establish myself as an expert in neonatal immunology and will spur further research opportunities in the field. My fellowship research is a time to advance my training as a physician-scientist and move towards scientific independence, and support from the Marshall Klaus Award brings me closer to that goal.

Abstract: Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant mortality worldwide. Many of the morbidities that impact preterm infants, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), stem from maladaptation of the immune system to an unexpected and medicalized post-natal life. This inflammation is systemic, and inflammatory cytokines can be found elevated in the blood before BPD diagnosis. However, it has proved difficult to use the immune system to stratify infants by BPD risk because knowledge of the preterm immune system is murky. This study aims to detail the complete preterm immune network with a combination of deep cellular analysis and immune proteomics to identify immune profiles of infants who ultimately develop BPD. We will use novel small-volume 41-marker cytometry by time of flight and 92-protein oligonucleotide-linked proteomics to analyze cells and protein from soon-to-be-discarded clinical labs every two weeks as they are sent during a preterm infant's NICU admission. Then, in concert with the biostatistics team in the Immune Health Project at the Penn, we will use non-parametric statistical modelling to identify commonalities and variation over time, across age, corrected gestational age, weight, compared to 10 control healthy term infants, and compared to healthy adults. We will also collect clinical diagnosis data for the infants in the study, identify immune profile signals that correlate with graded BPD diagnosis, and determine the earliest time point at which they appear. Through robust longitudinal detail of the preterm infant immune cell and protein network, this work aims to deepen our knowledge of neonatal immunity and lay a foundation to use immune profiling as a predictive tool for preterm infants. If preterm infants at high risk of BPD could be identified early in life, it would open them to more intensive early inventions or trials of new treatments that might reduce their risk of BPD.

Daniel Goldenberg MD
Saint Louis University
Role of Intestinal Microbiota Transplantation in Mitigating Liver and Gut Injury in a Short Bowel Syndrome Model
Mentor: Ajay Jain MD

I am a 2nd year Neonatology-Perinatology Fellow at Saint Louis University with a strong interest in the field of gut microbiology and gut-systemic signaling, and their effect on neonatal nutrition, immune system development and modulation, and neurodevelopment. My fascination and passion for neonatology began in medical school, and my gastrointestinal research interests evolved during my pediatric residency as I reviewed the discoveries of gut microbiomes’ influence on physiology. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to join the lab of Dr. Ajay Jain, my research mentor, who shared these interests. With his support, I have been contributing
to innovations in the prevention and mitigation of adverse outcomes related to short bowel syndrome. My professional goal is to become a physician-scientist practicing clinical neonatology and conducting research in a lab focusing on the role of gut-systemic signaling in fetal and neonatal development. I am honored and humbled to have my project selected to receive the 2023 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Fund Award. Under Dr. Jain’s mentorship and in collaboration with lab partners, I have been using the Jain lab’s novel piglet model of short bowel syndrome (SBS) to develop a novel approach to mitigating the hepatic and intestinal sequelae associated with prolonged parenteral nutrition use in short bowel syndrome. We hypothesize that in SBS animals, scheduled Intestinal Microbiota Transplantation (IMT) obtained from enteral nutrition (EN) animals will prevent gut microbiota changes and mitigate gut injury. We will use our SBS model and achieve IMT by delivering it in defined aliquots via an externally accessible duodenal catheter to SBS animals. To ascertain the impact of IMT, we will assess serological markers of gut injury, gut and liver histology, cytokine profiles, as well as classify and quantify stool microbiota using culture-independent targeted amplicon sequencing and shotgun metagenomics to identify mechanistic pathways.

Abstract: SBS is a devastating condition characterized by insufficient remaining intestinal length to allow sustainable nutritional absorption from enteral nutrition. SBS patients are dependent on parenteral nutrition (PN) to survive. In addition to the expected health risks of continuous intravenous access for prolonged PN, such as the risk of central line infections and thrombosis, PN itself can induce potentially lethal liver and gut injury. We hypothesize that the lack of intestinal exposure to EN, as occurs in PN-dependent SBS patients, alters gut-systemic signals driving injury mechanisms. Our lab has shown gut microbial shifts in SBS, with a significant increase in the Bacteroidetes phylum and a decrease in the Firmicutes phylum, as well as significant subphylum changes. We hypothesize that restoration of gut microbiota in SBS animals through intestinal microbiota transplant (IMT), obtained from EN animals, will mitigate injury. Using our model as a proof of concept, we have observed mitigation of hepatic and gut injury in SBS upon IMT, attesting to its therapeutic role.

Rachel Hu MD
Boston Children’s Hospital
Optimizing Genetic Diagnosis in the NICU: A Pooled Analysis
Mentor: Monica Wojcik MD

I am currently a 2nd year neonatology fellow. My research interest in genetics was first sparked clinically, where I saw firsthand how impactful a genetic diagnosis can be on an infant’s care in the NICU as well as the care of a patient over an entire lifespan. My initial work in clinical genetics research involved obtaining and analyzing precise information about the physical characteristics of patients to answer questions about the full phenotypic spectrum related to an exposure or genetic disorder. I worked on a project describing the craniofacial findings associated with valproic acid in utero, as well as one describing distinct inner ear findings in patients with Kabuki syndrome and a related newly described disorder. More recently, I worked with my current mentor, Dr. Monica Wojcik, to better understand the mortality burden of genetic disorders in NICU infants as well as to describe how the yield of commonly used genetic testing modalities varies by phenotype. I am honored and thankful to receive the Marshall Klaus Award, which will support me in building on these prior experiences to answer a variety of important clinical questions using a comprehensive database of infants that I have worked to build and refine.

Abstract: Many infants admitted to the NICU after birth are suspected to have genetic disorders, and these infants contribute considerably to morbidity and mortality in this population. Despite its importance, genetic diagnosis in this population remains difficult with the optimal approach poorly defined. Prior studies have demonstrated the high yield of exome sequencing (ES) for genetic diagnosis in the NICU, though the yield is dependent upon phenotype selection and certain infants may go undiagnosed. The overarching goal of this project is to determine the optimal diagnostic approach for critically ill infants with suspected genetic disorders. In particular, the impact of integrating ES into routine clinical care in the NICU will be evaluated in terms of its effect on diagnostic yield and other clinical outcomes. The availability and utilization of ES has dramatically increased over the past 10 years, which provides us a valuable opportunity to use the year of NICU admission as an instrumental variable to investigate the causal effect of the use of ES on multiple outcomes. In addition, though it has not been previously described, our preliminary data indicates that diagnostic yield was significantly lower for preterm infants and appeared to decrease successively with earlier gestational age. We will therefore test the hypothesis that the likelihood of obtaining a molecular genetic diagnosis increases with increasing gestational age, and that infants with lower gestational ages are more likely to receive a diagnosis with ES than with targeted testing since ES is less reliant on accurate phenotyping to guide the choice of molecular test.

Nazli Kuter MD
John Hopkins University
Targeting p75NTR for Rescue of Cholinergic Neurons after Neonatal Hypoxic-Ischemia
Mentor: Frances Northington MD

I have been interested in neonatal brain injury since my first pediatric residency in Turkey where I studied the effects of hypothermia on bilirubin neurotoxicity in cell cultures. That
experience also reinforced my desire to continue basic science research throughout my career and eventually led to my decision to pursue Neonatology fellowship in the US. My goal is a career in academic medicine where I can continue mechanistically based research that will lead to the introduction of novel biologically plausible treatments for the long-term consequences of neonatal hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE). As a neonatology fellow, I joined Dr. Frances Northington’s lab at Johns Hopkins University. Our proposed research is aiming to study cholinergic brain injury after neonatal hypoxic-ischemia (HI) and to investigate a novel agent for cholinergic neuron rescue that can be administered as a delayed therapy after neonatal HIE. A therapy that is targeting the memory, learning and executive function deficits in the child survivors or a therapy that can be effectively and easily given after the acute phase of the HI injury is yet to be found. This research is an immensely valuable experience for me as it gives me an opportunity to improve my knowledge in HI brain injury targeting neuroprotective cellular mechanisms, and gain a solid foundation in laboratory techniques, translational research models and tissue/cell imaging that will be useful in every part of my career as a physician-scientist. I am honored to have received the Marshall Klaus Award, which will be of invaluable support to my research.

Abstract: HIE affects over one million neonates every year and is a leading cause of lifelong disability. Neurodevelopmental follow up of HIE patients shows executive dysfunction, learning and memory deficits, and lack of cognitive flexibility starting from early childhood. Forebrain cholinergic systems efferently modulate these functions and our lab has previously shown that these systems are damaged after neonatal HI. p75NTR is a receptor expressed in cholinergic neurons and modulates survival of adult cholinergic basal forebrain (cBF) neurons. LM11A-31 is an orally bioavailable, brain penetrant small molecule p75NTR ligand with neuroprotective effects in mouse models of adult neurodegenerative disease and acute stroke. We have shown that p75NTR are present in ChAT+ neurons in neonatal mice with HI injury and we have also shown that intranasal administration of LM11A-31 achieves brain levels at or above therapeutic levels after neonatal HI. We hypothesize that treating with LM11A-31 after neonatal HI will rescue cholinergic neurons in cBF and result in improved learning, memory, and executive function. We will address this hypothesis with immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence studies and high throughput behavioral touchscreen testing. We will use modified Vannucci HI model in mice and will administer the drug as a delayed intranasal therapy after neonatal HI. This is a novel study in both targeting the cBF systems after neonatal HI, in investigating a late and technologically simple therapeutic agent and in following outcomes well into adulthood.

Betty Pham MD
University of California, San Diego
The Role of GATA4 in Lung Hypoplasia and Pulmonary Hypertension Associated with Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
Mentor: David McCulley MD

I am currently a 2nd year neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at the University of California, San Diego-Rady Children’s Hospital. As the eldest sibling to former premature triplet brothers, I am honored to receive the Marshall Klaus Research Award to conduct research to further neonatal care. I was inspired to become a pediatrician by my family’s experience with one brother’s early medical challenges and prolonged NICU hospitalization with later chronic, complex needs. Prior to my medical training, I pursued a Master of Science degree during which I conducted research on natural killer cell receptor expression in pediatric liver transplant patients. This work deepened my interest in understanding the underlying mechanisms of disease and led to my career goal of becoming a physician-scientist. To develop the skills and techniques required for that path, I have been mentored by Dr. David McCulley in the study of genetic etiologies of congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) using a murine model. While there is increasing usage of advanced cytogenetic analysis to determine genetic etiologies of NICU pathology, there is still little known about the role of genetic mechanisms in CDH pathogenesis. We hope to make an impact on the high rates of mortality and morbidity in CDH patients by elucidating the pathways in which the genetic mechanisms lead to a phenotype. With this experience, I aim to develop a research career in developing targeted therapies for genetic etiologies of pulmonary hypertension and to further define phenotypes previously thought to be idiopathic in nature.

Abstract: CDH is a common and severe structural malformation affecting 1/2,000 births with a 10-50% mortality rate. The range in mortality is due to varying severity of lung hypoplasia and pulmonary hypertension. Through work completed by the Diaphragmatic Hernia and Research and Exploration Advancing Molecular Science study, common variants associated with CDH have been identified in up to 30% of cases. Variants causing GATA4 loss-of-function are among the most common in CDH patients, and are associated with a high mortality rate and need for oxygen and pulmonary vasodilators at discharge. To understand the role of GATA4 in lung and pulmonary vascular development, our lab utilizes an inducible and tissue-specific gene deletion approach in a murine model. The conditional deletion of a gene of interest during embryologic development allows us to study the resulting molecular and physiologic phenotype. This study aims to add to our current understanding of CDH genes that may serve as possible therapeutic targets.
I hope to establish a career as a physician-scientist investigating the intersection between artificial intelligence and neonatal intensive care. I was first exposed to artificial intelligence during my pediatrics residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where I had the privilege of working on the Early Prediction Study as part of the Parikh Lab. During this time, I learned the power of machine learning through its ability to identify subtle white matter abnormalities on MRI that were predictive of neurodevelopmental impairment in preterm infants. This experience showed me the potential role artificial intelligence can have in diagnosis and management of neonates. As I transitioned to fellowship, I joined the Beam Lab at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to continue my research in this field. With the help of my mentor Dr. Andrew Beam, I was able to craft a project that built upon the principles I established in residency to tackle another morbidity of prematurity: the patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). With additional support from neonatologists and cardiologists at Boston Children's Hospital, I hope to apply my previous experience to investigate whether machine learning can interpret echocardiograms to predict which patients will respond to pharmacologic closure of their PDA. I am honored to receive the Marshall Klaus Award. Its support will be instrumental in the completion of this project and therefore my continued development as a physician-scientist and advocate of artificial intelligence in neonatal intensive care.

**Abstract:** The management of the PDA is a major focus of neonatal intensive care as it is a source of significant morbidity and mortality in preterm infants. While there is variability in practice, most clinicians elect to trial pharmacologic closure prior to pursuing ligation or catheterized occlusion. However, there is currently no reliable way to predict which patients will respond to pharmacotherapy. This ambivalence can lead to delays in closure and ineffective counseling of families. Machine learning has emerged as a powerful tool for the interpretation of clinical and imaging data to predict outcomes in neonatal intensive care. One such area that machine learning has shown promise is in the interpretation of echocardiograms where it has been demonstrated to predict ejection fraction, recognize signs of volume overload, and most notably identify the presence of a PDA. However, there is yet to be a study that examines the capability of machine learning to predict pharmacologic closure of the PDA based on echocardiogram data alone. The purpose of this retrospective cohort study is to develop a novel machine learning model to predict the likelihood of PDA closure with pharmacologic management in preterm infants.

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As a current 2nd year neonatology fellow and developing physician-scientist, my research goals focus on improving the health of neonates and setting them on the path towards a healthy life. I aim to discover cues that the immune system relies on during fetal and neonatal development to achieve long-lasting homeostasis of crucial mucosal surfaces like the lungs and GI tract. From prior research experience, I have developed skills in quantitative and experimental cellular biology, with an overarching clinical problem ranging from epidemiology of infectious disease to auto-inflammatory disease at the GI mucosal interface of host and microbiota. In residency at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, as my clinical direction transitioned from general pediatrics to neonatology, I worked under the direction of Drs. Hitesh Deshmukh and Will Zacharias to investigate neonatal lung adaptation to the external environment. I leveraged my background in quantitative biology and computer science to develop proficiency in single cell RNA-sequencing data analysis, which I used to better understand the developing lung during inflammation. As a fellow, I have found additional mentorship at Cincinnati Children’s in experimental hematology with Dr. Daniel Starczynowski and computational biology with Dr. Emily Miraldi. I plan to further develop my “wet-lab” skills - working with hematopoietic stem cell culture and xenotransplant systems - while also refining my “dry-lab” skills - developing signaling and gene regulatory networks revealed by single cell analysis of transcriptomics, epitopes, and epigenomics. After fellowship, I will continue to work towards directing a research program that uses experimental methods in combination with bioinformatics to better understand immune development in the neonatal period and further refine our clinical approach in the NICU. I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Marshall Klaus Award, which will be helpful to fund my research as I develop data to support my transition towards a junior faculty position.

**Abstract:** Chorioamnionitis is characterized by inflammation at the maternal-fetal interface of the placenta and activation of both maternal and fetal inflammatory pathways. Fetal inflammation enhances risks both acutely for infection as well as long term for poor vaccine response, asthma, and chronic inflammatory diseases. This concept of fetal origins of health and disease is powerful because it suggests that intervention early in life could alter the course of a patient’s chronic illness and reduce healthcare needs for their lifetime. Due to major differences in murine bone marrow development and limited human tissue availability, there is little information about how fetal inflammation alters the development of immune and hematologic systems in human bone marrow. This proposal addresses that knowledge gap by studying bone
marrow and the effects of fetal inflammation during clinically relevant third trimester time points in a nonhuman primate model. Our overall hypothesis is that fetal inflammation imprints epigenetic changes in hematopoietic stem cells and associated stromal cells, disrupting the intrinsic developmental program of the bone marrow niche leading to stem cell exhaustion and immune dysregulation. Using single cell sequencing data analysis, we have identified key changes in hematopoietic stem cell gene regulation and associated signaling in the bone marrow niche. Using cryo-preserved bone marrow samples from our nonhuman primate model, we will perform in vitro experimental testing of these gene regulatory and cell signaling pathways to determine the role of altered cell signaling to promote emergency myelopoiesis and ultimately hematopoietic stem cell exhaustion after exposure to chorioamnionitis.

Alyssa Thomas MD
Boston Children’s Hospital
The Arch Watch Study: An Integrated Evaluation of Hemodynamics during Monitoring of Ductus Arteriosus Closure in Infants with Suspected Coarctation of the Aorta
Mentor: John Kheir MD

I am a 2nd year neonatology fellow at the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program. I am inspired by a goal of using translational initiatives to study neonatal cardiac physiology and improve how we provide care for this high-risk population of infants. My project proposes to integrate multiple types of physiologic data, including a novel resonance spectroscopy-based measure of tissue oxygenation and compromised blood flow, to better characterize the evolving hemodynamics of neonates with possible critical coarctation of the aorta (CoA) during ductus arteriosus closure. My past research, mentored in collaboration with a neonatologist and a cardiologist, similarly focused on building bridges between these two fields, by investigating oxygen physiology in infants with congenital heart disease (CHD) during the hemodynamic transition immediately after birth. During my fellowship I have cared for many infants admitted for evaluation for possible CoA (the “arch watch”), including infants who have developed severe morbidities related to their diagnosis. Relying on imperfect tools and protocols to monitor for signs of developing arch obstruction increases the risk of poor outcomes and uncertainty for families. Through this project, I hope to identify hemodynamic patterns indicating critical CoA to better serve this population. I am honored and humbled to receive the Marshall Klaus Award to support my fellowship research in the lab of Dr. John Kheir.

Abstract: CoA is a potentially life-threatening form of CHD in which an anatomic narrowing of the aortic arch may cause critical aortic obstruction following closure of the ductus arteriosus (DA). CoA accounts for 6-8% of all CHD and occurs in about one in every 1800 babies born in the United States each year. Despite this prevalence, CoA frequently eludes detection on prenatal imaging and remains the critical CHD most likely to be missed on standard newborn pulse oximetry screening. If undiagnosed, infants may present with catastrophic shock, often leading to mortality or severe morbidities. In the days following delivery, constriction of the DA creates dynamic changes in arch anatomy, dimension, and physiology, complicating postnatal detection and necessitating hemodynamic monitoring of infants at risk of CoA. The goal of this project is to evaluate the sensitivity and specificity of the multimodal monitoring currently used during the “arch watch” in detecting a developing critical aortic obstruction, including blood pressure, pulse oximetry and photoplethysmography waveform features, and cerebral-renal near-infrared spectroscopy gradient. In addition, we will test Resonance Raman spectroscopy as a novel measure of tissue oxygenation and mitochondrial reduction state indicating critical impairments in oxygen delivery.

Health Services Research Awardees

Nikita Kalluri MD
Boston Children’s Hospital
Characteristics of Communication in Interpreted and Non-Interpreted NICU Family Meetings
Mentor: Margaret Parker MD, MPH

I am currently a post-graduate year five physician completing my neonatal-perinatal clinical fellowship in the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program. Concomitantly with my clinical training, I am completing a two-year Harvard Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship and a Master of Public Health. Afterwards, it is my goal to practice clinically and perform health services research to reduce disparities in NICU parental engagement. My interest in this topic has been built upon prior research experiences investigating disparities in neonatal care. As a resident, I performed a retrospective analysis of infants admitted to local NICUs to evaluate NICU infant morbidities (including late-onset sepsis, necrotizing enterocolitis, growth, and length of stay) based on maternal primary language. In our specific evaluation of length of stay, we found significant differences in length of stay between infants of English-speaking vs. non-English speaking mothers. To further understand the difference in quality of care and engagement for infants of non-English speaking mothers, I assessed differences in NICU bedside presence based on maternal sociodemographic factors, including primary language. Through this study, we found that mothers of minority race and non-English primary language were less likely to be present at the NICU bedside and when present were less likely to be active in their infant’s care. Performing this retrospective work has illuminated the difference in parents’ experience in the NICU and has led me to become interested in the mechanisms behind these disparities. In my current fel-
I have always aspired to be a well-rounded physician, with an overall goal of advancing the field of neonatology. My interest in outcomes research was initiated during medical school as I worked on projects that outlined the clinical outcomes of surgical patients based in respect to social demographics. As a resident physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s hospital of Chicago, I had the opportunity to join the research team of Dr. James Collins Jr. This opportunity allowed me to see the utility of health services research and its potential impact on the field of neonatology. I have been able to continue my work under the mentorship of Dr. Collins during fellowship, while also honing my research acumen in the Northwestern Master’s Program in Health Services and Outcomes Research. My time is allocated to both clinical and academic excellence alike, with a focus on using my education to narrow the gap in healthcare for at-risk populations. I plan to focus on utilizing large population-based datasets to analyze neonatal outcomes, with emphasis on their connection with health disparities. My intellectual curiosity is stimulated by the utilization of large-scale data to inform future decisions. I envision myself using my academic work to implement productive change in how we ultimately care for our patients. Further evaluation of vulnerable populations is critical to facilitate evidence-based interventions. The goal of my proposed research project is to gain a deeper understanding of the nuances between different Latinx populations by evaluating the effect of black race on differing neonatal outcomes. I am honored to receive the Marshall Klaus Research Award, which will support my goal of evaluating the relationship between racial identification and preterm birth rates. Previous research studies have attempted to elucidate causal linkages between preterm birth rates and socioeconomic factors in the Latinx population. However, the racial identification (black vs. white) within the Latinx population and its linkage with preterm birth rates are still poorly understood. Support from the Marshall Klaus Award will aid in bolstering the understanding of this potential linkage.

Abstract: Preterm birth is the second leading cause of infant mortality in the US. Infants that are born prematurely and survive have an increased risk of neurological, visual, and hearing deficits, with an overall increased risk of chronic disease. Prior research has shown a distinct discrepancy in preterm birth rates with non-Latina black mothers having the highest preterm birth rates, followed by women of Native American and Latina descent. The Latinx population of the United States continues to grow, accounting for almost 19% of the total US population according to the US Census Bureau. The US Census Bureau uses ethnicity to define Hispanic/Latinx origin. This classification is distinct from race. Three central racial backgrounds exist in national census data – white, black, and Native Indian. Within these three racial backgrounds, there are different subgroups. These proportions and combinations create nuances within the population that are not always considered in health services research. As a result, the relationship between black race and preterm birth rates in the Latinx population remains incompletely understood. The goal of my project is to study preterm birth rates in the Latinx population, evaluating the differences in outcomes (preterm birth) with respect to maternal country of origin (nativity) and self-identified race. As we strive to serve a diverse patient population it is our duty to thoroughly evaluate relevant outcomes for our patients. This project is important in that it will serve to augment our understanding of the effect modification of race and its interplay with ethnicity, as the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive. This research may serve as the framework for potential to positively affect maternal outcomes, in turn affecting neonatal outcomes. My long-term goal is to utilize outcomes research to create the framework for policy and intervention that will improve discrepancies in neonatal outcomes.
Abstract: Maternal fetal medicine (MFM) and neonatal-perinatal medicine (NPM) fellows rarely perform joint inpatient perinatal counseling for pregnant people with serious fetal or maternal issues at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Magee-Womens Hospital despite the best practice recommendation. An initial needs assessment showed 79% of the fellows had never had a joint perinatal counseling session and 100% felt a formal curriculum would be beneficial. Baseline chart review solidified the need for education by showing that only 6.4% of high-risk deliveries were counseled jointly. Our project aims to build a perinatal counseling curriculum for MFM and NPM fellows modeling collaborative perinatal counseling, teaching and practicing critical communication skills, and ensuring topic specific medical knowledge. Each educational experience includes communication skills based on VitalTalk methods and medical content presented in pre-learning and didactic sessions. Simulation through peer discussion, peer-to-peer practice and standardized patient encounters help to solidify this information. I predict this will increase participant comfort level and knowledge related to joint perinatal counseling, as well as the occurrence of joint perinatal counseling consults. The learning experiences are evaluated using pre and post surveys. Likert scale questions with ordinal data are analyzed via descriptive statistics. Preliminary data shows an increase in self-reported comfort and knowledge. Since beginning education, clinical chart review has shown an increase in occurrence of inpatient MFM and NPM joint perinatal counseling consults to 26.9%. After each session, the fellows have requested to have more practice. With the help of the Marshall Klaus Award, this project will be able to have patient actor simulation to allow for a realistic and safe environment to improve joint perinatal counseling skills.

FOCUS ON GLOBAL HEALTH: Celebrating a Milestone in Supporting Global Newborn Health with the ICATCH Program’s 100th Grant

Rachel Umoren MBCh, MS, FAAP
Ann Behrmann MD, FAAP
Anirudha Das MD, MPH, FAAP
Carl Bose MD, FAAP
Sharla Rent MD, FAAP

International Community Access to Child Health (ICATCH) grants are designed for pediatricians and other health workers in low- and lower-middle income countries (LLMICs) who need financial and advisory support to plan and implement a project or program that provides clinical care or health education to children or provides training for health care providers. ICATCH supports pilot projects with small grants ($6000 over 3 years) along with technical support, educational resources, and networking opportunities. From 2007 to 2022, ICATCH grants have supported 98 innovative programs in 42 countries, primarily in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Most ICATCH projects have supported community (85%) or health provider education (65%) and 50% of projects directly increased access to healthcare for children in the local community.

Anyone who provides health care or health education for children can apply for an ICATCH grant. Applications have been accepted from physicians, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, teachers, and community health workers. Project Directors must live and work in or near the community where the services and/or training will be offered. Increasingly, Project Co-Directors also live and work in the country where the project is being conducted. In a review of 49 funded grants from 2011 to 2017, 31% of Co-Directors also resided in LLMICs.

This trend supported the adaptation of ICATCH grants during the COVID-19 pandemic response. ICATCH funded projects adapted to travel restrictions, school closures and supply chain issues with innovative solutions including phone follow up, teleworking, virtual training, social media messaging and adjustments in target learner groups. The resilience of ICATCH funded projects during the COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the importance of funding projects that emanate from within the community where the project is implemented.

Of the 98 ICATCH projects funded since 2007, 10 have focused on newborn health services and/or education. For example, an ICATCH funded project at the Women and Newborn Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia delivered decentralized kangaroo mother care (KMC) and follow up for premature infants >1200g in satellite KMC units in the community setting, reducing length of stay and costs of care. Another project in Tanzania provided sickle cell disease screening and referral for 6000 newborns.

Since 2020, a partnership with the Section on Neonatal Pe-
natal Medicine (SONPM) facilitated by the SONPM Global Health Subcommittee has enabled ICATCH to provide support through funding and an assigned project liaison for a SONPM-sponsored Newborn Health grant each year. The SONPM project liaisons work in tandem with ICATCH liaisons to provide technical support for the grants. This support enabled the funding of an ICATCH project in 2020 to provide Helping Babies Breathe and Newborn Care Training to Community Health Centers in Liberia. The SONPM-ICATCH project funded in 2021 is providing nutritional support to breastfeeding mothers at Ruhango Provincial Hospital in Rwanda with the goal of improving breastfeeding success among mothers of sick and small newborns. The 2022 SONPM-ICATCH project at St. Peter’s Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is training nurses and parents in clean intermittent catheterization (CIC) techniques to improve survival and health outcomes for newborns with spina bifida.

ICATCH projects have a high completion rate with over 90% of projects continuing for the full three years(1). In 2022, the ICATCH program conducted a long-term survey of past grantees from 71 projects implemented from 2007-2021. Of the 41 responses (response rate 56%), 98% reported that their projects had impacted children in their local community, 76% reported that their projects had continued after the ICATCH funding ended and 71% reported that their ideas were utilized by others(3).

Our partnership with the SONPM helps to meet the expressed need of SONPM members for more tangible involvement in AAP global health work. This year, the ICATCH program is excited to celebrate the award of its 100th grant and our ongoing partnership with the SONPM in advancing newborn health globally. Read more about the ICATCH program at https://www.aap.org/en/community/aap-sections/global-health/icatch/

References:

IN MEMORIAM …

Dr. Regan Giesinger

It is with great sadness that the Division of Neonatology at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital announces the passing of Regan Giesinger on May 16, 2023, after a brave and fierce battle with cancer. Dr. Giesinger joined the Division of Neonatology at the University of Iowa as a Clinical Assistant Professor in 2018. She was appointed as Director of the Neonatal Hemodynamics and Targeted Neonatal Echocardiography Program and was instrumental in cultivating the program to be a world leader. In her role as Medical Director of Neonatal Transport, she shepherded many sentinel advances in the expansion of the team and reinvigorated its interface within pediatrics. She also served as Assistant Program Director of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Regan rose to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor in 2020 and was preparing her dossier for promotion to Full Professor in 2024.

Dr. Giesinger’s impact in her profession was global. She was an invited speaker both nationally and internationally on neonatal transport and hemodynamics and was an avid educator of trainees in those areas. She contributed significantly to the body of research, being published in over 65 original articles, 11 book chapters, and numerous abstracts. For her achievements in neonatal hemodynamics, she was appointed as Fellow of American Society of Echocardiography, only the second neonatologist to have been honored with this accolade. She was an executive member of the Neonatal Hemodynamics Advisory at the Pediatric Academic Society and the Neonatal Hemodynamics Special Interest Group at the American Society of Echocardiography. Her passionate dedication to clinical care set her apart. Regan made herself available 365 days of the year 24/7 to all NICU patients in her passionate pursuit of the highest level of hemodynamic care possible. She dedicated her life to her patients, her colleagues and the field of neonatal hemodynamics. She will be sorely missed by all, but her legacy is eternal.
MEET MidCaN RISING STAR …
Deepali Handa MD, MBA, FAAP

What has been your education and career path so far?
I completed my Pediatrics residency and Neonatology fellowship at Cohen’s Children’s Hospital in Long Island, and then joined University at Buffalo as Clinical Assistant Professor. As I progressed in my career and mentored residents & fellows, I yearned to learn more about leadership and the business of healthcare.

Three years into my faculty position, I joined the two-year executive MBA program at UB and graduated with honors. This was a very rewarding experience considering I was juggling it with being the Medical Director of our level II NICU and a mother of young children. I progressed to becoming the Medical Director of our level IV NICU at John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital at Buffalo as the pandemic rolled in, and have continued in that position. I am also the Director for the Neonatology Simulation Program at our center and enjoy integrating immersive learning with multi-level training at our hospital.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 5 years? I am looking forward to continue bringing clinical care programs to the bedside to improve care for our patient population. Bringing evidence-based recommendations and sustaining them requires team engagement and buy-in from different stakeholders, and I plan to bring them through multidisciplinary QI projects. I was recently promoted to Clinical Associate Professor and hope to continue expanding my role in the NICU and at the hospital.

What was the best advice you have gotten? Getting started is the first step to becoming an expert, and it’s not impossible until we fail. If we fail, we fail searching for greatness.

What advice would you give to your TECaN colleagues? Early years as a trainee and faculty member can seem tough as you figure out your career pathway, but keep your focus and integrate your interests with your workflows. Experience, added on with the training you’ve received, will take you from strength to strength.

What was smartest career move you have made thus far? Integrating my interest in operations with my career in Neonatology by pursuing my MBA degree has been very helpful.

What would you like to change about your career or life if you could have a do over? I’m a glass half-full kind of a person and happy where I am at this stage! Having said that, the one thing I would like to see changed is the low reimbursement in Pediatrics. I see my colleagues in Pediatrics and subspecialties receiving lower remuneration than their counterparts in adult medicine despite the same hours, and perhaps even longer years in many fellowships. I wish this wasn’t the case and appreciate the advocacy efforts from SONPM to improve that. Hopefully, we’ll see that change in the near future!

What helps to balance career and out of hospital life? We are a two-physician family with two young children, busy lives and minimal family nearby. We have made a conscious effort to outsource help for household tasks and pick up/drop off from activities that was stretching our time and decreasing quality family time. Making a conscious effort to limit email follow-up post work hours has also helped with disconnecting and decreasing burnout, which is something many of us have experienced during the pandemic. In addition, we have a great group of friends in the community that have been an immense support system and help balance out our busy work lives.

What made you get involved with MidCaN and what do you hope that the group will do? I realized my goals and aspirations became more formalized over the past decade. This made me look into joining a group beyond TECaN, where I could find colleagues who are more ingrained into their career pathways and could support and guide me. Joining MidCaN gave me that avenue and connected me with experienced neonatologists across the country. It gave a great platform to learn from colleagues who have been down this road ahead of me, and to share some of my wisdom and learnings with colleagues who have recently joined the community. Our collective experience in this group from our different career trajectories is a great resource that can be tapped into, to share amongst our group and the early career neonatologists. This is also a strong group that can further advocacy efforts for the SONPM with their collective experience and wisdom.
COOL TOPICS 2024!
SAVE THE DATE!

CAN/AAP District IX Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

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Cool Topics in Neonatology
In-person & Live Virtual Education Conference

March 1 - 3, 2024
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Coronado, California

FOR MORE MEETING INFORMATION:
https://medschool.ucla.edu/education/center-for-continuing-professional-development
or
http://www.canneo.org

ANY QUESTIONS?
Please email ccpd@mednet.ucla.edu, or call (p: 310-794-2620)
The National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) is a membership organization devoted to advancing the neonatal nursing profession through excellence in practice, education, research, leadership, advocacy, and professional development. NANN is an inclusive, diverse community of registered nursing professionals at all stages of their careers who care for newborn infants born with a variety of health challenges, including prematurity, birth defects, infection, cardiac malformations, and surgical problems.

For nearly 40 years, NANN has supported its members and advanced the profession by providing opportunities to influence care for neonates and their families, collaborate with leaders and peers in the neonatal field, gain knowledge to improve daily practice, and set the standard of care for neonatal nursing. NANN has 7100 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, eight special interest groups, and a NNP and CNS membership division of 1300 members.

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

- Create a best-in-class annual conference that brings together experts from across the neonatal field
- Launch a state-of-the-art RNC Certification Review Course
- Redesign the NICU Essentials in Orientation online program for all NICU levels
- Increase the number of CEUs and expand the topics areas offered through NANN’s new Learning Management System (LMS)
- 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 (e.g., health disparities, mental health in NICU families and nurses, workforce development, environmental justice, paid family leave, nutrition and human milk)
- 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

- Release new edition of Neonatal Nursing Transport Guidelines

NANN has achieved a number of successes this past year. Some of them include:

- Hosted international delegation to UAE/Dubai
- Joined the Family-Centered Care Taskforce
- Published 2nd edition of Curriculum Guidelines and Education Competencies for Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Programs
- Expanded our Emerging Leader Program to include neonatal and perinatal colleagues
- Held first-ever hybrid annual conference in Las Vegas with 1052 in-person and virtual attendees
- Launched LMS with 200 educational offerings
- Published Developmental Care of Newborns and Infants, 3rd edition
- Published Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters: Guidelines For Practice, 4th Edition
- Developed bilingual (English/Spanish) safe sleep card deck
- Updated Positioning the Neonate for Best Outcomes monograph, 2nd edition
- Published several new and updated position statements: APRN shift length and fatigue, future of APRN practice, trauma-informed care
- Released neonatal APRN video
- Signed on to a variety of important bills and letters through the Nursing Coalition Community
- Created new and ongoing clinical and professional practice content for NANN’s podcast with over 100,000 downloads since its inception in 2018.

Upcoming NANN Conventions will be held September 26-28, 2023 in Anaheim, CA and September 18-20, 2024 in Orlando, FL.

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**FAMILY-CENTERED CARE (FCC) TASKFORCE UPDATES**

Malathi Balasundaram MD, FAAP
Colby Day MD, FAAP

We are thankful for the partnership with AAP TECaN and the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SONPM) and are excited to share updates with you! The FCC Taskforce started with 50 individuals a year ago in 2022, and has now expanded to 495+ individuals, representing more than 200 NICUs from 36 states and 14 countries committed to learning more about FCC in the NICU. Our Executive Committee includes 20 birthing and non-birthing family partners (FP), neonatologists, community partners, nursing leaders, and NICU nurses.

We have launched our new website, www.fcctaskforce.org, to help units find resources (webinar recordings, FCC newsletters,
articles, and more) to help them build and strengthen FCC in their centers. We’ve had incredible engagement in our eight webinars so far and look forward to our next webinars in the odd months of the year. Collaborating with the National NICU Parent Network (NPN), we held an FCC Taskforce luncheon with 70 Gravens Conference attendees and shared our work. We presented at PAS about our work with four family partners titled, “Family Centered Care: What is Next?” We are truly excited about the enthusiastic reception of topics focused on FCC at each of these major conferences. We also submitted a resolution to the 2023 Annual Leadership Forum titled, “Parents and Families are Not Visitors,” and we would like to thank the SONPM for their sponsorship.

Currently, in Phase 3 (Jan-Dec 2023), the QI goal is to help a core group of 34 centers nationally and globally to: 1) build and strengthen their unit’s FCC Committee by recruiting a multidisciplinary team, and 2) create a dynamic Family Partnership Council. The small groups meet regularly to share challenges, promote the creation/strengthening of FCC Committees and Family Partnership Councils (FPC) at their local hospitals, and generate ideas on FCC-related interventions to pilot in their hospitals. After working in 2022 and 2023 to establish a dedicated, multidisciplinary group of individuals focused on improving FCC in NICUs across the world, our goal for Phase 4 (2024-2025) is to create a benchmarking opportunity across institutions to promote FCC as a culture and as a standard of care in neonatology. If you want to help strengthen FCC in your NICU and the field of neonatology or want to learn more about FCC, join our taskforce by scanning this QR code below. We look forward to working with you to partner with our families and provide the best care possible!
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30 | SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE
District I: Wendy Timpson

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, Hartford
UConn Health will host its 7th Annual Symposium on Neonatal Advances on September 21st. The program features a terrific lineup of speakers, including Patrick McNamara, Erik Jensen, Rita Ryan, Steven Donn, Martin Keszler and Jason Stroller. Visit health.uconn.edu/neonatal-2023 for more details.

Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital
Yale is excited to host the 14th Annual First Year Neonatology Fellows’ Regional Boot Camp, for which Lindsay Johnston has been awarded grants from the AAP District I and Chiesi USA, Inc.

Lindsay Johnston was invited to serve a six-year term as an ACGME appeals panel member for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

Mark Mercurio received the Kristine Sandberg Knisely Award from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in May and gave the Camille F. Sarrouf Endowed Lecture on Bioethics and Medical Humanities at St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital in June.

Liza Konnikova was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics and was featured as a Yale School of Medicine Rising Star in April.

Soo Kwon was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

The Yale Neonatal Perinatal Medicine graduating fellows are Leslie Harris, who will be an Assistant Professor at Rush University Medical Center, and Amanda Ocran, who is remaining at Yale.

Brooke Redmond has developed the 24/7 BABY program. This is a novel program that synthesizes community outreach and education with real-time assistance with neonatal emergencies in extramural deliveries. The first program of its kind in the region will improve prehospital care for neonates born outside the hospital setting through close collaboration via direct audio and/or video communication between a neonatologist and the first responder team on the scene.

Eliza Myers continues to lead innovation in lactation support through TrackMyMilk and was invited to present a workshop at the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine’s 28th Annual International Meeting.

Angela Montgomery is a Hope after Loss 2023 Compassionate Care Award Recipient.

Matthew Bizzarro led a Yale New Haven Hospital NICU team in its win of the Connecticut Hospital Association’s 2023 John D. Thompson Award, presented to a health system who demonstrated improved patient care due to modification in a process.

Christie Bruno, Rosa Carrasco, Shruti Gupta, and Sarah Taylor were named to Connecticut Magazine’s 2023 Top Doctors list.

MASSACHUSETTS

Baystate Medical Center, Springfield
We sadly said goodbye to our NICU hospitalist and palliative care specialist, Mustafa Caylan, who moved to Fort Worth, TX to practice full-time palliative care medicine at Cook Children’s Medical Center.

We welcome Jana Cable, a former local general pediatrician, into the role of NICU Hospitalist.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston
Asimenia Angelidou was promoted to Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School.

Asimenia Angelidou was selected for the Kern Faculty Fellowship for Leading Change for Humanistic Healthcare.

Jessica Gaulton, a physician-innovator whose expertise lies at the intersection of maternal and newborn health and healthcare innovation, joined the BIDMC/BILH faculty.

Marianna Parker joined the BIDMC/BILH faculty. Her professional interests include improving family engagement in the NICU, supporting transitions to home, safe sleep, and medical education/simulation.

In December, the Department of Neonatology at BIDMC had the privilege of hosting Susan Hwang as she was honored with the Marie McCormick Lectureship in Neonatal Health Services Research and Epidemiology. Her talk was titled, “Reducing SUID Risk among High-Risk Infants at Local, State, and National Levels.”

The AAP NICU Verification Program Leadership Team, with the support of AAP staff, published, “Standards for Levels of Neonatal Care.” The Leadership Team includes Ann Stark, who serves as Medical Director, DeWayne Pursley, and Rosanne Buck. The Standards codify the minimum components of care expected for each level of neonatal care from Special Care Nursery (Level II), to complex subspecialty care including surgery (Level IV NICU) and are considered a complementary implementation tool as they are based on existing AAP policy; evidence-based literature; standards of professional practice from national neonatal, perinatal, and surgical organizations; published data; and, when no data existed, expert opinion.

Boston Children’s Hospital

Eileonora Tamilia received an NIH R03 titled, “Combining Brain Connectivity and Excitability to Plan Epilepsy Surgery in Children: A New Approach to Augment Presurgical Intracranial Electroencephalography.”

Alissa D’Gama, NPM fellow, has been named to Spectrum’s inaugural 40 under 40 list. Spectrum magazine is funded by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative and is the go-to for autism research updates.

Alejandro Frade Garcia, NPM fellow, received a PAS Trainee Travel Award.

Rachel Hu, NPM fellow, was awarded the AAP Clinical/Basic Science Research Marshall Klaus Award for her grant titled, “Optimizing Genetic Diagnosis in the NICU: A Pooled Analysis.”

Puneet Sharma, NPM fellow, was awarded the AAP Clinical/Basic Science Research Marshall Klaus Award as well as a Translational Research Program Pilot Grant for her project titled, “The Arch Watch Study: An Integrated Evaluation of Hemodynamics during Monitoring of Ductus Arteriosus Closure in Infants with Suspected Coarctation of the Aorta.”

Alyssa Thomas, NPM fellow, was awarded the AAP Clinical/Basic Science Research Marshall Klaus Award as well as a Translational Research Program Pilot Grant for her project titled, “The Arch Watch Study: An Integrated Evaluation of Hemodynamics during Monitoring of Ductus Arteriosus Closure in Infants with Suspected Coarctation of the Aorta.”

Nikita Kalluri, NPM fellow, was awarded the AAP Health Services Research Marshall Klaus Award for her grant titled, “Characteristics of Communication in Interpreted and Non-Interpreted NICU Family Meetings.” She also received a PAS Trainee Travel Award and received the Academic Pediatric Association Research Best Abstract by a Fellow Award for her presentation titled, “Implementation of Inpatient Language and Culturally Concordant Lactation Support for Spanish-Speaking Birthing Parents at a Large, Academic Medical Center: Outcomes from The Mama Sana Program.”

Congratulation to our fellowship graduates as they transition into their new roles. Alejandro Frade Garcia will be attending neonatologist at the American British Cowdray Medical Center and faculty member at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami. Genevieve Goyul will be attending neonatologist at Boston Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine. Jenna Katz and Stephanie Tung will be attending neonatologists at Boston Children’s Hospital and Instructors of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Erika Yazzawa will be attending neonatologist at UNC Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

We welcome our new fellows from their previous institutions: Nisha Dalvie from the Boston Combined Residency Program, Hailey Evans from chief residency at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Rebecca Jones from CHOP, Joanna Kotsopoulou from University of Texas Southwestern, Giulia Lima from University of Florida, and Courtney Verscai from Stanford University.

Boston Medical Center
Genevieve Goyul, graduating fellow from the Harvard Neonatology Program, joined the neonatology faculty at Boston Medical Center.

Elizabeth Taglauer re-joined the Boston Medical Center neonatology faculty full-time in June 2023.

Elisha Wachman was named Co-Director of the Boston University Clinical and Translational Science Institute Integrated Pilot Grant Program. Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston

The Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine is now the Division of Newborn Medicine in
the Department of Pediatrics. Joanne Wolfe was appointed Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Helen Christou is serving both as Interim Vice Chair of Pediatrics and Interim Chief of Newborn Medicine.

Sule Cataltepe was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School.

Katherine Bell received a K23 for her work entitled, “The Impact of Zinc Intake on Nutritional Status and Brain Development among Preterm Infants.”

Mohamed El-Dib was awarded a CRICO grant for his Statewide Therapeutic Hypothermia Registry.

Mandy Belfort received an R01 for her research entitled, “Development of a Brain-Specific Nutritional Status Indicator for Very Preterm Infants.”

Krysten North earned a Thrasher Grant and HMS Faculty Development Award for her work on human milk composition and child neurodevelopment in rural Bangladesh.

Cindy Liu was granted an R21 for her research project, “Responses to Racial Discrimination in Asian American Parents and Youth.”

Anne CC Lee received two R01s, “Nutrition and Inflammation in Pregnancy: Impacts on Early Human Brain Development,” and “Effect of Iodized Salt in Pregnancy and Lactation on Infant Neurodevelopment in Rural Ethiopia.”

Richard Parad was selected to the Advisory Panel on Rare Disorders of the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

We welcomed a number of new faculty members. To MGH: Caitlin Nichols (neonatologist), Romal Jasser (Director of Tele-NICU, Co-Director of Education), Rodica Turcu (Neonatology Medical Director). To Steward: Giulia Molinaro (neonatologist), Agnes Hernandez (newborn hospitalist), Megan Keenan (newborn hospitalist). To St. Elizabeth Medical Center: Lisa Capra (Director of Newborn Nursery).

Xingbin Ai received an R21, “Does Age Matter for the Development of Allergen-Specific, Lung Resident Memory Cells?”

Victoria Grunberg was granted a K23 for her research entitled, “Resilient Families (R-FAM): A Dyadic Resiliency Intervention for Parents of Babies in Neonatal Intensive Care.”

Juan Matute was granted a K08, “Intestinal Intelectin-1 Regulation of Obesity Development.”

Anna Duncan earned a slot on T32, “Translational Post-doctoral Training in Neurodevelopment.”

South Shore Hospital, Weymouth

John Fiascone retired this summer after 13 years as the Medical Director of the South Shore NICU following many prior years of clinical leadership in medicine. John spearheaded numerous efforts to improve the quality of neonatal care and served as a mentor to junior faculty, always with a focus on effective interdisciplinary teamwork and communication.

His leadership and presence will be missed! Upon his departure, Zuzanna Kubicka will take over as the Interim Medical Director.

Brianna Medeiros is joining the NNP group at SSH. She continues to pursue her DNP at UConn.

Tufts Medical Center, Boston

We are proud of our two exceptional graduating fellows. Timothy Marinelli joined the Division of Neonatology at the Providence Alaska Children’s Hospital. Hayley Wilcox stayed on at Tufts.

We excitedly welcome Elaine Wang and Nabeel Hashmi as they start their NFM fellowship training.

We welcomed new faculty members: Gregory Goldstein, whose research focuses on improving neurodevelopmental outcomes for the ELBW preterm population; Ryan Kilpatrick, whose academic interests lie in data science as relevant to neonatal health outcomes and stewardship; Hayley Wilcox, who will spearhead the Tele-Neo Program for the Tufts Neonatal Network; and Michael Zujkowski, whose passion lies in medical education and the role of simulation in enhancing trainee skills in NRP and neonatal codes.

Elizabeth Yen was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

Elizabeth Yen received a K23, “Sex-Specific Impact of Prenatal Opioids on Brain Reward Signaling and Neonatal Feeding Regulation.”

Jonathan Davis was instrumental in the Tufts CTSI receiving the 4th consecutive Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH, which provides funding to support research services, resources, and educational programs; and local, regional, and national initiatives.

Rachana Singh, received a Small Business Innovation Research grant aimed to advance the development of the Prapela stochastic vibrotactile device to improve the clinical course of infants with apnea of prematurity.

UMass Memorial Medical Center, Worcester

The 24th annual Braden Griffin Memorial Symposium will be held on November 17th and will include terrific programming: Special considerations in the care of 22 week infants, adrenal insufficiency in preterm infants, treatment of mild HIE, and the approach to prenatal counselling and resuscitation at limits of viability in the era of changing abortion laws.

Congratulations to recent fellowship graduate, Kamaris Merritt, and welcome to our recently matriculated fellow, Millie Shah, who comes to UMass after completing residency at Tufts Medical Center followed by a newborn hospitalist role at CHOP. She plans to pursue research in psychological support to optimize family engagement and communication.

RHODE ISLAND

Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, Providence

Joseph Bliss served as a visiting professor at the University of Rochester’s Golisano Children’s Hospital in January.

Martin Keszler, was an invited speaker at The Maria Deliversia-Papadopoulos, MD, A Day with the Newborn Symposium; IPoKRaTES Clinical Seminar in conjunction with The Panama International Critical Care Conference Panama City; the Maternal and Infant Health Seminar, Education without Borders: A Global Educational Initiative by the American Austrian Foundation.

Jill Maron was an invited speaker at the VII International Meeting of Neonatology, Gramado, Brazil in April.

Betty Vohr was a virtual visiting professor at the University of Southern California in March.

VERMONT

University of Vermont, Burlington

We celebrate the completion of fellowship for Esther King and Amara Heard. Dr. King will be joining the Pediatrics group as an attending physician at Banner Children’s and the HonorHealth system in AZ. Dr. Heard will be joining the faculty at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, MN.

We welcome Luis Bolanos and Julia Litzky to their NFM fellowship from their residencies at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, respectively.

Deidre O’Reilly has been named NPM Division Chief.

Whitney Barkhuff has been appointed NICU Medical Director.

Delia Horn has been named Director of Neonatal Transport.

Leslie Young is now Director of Neonatal Research.

Vermont Oxford Network

Vermont Oxford Network, a worldwide community of neonatal care teams at more than 1,400 units in 41 countries, facilitates data-driven QI in newborn care. More than 150 teams are participating in the VON QI collaborative, All Care is Brain Care, which launched in January. The collaborative will convene for six webinars during the year to target three general aims: prevent injury, protect normal maturation and development, and promote positive experiences and relationships in all aspects of care. Supplemental topical learning communities have additional meetings led by a care expert for deep dives into QI and clinical topics.

The newly announced VON Institute for Evidence-Based Practice helped build the All Care is Brain Care toolkit by providing evidence in support of the Potentially Better Practices. The Institute for Evidence-Based Practice also is home to Cochran at VON and the VON Grand Rounds webinar and discussion series, which are publicly available resources to help teams apply evidence in the care they provide to infants and families by integrating proven effective practices into care provided in a local context. Recent webinar topics include “CPAP for RDS” and “Management of Acute Procedural Pain.”

NICU by the Numbers data briefs are another publicly available resource from VON, made possible by members who voluntarily submit data to VON databases (recently surpassing 4
millions of infant records). The data briefs provide analysis of network data to describe trends and highlight areas for local improvement. Recent briefs were published on the topics of therapeutic hypothermia, steroids for CLD, and international use of probiotics.

VON has expanded services internationally by partnering with the African Neonatal Association (ANA) to create the African Neonatal Network, a data-driven QI community of inpatient neonatal units. To support the QI efforts of participating hospitals, VON developed standardized data collection and reporting tools designed with stakeholders and neonatal leaders from the ANA, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Network is initially starting in five countries: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Participating teams will also have access to the VON Foundations in QI online courses to increase their QI capability and enhance African QI mentorship.

To support and recognize future leaders in QI, VON recognizes five AAP/VON scholars in partnership with the SONPM. Award recipients for 2023 are: Sarah Swenson (University of Minnesota); Avery Zierck (Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia); Kwai Tai Chan Poon (Duke University); Megan Aurora (Massachusetts General Hospital); and Alexandra Jacob (Memorial Care Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital in Long Beach). The scholars will attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in October 2023 in Washington, DC and present their work during a future VON Grand Rounds.

**District II: Shetal Shah**

**NEW YORK**

Children’s Hospital at Montefiore/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx

Congratulations to our graduating fellows, Palanikumar Balasundaram who joined the Division of Neonatology at MercyHealth (Javn Bea Hospital – Riverside) and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, and Michelle Lucena who joined the faculty at Texas Children’s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine.

Congratulations to Orna Rosen who retired in June 2023 after 28 years in the Division of Neonatology and Department of Pediatrics. Orna remains on the teaching faculty to continue her seminal contributions to our fellows’ education through her innovative perinatal simulation program and expert design and creation of low-cost, high-fidelity simulation models that are used in neonatal simulation training nationally and internationally.

Congratulations to Deborah Campbell who stepped down as Chief of the Division of Neonatology after 29 years. Deborah remains an active member of the faculty (40 years and counting) in the Division and Department of Pediatrics and at Einstein, and continues her work in clinical care, public health policy, health services delivery and perinatal health advocacy. Mamta Fuloria was an invited presenter at the 2023 NIH Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Initiative Awardee Workshop sharing interim results of her funded project, “Social Determinants of Health: Effect on Maternal and Neonatal Health.”

The Division was very active at PAS including presentations by Praveen Ballabh, medical student Natasha Chaudhari (mentored by Mamta Fuloria), Palanikumar Balasundaram, Jillian Connors, Michelle Lucena, Tomas Havranek, Katie Forman, M. Susan LaTuga, and Marlyse Haward. Deborah Campbell chaired the NICU Follow-Up Club session.

Save the Date! Tomas Havranek, Course Director, and the Division of Neonatology will host the 14th Annual Current Topics in Neonatal Nutrition and Advances in Neonatal Care on October 10-11, 2023, in Tarrytown, NY. Guest faculty will include Camilla Martin, Mohamed El-Dib, Sarah Groh-Wargo, Jonathan Klein, Roberta Keller, Steven Abrams and Lewis Rubin. Join us for this hybrid conference and state-of-the-art presentations. This symposium has been designed to be of interest to neonatologists, neonatology fellows, PAs, NNPs, nurses, nutritionists, lactation consultants and others. For further information on content and registration, contact Amanda Feliciano (amafelic@montefiore.org).

Shantanu Rastogi assumed the position as Chief of Neonatology and Professor of Pediatrics at Einstein on August 1, 2023. Shantanu returned to NY after three years in Washington DC as an attending neonatologist at Children’s National and Director of Newborn Services at George Washington University Hospital. Prior to joining the faculty at George Washington, Dr. Rastogi was an attending neonatologist at Maimonides Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

We welcome our first-year fellows: Ahmed Ismaiel joined us from Lincoln Medical Center and Zahir Bushra completed her residency at St Joseph’s Regional Medical Center.

Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital/New York Medical College, Valhalla

Heather Brumberg completed her tenure as President of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR) this year with the group’s first in-person meeting since 2020. Taking place in Philadelphia, the meeting featured 275 abstracts and over 325 attendees. During her term, Dr. Brumberg grew the Society to 400 members. She will continue to serve on the ESPR Board.

We bid farewell to our five graduating fellows. Nina Debbenedictis and Hannah Poe will be joining the NYP-Cornell program. Hannah Sampath and Kriti Damodaran will join Michigan Children’s Hospital in Detroit. Christina Fernandez will become an attending at Sunrise Children’s Hospital in Las Vegas, NV. We wish them continued success!

We also welcome five new 1st year trainees into the fellowship program. Elissa Dunlap is from Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital. Nishani Ekanayake joins us from Northwell Staten Island Hospital. Mary Kirstyleigh Ann Lim is from Harlem Hospital. Eytan Rasekh joins us from Children’s Hospital at Montefiore. G. Sreenivasan is from Metropolitan Hospital Center.

Our faculty and fellowship trainee investigators were well represented at this year’s Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, with 16 presentations on topics ranging from stem cell therapy for IVH to public health policy.

Construction to expand our NICU to 58 beds continues and a new clinical tower will be constructed on the hospital campus this summer.

Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital/Columbia University, New York

Sandhya Brachio joined the SONPM NICU Follow-Up Work Group as a representative for the NYC regional neonatal follow-up clinics and is TECAN QI Co-Lead and will be organizing the 3rd QI Summer School.

Elvira Parravicini received donations to the Neonatal Comfort Care Program from grateful parents and the Hasting Center Cunniff-Dixon Foundation.

Elvira Parravicini is a lead instructor for the 2023 International Next-Level Perinatal Palliative Care Live Training Course at Columbia University Irving Medical Center on September 20-22, 2023 (https://web.cvent.com/event/28be1904-5143-49cb-b3a8-d349fd0466c3/summary)

Richard Polin gave lectures in Cambridge and Montreal in May.


Kyoung Joung joins us as attending neonatologist on May 1st, coming from Saint Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Boston, MA.

Sinead Brady, our 3rd year Chief Fellow, will be joining our faculty as a full time attending in August.

Anshu Paul received the Milton Singer Memorial Fellowship Award.

Sinead Brady is the Jen Tien Wung MD Award recipient.

Thomas Hays received a KL2 Mentored Career Development Award and a Precision Medicine Pilot Grant, both from Irving Institution.

Pamela Good received the Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. Scholars Award and a NIDDKD K08 award.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows. Victoria Blasina Eckert heads to Cornell, Sinead Brady joins us at CUMC, Amy Patel will join Connecticut Children’s, Anshu Paul heads to the University of Albany, and Thejju Sebastian joins the University of Chicago.

We welcome our new fellows: Michaela Thompson and Megan Tagerman from NYPH, Shaoxin Lu from Baylor College of Medicine, Etze Chotzoglu from University of Texas, and Ami Patel from CHOP.

Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital, New York

Mount Sinai was well-represented at PAS this year, with multiple faculty and fellows presenting posters and talks. Fellow Jessica Lewis gave a platform presentation on her QI work to reduce antibiotic use by limiting treatment for culture negative sepsis. Katherine Gutmann spoke on her work with coauthors Malorie Meshkati and
Andrea Weintraub to apply a VitalTalk training curriculum to communication around serious neonatal illness. We would also like to congratulate our three graduating fellows: Vanessa Eddy-Abrams who will stay on as Mt. Sinai faculty, Lena Olgun who will join Jacobi Hospital, and Jessica Lewis who accepted a faculty position at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

We are excited to welcome Richelle Reinhart as a junior faculty member, joining our team this summer upon completion of her fellowship at Children’s National.

We welcome Rachel Silverman (Kravis Children’s Hospital at the Icahn School of Medicine), Christina Lewis (Nemours Children’s Hospital at Thomas Jefferson University) and Hyungjoo Jeong (Inova Children’s Hospital) who will make up our incoming fellowship class. They will be in good hands under the guidance of Magali St. John Sutton, who assumed the role of Fellowship Program Director this year, taking over from Veniamin Ratner who adedately led the program for the past four years and has transitioned into the role of Interim NICU Site Director at Mount Sinai West.

New York Presbyterian Hospital/Komansky Children’s Hospital/Well Cornell School of Medicine, New York NICU LaunchPad was developed in joint partnership with Columbia and is supported by other regional fellowship programs. This year, the program will take place on the Well Cornell campus August 9-10, 2023.

Emily Ahn, 3rd year neonatology fellow, received funding from Laerdal Global to continue her global health research in Tanzania. Emily Ahn presented her work on the use of a novel bubble CPAP device in low resource settings at the recent International Maternal and Newborn conference in Cape Town and the 2023 PAS meeting in Washington DC.

Well Cornell Neonatology congratulates their graduating fellows: Emily Ahn, Sean Cullen, and Giselle Gozum. We are also thrilled to announce that they will remain as faculty. They will be joined by Nina DeBenedictis, Victoria Eckels, Tarik Zahouani, and Hannah Pee. We also bid farewell and good luck to Catherine Chang as she moves out west for new adventures. We thank her for her years of dedication, teamwork, and keen insights.

New York University Langone Medical Center, New York Our faculty and fellows has multiple presentations at both the PAS and ESPR meetings.

In June, NYU ran their first POCUS CME Course at the NYSIM Center led by Course Director, Valeriy Chorny (Hospital Medicine). Robert Angert (Neonatology) and Ami Shah (Pediatric Critical Care) in collaboration with Beryl Greywoode, Thomas Pawlowski and Andrea Matho from Perelman School of Medicine at UPenn; Jordan Merz from University of Arizona; and Aaron Silver from Oregon Health and Science University.

Michelle Vaz was one of five people selected nationally to attend the Society for Pediatric Research Grant Writing Workshop for Pediatric Researchers led by Steven McElroy.

Fellow Tatiana Nuzum received the Poster Symposium Award at the 9th Annual CHOP Chronic Lung Disease Conference.

Fellow Gurpreet Kaur received the Meritorious Poster Award at the 2023 ESPR Conference.

This summer we will welcome three new fellows: Margaret Christian from NYP Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center, Jordan Nelson from Atlantic Health System, and Natalia Mavrogianis from NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Sarah Fleishacker will join our NYU faculty. Gurpreet Kaur will be pursuing an advanced fellowship in neonatal and infant feeding disorders at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Kashif Iqbal will be joining the faculty at Lenox Hill.

State University of New York at Buffalo, John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital The Division of Neonatology had several presentations at the AAP NCE, the European Society of Pediatric Research, the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR), and the PAS meetings.

Medical student Kelcy McIntyre won the Best Poster Award at the ESPR.

Resident Noor Mehandi, mentored by Deepali Handa, won the ESPR Award for the Best QI Project.

Fellow Hamza Abbasi, mentored by Munmun Rawat, won the Young Investigator Award at the ESPR.

Fellows Mary Kasu, Hamza Abbasi, Clariss Blanco, Arun Prasath, and our former fellow Mausma Bawa received the ESPR Travel Award.

Fellow Clariss Blanco received the PAS Travel Grant.

Fellows Arun Prasath and Hamza Abbasi received the AAP NRP Young Investigator Grant for their resuscitation projects.

Fellow Clariss Blanco, mentored by Munmun Rawat, and fellow Arun Prasath, mentored by Praveen Chandrasekharan, won the AAP Travel Grant and were chosen to present at the AAP SONPM Program as part of the top ten abstracts submitted.

We will miss our graduating fellows, Clariss Blanco and Arun Prasath, who are joining as attending neonatologists and Assistant Professors in academic programs.

We welcome our incoming fellows, Larissa Romanow, and Sheetal Chepuri.

Former fellow and current house officer at Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard University, Mausma Bawa, was awarded the ZOLL foundation grant to SUNY Buffalo with Praveen Chandrasekharan. She was also awarded the House Officer Award from ESPR for her study at the lab at SUNY Buffalo.

Munmun Rawat received the Prolacta Education Grant for improving kangaroo care rates in the NICU.

Anne Marie Reynolds is the Interim Chair of Pediatrics and continues to serve as the Chief of Neonatology.

Praveen Chandrasekharan is the Associate Chief of Neonatology.

Kayva Rao is the Medical Director at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital.

We have been CLABSI-free for 2.5 years! This achievement is due to a QI project led by Deepali Handa, Anne Marie Reynolds, and the entire team at Oishei Children’s Hospital (https://vimeo.com/813643419).

Anne Marie Reynolds is the site PI for the Eat, Sleep, Console study.

We are in the third year of successfully running the regionalized two-day thurway simulation-based boot camp for our fellows led by Deepali Handa and Munmun Rawat, along with counterparts at Rochester and Albany.

Munmun Rawat has collaborated with our counterparts at Rochester and Albany and initiated a monthly neonatology board review course for the fellows.

Praveen Chandrasekharan was an invited speaker at the Nemacolin and the Pediatric Intensive, Cardiac, and Neonatal Intensive Care Conferences.

John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital celebrated its 5th birthday, and the Division of Neonatology was highlighted for its work by nurses and providers.

University of Rochester Medical Center/Golisano Children’s Hospital

This July we are welcoming Joseph M. Bliss to our faculty. He’s coming to us from Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island. He brings with him a special interest in fungal infections in premature infants.

We are saying farewell and best wishes to our 3rd year fellows, Jin Lim (headed to Providence Alaska Medical Center, Anchorage, AK) and Lakshmi Sridhar (headed to Children’s National Hospital Center, Washington DC).

We are excited to welcome three fellows to our program. Mashfiq Hasan attended medical school at New York Medical College and completed residency at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Providence, RI. Rachel Kitt attended medical school at St. George’s University School of Medicine and completed residency at Saint Peter’s University Hospital, New Brunswick, N.J. Elizabeth Masotti attended medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University and completed residency at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, St. Petersburg, FL.

In April, Nirupama Larodia organized the 42nd Annual Townsend Teaching Day in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. The James W. Kendig Keynote Address speaker was Matthew Laughon from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Other speakers included Erin Rademaker, Igor Khodak, David G. Darcy, Lakshmi Sridhar, Irina Prelipecan, Michelle Smyon, and Zimeng Linda Gao.
On May 12th, Jeff Meyers and Laurie Steiner hosted the 2nd Annual Neonatology Clinical Genomics Conference, Newborn Screening in 2023: How Genetic Testing Is Improving Care for Babies and Families. The keynote speaker was Kevin Strauss, Medical Director, Clinic for Special Children. Local speakers included Chin-To Fong, Stephanie Laniowski, Karen Voter, Emma Cialafoni, and Marjorie Shaw.

**District III: Michael Posencheck**

**DELAWARE**

ChristianaCare, Newark

Christie Yankowski received the John Stefano Award from the Department of Pediatrics for excellence in teaching and clinical care in neonatology.

David A. Paul was formally recognized by the Governor John Carney and state legislators for his role as Chair of the Delaware Healthy Mother Infant Consortium from 2005-2023.

Stephen Pearman was a guest lecturer at the Uniformed Service Health Science Center in Washington DC in April. The topic was, “The Impact of Prenatal Exposures on Developmental Outcomes.” He was also a guest lecturer to the Newborn Brain Society on discussing, “Using QI to Improve Neonatal Outcomes.”

Mike Favara received the Young Investigator Award at ESPR in March 2023. We welcome Lisa Strous Wallace to our faculty. Lisa joins us after completing fellowship at Children’s National Medical Center.

We are delighted to announce our upcoming 2023 Margaret Handy Memorial Lectureship, to be held virtually on Friday, October 13, 2023. Speakers include Leslie Young, Bobbi Pineda, Wendy Sturtz, and Betty Vohr. Registration information: www.christianacare.org/cme.

We are pleased to mark three years in our new single family room NICU, which includes six couplet care rooms.

We wish our graduating fellows the best of luck! Saminathan Anbalagan heads to the University of South Alabama. Oluwatobi Adegboyega will be joining Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, PA. Kanishk Jha will join Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital/Deaconess Medical Center in Spokane, WA. Jill Taylor will join Nemours Children’s Health, DE.

We enthusiastically welcome our incoming class of fellows: Heather Croy from Atlantic Health/Goodby Children’s Hospital, Priyanka Patel from SKMC-TJU/Nemours Children’s Hospital, Justine Pirozzi from Central Iowa Health System/Blank Children’s Hospital, and Ha Tran from Children’s National Medical Center.

**MARYLAND**

Johns Hopkins, Baltimore

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Leslie Doucette will be joining the INOVA Fairfax Neonatology group and Alex Gall has accepted a position at the University of Chicago.

We welcome four new fellows in July 2023: Daphney Clermont, Elizabeth Lee, Jessica Messier, and Lemaat Michael.

2nd year fellow Nazli Kuter received the Newborn Brain Society Trainee Award and the Marshall Klaus Research Award for her basic science research.

1st year fellow Srishti Jayakumar was awarded a Thomas Wilson Foundation grant.

University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore

Dina El-Metwally, one of the key organizers, and Natalie Davis were invited to speak at the 18th Hot Topics in Neonatal Medicine, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in February, 2023. Dina brought the conference back to in-person with over 900 registered participants ranging from neonatologists to nurses and trainees, and lectured on family-centered care in the NICU and Keep the PEEP initiative, while Natalie lectured on child passenger safety/car seats and impact of routine gastric aspirate monitoring on VLBW infants.

Christine Capriolo, Medical Director at University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center (UM SJMC) won the Excellence in Nursing Award for Best Physician Colleague and was recognized by the Women’s and Children’s Services at UM SJMC.

The University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Prince George’s County, MD, underwent successful re-designation as a level III NICU under the medical directorship of Jocelyn Leung and will resume care for NICU babies in May 2023.

Francesca Okolie and Jioni Lewis, leaders of the Health Equity and Population Health Maternal Child Health Think Tank at UMD were awarded the Health Equity and Population Health Seed Grant Initiative titled, “Achieving Health Equity, Empowerment and Improved Maternal Outcomes through Collaborative Doula Care.”

Srriyapi Sundararajan has been promoted to be the Co-Chair of the ESPR DEI Committee, an advisory body that works with ESPR Board and committees on issues and initiatives that impact diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We proudly announce the following graduating fellows and congratulations on their new positions! Katherine Nyman as MSP physician, Division of Neonatology at the University of California San Diego; Shrutii Patel as Assistant Professor at UMSOM; and Emily Sangillo as Clinical Associate in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

We welcome our four new incoming NPM fellows: Tanya Abraham and Adrianna Jackson from Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Brandi Sargent from University of Maryland, and Sharen Wilson from Walter Reed Medical Center.

**NEW JERSEY**

The Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper, Camden

Pragnya Das was awarded a New Jersey Health Foundation grant for “miR-34a Inhibitor as a Novel Serothapeutic Candidate for Hyperoxia-Induced BPD.” Co-Investigator is Vineet Bhandari.

Vineet Bhandari was an invited international faculty at the XVIII Curso de Actualizacion en Enfermedades Respiratorias Pediátricas, Sociedad Chilena de Neumología Pediátrica in Santiago, Chile.

Vineet Bhandari was an invited speaker for the State-of-the-Art International Neonatology Webinar series Learn from the Legends and National Neonatology Forum Neonatal Expert Talks.

Vineet Bhandari was an invited international faculty at the Indian Academy of Pediatrics NEOCON 2023 in Jaipur, India and at the 41st Annual Convention of the National Neonatology Forum NEOCON 2023 in Kolkata, India.

Hackensack University Medical Center

Lisa Eiland started at Chief of Neonatology in January 2023.

Judy Aschner was an invited speaker at the Richard Ehrenkranz Symposium, Yale University, New Haven, CT in May. She was an invited speaker for International IPOKRaTES conference in Guadalajara, Mexico in October 2022.

** PENNSYLVANIA **

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Heidi Herrick was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics effective January 1, 2023.

Sara Handley was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics effective January 1, 2023.

The Division of Neonatology welcomes the following faculty effective July 2023: CHOP fellows William Corder and Taylor Wild as Assistant Professors of Clinical Pediatrics; Katharine P. (KP) Callahan (CHOP fellow) as Instructor, Department of Pediatrics; CHOP research trainees Danielle Callaway, Sara Coggins, Kathryn Rubeby and Elizabeth Salazar as Instructors, Department of Pediatrics.

Congratulations to the following Neonatologists who were named in Philadelphia Magazine’s TOP DOCS 2023: Anne Ades, Janet Lioy, David Munson and Ilyaa Peterside.

Save the date for the 10th Annual Chronic Lung Disease Conference being held in March 2024. More details will follow shortly. Learn more at chop.cloud-cme.com.

The next National ELSO meeting is in Seattle, WA from September 28-October 1, 2023.

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

Dustin Flannery was accepted into the Harvard Medical School Effective Writing for Health Care certificate program. In addition, he was also elected to the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.
Chavis Patterson is the President-Elect for the National Perinatal Association.

Joanna Parga-Belinkie was elected to a three-year term on the Council on Communication and Media Executive Committee of the APHNA.

Diana Montoya-Williams and Dustin Flannery were elected to the Society for Pediatric Research.

Congratulations to Andrea Duncan who earned the highly sought-after “Cup of Greatness” for being the first to submit their neuro exam re-certification video recording for 2023 for the neonatal research Network.

Kes Yang is the recipient of the 2023 Faculty Teaching Award given by the 2023 fellows’ graduation class.

David Munson is the recipient of the 2023 Schmidt-Kripalani Faculty Mentoring Award in recognition for outstanding contributions to the career development of junior faculty and fellows.

Congratulations to Holly Hedrick, Surgical Director of the Neonatal Surgical Service in the NCH, who was recently received the Stritmatter award from the Philadelphia County Medical Society. This prestigious award honors a PCMS physician who has demonstrated to the Society the most valuable contributions to the healing art, surgical or medical.

Christopher Thom received a grant from the Hartwell Foundation for his project, “Comprehensive Platelet Proteomics to Improve Neonatal Transfusion Practices.”

Scott Gordon received an institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics grant from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine for his study, “Polyamine-Mediated Modification of Immune Responses in the Cervicovaginal Epithelial Barrier: Potential Mechanisms of Cervical Remodeling Preceding Preterm Birth.”

Scott Gordon received the 2023 Next Generation Sequencing Program grant from CHOP for his project, “Defining Cellular and Molecular Consequences of Congenital Viral Infection at the Maternal-Fetal Interface.”

Sara Handley received an R03 from the NIH for her study, “Understanding Organizational Culture and Implementation of Evidence-Based Resuscitation.”

Sara Handley received a K23 from the NIH for her project, “The Impact of Delivery Hospital Organizational Structure and Culture on Perinatal Outcomes.”

Erik Jensen received an R01 for his study, “Multidimensional Phenotype Classification in Grade 3 BPD.”

Sara DeMauro received an NIH UG1 for the Clinical Center for NICHD/Neonatal Research Network.

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

The Division of Neonatology welcomes the following neonatal fellows for July 2023:

Maame Arhin – Cincinnati Children’s Hospital,

Michelle Barlett – Seattle Children’s Hospital,

Jonathan Berken – Lurie Children’s Hospital (dual fellowship in Neonatology and GI),

Brian Dulmovits – CHOP, Alex Ruan – CHOP, and

Michael Willcockson – CHOP

The Division of Neonatology says goodbye and best wishes to the following fellow graduates:

Ashley Osborne – Attending Neonatologist, Medical University of South Carolina;

Katie Paul – Assistant Professor, UNC;

Patrick Peebles – Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin;

Liandra Presser – Attending Neonatologist, Lehigh Valley Hospital.

2nd year fellow Kristen Coletti won the 2022-2023 Fellow Teaching Award.

Alvaro Proano received the CHOP Global Scientific Excellence Award ($10,000 grant) to support a seroepidemiology study of Chagas disease among pregnant women in Philadelphia and congenital infection in exposed newborns. This is a competitive program with the goal of rewarding significant contributions to pediatric research focused on global impact.

Patrick Peebles was selected as a finalist for the 2023 Philadelphia Perinatal Society Thomas R. Boggs Jr. Award for Neonatal-Perinatal Research.

CHOP Newborn Care Network

Jay Greenspan has been named Medical Director at CHOP Newborn Care at Virtua Health.

Einstein Medical Center Montgomery, East Norriton

In April 2023, Einstein Medical Center Montgomery was awarded the Community Champion Award for the work on increasing compliance to Hepatitis B vaccine at birth, a QI initiative by Sandeep Sadashiv and team at Harrisburg, PA by Hospitals and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.

Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital

Welcome to Rebecca Burke as the newest member of the Division, adding a neonatologist with a new focus on genetics to the clinical services.

Traci Jennings assumed the leadership of the APP group and was voted Central PA APP of the Year for her outstanding teaching outreach work.

While in Portugal, Jeffery Kaiser gave an invited lecture to the Portuguese Pediatric Society entitled, “Transient Hypoglycemia: Controversies and Shared Mechanisms with Congenital Hyperinsulinemia.” He also presented a lecture to the International Congenital Hyperinsulinism Family Conference entitled, “Guidelines for Detecting and Managing Neonatal Hypoglycemia: A Neonatologist’s Perspective.”

Shali Amatya will be presenting her work at the European Society of Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Conference in Athens Greece.

Tammy Corr received a five-year training grant (K23) from NIDA entitled, “Longitudinal Academic Performance in Children with a History of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.”

Shali Amatya was chosen as one of the Top Physicians under 40 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society in 2023. In addition, she received grant funding from the Center for Research for Women and Newborn, Lancaster, PA.


Christiana Oji-Mmuo will be leaving to join the group at Dell Children’s Hospital in Austin, TX. Congratulations to our graduating fellow Dosaly Thompson who will join UPMC in Pittsburgh, PA.

The Division looks forward to incoming fellows

Raven Adams from University of Illinois and Brandon Costello from Naval Medical Center of San Diego.

Congratulations to the graduating Physician Assistant Fellow from our APP Postgraduate Fellowship, Brandon Nokes.

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Philadelphia

Congratulations to Kendra Kolb, Linda Nguyen Roberts and Monika Rydzewska for their recent appointments to Assistant Professor at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Reema Paul, 2nd year fellow, received an Eastern Society for Pediatric Research Travel Award for her work, “Reduction of Antibiotic Days in a Level IV NICU.”

Michelle Mejia, 3rd year fellow, received the ESPR Mead Johnson Reckitt Trainee Diversity in Workforce Travel Award.

Nneka Ugwu, a 2022 graduate, was selected as one of three early career investigators to present her research in April at the 125th Annual Meeting of the Japan Pediatric Society in Tokyo. Her talk was, “Cathelicidin Anti-Microbial Peptide (CAMP) is Toxic during Neonatal Influenza Virus Infection.” Her mentor is Alison Carey.

We wish the best of luck to our graduating fellows:

Linsey Cromwell - Jersey Shore Medical Center, NJ and Rebecca Suflas - Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, MD.

We welcome our new first year fellows: KIADJE ADADPO - SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Marissa Burd - Geisinger Medical Center, Lanchana KC - Flushing Hospital Medical Center.

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Division of Newborn Medicine

We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members this summer. Ashley Kimble will be returning to Pittsburgh after completing her fellowship at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. Dr. Kimble was previously a resident at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Dosaly Thompson will be joining us after completing her fellowship at the Penn State Health Children’s Hospital.

We wish all the best to our three graduating fellows: Ayesha Alriyami will be moving on to a faculty position in Abu Dhabi, UAE. In addition to completing her fellowship training, Dr. Alriyami received her Master of Science in Medical Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Mindy Hwang will be joining the faculty at Cohen Children’s Medical Center. Dr. Hwang completed her Master of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh during her training.

Katrin Lichtsinn will be joining the faculty of
Seattle Children’s Hospital. Dr. Lichtsinn earned her Master of Science in Clinical Research from the University of Pittsburgh during her time with us.

We are welcoming four new fellows to our program this summer: Chelsea Bitler, Madalyn Lutz, Daniel Mohan, and Matthew Sanfilippo.

Jennifer Kloesz was named Director for the UPMC Division of Newborn Medicine.

Kathleen Schwabenbauer was promoted to Clinical Director of the UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital NICU.

Brigid O’Donnell was named an Advisory Dean for the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Carey Welsh was promoted to Associate Regional Medical Director for UPMC Newborn Medicine in Central Pennsylvania. Dr. Welsh was also named Medical Director of the NICU at UPMC Memorial Hospital.

Julie Dillard was named Medical Director for Neonatal Transport Services and Community Outreach.

Danielle Browning took on the role of Newborn Medicine Director for Medical Student and Resident Education.

Onome Oghifobibi was named Director of Community Engagement.

Alice Randall was promoted to Associate Clinical Director of the NICU and Co-Director of the Triage Service at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

Thomas Hooven received an R21 award for his project entitled, “Bacterial CRISPR Interference to Define Macrophage Responses to Group B Streptococcus Proteins.”

Katrin Lichtsinn won the Trainee Travel Award for her presentation at the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research Meeting.

Onome Oghifobibi received a Tanner Scholars Advancing Equity Award.

WASHINGTON DC

Children’s National Hospital

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Richelle Reinhart will be a neonatologist at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City; Rebecca Lundburg will be a neonatologist at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD; and Lisa Wallace will be a neonatologist at Nemours Hospital in Delaware.

Rebecca Lundburg was the winner of the Children’s National Hospital Award for Best Fellow Abstract at CNH Research Week.

Nickie Andescavage was the winner of the Children’s National Hospital Mentorship Award.

We welcome new neonatology attendings Keisha Wolfe from Georgetown University Hospital and Lakshmi Sridhar from Rochester Medical Center.

Gordon Avery, one of the pioneers of Neonatology, passed away at age 91 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Penny Glass.

District IV:

Brian Hackett

KENTUCKY

University of Louisville

Congratulations to John Roberts on his retirement! Dr. Roberts came to the University of Louisville in 1983, where he served on faculty in the roles of Pediatric Residency Program Director from 1986-2009 and Vice Dean of Graduate Medical Education from 1989-2022. Dr. Roberts has been active in the Greater Louisville Medical Society, Kentucky Medical Association, and American Medical Association. He was recently elected mayor of Windy Hills, KY!

Congratulations to Diane Buckley, Daniel Kahn and Carrie Moore upon the completion of their fellowships!

Welcome to our new fellows Clare Batty, Kaitlyn Newton and Divya Ramdas.

The University of Louisville and Norton Children’s Medical Group Neonatology welcomes Carrie Moore, Allie Lyle and Ankur Datta to the faculty.

On May 18-19, neonatal fellows and early career neonatologists gathered to learn how to Build a Career in Quality Improvement at the University of Louisville. Cindy Crabtree (University of Louisville) led sessions on creating a strategic vision and a QI portfolio. Ryan Skeens, Emily Morris (Vanderbilt University Medical Center) and Tamina Singh (University of Louisville) shared their experiences with building a successful QI team and strategies to implement successful interventions. The keynote speaker, Munish Gupta (Beth Israel Deaconess), shared insights on making QI robust and Scott Duncan (University of Louisville) taught participants how to make the business case for their QI projects. Hannah Fischer (University of Louisville) led participants in activities to critically review a QI manuscript and build control charts. Our team and participants had a great time networking and learning together, and hope to make this a recurring event in District IV. We would like to acknowledge and thank the SONPM for providing an educational grant to support this conference.

NORTH CAROLINA

Duke University, Durham

At Duke, we added the first seven of 14 additional beds to our NICU capacity in February, which brings the Duke NICU capacity to 74 beds. Seven additional beds will be coming online later this year or early next year.

We’ll be saying goodbye to fellow graduates Aaron Adams, who will join the faculty at Cincinnati Children’s, and Ryan Kilpatrick, who will return to Boston to join the faculty at Tufts. Mike Evers will graduate from our Complex Infant Care Fellowship Program and return to Louisiana State to begin his neonatology fellowship.

We will be welcoming new fellows Chelsea Lockyear, who is completing pediatric residency at Duke; Yasmeen Midgette, who is completing pediatric residency at Wake Forest University; Kimran Sidhu, who completed her residency at Eastern Virginia; and Kara Hoffman, from Duke, who will join our Complex Infant Care Fellowship.

We were pleased to get the news that we joined with the NICU teams at UNC and ECU to successfully renew in the NICHD Neonatal Research Network as the North Carolina Clinical Center (NCCO)! We will continue our statewide NICHD NRN Journal Club this summer as results from the NRN’s MILK, Preemie Hypothyroidism, and Darbepoetin Trials have all been presented at recent conferences. Thanks to Joanne Probst, the NCCC’s overall coordinator, and the site investigators Mike O’Connor, Rachel Greenberg, Matt Laughon (from UNC), Ryan Moore (from ECU), and Bill Malcolm, who continues as the Follow-Up PI.

New faculty include Kevin Williams, who completes fellowship at U Miami, will join our group this summer to lead our ongoing development of multidisciplinary training, with a focus on sim program development. Simone Schneider will join our faculty this summer after completing neonatology fellowship at UNC. She will focus her work in our Transitions Program, both inpatient and outpatient.

We with a heartfelt and grateful thank you, congratulations, and not ready-to-be-believed goodbye to Ron Goldberg, who will move from his active faculty role to emeritus faculty this summer. Ron led the Division from 1997-2017 and provided great care, while building an ever-growing and great clinical, education and research program here at Duke. We will be gathering in October with Ron to celebrate his career and contributions to the field.

East Carolina University Health Neonatology, Greenville

We bid farewell to Leslie Peedin, our former Associate Fellowship Program Director, who joined a local pediatrics practice this year.

Juan Guilien-Hernandez has been appointed as the Associate Fellowship Program Director.

Katherine Taylor has been appointed as the Director of Neonatal Outreach.

Maja Herco has been appointed as the Medical Director for Pediatric ECMO at the Maynard and Connie Children’s Hospital at ECU Health.

We are excited for our outgoing fellows as they prepare to start the next phase of their careers! Chinosoy Eriobu will be joining the neonatology practice at Covenant Medical Center, Saginaw, MI, while Justin Castellow will be joining the Pediatrrix Medical Group in Salt Lake City, UT.

Pediatrrix Medical Group of North Carolina/Cone Health System, Greensboro

Our group is sadly making plans to say farewell and happy retirement to Richard Auten (Duke alumnus and lung aficionado) at the end of July. Ben Rattray (also a Duke alumnus) and David Ehrmann (Vanderbilt alumnus) are now the Medical Directors for the two Cone Health system units. Rick was Medical Director of the level 2 unit at Alamance Regional Hospital in Burlington up until just last month and made contributions to the larger neonatology and pulmonology communities. While it may be hard for him and us to let go, we are confident he is going to enjoy this new season in life with his wife, grandkids, and sailing!
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

We are excited to welcome three new faculty to UNC Chapel Hill in the upcoming academic year: Cara Beth Carr is coming to us from Rainbow Babies, Katie Paul from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and Erika Yazawa from the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program.

Sofia Aliaga and Andrea Trembath were promoted to Clinical Professor.

Carl Bose will be retiring from UNC Chapel Hill after 40 years of dedication and service on June 30, 2023, and will become a Professor Emeritus. We are grateful to Dr. Bose for all his leadership, research excellence, and mentorship over the past four decades and wish him the best!

Lauren Frazer was awarded a UNC School of Medicine Physician-Scientist Training Program Faculty Award from 2023-2025 for her studies focused on the pathogenesis of necrotizing enterocolitis.

Wesley Jackson and Fernando Moya were awarded a Promoting Clinical Research in Southeastern NC Grant for their project, “Pharmacokinetics and Safety of Caffeine in Neonates with Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy,” by the Research Advisory Council from Novant Health, New Hanover Regional Medical Center and the UNC School of Medicine.

Matt Laughon, in collaboration with Duke University and East Carolina University, was awarded a competitive renewal of their Neonatal Research Network grant.

Misty Good, Division Chief, was selected to give the Gerald Merenstein Lecture at the SONPM program at the AAP NCE in Washington, DC in October 2023.

Misty Good, in collaboration with Co-PIs Jill Maron (Brown University), Camilia Martin (Weill Cornell Medicine), Steve McElroy (UC Davis), and James Wynn (University of Florida), received an AAP SONPM Strategic Grant Award to increase and foster the next generation of neonatologist-scientists.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Neha Hassan will be joining the Ochsner Health System in New Orleans, LA. Simone Schneider will be joining Duke Neonatology in Durham, NC. Lena Zhang will be joining the neonatology group at the Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters in Norfolk, VA.

Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem

Sarah Cilvik was awarded an R56 from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for her project, “Developmental Origins of Cardiovascular Disease in Offspring from Nonhuman Primate Pregnancies at Advanced Maternal Age,” which will continue as an R01 beginning in September of this year.

TENNESSEE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville

Jennifer Sucro is the recipient of an R01 award from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for her project, “Integreated Molecular and Cellular Drivers of Alveologenesis.”

Ellen Shelton was awarded an R01 for, “Salt Mediated Cross Talk between Lymphatic Vessels and Immune Cells in Kidney Disease.”

Holly Engelstad was elected as the Neonatology Representative to the Executive Committee of the AAP Section on Transport Medicine.

Jeff Reese gave invited talks at the Society for Reproductive Investigation annual meeting in Brisbane, Australia and at the Monash Neonatal Research conference, Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne, Australia.

Scott Guthrie spoke at the Annual Pediatric Review Conference in Amman, Jordan on several neonatal topics and gave a talk at a conference in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Meaghan Ransom, one of our graduating fellows, had her publication, “Developmental Trajectory of Extracellular Vesicle Characteristics from the Lungs of Preterm Infants,” selected by the American Journal of Physiology – Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology for APSSelect, a monthly collection of the best recently published articles.

Anica Allwine, one of our 2nd year fellows, was selected for a Marshall Klaus Clinical and Basic Science Award for her project, “Integrin $\alpha_3\beta_1$ Regulates Alveolar Basement Membrane Formation during Postnatal Lung Development and Assembly.”

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Meaghan Ransom and Ben Crawford will be joining the faculty at Vanderbilt, Alex Muhar will be starting at Children’s Minnesota, Zach Anderson will be joining the group at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies.

VIRGINIA

University of Virginia Children’s Hospital, Charlottesville

Peter Murray was invited to present Grand Rounds at the University of Kentucky on, “The Moral Obligations to Perivable Neonates.” He was an invited speaker to the Central Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses Annual Meeting. In May, he spoke on the impact of Dobbs v. Jackson on the neonatologist at the ACOG Annual Meeting. UVA was well represented at PAS. Beyond the many posters, several members of the division gave platform talks including Angée June, Karen Fairchild, and Brynne Sullivan. David Kaufman co-chaired the popular Sepsis Club which discussed MRSA in the NICU.

Congratulations to graduating fellow Angée June on being awarded the Kendig Research Award, which is given annually to the pediatric fellow who has demonstrated excellence in research over the course of their fellowship. After fellowship, Angée will be joining Fairfax Neonatal Associates in Fairfax, VA.

Graduating fellow Charli Bultmann will be joining Pediatric Neonatology of Texas at Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin, TX.

We are excited to share that we have three new fellows joining us to bring us to nine total fellows. They are Alex Ratnani (UVA), Movique King (Portsmouth Naval), and Sara Manetta (Rainbow Babies and Children’s).

District V: Craig Nankervis

INDIANA

Riley Children’s Health, Indianapolis

The 6th Annual Neonatal Resuscitation Symposium is scheduled for September 14-15, 2023 in Indianapolis. The meeting is co-chaired by Marilyn Escobedo and Edgardo Szyld. Speakers include Stuart Hooper, Yacov Rabi, Nicole Yamada, Anup Katheria, Sara Berkelhammer, and Vishal Kapadia. For questions contact Vicki Anderson at vpetrou@iuipui.edu.

Riley Children’s Health welcomes new faculty members Brianna Libero, Rachel Han, Edgardo Szyld, and Ibrahim Sammour.

David Boyle is retiring after a long career.

Scott Denne received the Samuel J. Fomon Nutrition Award, a prestigious award from the AAP.

Katie Huff received the Harry Vars Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

Beatrice Stefanescu received the Patient Engagement Catalyst Award from Health Catalyst for leveraging Twistle technology to enhance the care experience for pediatric patients. Riley NICU Twistle Program is a NICU virtual communication platform that uses automated workflows optimizing parental engagement and safer transition to home.

Riley Fetal Center at Indiana University Health received an award from the Indiana Business Journal for Innovations in Health Care.

Sherrri Bucher was awarded the Best Global Health Poster for, “eHB: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Virtual Reality for Newborn Resuscitation Refresher Training of Healthcare Workers in Nigeria and Kenya,” by the AAP Section on Global Health.

Melissa Kitzman was awarded the Community Health Partnerships, Indiana Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute Trailblazer Planning Award for “Implementation of a Novel Black Peer Led Lactation NICU to Outpatient Support Program.”

Matt Lewis received the Edwin L. Gresham Award for Advancing the Care of Newborn Infants from the Indiana AAP.

Laura Haneline was named Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pediatrics, Indiana University School of Medicine.

Sara Kate was named the Pediatric Residency Program Director for IU School of Medicine.

Levi Funches was named Associate Program Director for the Pediatric Residency Program.

Rapid whole genome sequencing was implemented clinically following the development of a screening algorithm to identify infants at high risk of having a genetic disease.
Miris Human Milk Analyzer, a novel device used to measure nutritional content in breastmilk, is now assisting us in individualizing the nutritional care and support of infants at risk for growth failure.

Riley Children’s Health wishes its 2023 NPM fellowship graduates Blair Welch, Catherine Groden, and Priya Creed the best in their new positions!

We welcome incoming fellows Kiran Bandi, Amanda Deford, and Meg Gegick.

Caitlin Irwin’s project, “Optimizing Macronutrient Delivery in Human Breastmilk,” was selected by Indiana CTSI for a 2022 Pediatric Fellow Research Award.

Merve Denizli’s project, “Novel Role of HSPC in Regulating Glucose Metabolism in Offspring of Obese Mice,” was selected by CTSI for a 2022 Pediatric Fellow Research Award.

Shelby Steinmeyer was awarded the AAP 2023 Marshall Klaas Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award for the project entitled, “Remodeling of Nascent Hematopoietic Stem Cell Niches by Early-Life Stressors.”

William Zacharias was awarded an NIH Grant entitled, “Defining PRC2 Complex Epigenomic Control in Alveolar Progenitor Cells.”

Jeffrey Whitsett was featured by The Journal of Clinical Investigation “Conversations with Giants in Medicine” (February 2023) for his role in researching and developing surfactant and as a long-time leader of neonatal and pulmonary biology research.

Hitesh Deshmukh was named a recipient of the American Association of Immunologists’ Aspire Achievement Award for recognition of his research accomplishments and professional promise in the field of immunology.

For the sixth consecutive year, Forbes Magazine recognized Cincinnati Children’s as a “Best Employer for Diversity,” ranking CCHMC #38 of 500 organizations and the highest ranked healthcare employer ranked this year.

Jae Kim was invited to speak at the following events: Sophie Womack Lectureship at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan; Human Milk Institute Launch & Symposium, San Diego, CA; National Neonatal Nurses Meeting in Las Vegas, NV; AAP NCE in Washington DC.

Katsuki Kojima was invited to speak at The Launch and Implementation of Hypothermia Workshop in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in May 2023.

At the 2023 PAS Meeting, CCHMC’s Perinatal Institute workshop, poster, and platform presenters included: Faris Al Gharaibeh, Maria Barnes-Davis, DonnaMaria Cortezzo, Ting Ting Fu, Shipra Jain, Vladimir Kalinchenko, Heather Kaplan, Annemarie Kelly, Kaitlyn Kelly, Divya Khattar, Katsuki Kojima, Jennifer McAllister, Stephanie Merhar, Emily Miller, Shanmukha Sai Mukthapuram, Nehal Parikh, Cara Slagle, and Michael Zujkowski.

On August 30 to September 1, 2023, the Perinatal Institute is co-hosting two back-to-back in-person conferences for the NEC Society Symposium, a transdisciplinary conference aimed at eliminating NEC, and the Advances in Neonatal and Pediatric Nutrition Conference at Loews Coronado Bay Resort Hotel in San Diego, CA. For further information, please contact the Cincinnati Children’s CME office at CME@chcmc.org.

On October 13, 2023, The Perinatal Institute of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center will host is 22nd annual Regional Perinatal Summit conference, Instrumental Delivery and Neonatal Head Trauma. Conference details will be announced summer 2023. For further information, please contact the Cincinnati Children’s CME office at CME@chcmc.org.

Oncology special interest groups and conferences are being arranged around the world. The Brain Club, Tiny Hearts, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Lecture Series and Questions in Neonatal Ethics Lecture Series has speakers and attendees from various national and international institutions. We will soon start a lecture series on neonatal nutrition.

Two new fellows will be joining the Department of Neonatology in the upcoming academic year: Seohyun Cho from East Carolina University and Abdul Kader Surti from University of Alabama.

Jalal Abu-Shaweesh has been promoted to Professor of Pediatrics of Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital/Ohio State University, Columbus

Nationwide Children’s Hospital wishes its 2023 NPM fellowship graduates Yvette Chop, Paulina Krause, Timothy Rogers, and Olivia Ruth, the best in their new faculty positions.

We welcome new fellows Emily Messick, Kaitlyn Miller, Robert Nadler, and Rebecca Speer.

Namrita Odackal has assumed the role of Assistant Director of the NPM Fellowship Program.

Amy Schlegel and Ruth Seabrook were promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

UH Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland

Rainbow will participate in collaborative QI work with “The Roadmap for Emotional Health,” an AAP initiative to address the emotional health in chronic patients and their families in each encounter. Roadmap’s global aim is that patients and their families living with chronic pediatric conditions receive proactive support to promote resilience and emotional health, including assessment and care for emotional health, as a routine part of excellent care for chronic conditions.

Graduating fellow Cara Beth Carr was recognized with the Best Medical Education Project Presentation award at Rainbow Fellows’ Science Day for her project, “Implementation and Evaluation of a Neonatal POCUS Workshop Utilizing Innovative Phantoms.”

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduating fellows! Cara Beth Carr joins University of North Carolina. Kelly Roush will join Akron Children’s Hospital. Hila Yildiz Atar heads to University of Oklahoma. Anupama Sundaram joins Central Ohio Newborn Medicine, Mount Carmel Trinity Health, Columbus, OH.

We are excited to welcome new fellows in July. Faysal Akbik joins us from Eastern Virginia Medical School, Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters in Norfolk, VA. Tynisha Koenigsaecker comes to us from University of California Davis. Ricardo Vega Auz joins us from Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami, FL.

The 14th Bangkok International Neonatology Symposium is scheduled for February 21-23, 2024. This meeting is co-chaired by Richard Martin and attracts approximately 500 neonatologists from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. Faculty for 2024 include Camila Martin from NY, Rita Ryan and Monika Bhole.
Our Division would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Sruti Uppuluri (multi PIs), who retired from her position as Associate Medical Director. She will join the Division in new endeavors as an attending neonatologist at OSF St. Mary’s Medical Center in Galesburg, IL starting October 2023. Dr. Uppuluri is currently working as a neonatologist at Unity Point Methodist.

We would like to recognize the incoming fellows. Andrew Berenz was appointed as Medical Director for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at RUSH/AIMMC Co-Perinatal Center. He was also invited to present at the AAP Newborn Guidelines. Aloka Patel was also invited to present at PAS 2023 NEC Focus Group. The division welcomes Aunum Akhter (University of Michigan) as a new faculty member.

We are excited to welcome the incoming fellows to our Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program in July! Jiwon Lee joins us from Beaumont Children’s Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. Sruti Uppuluri joins us from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Chicago, IL. We would welcome Kelly Sustaita as a new Advanced Practice Provider in our Division. Esther Lee was appointed as Medical Director for Pediatric Respiratory Care.

Aloka Patel and Tricia Johnson (multi PIs) received a Diversity Supplement Grant from NIMHD to conduct a qualitative study assessing intergenerational perceptions of mother’s own milk feedings in the NICU in Black mothers and their matriarchs. Andrew Berenz was invited to present at the RUSH/AIMMC Co-Perinatal Center 21st Annual Perinatal Conference, EMR Tools to Help Facilitate Recent Updates to AAP Newborn Guidelines.

Aloka Patel was invited to present at PAS 2023 NEC Focus Group on, “The Importance of Optimizing Human Milk and Lactation Support to Prevent NEC.” We would welcome Aunum Akhter (University of Michigan) as a new faculty member.

We would like to acknowledge the legendary career of Jonathan Klein who served as Medical Director for the NICU since 2005 and will be retiring at the end of June 2023. Under his leadership, the program has grown to be regarded as a world leader in the care of extremely preterm infants. The integration of neonatal hemodynamics and neurocritical care, during the last five years of his tenure, has further contributed to care enhancement and improvement in outcomes. We wish Jon well in this next and exciting phase of his career. John Dagle will serve as the Interim Chief Medical Director following Jonathan’s retirement. Brady Thomas will serve as the program’s first Associate Medical Director.

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Jennifer Bermick was appointed as the Research Director for the Division of Neonatology. In addition, she will serve as the Diversity Coordinator for the Autumn Immunology Conference.

Additional leadership changes in the program are as follows: Sam Wong will serve as the Divisional Lead for Databases. Danielle Rios will serve as the Divisional Lead for Pharmacy and Therapeutics and the Interim Director for the Neonatal Hemodynamics Program. Lindsey Knake will serve as the Liaison to the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program.

Lindsey Knake passed the American Board of Preventive Medicine certifying examination and is now a certified specialist in Clinical Informatics. She is also the Associate Program Director for the newly ACGME-approved Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program at the University of Iowa.

Tarah Colaizy was admitted to the American Pediatric Society. She was also named the Neonatal Research Network (NRN) site PI after successful renewal of the NRN grant through 2030. The Division would like to acknowledge Edward Bell for his exceptional contributions as NRN site PI since 2006. Under his leadership the reputation of the Iowa program and its scientific contributions has grown exponentially. He will continue to serve as the alternate PI and Heidi Harmon will serve as follow-up PI. The Division would like to acknowledge the tremendous support provided by Sanford Health in Sioux Falls, SD as a satellite site (Michelle Baack as site PI).

John Dagle co-chaired the 48th Annual Iowa Conference on Perinatal Medicine on April 4-5, 2023 in Des Moines. The conference is jointly sponsored by the Iowa Statewide Perinatal Care Program, the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and Iowa Health and Human Services.

Danielle Rios and Phil Levy (Boston Children’s Hospital) will be co-chairing the newly renamed 6th Annual Dr. Regan Giesinger Clinical Cardiopulmonary Physiology for the Care of the Sick Newborn Course on October 20-21, 2023, in a virtual format. To register, please visit https://www.iowa-cardiopulmonary-physiology.com/.

Iowa Neonatology Day will be held in a hybrid format on November 2-3, 2023 with a theme of “Lifelong Care of Extremely Premature Infants.” Sara Goss from UT Southwestern will be Plenary Speaker. We invite all former or future Hawkeyes and any other interested individuals to register and join us by contacting jill-kinnaird@uiowa.edu.

MINNESOTA

Children’s Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul/Coon Rapids

We are delighted to announce two additions to our group this summer. Alexandra Muhar joins us after completing her fellowship at Vanderbilt and Leah Jordan joins us after completing her fellowship at the University of Minnesota.

Tom George, System Medical Director of Neonatology, has been named the Children’s Minnesota inaugural Sit Investment Associates Endowed Chair in Neonatology following a generous $2 million gift.

Mayo Clinic, Rochester

The Mayo Clinic Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program welcomes two incoming fellows. Wentirrim Annankra and Whitney Thompson joined the Program in July 2023. Dr. Annankra already has begun work in the field of global health. Dr. Thompson is on a clinician-investigator pathway and will train jointly in Medical Genetics.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Kari Roberts was promoted to Professor, Division of Neonatology.

Michael K. Georgieff was elected to the Academic Hall of Excellence.

Johanna Scheurer was appointed as the NPM Fellowship Director.

Rachel Witt was appointed as the UMMS MPact Course Director.

Dana Johnson received the Gold Headed Cane Award.

MISSOURI

Children’s Mercy Kansas City

In June 2023, two of our foundational faculty members will retire, Howard Kilbride and William Truog. These legendary neonatologists have influenced numerous physicians, cared for countless patients, and advanced scientific neonatal research over their illustrious careers. Good luck in retirement, Howard and Bill!

Jodi Jackson, Professor of Pediatrics at University of Missouri-Kansas City, was recently honored in becoming a Teacher/Facilitator in the Mindful Practice in Medicine Program at the University of Rochester.

Venkatesh Sampath obtained a four-year, $2.29 million NIH grant titled, “DLL4 in Lung Development and BPD” from NHLBI. Using transgenic mouse models, the lab will study how delta-like 4 (DLL4) regulates lung endothelial cell phenotype, lung vascularization and alveolar type I cell development. The study will also determine whether decreased expression of DLL4 contributes to BPD development using pre-clinical models, and whether rescue of DLL4 using a novel steroid rescues the BPD phenotype.

Venkatesh Sampath has recently been a guest lecturer and visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Children’s Mercy Kansas City 9th Annual Regional Neonatal Conference, and the Frontiers Genomics Conference in Kansas City.

Brian Carter has recently been a guest lecturer at the Phoenix Children’s Hospital Fetal Cardiology Symposium, the annual Parent Project for Muscular Dystrophy meeting in NYC, University Hospitals of Cleveland, and the University of Texas Medical Branch in San Antonio.

Brian Carter has been contributing to the development of a film for teaching perinatal palliative care with Elivra Parravicini at Columbia University. It will be integrated into the Perinatal Comfort Care Bootcamp that will be presented in September 2023 in NYC.

The Children’s Mercy Kansas City Bioethics Center just graduated its 12th annual class in the Pediatric Bioethics Certificate Program. The next class begins in September 2023 and may have room for 1-2 more enrollees. Reach out for more information: https://www.childrensmercy.org/health-care-providers/bioethics-center/certificate-program/

Mercy Kids Springfield

Frederico Vieira joined the practice from The University of Oklahoma. He will be leading the development of NICU POCUS.

Consolacion Sison-Switala retired from full-time practice this year. She is enjoying traveling internationally and beach life in Florida.

Washington University/St. Louis Children’s

We are pleased to announce four new members joining our faculty this summer: Jessica Lewis will be joining us after completing her fellowship training at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. Stephanie Diggs completed her residency training and fellowship with us at Washington University with an interest in clinical research in health care disparities, and is receiving funding through a TL1. Ellen Schill completed her residency training and fellowship with us at Washington University with a research focus on the enteric nervous system for which she is funded on a T32 training grant.

Luke Viehl completed his residency training and fellowship with us at Washington University with scholarly work in QI.

Joan Downey, Professor of Pediatrics (Newborn Medicine) and Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, will be retiring after 33 years of clinical service and 44 years of premedical school mentorship.

Tasnim Najaf was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

F. Sessions Cole has been awarded Program Director/Principal Investigator for the Clinical Research Support Core of the Data Management Coordination Center for the Diagnostic Centers of Excellence.

Barbara Warner received funding for, “Early Life Adversity, Biological Embedding, and Risk for Developmental Precursors of Mental Disorders (ELABE) Cohort.”

Lila Nolan was a recipient of the Washington University Dean’s Scholar Award.

Ellen Schill received the SPR Fellows’ Nathan Award for Basic Research at the 2023 PAS meeting for her presentation, “Early Life Antibiotic Exposure Inhibits Postnatal Enteric Nervous System Maturation.”

Stephanie Diggs received the Gold Ribbon Award and was selected for a podium presentation at the 2023 ACTS conference.

Erin O’Brien has been appointed to a T32 training grant at Washington University.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows! Josh Baisel is joining CoonHealth System in Springfield, MO. Alex Crider is joining Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine. Aaron Delgado is joining the University of Illinois College of
Medicine at Peoria. Stephanie Diggs, Ellen Schill, and Luke Viehl are transitioning to faculty here at Washington University. Jack Wren is pursuing a Neonatal Hemodynamics Fellowship at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital.

We welcome our incoming fellows: Kelley Denton (Washington University), Rafael Gutierrez (Medical College of Wisconsin), Amy Hammer (Dayton Children’s Hospital), Callie Marshall (Washington University), Marina Metzler (Nationwide Children’s Hospital), and Allyson Schreiber (Children’s National Medical Center).

NEBRASKA
Omaha Children’s
Caleb Cave will start his fellowship in neonatology at University of Nebraska and Omaha Children’s Hospital starting this July. Courtney McLean, our Neonatal Fellowship Director, completed iLEAD, a year-long multidisciplinary leadership course through University of Nebraska Medical Center.

WISCONSIN
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Matthew Harer, Associate Professor, has received the Ellen R. Wald Research Award from the UW Department of Pediatrics. The Award was established to honor Dr. Ellen Wald’s distinguished career in pediatric research, academia, clinic practice, and education. The award is given in recognition of outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated potential for future contributions.

Adam S. Bauer, Assistant Professor, was named Vice Chair of the Healthcare Simulation in Pediatrics Learning Community within the Association of Pediatric Program Directors. Additionally, he was named to the Steering Committee and is Co-Chair of the Communications Committee in the newly formed National Neonatal POCUS Collaborative.

Lizzie McBride, Assistant Professor, is leading the QI project to improve breastfeeding in the NICU and at discharge.

Along with Jim Barry, Medical Director at the University of Colorado Hospital NICU, Ryan McAdams, the Neonatology Division Chief at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, helped form NeoMIND-AI (Neonatal Machine Learning, Innovations, Development, and Artificial Intelligence). NeoMIND-AI is a national group of neonatologists whose purpose is to leverage the power of AI to enhance the quality and precision of clinical care for neonates with the goal to create a future where neonatal care is more personalized, efficient, and effective, and where every child has the best possible start in life. Website: https://neomindai.com and Twitter: @NeomindAI.

The newly formed On Wisconsin Collaborative for Learning and Patient Safety (OWLS) Neonatal Simulation team composed of Ryan McAdams, Tim Elgin, Julie Kessel, Adam Bauer, Sarah Trinh, NNP Kate Hirsch, Neonatal Outreach Education Coordinator Kate Kros, and administrator Brittany Johnson has been created to continue to advance neonatal simulation and provide the best training to care for neonates.

We welcome Paige Condit (University of Wisconsin) and Rutvi Shah (Charleston Area Medical Center) as the two new fellows to our program!

Nathan Lepp earned his Certified Medical Transport Executive certification.

Liz Goetz has been promoted to Professor.

Eileen Cowan has been named Pediatric Pre-Clerkship Director.

Nicole Baumann-Blackmore secured grant funding from the Meriter Foundation to support two current UW pediatrics residents in their goal to obtain International Board Certified Lactation Consultant certification. The two residents will utilize the skills acquired during their coursework to optimize breastfeeding success in the newborn nursery, NICU, and outpatient pediatrics clinics.

Nina Menda was named Neonatology Director of Quality and Safety.

Dinushan Kaluarachchi was named Director of Neonatal Clinical Research.

District VII: John Loyd

LOUISIANA
Louisiana State University Health, Shreveport
Akhil Maheshwari will join the Department in July as Professor of Pediatrics, Chief of Neonatology and Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program.

Ram Bhat will be returning to India to continue pursuing his academic career in neonatology.

OKLAHOMA
University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
Hala Chaaban, with Co-Investigators Jeffrey Eckert and Kathy Burge, was awarded an R01 from the NIH entitled, “Prevention of Necrotizing Enterocolitis.”

Faizah Bhatti began her tenure as President of the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

Peter Vitiello was named a standing member of the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

TEXAS
Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas
Arpitha Chiruvolu received the 2023 A&M School of Medicine Medical Student Research Pathway Program Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award.

Pediatric NeTechnology of Houston
Kaashif Ahmad was promoted to the rank of Clinical Professor of Clinical Sciences at the University of Houston.

Congratulations to Janeice Houston who was asked to serve an additional term as the Chairwoman of Woman’s Hospital of Texas Board of Trustees!

Peter Haney, Professor of Clinical Sciences at the University of Houston will serve as the Clerkship Director at the Woman’s Hospital of Texas for University of Houston medical students doing a NICU rotation.

David Weislow, after serving six years as the Chair of the Perinatal Committee for SETRAC, Houston area trauma region, has been named SETRAC Medical Director. These regions across Texas are the mechanism for state level of care designation for neonatal and perinatal services.

Kaashif Ahmad has been named the Co-Chair of the Data Committee for the Texas Perinatal Quality Improvement organization, The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies.

Elizabeth Eason has been elected as the Chair of the SETRAC Perinatal Committee.

Texas Children’s Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, Houston
Madvhula Kulkarni, Athis Arunachalam, and Sharada Gowda received the Baylor College of Medicine Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

Congratulations to Amy Hair, SSPR President Elect.

Amy Hair received an R01 from NIDDK, “Evaluating Fatty Acid Absorption in Relationship to the Liver-Gut-Microbiome Axis in Preterm Infants.”

Welcome to new faculty: Kendra Martinez, Mark Thompson (Medical Director Austin campus), Morcos Hanna, Lauren Sawyer, Aviva Presser, Michelle Lucena, Emily Niemyski, Howard Chao, Kelsey Anderson, Danielle Gonzales, and Ajay Singh.
Welcome to new fellows: Kelsi Morgan, Samantha Carton, Andrew Beverstock, Hillary Lee, Thomas Lu, and Ashlee Smith-Patel.

Congratulations to the three Women of Excellence Award recipients: Rita Shah, Regine Fortunov, and Rebecca Cavazos.

BCM DEI office approved funding to Alice Obuobi for her Health Equity Research proposal, “Addressing Inequitable Health Outcomes Affecting Underrepresented Minorities in Preterm Infant Populations.”

Adel ElHennawy was promoted to Associate Professor.

Cecilia Torres-Day was chosen as 2023 Physician of the Year at CHI St. Luke’s Sugarland.

Binoy Shivanna was elected to The American Pediatric Society.

Congratulations to Charleta Guillory, Immediate Past-President and now Chapter Chair of the Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Chapter of the AAP. It is the largest state Chapter of the AAP.

Charleta Guillory is the current Vice Chair and Chair Elect (November 2023) of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies, the state perinatal QI collaborative.

Milinka Cuevas Guaman received the 2023 Baylor College of Medicine JEDI Excellence Award for Department of Pediatrics.

University of Texas Austin/Dell Medical School

Seetha Shankaran, Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University, has joined the University of Texas at Austin and Dell Children’s Hospital/Ascension Seton Medical Center as Professor of Pediatrics, promoting faculty development and research.

Christina Oji-Mmuo, Associate Professor, will be joining the Division from Penn State this summer.

Krystine Sandlin has been named Medical Director of the newly established Dell Children’s Medical Group NICU Follow Up Clinic, opened in June 2023.

Leah Barnett-Staines (University of South Florida) and Sameer Gajjar (University of Texas Southwestern) will be joining the practice in August 2023.

We welcome our second class of neonatal-perinatal medicine fellows: Juan Gallegos, Dhwanzi Oza, and Sheena John.

University of Texas Health San Antonio

Margarita Vasquez received the UT Health Presidential Award in Teaching Excellence.

Margarita Vasquez received the 2023 Educator Award by the Southern Society of Pediatric Research.

Tania Arora received the House Officer Research Award by the Society of Pediatric Research at the 2023 Pediatric Academic Society meeting.

University Health Women’s and Children’s Hospital is a brand new 545,000 square foot, 12-story, 300-bed hospital in San Antonio, TX. The Level IV NICU will be expanding to 83 beds with a combination of single patient rooms and rooms for multiples.

University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston

Charlie Mullins will join the Division in July 2023 as an Assistant Professor.

The John Sealy Hospital is undergoing renovations to be completed in November 2023. The NICU will have a total of 61 beds and allow each baby to have their own private room with parent accommodations. Additional modernization of obstetrical and mother-baby units will complete the transformation of the John Sealy Hospital into a Women’s and Children’s Hospital.

University of Texas Southwestern, Dallas

Luc Brion was honored with Emeritus status and a symposium in April 2023 to celebrate his retirement.

Lina Chalak was an Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine 2023-2024 awardee.

Lina Chalak was awarded $2.3k from NIH NINDS R01 competitive renewal and $7 million funding award from PCORI for, “Cool Prime Comparative Effectiveness Study for Mild HIE.”

Myra Wyckoff received the Educator Award at the SSPPR meeting and was awarded competitive renewal of NICHD Neonatal Research Network, 2023-2030.

Rachel León, MD, PhD, received the Young Investigator Award at the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

Congratulations to the promoted faculty at UTSW: Elizabeth “Kaili” Stehelm, Becky Ennis, Sushmita Yallapragada, Jawahar Jagarapu, Eric Ortigoza, and Shalini Ramachandran.

ARIZONA

Phoenix Children’s Hospital

Phoenix Children’s now has a Neonatal-Pennatal Fellowship Program and looks forward to welcoming its first two neonatal-perinatal medicine fellows in July 2023, Lauren Ridgeway and Julianna Diddle. The program is led by Gregory Martin and Marc Ellsworth.

COLORADO

University of Colorado School of Medicine/Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora

Laura Brown will be the first recipient of the Giacomo Meschia Professorship for the Section of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. This is for her outstanding and trailblazing work in the field of fetal and neonatal nutrition and skeletal muscle metabolism and physiology.

Robert Dietz was awarded the Western American Federation for Medical Research Young Investigator Award for his work on the establishment of a novel rodent model of neonatal global ischemia. Dr. Dietz and his colleagues are funded to investigate the long-term cognitive outcomes following cardiac arrest and resuscitation in a neonatal rat. Using a global ischemia model that more closely resembles the human condition of neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. The award was presented in Carmel, CA in early 2023.

Paul Rozance received a $3.2 million NIH R01 grant titled, “Fetal Glucagon Links Fetal Metabolism with Uterine Blood Flow and Placental Nutrient Transfer by Inhibiting Placental Lactogen Secretion.”

James Barry received the Special Impact Award for Work in AI in Medicine for co-founding the NeoMINDAI collaborative, at the Artificial Intelligence in Medicine Global Summit held in San Diego, June 4-7, 2023.

Michael Cookson and Tristan Dear have been awarded Marshall Klaus Awards from the SONPM for their work in basic science and clinical research.

Alicia White has secured grant funding from two sources Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute Child and Maternal Health and University of Colorado Diabetes Research Center. Both grants will support work entitled, “Investigating Fetal Pancreatic β-cell NFXB Signaling as a Novel Pathway Linking Early Metabolic Dysfunction to Type 2 Diabetes Later in Life.”

Hillary Hesse has taken a combined position as an attending neonatologist at University of Colorado Hospital and Denver Health.

Pavika Varma and Tina Fischer will be joining the faculty of the University of Colorado Department of Pediatrics and Section of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine after completing their fellowships in our program.

Priya Mukherjee is joining the Yale University faculty as a clinician for their Bridgeport site.

The University of Colorado School of Medicine Neonatal Perinatal Fellowship Program would like to welcome the following new fellows: Ashley Cowan was recently a NICU hospitalist at Kapiolani (Hawaii) and had graduated residency at the University of California Irvine and Children’s Hospital of Orange County. Hannah Fusion was a Pediatric Nocturnist at Children’s Hospital Colorado and is a graduate from the Yale Pediatrics Residency program. Igor Shumsky is a pediatrician from northern Colorado and a graduate of Boston Combined Medicine and Pediatric Residency Program.

Johann Wang will be joining us from residency at University of Southern California.

HAWAII

Kapiolani Medical Center, Honolulu

Huma Mirza joined the Neonatology Division of HPHMG.
Abhay Lodha and Ayman Abou Mehrem (Calgary), Sandesh Shivananda (Vancouver), Ganesh Srinivasan (Winnipeg) and Sheree Kuo (Hawaii) were invited international faculty for the Indian Academy of Pediatrics NEOCON 2023 Conference in Jaipur, India in March, teaching the workshop, “Evidence-Based Practice for the Improvement of Quality,” on behalf of the Canadian Neonatal Network.

Sheree Kuo was an invited international lecturer delivering the Keynote Quality Improvement Lecture at the Indian Academy of Pediatrics NEOCON 2023 Conference in Jaipur, India.

Sheree Kuo was awarded $25k grant from the Leahi Fund to Treat and Prevent Pulmonary Disease for her proposal entitled, “Development of a Point-of-Care Ultrasound Program to Optimize Decision Making and Procedural Safety in the NICU.”

**IDAHO**

St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital, Boise

St. Luke’s will be welcoming its inaugural group of residents into their newly established Pediatric Residency Program. The new interns include: Diana Green, Nate Hannay, Megan Marstaeller, and Sivani Kuruvada.

St. Luke’s welcomes the following physicians, NNP’s, and PA’s into the program: Bob DiGeronomo, Brittany Collins, Jessica Hall, Abby Lasses, Kathryn Russell, Lauren Gale, Dolores Jonatchick, Janice Prout, Bill Ashline, and Lindsay Mehta.

**OREGON**

Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland

Devlynne Sasha Ondusko became one of the new Associate Program Directors for the Pediatric Residency Program at OHSU.

Devlynne Sasha Ondusko received two AAP Health Equity Grants: (1) Addressing inequities in familial infant care involvement secondary to family-provider language discordance, and (2) Developing culturally concordant peer groups for marginalized families with a baby in the NICU.

**UTAH**

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

Sabrina Malone Jenkins was accepted as a new member of SPR and selected as a Margolis Foundation grantee for 2022-2023 for her project, “Utah Re-Seq: Utilizing Novel Genomic Tools and Technologies to Advance Pediatric Precision Diagnosis,” with Josh Bonkowsky from the Division of Pediatric Neurology.

Kurt H. Albertine was honored by APS and SPR with the 2023 Mary Ellen Avery Neonatal Research Award.

Luca Brunelli and his team’s session at the 2023 ACMG Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City was featured by Genomeweb.

Dan York has been awarded a Gerber grant for his proposal, “Peripheral Microvascular Density as a Perinatal Proxy to Predict Retinopathy of Prematurity.”

Congratulations to our graduating fellows!

Sam Zoucha will be headed to San Diego.

Allie Fischer will join the group in Duluth, MN.

Adrienne Cohen is headed to Sacramento, CA.

Ariel Terrell will stay in Salt Lake City to join the University of Utah faculty part-time while completing a program in clinical pharmacology.

Ryan Carpenter will join the University of Utah faculty after completing fellowships in both neonatology and pediatric cardiology at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago/ McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. He will divide his time equally between the Divisions of Neonatology and Pediatric Cardiology.

**WASHINGTON**

University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle

Congratulations to Sara Berkelhamer who was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics.

Congratulations to Kristie Perez who was promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows: Sarah Neches will become an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington and Allison Lyle will become an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville.

As of June 1, 2023, Sandra Juul is the Director of the University of Washington’s Institute of Human Developmental Disabilities.

The newly open Seattle Children’s Airway and Esophageal Center is the only center in the Pacific Northwest equipped to care for children with complex airway and esophageal anomalies.

Megan Gray will take over as Co-Chair for the AAP’s Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors.

Completely revised and updated, Avery’s Diseases of the Newborn, 11th Edition, remains your #1 choice for clinically focused, cutting-edge guidance on the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the newborn. A world-class team of contributing authors provide comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of every key disease and condition affecting newborns, keeping you current in this fast-changing field.

University of Washington’s Division of Neonatology is expanding. Welcome to Sandy Johng, joining us from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Katrin Lichtsinn from University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Rebecca Hoban who’s coming to us from the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine.

Our Division is pleased to welcome Meaghan Rowe and Henna Shaikh to fellowship at the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital.

**CALIFORNIA**

California Association of Neonatologists (CAN)

The 29th Annual CAN/AAP District IX SONPM Conference, Cool Topics in Neonatology, the California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative Improvement Palooza, and the District IX Life after Fellowship conference was held on March 3-5, 2023 in Coronado, CA. Thomas Shimotake, President of CAN, and the Planning Committee organized a successful conference with in-person and virtual options and over 400 participants.

Robert Wachter from UCSF gave the keynote address on COVID and scientific communication.

The 5th Annual Bhatt-Ramanathan Scholarship Award was jointly shared by Molly Easterlin from USC and Marie Coralie-Cornet from UCSF for their outstanding scientific work during fellowship and pursuing research as academic faculty at their respective institutions.

The first CAN Service Award was presented posthumously to John Cleary (Children’s Hospital Orange County) for his years of extraordinary service, dedication and leadership to CAN.

California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC)

In May 2023, CPQCC released a toolkit focused on providing healthcare staff with a straightforward manual of care for the management of infants with NOWS. By providing easy-to-use, evidence-based guidelines, the quality and equity of care for infants with NOWS will be improved.

The toolkit can be found at: https://www.cpqcc.org/resources/neonatal-opioid-withdrawal-syndrome-nows-toolkit

Following Improvement Palooza (IP) 2023, which takes place annually alongside the CAN Cool Topics conference, CPQCC is hosting three Conversation Circles to build on the momentum healthcare staff gained during IP about self-restoration, revelation, and relationships. The June 2023 session focused on self-restoration, giving practical tips to NICU teams to move into a state of flourishing.

Children’s Hospital Orange County, Orange

We are pleased to announce the addition of several new hospital partners to our CHOC PSF Neonatal Network in Southern California. On June 1, 2023, we started neonatal hospitalist coverage in Victorville at Desert Valley Hospital, part of Prime Healthcare, as well as at Victor Liu’s.
Serious BPD Program at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital. The medical staff at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital recently celebrated the 2023 recipient of the Timothy Sanders Award presented to an outstanding member of their faculty group. Tim was welcomed by Drs. Barkley, Donnelly, and Rojas to their faculty group. Tim was the 2023 recipient of the Timothy Sanders Award.

East Bay Newborn Specialists have welcomed Dr. Lawrence Copeland to their faculty group. Dr. Copeland brings over 30 years of experience in neonatal medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is currently serving as the President of the California Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The NeoHeart 2023 Pre-Conference is on November 1st in Anaheim, CA. It is being held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University of California School of Medicine. The conference will feature keynote speakers in the fields of neonatology and pediatrics.

The NeoBrain Conference is taking place on November 2-4, 2023 in Anaheim, CA. This is a one-time, interactive conference focusing on the newborn brain. The conference will feature keynote speakers and interactive workshops.

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Congratulations to our fellow Meghan Morozo, who is headed for Texas to begin her work at Cook Children’s. We are excited to introduce our incoming fellows: Lynn Mercer completed her residency at the Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Siddarth Amunthan from the pediatric residency program at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

Virender Rehan, Chief, Division of Neonatology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, has been awarded a Phase IIb NIH grant to further his work on nebulized vitamin A for preventing bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

Loma Linda University
The Division of Neonatology co-sponsored the 6th annual Longo Symposium on Perinatal Biology on April 25, 2023. This symposium celebrates the leaders and research contributors of Professor Lawrence D. Longo, who began the LLU Perinatal Biology Center in 1973 and was an influential leader in the field of developmental biology and physiology, maternal-fetal medicine, and obstetrics/gynecology.

Yogen Singh had multiple international speaking engagements on POCUS and neonatal hemodynamics, including a webinar for the European Society of Paediatrics and Neonatal Intensive Care (May 2023) and as the keynote speaker for the Romanian National Perinatal Medicine Conference (May 2023). He helped to host conferences in Bucharest, Romania and Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mitchell Goldstein was awarded a grant from the Regional Perinatal Programs of California on behalf of the Perinatal Advisory Council, for which he is a Board Member and Chair of CME. Mitchell Goldstein recently co-authored the 2nd edition of Practical Data Analytics for Innovation in Medicine.

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46 | SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

To learn more and register for upcoming webinars, visit: https://www.fcctaskforce.org/webinars

William Benitz was a keynote speaker at the 3rd Jill Gandy Memorial Lectures, organized by the Department of Paediatrics in Cambridge, UK, in May 2023. His talk focused on strategies for ventilator management of severe BPD.

Sheila Razdan (fellowship class of 2024) received a 2023 WSPR Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition Travel Subspecialty Award for her abstract on the association between neighborhood factors and VLBW process and outcomes measures. She also received a TECaN Travel Grant to the SONPM Scottsdale Workshop.

Congratulations to our graduating class of fellows! John Feister will be joining Cincinnati Children’s Hospital as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Nick Gianaris will join the group at North Bay Medical Center in Fairfield, CA. Aviva Aiden is choosing between opportunities at academic medical centers. University of California, Davis

We are happy to announce the graduation of our fellows, Shoshana Newman-Lindsay and Jessica Vaughn.

We are excited to add two new faculty to our group this summer: Shoshana Newman-Lindsay will focus on resident education and quality/safety initiatives; Nicole Cacho from the University of Florida will continue her basic/translational research centered on function and composition of human and donor milk.

Geonna Bautista was awarded a Hartwell Foundation Early Investigator Grant entitled, “Targeting Mechanosensory Signaling Pathways to Modulate Gastrochisis-Related Intestinal Inflammation and Dysmotility,” and was awarded a CTSC KL2 Career Award for, “Piezo1 in the Premature Intestine and Development of the Mucosal Immunity.”

Kristin Hoffman was promoted to Professor in the Department of Pediatrics on the HSCP track.

Steven McElroy is currently serving as President of the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research and is organizing the annual meeting in Chicago on October 11-13, 2023.

Steven McElroy, in collaboration with Co-PIs Jill Maron (Brown University), Camilla Martin (Weill Cornell Medicine), Misty Good (UNC) and James Wynn (University of Florida), received an AAP SONPM strategic grant to increase and foster the next generation of neonatologist-scientists.

Satyan Lakshminrusimha was selected as the Chair of the Clinical Care Committee of the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs.

Satyan Lakshminrusimha delivered the Barry Smith Lecture at University of Toronto on “Why Pediatricians Love Oxygen?” in April. He was an invited speaker at the International Neonatology Meeting at Universidad Catolica de Chile in Santiago, Chile; the NEO conference in Las Vegas, NV; the 2023 AAP Workshop on Perinatal Practice Strategies; and at University of Florida, Gainesville and University of Mississippi.

University of California, Los Angeles

In January 2023, UCLA Neonatology began providing NICU services to Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys in the Los Angeles area.

Suhas Kallapur, Division Chief, was selected to serve a three-year term on the American Pediatric Society Career Support Committee. The Committee is charged with developing programs aimed at supporting career transitions by APS members and career development coaching of and by APS members.

Fellow Neema Pitha was awarded the 2023 AFMR Henry Christian Award at the 2023 WSPR meeting for her abstract entitled, “A Human Milk Diet in Late Preterm and Term Infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Fellow Angela Desmond received an NIH T15 training grant in “Biomedical Data Science Training Program for Precision Health Equity.” Her research project is in the area of prenatal MRI imaging of fetuses diagnosed with congenital heart disease to improve postnatal management.

District X: Ravi Patel

ALABAMA

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Colm Travers was an SSPR Young Faculty Award Winner.

Vivek Lal was awarded a $2.5 Million SBIR FastTrack Grant from the NIH.

Namasinghovam Khambavanan was awarded an NIH R01 grant, “Let-7b in BPD.”

The UAB center, with Wally Carlo as PI, successfully received renewed funding from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD Neonatal Research Network.

Vivek Shukla received an American Heart Association Career Development Award, “Machine Learning Modeling for Early Identification of Perinatal Depression Risk Using Cardiotoigraphy,” and a UAB Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health Award for, “Neonatal Mortality Risk Prediction in Resource-Limited Settings: A Pilot Feasibility Study.”

Jackie Razaghy received an SPR Fellows’ Clinical Award for her project with her mentor Ariel Salas, “Early and Exclusive Enteral Nutrition in Infants Born Very Preterm: A Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Kent Willis received an ATS 2023 Neonatal and Developing Lung Abstract Achievement Award, “The Fungal Intestinal Microbiota Predict the Development of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia in Very Low Birthweight Newborns.”

University of Florida, Gainesville

Florida AdventHealth for Children, Orlando

Samarth Shukla joined AdventHealth for Children as a neonatologist. He moved from University of Florida, Jacksonville, where he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

Hussnain Mirza was invited to be a speaker at the East Pacific Neonatology Conference, to be held in Nanning, China.

Narendra Dereddy was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association.

Hussnain Mirza was appointed as a Co-Lead for the Leadership section of MidCaN.

Nemours Children’s Hospital, Orlando

Sreekanth Viswanathan was Program Chair of the 1st Central Florida Neonatology Conference held June 17, 2013. The conference was developed by the neonatology teams of hospital systems within the Central Florida community, with representatives from AdventHealth, Nemours Children’s Health, and Orlando Health. Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies.

University of Florida, Gainesville

The faculty at the University of Florida congratulate three graduating fellows as they proceed with their careers. Neel Singh will be joining the neonatal group in Spokane, WA. Cyndi Valdes will be joining the faculty at Miami Children’s Hospital. Vivian Vlarcoc will be joining the faculty at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

We welcome Meredith Campbell-Joseph to the faculty. Meredith is a University of Florida College of Medicine graduate, did her neonatology training at Vanderbilt, and is coming from Virginia Commonwealth where she is interested in cardiac alterations in BPD.

We celebrate Josef Neu as he was notified that he will be awarded the 2023 SONPM Avroy Fanaroff Education Award at this year’s AAP NCE.

Josef Neu is the PI for a multicenter randomized trial (82 centers globally) for a pharmacological agent for the prevention of NEC.

David Burchfield will be stepping down as Division Chief of Neonatology in July, having served in that position since 2002, and will be retiring in February 2024. Dr. Burchfield is a past member of the SONPM Executive Committee representing District X and served as Chair of the Section from 2012-14.

University of South Florida, Tampa

Steven Ford was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

We welcome two incoming fellows, Stephanie Morales and Jenny Gutwein, and celebrate our two recent fellowship graduates, Carlos Perez-Sanfeliz and Leah Barnett-Staines. Dr. Perez-Sanfeliz will be joining West Coast Neonatology Inc. at HCA Florida Brandon Hospital and Dr. Barnett-Staines will join Pediatrix at Dell Children’s Medical Center.
Chantal Angueyra Aristizabal joined the Ethics Committee at Tampa General Hospital.

Patoula Panagos-Billiris joined the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative as a Clinical Lead.

GEORGIA

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

The Emory Department of Pediatrics, under the leadership of Chair of Pediatrics, Lucky Jain, has ranked #1 in 2022 NIH funding awarded to pediatrics departments according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, the second time since 2020.

Brenda Poindexter is President-Elect for the Society for Pediatric Research.

Emory University will continue in the Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD Neonatal Research Network for the 2023-2030 cycle after a successful re-competition led by Ravi Patel, who will continue as PI along with Brenda Poindexter as alternate PI. We are grateful for the leadership of Nathalie Maître as Follow-Up PI, who will be transitioning this role to Mary Lauren Neel this summer.

Mattie Wolf, NPM Research Fellow, is the recipient of the 2023 SPR Clinical Research Award for Fellows for her work on, “Association of Neighborhood Deprivation Index and Race with Neonatal and Post-Neonatal Infant Mortality in Georgia.”

Nathalie Maître was featured by the Emory Department of Pediatrics for her research on the neuroscience of the developing brain and efforts through Cerebral Palsy Foundation and UNICEF awards to help change systems in low-middle income countries that improve detection of cerebral palsy and motor delays.

Michelle-Marie Peña was the recipient of the Society for Pediatric Research Award to Enhance Diversity in the Research Workplace and also received the American Pediatric Association Young Investigator Award at the Southern Regional Meeting.

The Southern Society for Pediatric Research (SSPR) Annual Meeting was held February 2-4, in New Orleans, with Ravi Patel presiding as President of the Society. Mattie Wolf received the SSPR David Oelberg Honorary Trainee Travel Award, Hope Arnold received the SSPR Trainee Travel Award, and Stefi Barbian received the SSPR Young Faculty Award and also was featured in the Showcase of Science.

We celebrate our three recent fellowship program graduates: Mattie Wolf and Anisa Lakhani will continue as faculty in the Division of Neonatology at Emory University and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Hope Arnold will join the faculty at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Piedmont Columbus Regional

David Levine will be stepping down as Neonatal Chair of the Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative (GaPQC) after over a decade of service. He was instrumental in the founding of the GaPQC. He will also be transitioning his leadership role as Director of Newborn Services to Peter Resnick.

The Section would like to thank the following sponsors:

Abbott
NeoReviews/NeoReviews Plus
Neonatal Fellows AAP & SONPM Dues
Section Newsletter
Virginia Apgar Award
Apgar Award Dinner
Thomas Cone Jr History Lectureship
L Joseph Butterfield Lectureship
Perinatal Spring Workshop
Neonatal/Perinatal Fellows Conferences (2)
TECaN NCE & Workshop Travel Grants
Gerald Merenstein Lecture
Section Faculty Dinner
NCE Poster Session & Reception
ONTPD Networking Session & Reception
NeoPREP
Women in Neonatology
TECaN NCE & PAS Receptions

Brodsky & Martin’s Neonatology Review
Education Research Award

Johnson & Johnson
Klaus Grants

Beth Israel Deaconess Neonatology
Health Research Services Award

Reckitt Mead Johnson
Neonatal Landmark Award
Avroy Fanaroff Neonatal Education Award
Young Investigator Awards
Trainee NCE & Workshop Travel Grants
MidCaN Reception
TECaN Spring Dinner
Abstract Travel Grants
WECaN Reception
NeoPREP
Women in Neonatology
MidCaN
Klaus Grants
Perinatal Spring Workshop
Scottsdale Awards Gala
Fellows Conferences on Perinatal Research (4)
Perinatal & Developmental Medicine Symposia (2)
ONTPD Lunch at NCE
50 Years Commemorative Book

We welcome four incoming fellows: Kaitlin Hannan and Ali Towne (Emory University), Shennell Reynolds (University of North Carolina), and Zach Whitt (University of Michigan).
THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM NEEDS NEONATOLOGISTS TO SEE BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE NICU AND BECOME HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM LEADERS: Lessons Learned from Dr. Robert Insoft

Piyawat Arichai MD, All Pathways Group

Dr. Robert Insoft champions the idea that neonatologists should occupy decision-making roles in healthcare systems. His professional journey, spanning from pediatric residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) with special training in neonatal and pediatric intensive care transport, and later in his career, direct training in Healthcare Management, embodies this belief. Throughout his career, Dr. Insoft has held multiple leadership roles, including Medical Director of the Mass General Hospital for Children NICU, Partners Healthcare System Transport Director, Medical Director of the Brigham & Women’s Hospital NICU, Chief Medical Officer of Women & Infants Hospital, Professor at Brown Medical School, and currently, Chief Operating Officer of Franciscan Children’s Hospital as part of the new Boston Children’s Hospital System. He continues to integrate his clinical practice with a strategic vision, delivering comprehensive pediatric care at local, regional, national, and global levels.

An expert in quality and performance improvement and critical care transport, Dr. Insoft has authored numerous studies, publications, books, and the AAP’s national transport guidelines, as well as speaking nationally and internationally. He promotes the “power of the multidisciplinary team,” emphasizing equal respect and credit to the overall care and management of our patients. This doctrine informs his approach to managing not only NICUs, but also pediatric hospitals.

Dr. Insoft’s management style hinges on a crucial connection between clinical quality, operational efficiency, and financial stability. This approach has propelled him into leadership roles aimed at transforming healthcare delivery. He encourages all neonatologists to extend their skills beyond the NICU, noting that most high functioning health systems are eager to work with and promote clinicians who are strategic thinkers. This is especially relevant to neonatology, which typically has a significant positive financial impact but usually does not have a proportional seat at the table with regards to hospital leadership.

Dr. Insoft advises mid-career faculty interested in healthcare administration leadership to seek broader knowledge about the healthcare system. This could include graduate degrees in healthcare or business administration, providing foundation knowledge in healthcare delivery, quality improvement, financial management, operations improvement, and strategic planning.

Most importantly, Dr. Insoft recommends serving not just on clinical and operational committees within your division or pediatric department, but also hospital-wide. It is also important to seek out physician and non-physician mentors early.

For academic promotion, Dr. Insoft urges consideration beyond traditional clinical journals and academic conferences. Engaging with healthcare management journals and conferences can broaden connections and perspectives.

In essence, Dr. Insoft’s message to all neonatologists is one of growth and transformation. He believes in the potential of neonatologists not only as clinical experts and patient advocates, but also as strategic thinkers and leaders who can shape the future of healthcare without being bounded by its current construct. By embracing this vision and diversifying experiences, neonatologists can position themselves at the forefront of change in healthcare leadership.

2024 NeoPrep CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

Clara Song MD, FAAP

The 2024 NeoPrep Intensive Review and Update marks the 30th anniversary of the first ever NeoPrep held in 1994. The 1994 meeting was co-founded by past SONPM Chair, Dr. Marilyn Escobedo, who is also this year’s Virginia Apgar Award recipient. Legend has it that this remarkable comprehensive review course in neonatal-perinatal medicine was incredibly successful, to the extent that the profits from the conference enabled the establishment of what is now known as the Avroy Fanaroff Award in Neonatal Education. In 1996, the inaugural Neonatal Education Award was presented to Dr. William Keenan. This Neonatal Education Award has consistently been bestowed for 28 successive years.

The upcoming NeoPrep is scheduled to begin Monday, January 22, 2024, and will continue for three and a half days in Baltimore, MD. This meeting will include an additional 9.5 hours of on-demand lecture recordings to cover all topics on the recently updated content outline for neonatal-perinatal medicine from the American Board of Pediatrics. NeoPrep will again showcase talks and interactive question/answer sessions with undisputed experts and educators in our field. This course offers the opportunity for over 38 CME hours and 35 MOC Part 2 points. Come join us at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel, Monday-Thursday, January 22-25, 2024!

2024 NeoPrep Planning Committee:
Namasivayam (Ambal) Ambalavanan MD, Past Chair
Jae Kim MD, PhD, Co-Chair
Clara Song MD, Co-Chair
Sailaja Ghanta MD
Kirsti Martin MD, TECaN Representative
Wendy Timpson MD, SONPM Representative
On Tuesday December 12, 2023, Eric Eichenwald will moderate a session at the Hot Topics in Neonatology meeting (December 11-13, 2023). He will give a short introduction into SONPM activities and an update on Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN) work. The session will then focus on a topic that has been reviewed for a COFN statement. The statement that forms the core of the update was completed by Professor Margaret Parker at Boston University School of Medicine, a clinical neonatologist, health services researcher, and Newborn Research Director, on social disparities in neonatal care and their effects on outcomes. There will also be talks on two complimentary topics.

Update from the AAP Committee on Fetus and Newborn
At Hot Topics in Neonatology

Moderator: Eric Eichenwald MD

Social Disparities in Neonatal Care
- Margaret Parker MD, MPH

The Crucial Role of Sex as a Biological Variable in the NICU: Do We Care Enough?
- Krithika Lingappan MD, MS, PhD

Addressing Health Equity in the NICU
- Jochen Profit MD, MPH
SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF NEONATOLOGISTS

37th Annual Conference!

May 23 - 26, 2024
JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort
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Envision Healthcare

Guest Faculty

David Adamkin  Gail Besner
Robert Christensen  Patrick Gallagher
Terrie Inder  Rashmin Savani
Chris Valentine

SAN Contacts: Barry D. Chandler, MD, Executive Director
E-mail: bdchandler@aol.com
David Adamkin, MD, President
David.adamkin@louisville.edu

Registration is for physicians only.
Register online at: www.southeastneo.com