Chair Letter

Courtney Judd, MD, MPH, MHPE, FAAP
Col, USAF, MC
Chairperson, AAP Section on Uniformed Services (SOUS)

Hello, Section on Uniformed Services (SOUS) members!

I am still reveling in what a wonderful time we had together at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE)! Washington, D.C. often allows for an even more robust reunion than we typically have, and this year was no exception. Our reception for the friends of Uniformed Services Pediatrics was well-attended on Saturday evening and we hope to make it an annual tradition. The educational programming at the Uniformed Services Pediatric Seminar (USPS) on Sunday was outstanding – each speaker provided valuable insights into some of the major issues we face personally and on behalf of our patients and their families.

I am most impressed with how many tangible and realistic solutions were offered to help us as we strive toward establishing a healthier, more inclusive, and more equitable environment for military-connected patients, families, and providers. Thank you to Col Candace Percival (USPS Education Chair) for putting together such an inspiring day, and to each of our speakers: Dr. Kemia Sarraf, Lt Col Cortney Bleach, and Col Mary Anne Kiel!

Congratulations to all our annual award winners who will be highlighted in this newsletter. The unique ways in which you each contribute to our collective history are incredible – I am proud of our community and hopeful for the future. Congratulations also to all the award winners in the Scientific Awards Competition (SAC)! We had another highly competitive year for the SAC, with 71 submissions. The oral presentations and poster presentations covered a variety of intriguing and interesting clinical issues. Thank you to Lt Col Michelle Kiger and MAJ Patrick Reeves (Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, of the SAC) for their dedication. Finally, endless gratitude and appreciation go to Ms. Jackie Burke (our beloved SOUS Section Manager) who consistently elevates the mission of the SOUS and manages to keep us moving forward. We can never thank you enough for what you do!

At our SOUS Executive Committee meeting, we spent a lot of time discussing the various challenges facing military pediatrics – such as budgeting, restructuring, billet reductions, and a need to focus on both recapturing patients and recruiting talented trainees to ensure the stability of our workforce. Please know that there are many people advocating for all of you at various levels. We are here to support you and your lived experience, so reach out if there is any way that we can help.

Mark your calendars and try to join us for the next AAP NCE from September 27 – October 1, 2024, in Orlando, Florida. The USPS programming will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, I would love to hear from you – my email address and cell phone number are listed below. Every story matters, and I am happy to hear yours.

Sincerely,

Courtney
Email: courtney.a.judd.mil@health.mil
Cell: (210) 632-9404
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American Academy of Pediatrics
Section on Uniformed Services

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Stay up-to-date and refresh your pediatrics knowledge with SOUS Newsletter’s new Crossword Challenge. Answers are found at the end of the newsletter 😊

**Across**

2. brand name for the vaccine that protects against RSV in pregnant women
5. a condition whereby cranial sutures become prematurely fused
8. the acronym to the optimal approach that uses a lower rate of opioids with shorter hospitalization to assessing and manage neonatal abstinence syndrome
9. a respiratory virus commonly associated with croup

**Down**

1. a chemical compound used to treat respiratory distress syndrome
3. brand name for the long-acting monoclonal antibody that provides passive immunity against RSV in infants
4. the most common congenital heart disease associated with Trisomy 18
6. the newborn screen for SCID uses PCR to measure the number of _ that are present in the blood
7. the FDA recently approved the first CRISPR therapy for _ disease
10. a respiratory virus commonly associated with bronchiolitis
JOHN PIERCE
COLONEL, MEDICAL CORPS US ARMY (RETIRED)

“Doppelganger” (top left), “Concentrate” (top right), “Catch of the Day” (Bottom)
ADVISOR & CONSULTANT UPDATES
Leaders,

Wow! It has been a busy past few months across Army Pediatrics. In addition to providing outstanding care to our military children, I know many of you have been navigating new business processes under DHA, balancing a variety of different taskers both operational and pediatric-focused, battling ongoing staffing shortages, and for those in GME – starting to take a deep breath after a robust medical student recruiting season. In these dynamic times, I think it is important to pause and reflect on our purpose as Army Pediatricians, our successes, and our challenges.

We have much to be proud of. This past spring, the Uniformed Services Pediatric clerkship quality was rated as excellent or good by 94% of the graduating students. This was higher than any other clerkship! Our Pediatric Residency programs received a shout-out recently in the Medical Corps Newsletter for continuing to excel on 1st time board pass rates. There are multiple new and ongoing research collaborations among national and on-campus faculty focused on high yield areas of interest such as childhood obesity, respiratory infections, pediatric casualty care, and utilization of military family resources to name a few.

Despite these successes, we have ongoing issues with Recruitment and Retention. Recruitment numbers in all branches of the Army, especially in pediatrics. The effect of this is smaller numbers of medical students applying for pediatric residencies and smaller numbers of graduates. This contributes to a smaller pool of pediatricians available with each movement cycle and limits duty station availability to ensure that the labor and delivery services are maintained at small MEDDACs. There is also a higher percentage of 60Ps and 60Qs who are choosing to separate from the military after their ADSO is complete. For the 2024 movement cycle, we are only able to fill 60% of the projected positions.

Addressing recruitment challenges requires effort at multiple levels. While the value of military pediatrics is now clear to our senior leaders, ensuring this consistent messaging to those considering the specialty is more important than ever. Specifically, engaging with HPSP and USU students early in their medical school journey to discuss the merits of a career in pediatrics can be helpful. HPSP students often have little military mentorship if their school is not located near a larger military base. This is a population that would likely benefit from additional outreach. AMEDD recruiters are often looking for Medical Corps leaders to participate in recruitment events. This is a great way to get involved!

Choosing to stay in the military is a multifaceted decision. Regardless of the duration of service, there are a few key things that we can do as a community to better support each other. Fostering more opportunities for military professional mentorship, especially for those at smaller duty stations is needed. Existing professional development opportunities to enhance one’s leadership or practice management skills if desired are not always readily apparent. I am excited about the new MC SharePoint page. This looks like it could be a unified location for a variety of helpful resources. Check it out by clicking here. Our intent is to build an Army Pediatric-specific subpage as a central hub for the pediatric community. In addition, seeking out opportunities for professional collaboration such as QI/PI projects and clinical practice guidelines, research projects, or teaching students (look for PA and NP student opportunities or asynchronous teaching opportunities through USU). The DHA Clinical Communities including Primary Care, Complex Pediatrics, and Women and Infant Care may be other ways to be involved and advocate for military families. Lastly, lack of recognition is often cited as a reason to feel unsupported and to look for other job opportunities. Multiple avenues for awards exist including through your local chain of command, at the MEDCOM/DHA level, and through SOUS or other national pediatric organizations. Please take the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and effort of your teammates.

Thank you all for the outstanding work you do every day. The consultant team is here to support you. If you have questions/concerns or ideas you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to reach out.

COL Mark Craig, 60P Consultant, mark.s.craig10.mil@health.mil
LTC Ashley Smith, 60P Deputy Consultant, ashley.e.smith66.mil@health.mil
We all know that the only constant in life is change, in military medicine we seem to be in a constant flux! Currently, there are changes occurring simultaneously in the Air Force. Our Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) are transitioning to fall under the new Air Force Medical Command or AFMED which will be commanded by the Air Force Surgeon General. Previously, above the MTF level we fell under non-medical commanders. This transition will better align the coordination of our service’s priorities with Defense Health Agency (DHA) priorities.

Secondly, in the era of the great power competition, the deployment model of the Air Force is being updated. You will likely hear more about the Air Force Generation or AFFORGEN model which is a 24-month readiness cycle that may also affect how we organize our medical teams for deployment.

Amid change, we have pediatric residents, general pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists providing top-notch patient care both overseas and state-side. In the past 12 months we have deployed pediatricians to support relocated Afghans in Qatar, various members have served as manning assists to fill in at critically manned locations and our neonatologists continue to provide ongoing support to the island of Guam (in rotation with Navy neonatologists). Air Force pediatricians are willing to help each other and I strongly admire the team-like approach that is displayed!

Lastly, I would like to highlight one of our general pediatricians, Dr. Nhien Pho, who co-authored a study published this year regarding the increase in mental health diagnoses and SSRI prescribing during the COVID-19 pandemic (J Adolesc Health 2023 Apr 30). They confirmed what we all have been seeing over the past few years which is a rise in the mental health needs of our population.

Taking care of the ever-evolving complex needs of our patients, combined with lower manning at some MTFs as well as various world events can be stressful for us. Please continue to voice concern and ideas for change when able, lean on your colleagues, mentors, and friends, and do what brings you joy and fulfillment.

Lt Col Crystal Palmatier,
Pediatrics Consultant to the AF/SG,
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As I complete my first year as the Navy pediatric specialty leader, I reflect on both the current state of Navy pediatrics and how far we’ve come in just one year, as well as how far we must go. Last year, I wrote about the unique situation we found ourselves in, a historically overmanned community now undermanned with several gapped billets worldwide. The Navy felt the lack of pediatricians throughout the fleet, and it was challenging. This led to a historically high number of fellowship opportunities and PGY-1 and PGY-2 goals, a tangible reflection of the value that the Navy has for both pediatricians and primary care. Additionally, the increased board certification and 4-year retention bonuses have boosted morale in a significant way. We have increased training, increased bonus pay, and will continue to work toward increasing opportunities for pediatricians in both leadership, clinical excellence, education, and research. We are at the forefront of Navy leadership with pediatricians at every rank, Navy Medicine HQ, Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, Chief Medical Officers, Senior Medical Officers, Flight Surgeons, Fleet Marine Medical Officers, and Undersea Medical Officers. Pediatricians continue to work in every aspect of Navy Medicine, and it feels great to know that we are valued by our leadership. During times of crisis, whether natural disaster, pandemic, or war, pediatricians answer the call of service to help the most vulnerable populations.

While things are improving for Navy pediatricians, we still have a long way to go to return to the end strength that we once had or potentially even surpass it. We still continued in the following page
do not have equity between our subspecialists and internal medicine subspecialties, something that I will continue to work on in the coming months and years. While we had a historic number of fellowship goals this past year, we did not have enough applicants to meet all those goals. While we need to continue working on recruiting to our community, we also need to work on recruiting within our community. One of the greatest experiences that Navy pediatricians have are deployments with humanitarian missions. Many of us joined the Navy to have an opportunity to help children around the world. While our current turbulent world has led to one of uncertainty for many, it has provided Navy pediatricians with GSA billets and deployments around the world to support the welfare of children.

We had pediatricians deploy in support of the Afghan refugee crisis, Operation Allies Welcome, and to support the war in Israel to name just a few over this past year. This doesn’t even include our scheduled missions on our hospital ships which have continued to deploy throughout this time. While these missions have mainly focused on our general pediatricians, we cannot forget about our ongoing mission in Guam, to support the military families on an island without any local NICU capabilities. This has been essential to the island and to the military families stationed there. However, this ongoing mission has led to the devastating attrition of over 60% of our active-duty neonatologists. Our neonatology community has never felt this lack of manning and it will take years to rebuild the subspecialty community if it is even possible. Compounding this loss to our neonatal community is the nationwide decline in fellowship applications in neonatology, something we as a community need to address given the vital importance that OCONUS pediatricians rely on education provided by our neonatologists. We still have so far to go.

National advocacy is another area that we have improved over the last year but still have significant strides to make for the future. While the AAP advocates for children across the country and around the world, military children and their unique medical needs are frequently left behind. The AAP is our supporting organization but can only advocate for the issues of which it is aware. The AAP needs military pediatricians to use our voice to speak up for our community, our patients, and our colleagues to ensure equity in pay, adequate support, and provide documented standards of care. These documented standards are the ammunition that we can use to support our requests to DHA for more accurate staffing models within our clinics and safe and reliable care for our patients. Most pediatricians do not realize that our collective voice can make a lasting impact, but we must be clear in our messages. Using our voice within the AAP is key to improving the lives of our patients and military families. We have come a long way but there is still so far to go.

While these strides can seem daunting at times, I am confident that we can get there, and we can change and grow our community even more over the next few years. We can show the Navy our operational acumen and advocate for our patients and military families at the national level. I have told many in my community that we are at a nadir and that from here on out, we will continue to grow, learn, and improve ourselves, the Navy, and the military pediatric community at large.

CDR Jennifer Eng-Kulawy, Navy Pediatric Specialty Leader
jennifer.k.engkulawy.mil@health.mil
Greetings from Uniformed Service University! First, I’d like to thank all of you who dedicate time and energy teaching medical students, residents, fellows and allied health professionals the knowledge and skills that will impact the next generation of Military Children. USU and our on-campus faculty are redoubling our efforts to engage medical students (both USU and HPSP) early in their medical student careers, to ensure they not only understand how incredible it is to be a pediatrician, but also that they can see a future for themselves in Military Pediatrics. As students move into their clinical rotations, I encourage you to reflect with them on what inspired you to dedicate yourself to the well-being of military children.

I know that each of us find inspiration in the patients we care for, the colleagues we work with, and the trainees that we teach. When I talk to pediatric faculty across the Military Health System, one of the recurring themes that comes up is a desire to have more opportunity for research and scholarly activity, countered by the day to day pressures of clinical care and the logistical challenges of research. Over the past several months I’ve witnessed some amazing progress by our on-campus faculty at expanding our reach through research collaborations with the national faculty, at times including the provision of funding and personnel support, something that is a key strategic goal for the department. A FEW of the highlights include:

1. The Health System Research & Epidemiology Division (HSR&E) led by Col Cade Nylund supports a large portfolio of research including some focused on the COVID pandemic and the health of pregnant air crew with collaborators at San Antonio, Walter Reed, Madigan, and Portsmouth (among others). Dr. Elizabeth Lee’s work in the field of maternal child health includes collaborations at Madigan, Fort Hood, Walter Reed, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. This includes the addition of Col (ret) Eric Flake as a research faculty member to support Military Treatment Facility based participation in a research network focused on fetal alcohol syndrome and developmental screening.

2. The pediatric casualty care & en-route care program that MAJ Sara Bibbens leads has established a collaboration with the Joint Trauma System and is working with San Antonio faculty to expand the breadth of this work. She also has a growing portfolio of simulation based education research looking to improve the quality and impact of pediatric casualty care training across all medical specialties. We are also interested in finding collaborators interested in tackling service specific and joint doctrine modifications.

3. Our Education Division faculty have a number of ongoing projects with faculty at Wright Patterson, Walter Reed, Portsmouth, San Diego and Tripler. Our dispersed educational environment is both unique and a model being more wisely adapted to the needs of our students.

continued in the following page
I believe we truly are at the start of a renaissance in pediatric research ACROSS the military health system. For those of you directly involved in this work- thank you. I would like to continue to look for ways to further grow and expand these collaborations in a sustainable and strategically prioritized manner. Team science is good science and it creates an ever stronger foundation of academic pediatrics across the MHS as we train the next generation of Military Pediatricians. I know I speak for all of the faculty here on campus that we would be happy to explore additional opportunities with you.

I would also like to congratulate the following faculty for promotion since the last newsletter was published, noting their duty assignment at the time of promotion:

**To the rank of Professor:**
Merlin Robb (HJF headquarters)
Luis Rohena (San Antonio)
David Hsieh (San Antonio)
Kirk Jensen (USU)
Carl Hunt (USU) - Emeritus Professor

**To the rank of Clinical Associate Professor:**
Melissa Garcia (San Diego)
Elizabeth Cius (San Diego)
Jamie Overbey (San Diego)
Frances Rosario (San Diego)
Rachael Paz (Madigan)
Robert Cornfeld (Madigan)
Sean Meagher (San Antonio)
Cassandra Carr (Walter Reed)

**To the rank of Associate Professor:**
Mary Willis (San Diego)
Eric Pasman (San Diego)
Benjamin Briggs (San Diego)
Erika O’Neil (San Diego)
Danielle Barnes (Walter Reed)
Elizabeth Schulz (Walter Reed)
Caitlin Drumm (Walter Reed)

The Infectious Disease Division faculty collaborate on the HSR&E COVID pandemic epidemiology work, are cornerstones of the USU Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program’s multi-center EPICCC study, and under the leadership of LTC Jeff Livezey (now stationed at AFRIMS in Bangkok) and LTC Milissa Jones, we have opened a dedicated space for pediatric clinical trials work that, by the time this newsletter is in print, we will have begun enrolling patients for a study led by Dr. Allison Malloy and CPT Emily Parsons.

The obesity research program that CAPT (ret) Jill Emerick began, now being led by LCDR Betsy Madison, has matured to active collaborations with faculty at Walter Reed, AT Augusta Military Medical Center, Portsmouth, San Antonio, and San Diego - with plans to expand inclusion of Tripler and Madigan.

To the rank of Clinical Associate Professor:
Melissa Garcia (San Diego)
Elizabeth Cius (San Diego)
Jamie Overbey (San Diego)
Frances Rosario (San Diego)
Rachael Paz (Madigan)
Robert Cornfeld (Madigan)
Sean Meagher (San Antonio)
Cassandra Carr (Walter Reed)

To the rank of Associate Professor:
Mary Willis (San Diego)
Eric Pasman (San Diego)
Benjamin Briggs (San Diego)
Erika O’Neil (San Diego)
Danielle Barnes (Walter Reed)
Elizabeth Schulz (Walter Reed)
Caitlin Drumm (Walter Reed)
Noelle Larson (Walter Reed)
Sharon Enujioke (Portsmouth)
Kara Delaney (Tripler)
Gayle Haischer-Rollo (San Antonio)
Jeanne Krick (San Antonio)
Joshua Smalley (San Antonio)
Milissa Jones (USU)
Allison Malloy, Associate Professor with tenure (USU)
Jeffrey Livezey (AFRIMS, Bangkok)
Ashley Smith (Madigan)
Mark Thompson (DHA)

As you can see, pediatric faculty across our global footprint continue to have strong success in being promoted to higher faculty ranks at USU. This is supported in part by annual systematic reviews that we conduct with leadership at the 11 different MTFs that support clerkship students and/or residents. Mindful that some of you are even further afield, in coming months, Ms. Angela Johansen (the PED Faculty Coordinator) and I will be doing some targeted outreach to those faculty not at Clerkship sites. We will specifically be looking to engage faculty with 5 or more years of service at the Assistant Professor level. I anticipate this will be a mix of both direct information sharing via e-mail, but we will also plan to hold a series of time-zone appropriate webinars that allow for people to ask questions and learn more about the promotion process. This will also include some discussion of creating an “educator’s portfolio”, something that will be phased in as a future requirement from the USU Committee on Promotion, Appointments, and Tenure.

Instruction on how to apply for a faculty appointment are available here. As a reminder, faculty can access resources and schedule educational sessions via the faculty development portal using a Single Sign On (SSO) account.

UPDATING YOUR WORK LOCATION (PCS): Please send an email to facultyupdate@usuhs.edu (and CC angela.johansen@usuhs.edu) with your new work location, phone number, address, etc.

UPCOMING OR RECENT ETS/RETIREMENT: Please send an email to Ms. Johansen at angela.johansen@usuhs.edu letting her know when you plan to separate from service/retire. She will work with you directly regarding your faculty appointment.

FACULTY PROFILE CREATION/UPDATES: If you haven’t already done so, please create a Faculty Profile for our website. To see if yours is active, here is the link. Ms. Johansen is the Pagemaster for PED. Please email her once you have created a Profile so we can “publish” it to our site.

It is my honor to serve and support each of you as the Chair of Pediatrics at USU, and I am so incredibly impressed with the caliber of teaching that you provide to students, residents, fellows and other colleagues within the MHS. Thank you for your support of our collective mission to build the most robust academic environment possible.
The Section on Pediatric Trainees (SOPT) is comprised of medical students, residents, and fellows and is the largest section within the AAP. In the last year, military trainees have been active in many activities, including conference presentations, webinars, and panels. We had military representation on webinars on personal statements, residency interviews, and ERAS financing for the #PedsMatch2024 series. Big shout out to Dr. Kevin Brinkman, PGY-3 at SAUSHEC for his participation! Additional collaboration through the “hAAPy hour” webinar included speaking to trainees about ways to engage with SOPT and pediatric interest groups.

#MilitaryMatch2022 kicked off the first social media campaign to celebrate incoming interns, residents, and fellows to the military pediatrics family. If you missed it last year, check out the video from our Chairperson, Dr. Courtney Judd, as well as this piece in the AAP Voices Blog. We are so excited to welcome and celebrate this year’s incoming class on December 13th, 2023!

It was wonderful to see everyone for AAP NCE this year, many thanks to Dr. Amy Davis, PGY-2 at NCC/WRNMMC for assembling together all of the residency program attendees for some well-deserved socializing!

I am YOUR liaison between SOPT and SOUS. Please let me know what will be most helpful and how I can facilitate communication and opportunities between the sections.

This year’s advocacy campaign launched at the AAP NCE – LAUNCH into Health Literacy! Check out https://collaborate.aap.org/SOPT/Pages/SOPT-Advocacy-Campaign.aspx for more information.

Opportunities to get your voice out there! The SOPT News and Views Blog provides a space to read, write, learn, and grow from others in the field of pediatrics. More information and submission details can be found at https://collaborate.aap.org/SOPT/Pages/News-and-Views-Blog.aspx.

SOPT Storytellers is a way for trainees to share their personal stories in medicine, for more information and submission, visit https://collaborate.aap.org/SOPT/Pages/Storytellers.aspx.

Consider submitting a piece for the SOPT Monthly Feature in Pediatrics, more details and submission information can be found at https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/pages/author-instructions#SOPT.
AWARDS & RECOGNITION
Colonel (retired) Maggie Pelszynski has dedicated her entire life to the military. She received her undergraduate degree from the United States Air Force Academy and her medical degree from USU. She completed her pediatrics residency at Wilford Hall followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Children’s National Medical Center.

Dr. Pelszynski was the Pediatric Residency Program Director at David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base over 20 years ago. After 14 years at Travis, she promoted to Colonel and was sent to San Antonio where she was the Squadron Commander and then the Chief of Pediatrics during the transition of Pediatrics at JBSA from Wilford Hall to BAMC following the BRAC. She has always been an incredible advocate for pediatrics and pursues goals with intentionality and purpose. She flawlessly integrated 456 personnel, 15 services, 3 inpatient units, and 11 million dollars of equipment to a hospital that had not cared for inpatient or subspecialty pediatrics in over 20 years.

A visionary, Dr. Pelszynski created the first-ever hospital Pediatric Sedation Unit, re-opened neonatal ECMO capabilities, attained Texas Ten Steps recognition for infant nutritional health, and garnered The Joint Commission best practices accolades. She works tirelessly for her staff as a mentor and sponsor.

Maggie retired after 38-years in the Air Force and has since sent one of her 3 sons to follow in her impressive footsteps as an Air Force officer. Since retirement, she took the GS hospitalist position at BAMC where she continues to teach and shape future pediatricians at the DoD’s largest pediatric residency program. She has won multiple teaching awards across her career and continues to inspire medical students, residents, and faculty. Dr. Pelszynski is an impressive individual who has contributed so much to military pediatrics and continues to shape future generations of pediatricians.

-Col Renee Matos, USAF
Dr. Joseph Lopreiato received the The Lou Helamek Pediatric Simulation Excellence Award in 2023. This award is given annually by the AAP Section on Simulation and Innovative Learning Methods to an individual who has demonstrated a significant impact in pediatric simulation innovation, education and leadership. Dr. Lopreiato is the Assistant Dean for Simulation Education at the Uniformed Services University and is the deputy director of the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center - a 30,000 sq foot facility dedicated to teaching learners using all methods of simulation. He has published articles on simulation and developed courses to help instructors deliver simulation more effectively. He works closely with the Defense Medical Modeling and Simulation Office at the Defense Health Agency to influence policy and future directions in simulation. He has been a SOUS section member since 1989 and have been the past chair of the SOUS. He was also the past President of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, a 4,000 member international society dedicated to advancing simulation in healthcare. When asked about his most recent works and projects, he shares:

1. We are in the middle of our study as to whether a new infant hip model can teach pediatric residents to do a better hip exam for developmental dysplasia.
2. We are starting a new project to evaluate whether a new circumcision simulator can be useful to pediatricians. We need more study sites.
3. We have an ongoing project to assess whether we can use tabletop simulation and practice to improve patient handovers in a combat environment.
4. We are in a DHA consortium of five universities to set performance standards for select procedures on the critical task lists for doctors and nurses.
5. We are looking at disparities in care on the battlefield between male and female service members with the same injury pattern.
6. We have evaluated whether a new eye simulator can effectively teach medical professionals how to do a lateral canthotomy and cantholysis to save eyesight.
7. We recently completed a survey of all simulation programs at MTFs to assess what skills are taught and to whom.

Congratulations to Dr. Lopreiato. Reach out at joseph.lopreiato@usuhs.edu to learn more!
2023 SOUS AWARDS

Dave Berry Award:
Timothy Scott Toney, Jr.

Outstanding Young Pediatrician Award:
EAST CHAPTER
ARMY: CPT Emily Parsons
AIR FORCE: Maj David Garner
NAVY: LCDR Amanda Case
USPHS: LCDR Melanie Mester

WEST CHAPTER
ARMY: MAJ Jeanne A. Krick
AIR FORCE: Maj Katherine M. Carlin
NAVY: LCDR Christopher P. Burnett

Howard Johnson Award:
FIRST: Richelle Roelandt Homo
SECOND: Brendan Carty
THIRD: Samantha Rowden

Leo Geppert Innovation Award:
FIRST: Sidney Zven
SECOND: Brian Graziose
THIRD: James Steward

Leo Geppert Cases Award:
FIRST: Alexis Ghersi
SECOND: Ingrid Carnevale
THIRD: Kevin Brinkman

Ogden Bruton Award:
FIRST: Sarah Anisowicz
SECOND: Theresa Urbina

Andrew Margileth Award:
FIRST: Sarah Jiang
SECOND: Katie Joskowitz
THIRD: Elizabeth Lee

Val Hemming Award
FIRST: Jennifer Teng
SECOND: Genesis James
THIRD: Brandon Rozanski

Scientific Awards Competition Manuscript Winners:
Agnes Montgomery
Kevin M. Claunce
2023 AAP SOUS Meeting. Army (top left), Navy (top right), Air Force (bottom left), Public Health Service (bottom right) attendees. Photo Courtesy: Richelle Homo
Ildy Katona Outstanding Student in Pediatrics Award: 2d Lt Anna Casey

CAPT (Ret.) Ildy Katona, MD served as USU faculty for thirty-three years, twenty-two as Department Chair, and retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2020. Widely published in the fields of pediatric rheumatology, immunology, and medical education, Dr. Katona recruited and cultivated expert academicians that innovated on campus and then would go on to become thought leaders at leading academic centers, both military and civilian, across the United States. She shaped multiple generations of uniformed pediatricians by creating a rich academic environment at USU that emphasized clinical excellence, scientific rigor, and institutional service. This award is given annually in honor of her legacy to a student recognizing the highest academic achievement and excellence in pediatrics.

Virginia Randall Spirit of Pediatrics Award: ENS Alexis Albright

COL (Ret.) Virginia "Ginny" Randall, MD, a beloved professor of Pediatrics, is known for modeling the best characteristics of a military pediatrician. She thoughtfully leads and mentors students in the conduct of groundbreaking research into the formation of professional identity. Dedicated to the well-being of military families, Dr. Randall’s legacy includes instrumental roles in the establishment of Early Intervention Programs for overseas families and the Exceptional Family Member Program. This award goes to the student who is pursuing a residency in pediatrics who best personifies these qualities of service, compassion, teamwork, and scholarship.

Superior Achievement in Pediatrics Clerkship Award:

EAST CHAPTER
2LT Katherine Clark

WEST CHAPTER
2LT Harvey Harper

Photo Courtesy: Richelle Homo
**USUHS 2022 TEACHING AWARDS**

Each year, the **USU Education Division** reviews student feedback from our 11 teaching sites to recognize faculty and residents for their outstanding teaching. The **USU Pediatrics Department** values the time and dedication required to teach future military physicians, and appreciates our national faculty and residents for their commitment to this important mission.

-LCDR MEAGHAN WIDO, MD

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<tr>
<th>Medical Center</th>
<th>Faculty/Resident</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center</td>
<td>CPT Mateo Betancourt</td>
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<td>Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center</td>
<td>Dr. Terri Morales</td>
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<td>Madigan Army Medical Center</td>
<td>LTC Rebecca Sainato, CPT Shane Blunk</td>
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<td>Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton</td>
<td>CDR Adelaine Trask</td>
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<td>Naval Medical Center Portsmouth</td>
<td>COL Courtney Judd, Capt Daley Auvil</td>
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<td>Naval Medical Center San Diego</td>
<td>Dr. Joel Ruff, LT Ryan Gillis</td>
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<td>San Antonio Military Medical Center</td>
<td>Dr. Kimberly Henrichs, Capt Alexandra Viso</td>
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<td>Tripler Army Medical Center</td>
<td>Dr. Dolores Mullikin, CPT Brandon Fong</td>
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<td>Walter Reed National Military Medical Center</td>
<td>Dr. Jeffrey Greenwald, LT Colin McNama</td>
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<td>Womack Army Medical Center</td>
<td>Dr. Edwin Robins</td>
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<td>Wright-Patterson AFB</td>
<td>Maj Luisa Sandoval, Dr. Elizabeth Morrison</td>
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Thank you to everyone for your excellent work supporting our students across the Military Health System!
This tree was dedicated in honor of the
NEW HOME FOR THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
ITASCA, IL • 2018
Thank you for your continual commitment
to uniformed services pediatricians,
military families, and all families!
SECTION ON UNIFORMED SERVICES
UNIFORMED SERVICES CHAPTER EAST
UNIFORMED SERVICES CHAPTER WEST

Photo Courtesy: Dr. Amy Michalski
CROSSWORD ANSWERS & COMING SOON
Leaders and Readers,

Welcome to SOUS Newsletter’s December 2023 issue! I am Richelle Homo, NICU Fellow and SOUS’s Newsletter Editor.

We’ve revamped the format for the newsletter in an effort to elevate your experience, with hopes of reaching you, our readers, more frequently throughout the year. We invite you to dive into a spectrum of stories, perspectives, and features that celebrate the humanity of our military pediatrician community.

In this issue, we share updates from service-specific consultants and highlight the awards and recognition earned by our members throughout the year.

Stay tune for our next issue where we will include a new recurring segment on leadership, a limited series on pediatric transport, and selected updates on USU/Peds MTF collaborative efforts, just to name a few.

We welcome you to engage, question, and connect. Your feedback matters as we strive to build a platform that unifies us all.

Richelle Roelandt Homo, MD
CPT, USA, MC
SOUS Newsletter Editor

Would you like to contribute to the crossword puzzle? Have an idea for a punny name for this segment? Send your recommendations: RichelleHomo@gmail.com

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