

# SECTION ON NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE

NEWSLETTER - Summer 2020



American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

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## Digital and Data-Driven Information Dissemination: The SoNPM Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Mark Hudak MD, FAAP**

**Krithika Lingappan MD, MS, PhD, FAAP**

**Clara Song MD, FAAP**

By mid-March, it had become clear that a developing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic would cause major disruptions to perinatal and neonatal care systems across the country. The Section developed a multidimensional approach to providing timely information on perinatal COVID-19 to the neonatology community that began on March 18 with the dissemination of some local expert guidance to its membership on the evaluation and management of infants born to mothers with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection.

During the final two weeks of March, the Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID), the Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN), and SoNPM - working together and with unprecedented celerity - promulgated the initial guidance on this topic that was approved by the AAP Board of Directors. This guidance sought to strike a reasonable balance in consideration of the potential risks to newborns posed by a highly transmissible and deadly new virus, the unknown susceptibility of the newborn to infection, and the known benefits of early mother-infant bonding and the successful initiation of breastfeeding. COID, COFN, and SoNPM wrote this initial guidance fully acknowledging that this document would change dynamically to reflect accumulating population-based evidence.

In the last two weeks of March, the Section reached out to our colleagues at the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) and to neonatology leaders in Australia, the United Kingdom, and Europe. Together, we sought to identify opportunities to collaborate on near real-time compilation of population and health system data

## Perinatal News “At a Glance”

**Mary Nock, MD, FAAP, Editor**

**Vivian Thorne, Production**

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## Digital and Data-Driven Information Dissemination: The SoNPM Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

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that could inform and improve neonatal-perinatal care practices.

From these discussions arose two concrete initiatives. VON and SoNPM began a collaboration on an audit project at volunteer hospitals to map the impact of COVID-19 on neonatal services in two ways: by determining the proportion of infants cared for in the hospital who had positive PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2 or who were suspected to have COVID-19 infection; and by assessing the effect on hospital supplies of personal protective equipment, beds, medical devices or equipment, and medications; on availability or timeliness of testing; and on shortages of physicians and other medical staff. SoNPM also created a National Registry for Perinatal COVID-19 Infections that it advertised through mailings to the SoNPM listserv as well as the listservs of our VON and Mednax partners. This Registry aimed to collect de-identified data on mother/infant dyads pertinent to the timing and severity of maternal COVID-19 infection, the approach to infant management, the results of infant testing, and in-hospital infant outcomes to determine the overall rate of infant infection and to identify factors associated with risk modification. SoNPM added some data elements to achieve greater harmony with concurrent international efforts. Both the VON-SoNPM audit and the Registry launched in early April. At the time of this writing, the audit has entered its third month and will provide important information about trends in neonatal care and capabilities. Volunteer teams from nearly 200 hospitals spanning 40 states and the District of Columbia that together account for 15% of US national births have contributed key information on nearly 1,000 mother/infant dyads.

In late March and early April, SoNPM stepped up its efforts to communicate to our members and to the greater neonatal community by enhancing multiple digital platforms. Our Website team, led by Krithika Lingappan and assisted by Monique Phillips at AAP, performed a herculean job in filtering an exploding cyber-literature to select the best neonatal cornucopia of resources. As information from multiple sources and institutions poured in, the website adapted and expanded accordingly. Both the main homepage of the Section website and the collaboration site now house important information regarding COVID-19 and how it relates to everyday neonatology practice. Resources on the collaboration site include media, current literature, institutional guidelines, strategies for ethical resource allocation, as well as links to AAP (e.g., *Red Book*) and other websites and registries relevant to perinatal COVID-19. The collaboration site also allows access to the most recent weekly infogram snapshot of the Registry data. SoNPM leadership gives a loud "shout-out" to our many members who shared

resources over various listservs that we incorporated into our website. As our community geared up to respond to the challenge of taking care of mothers and infants born during this challenging time, we hope that the website will continue to help our members navigate through these times, by providing timely information and evidence-based guidance.

Our Social Media Team, led by Clara Song, has also worked tirelessly to disseminate COVID-19 information relevant to those providers in the greater neonatology community who are not reached by the SoNPM listserv and who may not have access to the collaborative website. To meet this gap, SoNPM diligently communicates via its @AAPNeonatal Twitter handle and its @AAP.neonatal Facebook page. Through these channels we broadcast the efforts of the NeoCLEAR (Neonatal COVID-19 Literature Evaluated and Aggregated in Real-time) Workgroup, based at the University of Colorado, who prepare a biweekly visual summary of the most recent literature and present weekly Registry updates.

Finally, SoNPM is here to help its members as they may face challenges at the hospital or regional levels. SoNPM joined an effort by AAP New York Chapter 2 to advocate for the best care of newborn infants in hospitals greatly impacted by COVID-19. In some hospitals, newborn caregivers experienced institutional pressure to discharge infants prematurely in violation of clinical guidelines issued by COFN. We stood with Chapter leadership to reinforce the rationale and need for a normal hospital stay that allows for appropriate longitudinal evaluation and completion of all newborn screens. An adequate hospital stay has become even more critical in an environment where timely postnatal access to care is not guaranteed and potentially risky.

Please send us your suggestions for how we can serve you better during the pandemic.

## View from the Chair: Why We Must Leave Our Comfort Zone

### Mark Hudak MD, FAAP

It is hard to believe that this will be my fourth and last Chair's column in this newsletter. *Tempus fugit*, "time flies," is an axiom in life that becomes especially evident in momentous times like ours. So, this privilege will pass to Lily Lou, who will start her two-year term as your next Chair in November.

Contributors pen material for this newsletter a long time before it sees publication, which normally challenges feature writers to generate an article that will retain relevancy months later.

Yet, my task this time is straightforward. Recent national events have crystallized what we must own as the major issue of our time that will endure far into the times of our

children. The issue of racism must now inform and change how we conduct not only our personal but also our professional lives. Many of us became physicians first and foremost to comfort, to counsel, and when we could, to heal. If we had thought to articulate a guiding vision, we might have expressed our desire to care for children and families irrespective of race, ethnicity, country of birth, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status with kindness, compassion, respect, and fairness. Most of us, in partnership with our health care communities, have largely lived up to this noble aspiration. However, we, as a community, have painfully learned that our insular work is no longer enough.

The almost daily spectacles of deadly injustice to black men and women captured with stunning clarity on cell phone videos have exposed the truth that hatred and implicit bias in our society are pervasive and deep-rooted. The sad reality today is that racism is not a problem that will be reversed “quickly” and “very easily”. Racism will only perpetuate if our leaders view it through this lens. Now 155 years after the Civil War, events have unmasked that our nation is in the throes of an epic struggle, which will determine whether the “great American experiment” will realize its potential or suffer ignominious failure.

Clearly, more is required of us than maintaining our personal and professional bubbles. Science has clearly established that racism contributes in powerful ways to physical and mental health care disparities, beginning before birth and extending throughout the lifespan. The AAP has long led among professional organizations in identifying and addressing the impact of social determinants of health and the insidious influence of racism. As neonatal caregivers, we directly observe the consequences of racism every day. We mark in real time the racial differences in prematurity, low birth weight, and neonatal and infant mortality. On the macro level, we feel troubled as well by national statistics that unveil similar profound racial differences in maternal mortality. We should all read recent work highlighting the finding that racial segregation and inequality of NICU care affects the most fragile of our newborn infants, with black infants cared for disproportionately in lower-resourced and lower quality NICUs, even after correction for possible geographical variation (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6503514/>)

What more can we do to leave our comfort zone and act? To start, we can read the compelling AAP statement on the longitudinal effects of racism. This work offers some actionable recommendations that we as individuals can implement in our lives and practices (<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/2/e20191765>). We can talk frankly to our colleagues and friends of all races about how racism has affected them. We can take the “Stand Against Racism Pledge” and incorporate its tenets into our daily consciousness (e.g., see the YWCA

site: <https://www.ywca.org/blog/2018/04/27/join-us-in-taking-a-stand-against-racism/>). We can absorb a course on implicit bias to understand our own biases and those of others. We can speak up when we observe or hear anyone behaving or speaking in a non-compassionate or racist manner. We can advocate with our local AAP Chapters on behalf of initiatives, public policies, and legislation that promote racial and LGBTQ equity. Silence in the face of outrage is truly complicity for anyone who fails to speak.

We are besieged on all fronts by COVID-19, by racism, by economic hurt, by climate change, by deep irrationality, and by hostility to science. Yet, I believe that this moment has the potential at last to be the true turning point. It has been extraordinary to watch night after night peaceful protest marches in every state, through over 150 cities, in over 20 countries that have brought black and white, straight and LGBTQ, young and old, police and ordinary citizens together in solidarity to declare that yes, black lives do matter. We have reason for great optimism but only if good people step in to lead or follow and do their part to keep the focus.

So we must use our voices in the fall. John Lewis has said that the vote is the most powerful, non-violent tool we have in a democratic society. The past several years have laid bare significant flaws in the checks and balances of our government that were ripe for exploitation. Personally, I can no longer tolerate waking up every morning to some scenario from *Alice in Wonderland* or from Dante’s *Inferno*. Is it too much to expect that all of us, regardless of political party, philosophical persuasion, or single issues, can come together to demand as our highest voting priority elected leaders and appointed officials at all levels who first and foremost model the Golden Rule, who shine the light on rather than bury truth, and who will, through words and actions, appeal to all of our better and not our baser instincts?

I will digress a bit (because I can) to share some words that have inspired me. My favorite book as a youth was *The Lord of the Rings*. Belatedly, I have come to understand why that was; and it had nothing to do with elves, wizards, orcs, or ents. *LOTR* was really a parable that JRR Tolkien wrote for his son over the twelve years from 1937-1949 that surrounded the dark time of the Second World War. This trilogy contains many timeless quotes. One of my favorites was from Gandalf the White, “It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till. What weather they shall have is not ours to rule.”

As a father, I took great satisfaction that my children loved hearing me read Dr. Seuss’ *The Lorax* to them at bedtime. To this day, they can still quote these lines, “Now that you’re here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear.



## Getting to Know .... Josh Petrikin MD, District VI Representative

**Medical School and Training** I attended medical school at University of Oklahoma. I completed my pediatric residency at Mayo Clinic and my neonatology fellowship at Children's Mercy in Kansas City, MO.

**Current Position** I am a neonatologist at Children's Mercy Hospital. I serve as Medical Director for the NICU and Pediatric Chair at Truman Medical Center, Kansas City's safety net hospital.

**Family and Pets** My wife Beth and I have a daughter, Annika, and a son, Soren.

**What Would People Be Surprised to Learn About You** I work on math problems for fun! A few years ago, I got my pilot's license and I am trying to learn to play the guitar.

**Favorite Vacation of All Time** This is a tough one because we don't take a lot of vacations and with the children growing up, every vacation is different, so I would say, "Whatever the last one was."

**If You Weren't a Neonatologist, You Would Be** A stay-at-home dad (if money were not an issue). I like to teach so maybe I would be working at a University somewhere with elbow patches, the whole works.

**Best Advice for Early Career Neonatologists** Your career is long; don't try to rush to the end. Make sure you enjoy whatever stage you are in. Early on, learn from everyone and decide what kind of leader you want to be.

**Hobbies** I'm an occasional runner and am involved in whatever the children are doing. I always try to be learning something, a new skill or subject.



**What Books Are You Reading Right Now** My daughter and I are reading *Moby Dick* this summer as a family book club.

**Most Important Thing You Have Learned in Your Career** Framing is everything. There are no wrong paths, just life experiences.

**Best or Favorite Childhood Memory** I always felt loved and safe at home, I want my children to feel that way always.

**Your Hidden Talent** I can juggle slightly. I make a mean bananas Foster. I can be a good listener.

**The Best Thing About Where You Live** Kansas City is great! Two million people plus, but low cost of living with MLS, MLB, and NFL champions all in the last 10 years. We have great opera and art museums and things that you wouldn't realize unless you came and visited.

**I've Recently Been Inspired By** Immediate past District VI Representative, Tom George. He is amazing and you will not find a better friend!

**Favorite Movie** *The Princess Bride*

**Favorite Way to Relax After a Hard Day** Gin and tonic? Time on the couch. I like it when I come home and the family is excited to tell me about their day; it just takes me out of my own concerns.

**Do You Collect Anything** Not really, I collect clutter, inadvertently, but I don't suppose that counts.



**View from the Chair***Continued from Page 3*

UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

On a final note, it has been an incredibly rewarding privilege to work with so many of you on behalf of the neonatal community and the children and families we serve. I will be passing the baton with great respect and confidence to Lily Lou. Thank you and God bless all of you.

**2020 AAP NCE SoNPM Program****Clara H Song MD, FAAP**

The 2020 NCE is just around the corner!

As I write this today, the word on the street is that the Fall Meeting in October will be virtual, a first for the AAP! The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) National Convention and Exhibition (NCE) that was planned for San Diego, CA this October 2-6, will transition to an all-virtual program. More details to come! History shows that the AAP NCE has met every year in the past 90 years except for twice during World War II. This virtual meeting will make history!

For this virtual event, SoNPM will partner with the Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (SOCCS) to focus on the care of the star the weekend: the cardiac neonate. We are super excited to present the awesome program that has been in the works for over a year.

The Scientific Abstract Poster Session opens our program with our annual Gerald Merenstein Lectureship, given this year by Dr. Mark Mercurio from Yale School of Medicine, an expert on ethics in the NICU. Another neonatal legend, Dr. Richard Polin from Columbia University, will join us to give the Thomas E. Cone, Jr. Lecture on Perinatal History, after the Scientific Abstract Oral Presentations. Get ready for more rising stars, as the two most outstanding oral platform abstracts will be awarded the 2020 SoNPM Young Investigator Awards.

The joint session with SOCCS will open with Dr. Victor Levy from Stanford University who will introduce the Neonatal Cardiac Care Collaborative (NeoC3) and a multidisciplinary team care approach. Pediatric cardiologists, Dr. Laurie Armsby from Oregon Health and Science University and Dr. Neglani Pinto, University of Utah Health, will join us for a conversation on pre-operative assessment and management. Dr. Rune Toms from Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital plans to discuss controversies in feeding the vulnerable neonate with increased pulmonary blood flow. Dr. Maria Fraga of CHOP will give an overview of non-invasive technologies for neonatal hemodynamic assessment. Dr. Patrick McNamara from University of Iowa will review the ever-elusive hemodynamically significant ductus arteriosus, as Dr. Carl Backes, Jr. of Nationwide Children's follows with

the transcatheter closure of the ductus. Dr. McNamara will return later to lead a case-based panel discussion on the hemodynamics of term and preterm transitional physiology.

The program will continue with discussions on cardiopulmonary dysfunction in the preterm and critically ill neonate. Dr. Shahab Noori from CHLA will focus on transitional circulation and later dive into precision medicine for hemodynamic management. Dr. Noori and his CHLA team will also head an interactive forum on neonatal cardiovascular compromise utilizing simulation-based ECHO interpretation. Dr. Shazia Bhombal of Stanford University will review left ventricular function and the effects on the vascular bed. Dr. Gabriel Altit from McGill University will carry the discussion to myocardial dysfunction in hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, congenital diaphragmatic hernia and other disease states. Dr. Regan Giesinger from the University of Iowa will then discuss the challenges in managing hypotension in our neonates.

TECaN representatives will present case scenarios throughout the program to inspire conversation with the faculty panel speakers and our members. If you have specific questions, pass them along! We will add these for the most worthwhile discussion with our experts.

As always, we will be announcing the annual Neonatal-Perinatal Annual Awards — Apgar, Education, Landmark and Pioneer — to our most esteemed and deserving colleagues.

TECaN, MidCaN and WECaN will "meet" at their annual receptions. WiN will welcome keynote speaker Catherine DeAngelis, the Editor-in-Chief Emerita of *JAMA*.

We look forward to joining with you virtually in October and hope to connect again in person soon! See you at the Fall #SONPM2020 NCE #AAP2020!

**2020 Apgar Awardee: Betty Vohr MD**

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. Betty Vohr is the 2020 Virginia Apgar Award recipient.

Dr. Vohr received her medical degree from Albany Medical College, Albany, NY in 1966. She then came to Rhode Island to receive her pediatric residency training at Rhode Island Hospital and a year of



**2020 Apgar Awardee***Continued from Page 5*

neonatology fellowship at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island. Dr. Vohr joined the faculty at Women & Infants Hospital, an affiliate of Warren Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University following her training where she developed the Neonatal Follow-Up Program. She steadily climbed the promotion process to earn full Professorship at Brown in 1994, a reflection of her phenomenal rise in academic achievements and earning an outstanding national and international academic reputation.

Dr. Vohr has made two major contributions to the well-being of newborns. One is the establishment of universal newborn screening and detection of hearing loss in newborn infants and the other is being an international leader in the comprehensive long-term follow-up of high-risk infants.

Dr. Vohr became aware of the impact of hearing loss on outcomes when assessing the language outcomes of infants in the Neonatal Follow-up Clinic. She obtained funding for an ABR machine, went for training, returned to train our NICU nurses to screen, and a hearing screening program was in place in the NICU. In the 1970's and 80's, without a screening program, detection of hearing loss was significantly delayed in the United States to two to five years of age. This delay resulted in late intervention negatively affecting the language, behavior and cognitive outcomes of children with permanent hearing loss. In 1989, when Maternal and Child Health and the Department of Education put out an RFA for newborn hearing screening, Dr. Vohr was well positioned and as PI, Rhode Island was one of the three states funded for a demonstration project to establish the feasibility of newborn hearing screening. The findings resulted in an NIH Consensus Conference recommending universal newborn hearing screening. She then established a pioneering statewide nursery-based universal hearing screening program in Rhode Island using the evoked otoacoustic emissions technology and Rhode Island was the first state to pass legislation mandating universal newborn hearing screening. Her model was so successful that it was eventually adapted by newborn nurseries nationwide and in many developed countries around the world. As a reflection of this achievement, Dr. Vohr was appointed to many leadership positions, including the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Improving the Effectiveness of Newborn Hearing Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention; American Academy of Pediatrics Delegate to the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (serving as Chairperson in 2005-2007); and as Charter Member of the US Department of Health and Human Services Constituent Expert Working Group on Infants and Young Children with Hearing Loss. This achievement has benefitted many newborns worldwide,

whose hearing loss would have been detected late without newborn screening.

Dr. Vohr's other significant achievement has been in the development of comprehensive multidisciplinary follow-up for high-risk infants. In the mid 1970's, she initiated the pioneering Neonatal Follow-Up Program at Women & Infants Hospital that incorporated a high-level research agenda to document the evaluation and improved outcomes of high risk infants, particularly those born prematurely. Her achievement and reputation resulted in numerous invitations for speaking engagements and consultant roles in institutions nationwide and around the world. These engagements contributed immensely to these institutions developing their own follow-up programs that eventually benefitted the high-risk infants they serve with improved neurodevelopmental outcomes.

An important appointment, which reflects Dr. Vohr's reputation and achievements in this field, has been serving as National Coordinator of the NICHD Neonatal Research Network Follow-Up Studies from 1997-2016. In this role, Dr. Vohr has made important contributions toward the standardization of comprehensive assessments administered in NICHD Neonatal Research Network clinical trials including training, certification, and establishment of inter-rater reliability for examiners to guarantee the validity of outcomes.

Her studies have focused on interventions to improve the short-term and long-term (adolescence and young adult) neurodevelopmental, behavioral and language outcomes of extremely preterm infants, including single center and multicenter studies. Most recently, she has focused on the impact of the NICU environment, clearly demonstrating the importance of mediators such as the language environment, maternal presence and breast milk. In an effort to address not only medical risk factors, but also environmental and psychosocial risk factors impacting outcomes of high-risk NICU infants, she added social workers and peer parents to the Follow-Up Team and developed an enhanced Transition Home Program to provide coordinated family-centered education, care, and support to the mother-infant dyad beginning in the NICU and continuing post-discharge. An Innovation Challenge Grant examining the effects of the Program has demonstrated improved outcomes with decreased ER visits, hospitalizations and healthcare costs.

In recognition of her numerous important contributions to the care of newborn infants, Dr. Vohr has received several prestigious awards including The Society for Pediatric Research's Douglas K. Richardson Award, Marion Downs Award for outstanding contribution to the field of pediatric audiology by the American Academy of Audiology, *Ear and Hearing* Editor's Award for Outstanding Research in Audiology and the Hearing Sciences from the American Audiology Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics



Landmark Award, the Graven's Award, and she was named a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Advisor. Dr. Vohr has over 300 peer-reviewed publications reflective of her interests in outcomes of high-risk infants.

In summary, Dr. Betty R. Vohr is truly an outstanding, accomplished academician who has contributed immensely to the care of newborns in the field of newborn hearing screening to promote detection and intervention and in the assessment and improvement of neurodevelopmental outcomes of high risk infants and is highly deserving of the 2020 Virginia Apgar Award.

William Oh MD

## 2020 Avroy Fanaroff Education Awardee: Bill Benitz MD

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. Bill Benitz has been selected as the 2020 Avroy Fanaroff Education Award recipient.



Dr. Benitz graduated from the University of Alaska in 1973, *summa cum laude* in Mathematics. He received his MD from Stanford University then completed his residency in pediatrics at Stanford and served as Chief Resident in his final year. The following three years, were spent as a postdoctoral fellow in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Stanford, where he worked with Dr. Merton Bernfield on factors involved in cell-matrix interaction during development. In 1985, he was recruited to join the faculty at Stanford and rapidly rose through the academic ranks to become a full Professor in 1999. In 2003, he was named to the Philip Sunshine Endowed Professorship Chair in Neonatology, and was named a Professor, by courtesy, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He became the Division Head and Chief of the Neonatology Services at Packard Children's Hospital in 2007, a position he held until 2017. In addition, he has been active in numerous committees within Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford University Hospitals, Stanford University, as well as being very active in regional and national committees. He was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of the California Association of Neonatologists, was on the Committee of Drugs of the American Academy of Pediatrics, served on the Council of the Western Society for Pediatric Research, and was a member and then the Chairman of the Sub-Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP). Of special note,

he has served as a member and Chair of the University's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and is recognized as an authority in the field, having co-authored, with Dr. David Tatro, the *Pediatric Drug Handbook* while he was Chief Resident in 1981. The second and third editions were published in 1988 and 1995.

In addition to his publication of the *Pediatric Drug Handbook*, he has contributed to the literature on a wide variety of topics. With his 89 original articles, he has demonstrated his capabilities as a basic science researcher, a clinical investigator, and a scholar in developing various clinical pathways to study and treat a number of clinical conditions such as group B strep infections, primary pulmonary hypertension of the newborn, neonatal sepsis, and the patent ductus arteriosus.

If Bill were to have any one strong point, it would be his devotion to his students, house staff, fellows, community physicians and his co-workers in neonatology. As a medical student, he worked as a teaching assistant and then as acting instructor in the Department of Anatomy. He has been editor of the textbooks, *Fetal and Neonatal Brain Injury* and *Fetal and Neonatal Physiology*. He had been one of the editors of the *Yearbook of Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine* from 2009-2016, until it was no longer published. His commentaries in the *Yearbook*, which are almost too numerous to count, are some of the most insightful educational tips that one could collect together in one place. As a member and subsequent Chairman of the Sub-Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the ABP, he helped shape the educational preparation of a generation of neonatologists who have benefitted from his insight into the construction of questions that would test applied knowledge and not just memory. In his role as a member of the Committee on the Fetus and Newborn, he has been instrumental in developing guidelines for the management of the patent ductus arteriosus in preterm infants and for the hospital stay for healthy term newborn infants. He was co-author of clarifying commentary on management of newborn sepsis and is on a statement on cord care (as secondary author) and a revision of the *Red Book* chapter on *ophthalmia neonatorum*.

Bill has won numerous awards for his educational and teaching prowess. In 1981, the community physicians recognized him with an award for excellence during residency. In 1989, he was the recipient of the Bloomfield Award in recognition of excellence in teaching and clinical medicine at Stanford and that same year was the recipient of the Pediatric House Staff Award. He won the excellence in clinical teaching award again in 2004, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Alaska in 2005. He was awarded the Diploma of Achievement in Education from the International Biographical Center in Cambridge, England in 2006. In 2014, he was honored

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with the Distinguished Service Award from the Packard Children's Hospital medical staff. Lastly, he is a national guest scholar, Clinical Research Center, Stanford University of Medicine, 2015-16. Almost yearly, he has been recognized as one of the Top Doctors in the Bay Area as well as being one of the Top Doctors in America.

In summary, Bill is a clinician's clinician – one who models the teaching that he never misses an opportunity to undertake. With Bill, clinical practice and education merge, making him most deserving of the 2020 Avroy Fanaroff Education Award.

*Philip Sunshine MD and David K Stevenson MD*

**2020 Landmark Awardee:  
Tom Wiswell MD**

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 2020 Landmark Award recipient in Tom Wiswell.



Dr. Wiswell is recognized for his multicenter randomized international study that provided Level 1 evidence for the care and treatment of newborn infants born through meconium stained amniotic fluid. In 2000, the paper, "Delivery Room Management of the Apparently Vigorous Meconium Stained Neonate," was published in *Pediatrics* and changed the way newly born babies were treated, resulting in significant changes in the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation Neonatal Life Support Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendation (CoSTR) document and the NRP Textbook. This paper created opportunities to conduct further research, which eventually resulted in the abandonment of the practice of intubating any meconium stained newborn.

*Myra H Wyckoff MD and Jay P Goldsmith MD*

**2020 Pioneer Awardee:  
Augusto Sola MD**

The Pioneer Award recognized the pioneering achievements and contributions of an individual to the health and well-being of newborns and infants. The recipient of the 2020 Pioneer Award is Augusto Sola.

Dr. Augusto Sola graduated from the University of Buenos Aires in



1973 and was a pediatric resident (1974-1977) and a first year fellow (1977-1978) in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA. He completed his fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at UCSF, San Francisco, CA (1978-1979). He returned to his native Argentina and literally built the neonatal services in Argentina. He created the first neonatal fellowship program there and led the very prestigious Neonatal Conferences (at that time called Seminars in Neonatology) at which leaders in neonatal-perinatal medicine from all over the world lectured to medical students, pediatric residents, neonatology fellows, pediatricians and neonatologists about cutting-edge NICU care. Dr. Sola and colleagues founded the Ibero American Society of Neonatology (SIBEN) in 2003 with the goal to improve the outcome of all babies born in Latin America and to reduce health care disparities. He is honored as a true pioneer for his passionate work that established the specialty of neonatology in South and Latin America.

*Mark Hudak MD, FAAP*

**ONTPD Update****Heather French MD, MEd, FAAP**

While COVID-19 threw a wrench in our plans to gather in person in Philadelphia this spring, the ONTPD community remains committed to supporting trainee education and fellowship leadership. Ironically, this crisis has served to positively unite our community through social media and videoconferencing. To connect and engage PDs/APDs, we established a community chat on GroupMe, a mobile messaging app, for quick and efficient crowd sourcing of information and problem solving. We also host weekly Virtual Cafes, informal group meetings over Zoom, for colleagues to connect, share information, and problem-solve local and national challenges.

Neonatology education and training have been impacted by the COVID crisis. Diminished staffing; the psychological impact on trainees; and in some areas, the deployment of pediatric trainees and attendings to adult units; has come at great cost to education and research. To comply with social distancing, fellowship programs have cancelled, minimized, or moved core curricula online. To supplement local NPM fellow education, ONTPD launched a virtual lecture series called "ONTPD Online with Experts" (OwE). Scheduled three times weekly through June 2020, content experts are providing seminars on topics ranging from physiology to research methodology. Using Zoom, these seminars connect fellows to experts in the field, providing an opportunity to explore and deepen understanding of neonatal medicine. This lecture series will outlive the COVID pandemic and continue for the foreseeable future. If you would like to participate as a speaker, please contact Heather French.



The suspension of basic and clinical research as well as hiring freezes at academic and community hospitals is a source of great stress for trainees and faculty alike. Retrospective chart review, database projects, and systematic review can serve as alternative scholarly projects for trainees whose research projects have been put on hold. We are concerned about how hiring freezes will impact job prospects for current trainees. Please share any open attending positions with Patrick Myers (pmyers@luriechildrens.org) for posting on the ONTPD website.

ONTPD is planning for the upcoming on-boarding season and discussing opportunities for regional and national orientation activities and boot camps. We have also reached out to APPD/CoPS/ERAS/NRMP to represent the collective preferences of NPM fellowship programs regarding the opening of ERAS and the upcoming recruitment schedule. There is no doubt this will be uncharted territory for all academic fellowships as we plan for a virtual recruitment season. Moving forward, we hope to share best practices for virtual interviews with the ONTPD community.

If any of these efforts sound interesting to you, please reach out to ONTPD council members, and we can help get you involved. This unprecedented circumstance has led to an unprecedented response both in innovation and time invested by our ONTPD community. We thank you and encourage you all to stay engaged in these efforts even after this pandemic has passed. We cross our fingers that we will be able to meet together as colleagues and friends in-person in San Diego in October 2020.

#### **National Neonatology Curriculum Committee (NNCC) (Chair Heather French)**

The ONTPD National Neonatology Curriculum for physiology is continuing to expand with Flipped Classroom (FC) materials posting for new topics. Under development are Cardiology and Neurology materials. The RCT comparing learning outcomes and preference between traditional didactic and flipped classroom learning completed data analysis and we hope to soon publish the results we were excited to present at PAS 2020. The COVID crisis has led to further innovation in a new educational format - the FC can easily be held virtually! Led by Liz Bonachea, the NNCC has hosted several successful virtual “MegaFlips,” FCs open to large numbers of fellows over Zoom.

We are very excited to announce the publication of several completed simulation cases to the ONTPD website: <https://services.aap.org/en/community/aap-sections/sonpm/ontpd/educational-resources/>. The cases are located under the section entitled “Facilitator Guides” on ONTPD’s education page. This project has been a success due to tremendous effort on the part of >80 educators (including Editor Lindsay Johnston and

Associate Editors Rita Dadiz, Kristen Glass, Christie Bruno, and Carol Lynn O’Dea) who participated in authoring, reviewing, and piloting over 50 simulation cases. Where appropriate, simulation cases are linked with physiology topics to provide additional opportunities to reinforce physiologic concepts.

Additionally, an online neonatology-focused ECMO course, led by Lindsay Johnston, continues to be developed by national experts, with some of the initial programs recently published. This course includes FC guides to work through ECMO scenarios and emergencies. MedEdOnTheGo.com is continuing to support this work by providing a free, online platform to house videos and supporting educational materials for learners. Supporting educational materials for facilitators have been moved to the ONTPD website.

#### **Annual PD Survey (Chair Lindsay Johnston)**

Given the very positive response to ONTPD’s live “audience response” surveys at PAS and our PD survey last year, we distributed a survey of all NPM PDs this spring. We intend to conduct an annual survey relevant to the ONTPD community. Data collected will be shared with all members of our community, allowing programs to benchmark performance, advocate for additional funding/resources, and share best practices.

#### **Standard Forms Committee (Chair Heidi Karpen)**

Standard forms that are useful for fellowship PDs are uploaded to the ONTPD website. We will continue to update this resource for PDs.

#### **Fellowship Director Mentorship Committee (Chair Melissa Carbajal)**

We continue to facilitate pairing mentor/mentee relationships among APDs and PDs. For programs with recent changes in leadership, please reach out to us so we can support you and help you connect with our community! For current PDs and APDs, it’s never too late to sign-up. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or would like to be paired with a mentor, please email Melissa Carbajal (mmcarbaj@bcm.edu).

#### **Website Committee (Chair Patrick Myers)**

Patrick has worked hard to optimize our ONTPD website with the help of the AAP staff. We will continue to provide resources for PDs through the website. The website also posts job opportunities for fellows and 4th year fellowships spots. ONTPD has a GroupMe chat for PDs and APDs to quickly discuss fellowship issues. The ONTPD website can be found at: <https://services.aap.org/en/community/aap-sections/sonpm/ontpd/>. If you have job listings or would like to join the GroupMe chat, please contact Patrick at pmyers@luriechildrens.org.

**Important Dates to Remember**

- Annual NPM PD/APD Boot Camp – October 1st, 3-6pm  
(Sponsored by Abbott Nutrition)
- Annual ONTPD Reception – October 1st, 6-9pm  
(Sponsored by Abbott Nutrition)
- Fall ONTPD Annual Meeting at the AAP NCE – October 2nd, 9am-4pm

**MidCaN Update****Dena K. Hubbard MD, FAAP**

MidCaN members missed connecting in person at the SoNPM Workshop on Neonatal-Perinatal Practice Strategies in Scottsdale. While COVID-19 has disrupted all our routines, we will keep adapting and focus on how we respond to things out of our control while balancing career and family. During this time of uncertainty and grief, from pandemic to racial violence and health disparities, we are here to offer connection, support, and hope to you. Let's re-envision 2020 as an opportunity and a call to action. As servant leaders, we need to speak up for our colleagues and NICU team members who have not been heard or seen, our patients who cannot speak for themselves, and ourselves as clinicians, scientists and healers to create a new, better normal.

MidCaN leadership is more committed than ever to providing a forum to meet the unique needs of mid-career neonatologists. MidCaN was created to meet the needs of mid-career neonatologists who are not the new kids on the block anymore and are expected to be successful leaders, often with the expectation of on-the-job training and little formal mentorship. We may be starting to feel burnout due to the challenge of balancing career and family, and may be unaware of opportunities available to advance in leadership and career development. MidCaN is a forum to share challenges and successes and to support each other to become better leaders, clinicians, and kind human beings.

In January, MidCaN hosted its first virtual coffee break, "MidCaN Coffee Break Discussion on Leadership," led by Heather Kaplan and Elizabeth Rogers. This interactive virtual journal club included the review of two Harvard Business Review articles as a framework for sharing challenges and lessons learned in our leadership positions within our divisions, departments, and institutions. If you were unable to attend, you can find a link to the recording on the MidCaN website. We hope to see you at the next MidCaN webinar!

Whether your current needs and interests are related to leadership/career development, mentorship, wellness, advocacy, or QI, we have a place for you. Be on the lookout for the inaugural MidCaN Newsflash. This will be a regular feature with quick links to communicate and advertise MidCaN opportunities, events, and resources on the website.

As a reminder, if you are a mid-career neonatologist 7-17 years out of fellowship, you are a MidCaN member! There is no extra cost to your AAP/SoNPM membership to participate in MidCaN activities. Join the listserv and we will keep you informed about resources and opportunities within the SoNPM and AAP. We are here for you and because of you! If you would like to join the MidCaN listserv or are interested in becoming more involved, please email MidCaN Co-Chairs Alexis Davis (asdavis@stanford.edu) and Dena Hubbard (dkhubbard@cmh.edu).

**Section Sponsored Fellow Conferences Provide Education, Career Development, and Networking****Ann R Stark MD, FAAP**

Attendees write consistently positive reviews about the national and regional conferences for fellows sponsored by the Section Education Committee. They note the wonderful learning and networking opportunities, a tribute to the efforts of the planning groups and the enthusiastic fellows who attend.

All meetings include state-of-the-art talks by invited faculty and opportunities for fellows to network with faculty, meeting co-chairs, and the other fellow attendees during meals and free time. The national Seminars in Perinatal Medicine held in Santa Fe, NM and Scottsdale, AZ are clinically oriented; at the national Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposia in Snowmass, CO, and Bonita Springs, FL, fellows present their research in either a 10-minute platform presentation or a poster. At the four regional Conferences on Perinatal Research, fellow attendees each give a platform presentation. As an added benefit of the research conferences, faculty members provide written anonymous feedback on the individual presentations, which is much appreciated by the fellows.

Each conference has a three- or four-person planning group whose members typically plan and chair two meetings during their term. In addition to senior and mid-career neonatologists, each national planning group includes a MFM specialist, providing a perinatal perspective and also encouraging applications from MFM fellows. Planning group members are selected for their expertise, organizational ability, sufficient seniority to provide career advice, and reputation for enjoying interacting with fellows.

Fellows report that they appreciate the focus on career development at these conferences. The agenda includes an informal career advice session that is typically organized around fellows' questions. Among topics included are when to begin the job application process, what to ask in an interview, and how to negotiate after a job offer. Fellows frequently ask about research funding

and career trajectory, managing work and life issues, and other concerns about how to move forward after fellowship. Through these discussions, fellows have an opportunity to hear from faculty outside their own program about their experiences and views. In addition, networking with faculty and planning group members during meals, breaks, and social activities has sometimes resulted in faculty positions.

Program Directors and Division Chiefs receive invitations for their fellows to participate/submit abstracts 3-4 months before the meeting. For national conferences, the Program Director selects one fellow to apply. The Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposia require an abstract with the application and attendees are selected by the planning group based on abstract quality. For the regional research conferences, application also requires an abstract submission and any number of fellows may apply from each fellowship program.

These conferences are sponsored by unrestricted grants from Mead Johnson Nutrition (research conferences) and Abbott Nutrition (clinical conferences) to the AAP Section on Neonatal Perinatal Medicine. The programs are developed independently by the planning groups. The grants cover all related expenses for the fellows.

The conferences are listed below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some meetings may become virtual, rather than in-person, and schedules are subject to change.

### National Conferences

Fellows Seminar on Perinatal Pediatrics - Scottsdale, AZ and Santa Fe, NM

Perinatal and Developmental Medicine Symposium - Bonita Springs, FL and Snowmass, CO

**Regional Conferences on Perinatal Research** (*fellowship states and cities included in each region are listed in parentheses*)

Northeastern: Held in Chatham, MA (NH, MA, VT, RI, CT, NJ, NY, Hershey and Pittsburgh PA)

Western: Held in Indian Wells, CA (WA, OR, CA, UT, HI, TX, OK, NM, CO)

Southeastern: Held in Clearwater Beach, FL (FL, GA, SC, AL, MS, TN, MD, VA, Washington DC, NC, LA, AR, Philadelphia PA)

Central: Held in Louisville, KY (MN, IA, IL, WI, OH, MI, IN, WV, KY, MO)

For additional information contact:

Ann Stark, Chair, Fellow Education Committee, AAP Section on NPM (astark@bidmc.harvard.edu) or Jim Couto, Director, Hospital and Surgical Subspecialties (jcouto@aap.org).

## Women in Neonatology - Update on our Advocacy Work

### Christiane EL Dammann MD, FAAP

With support of the Section, Women in Neonatology (WiN) has submitted two resolutions to the AAP Annual Leadership Forum. In 2019, our resolution on *Promoting Women in Leadership in Pediatrics* suggested that the Academy transparently assess the status of gender equality in pay, leadership, and career opportunities in its own workforce, with the goal of achieving and sustaining gender equality as a model for other organizations who employ women physicians. We further suggested that the Academy commit to ongoing support of Academy programs to foster women leaders in pediatrics as well as to track gender equity in the pediatric workforce annually until equality is achieved. An increasing percentage of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists are women, yet they remain underrepresented in leadership positions. Women physicians receive unequal work compensation and face challenges with advancement of their professional careers despite the fact that women in leadership positions have made contributions to clinical, teaching, and academic missions equivalent to those made by men. This resolution passed the consensus committee, but was not selected into the top 10 by the AAP leadership.

The Women's Wellness through Equity and Leadership project (WEL) involved a collaboration between six health care organizations: The AAP, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American College of Physicians (ACP), the American Psychiatric Association (APA), and the American Hospital Association (AHA). Three women were chosen from each organization to join this project. The evaluation team is currently completing the project evaluation. AAP leadership is now looking at next steps with respect to additional funding for new iterations of this project for a larger number of women.

In 2020, a resolution submitted jointly with the Council on Community Pediatrics (COCP) on *Paid Parental Leave and Mother/Baby-Friendly Workplaces* advocated that the Academy would develop and lead a well-coordinated coalition of medical organizations, partner with paid leave advocates and researchers, and actively work with federal legislators to raise awareness. It also suggests advocating for and promoting the passage of a national paid family and medical leave program that mandates a minimum of 12 weeks parental leave after a birth or adoption. It further suggests that the Academy actively advocates for employers to develop mother/baby-friendly spaces in order to enable prolonged exclusive breastfeeding after a mother returns to work. The US is the only industrialized nation without a national paid family and medical leave



**Women in Neonatology - Update on our Advocacy Work***Continued from Page 11*

policy, and only eight states and the District of Columbia have enacted paid family and medical leave legislation. Taking unpaid family and medical leave disproportionately marginalizes low-income families and those of color and contributes to the cycle of poverty. Research demonstrates the medical, mental health and economic benefits of paid family and medical leave for both children and their families. We all know that the newborn period is the most critical time for brain development and parental bonding and attachment, but also bears the greatest risks for morbidity and mortality. The AAP and WHO recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, and the Academy is a role model in providing paid parental leave benefits for 12 weeks and mother/baby-friendly workplaces for its employees. It is essential that all employers follow this example and provide mother/baby-friendly worksites to facilitate nursing or expression and storage of breast milk so that the AAP/WHO recommendation can be followed. Together with the Committee on Pediatric Workforce, the Council on Community Pediatrics, and the Council on Early

Childhood, a policy statement on this topic is being created by members of WiN. The recent COVID-19 pandemic in the US has made the needs for paid medical leave eminently clear.

The WiN Advocacy Sub-Committee is one of the newly-created six standing Committees (Leadership, Advocacy, Health/Wellness, Mentoring and Career Development, Membership, Networking and Communication). Our mission is to improve the status, representation, and well-being of women in neonatology. Our goals are (1) to develop policies and action plans for items such as parental leave and employment equality and (2) to develop programs that assist women in advocating for themselves, learning negotiation and leadership skills to advance their careers in neonatology. Members of the Sub-Committee are Lisa Owens, Kerri Machut, Rachel Wright, and Vickie Bailey. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christiane Dammann (cdammann@tuftsmedicalcenter.org).

Members of the WiN Steering Committee: Marilyn Escobedo (Chair), Renate Savich (Chair Elect), Christiane Dammann, Clara Song, Krithika Lingappan, Shazia Bhombal and Namrita Jain

**Coding Question**

Edward Liechty MD, FAAP

A neonatologist has been asked by their Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist to do a prenatal consult for a couple whose antenatal ultrasound is suggestive of spina bifida. Because of the current “stay at home” order, the neonatologist performs the consult using ZOOM technology, employing synchronous audio and visual communication. The couple connects using their smart cellphone. The neonatologist connects in their hospital office using a desktop computer. The consult takes 45 minutes, all of which is counseling and is documented in the mothers antenatal EMR. A copy of the documentation is sent to the referring MFM specialist.

Correct CPT codes for this encounter:

- A. 99423 - Online digital evaluation and management service, established patient, 21 or more minutes
- B. 99204 - Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, 45 minutes.
- C. 99243 - Office consultation for a new or established patient - 40 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family.

*Answer on page 14.*

**Calendar of Meetings**

**District VI Conference**  
Chicago, IL (Virtual)  
September 11, 2020

**AAP National Conference & Exhibition**  
**SoNPM Program**  
San Diego (Virtual)  
October 2-6, 2020

**VON Annual Quality Congress**  
Chicago, IL (Virtual)  
November 5-8, 2020

**Hot Topics in Neonatology**  
Washington, DC (Virtual)  
December 6-10, 2020

**34th Annual Gravens Conference on the**  
**Physical & Development Environment**  
**of the High Risk Infant**  
Clearwater Beach, FL  
March 2-5, 2021

**Perinatal Workshop**  
Scottsdale, AZ  
March 19-21, 2021

**Southeastern Association**  
**of Neonatologists**  
Marco Island, FL  
March 26-30, 2021

## WECaN in the Era of Coronavirus

### Stephen A Pearlman MD, MS, FAAP

As I sit here, I am beginning my sixth week of working from home. I have had the surreal experience of watching spring happen from my study window, as the trees develop buds and leaves and flowers emerge. Our world has changed in so many ways but at least springtime continues unfettered.

Many of us are on the front lines caring for patients who either had or were suspected of having COVID-19. Thankfully, our neonatal patients seemed unscathed by this terrible infection. Most of the existing evidence suggests that vertical transmission is a very unlikely occurrence, but there is still a great deal to be learned.

What is true however, is that WECaN members are part of a high-risk group that is most susceptible to this disease. According to a recent article, hundreds of physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals have died from COVID-19. So, to those WECaN members who put their patients' interests above their own, I salute you.

As many of you know we had planned to meet in Scottsdale. Our speaker was to be Howard Eigen, a pediatric pulmonologist who has a keen interest in planning for one's retirement. Having been privy to what he was going to share, I am sure we would have learned a great deal about how to plan for the next phase. From speaking to other friends and colleagues, some shared the sentiment that if what we are experiencing now is what retirement looks like, count us out! Of course, on many levels this is an unfair comparison. We are currently unable to spend time together with family and friends, visit museums or go out for a concert, sporting event or even a good meal. Nonetheless, you may have experienced similar feelings.

I've always been one to look on the positive side of things, much like the character Nellie Forbush from the show *South Pacific*, who considered herself a "Cockeyed Optimist." I will share the view through my rose-colored glasses. We will be meeting again and hopefully have Dr. Eigen speak with us. We will shake hands and embrace again. We will be able to enjoy the best that life has to offer. I am not naïve. I do not think that life is going to be the same even after this pandemic resolves. But, we are smart enough as a society to figure out a way to make life work again; of that I am confident.

I am very grateful to have participated in healthcare during this very challenging and unprecedented time. I am lucky that I still have a job, a roof over my head and food on the table unlike many who are less fortunate. I am thankful that my family has remained healthy. I wish the same for you and your families. I am sending a virtual hug until we meet again!

## Focus on Global Health: Global Child Health and Life Support Strategic Plan Update

### Janna Patterson MD, MPH, FAAP, Senior Vice President GCHLS

In March this year, I reached my two-year anniversary at the AAP. This time has been filled with excitement and growth, which has culminated in a new global strategy for AAP developed by the entire Global Child Health and Life Support (GCHLS) team.

However, the recent COVID-19 pandemic is serving as a stark reminder that the world is more connected than ever, and that we are only as strong as our weakest link. Limited response by one country due to an overburdened or under-resourced health system puts countries all over the world at greater risk. As such, this outbreak is an important reminder that continued commitment to and investment in global programs are essential to protecting the health of populations both in the US and worldwide. Now, more than ever, communities in resource-limited countries need to be mobilized, health workers empowered, and health systems strengthened.

The same would be true even if we were not currently facing this pandemic. The world has embraced the *Sustainable Development Goals*, specifically Goal #3 of Good Health and Well-being, which aims to achieve dramatic reductions in maternal, neonatal and under-five child mortality by 2030. However, we are in no way on track: Half the world still lacks access to affordable, quality health services, and the world currently faces a shortage of 18 million health workers.

This is exactly why the work of GCHLS remains vital. Knowing how much we have accomplished and how far we have to go also served as a critical motivator for initiating our strategic planning process, which began in October 2018, with the final plan presented to the AAP Board of Directors for approval in May 2019. The process was guided by an external consultant who performed key stakeholder interviewing, including members, staff, and external stakeholders; developed high-level guiding principles based on stakeholder interviews; and guided three internal staff working groups that further developed the strategy. Though the Board has approved it, the global strategic plan will continue to be an iterative process as demands and member needs change.

Overall, GCHLS remains dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the Academy to attain optimal physical, mental and social health, and well-being for ALL infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. We pride ourselves on the clinical skills training programs, peer-to-peer mentoring, technical support, and systems-based implementation that we do to accomplish this mission.

The themes identified during the stakeholder interview process were: (1) AAP's strong emphasis on all children; (2) a need to focus on programs rather than general activities; (3) AAP's ability for high impact through adaptation of domestic activities; and (4) technology and digital platforms being imperative to the growth of the department. These themes were further explored by defining a process for programmatic development, how to expand digital learning, and additional business models that can support AAP's global activities.

Below is a more detailed overview of our three-year strategic plan for 2020-2022:

**CORE VALUES:** Achieving excellence, innovation and partnership

**PRIORITIES:** Driven by the epidemiology of global child morbidity and mortality

**GOALS AND KEY ACTIVITIES:**

1. Develop, implement and research curricula and interventions designed to improve the quality of care for newborns, children and adolescents.
  - a. Lead implementation of next-gen neonatal resuscitation training, such as the collaborative effort with the World Health Organization to create a new Essential Newborn Care curriculum that is wholly grounded in the educational design and methodology of Helping Babies Breathe (HBB)
2. Support other professional societies to achieve sustainable independence.
  - a. Support immunization activities in countries through support of Africa- and Asia-led regional collaboration hubs
  - b. Provide technical support to national pediatric societies as they improve self-reliance and impact
    - c. Continue bi-monthly capacity-building webinars with partnering national pediatric societies
3. Provide AAP members with the skills and opportunities they need to improve the health of children around the world.
  - a. Create an electronic platform for members to access trainings and global opportunities
  - b. Pilot global health education course that prepares members to contribute to global health progress in an ethical, sustainable way
  - c. Assess value proposition of a consulting cadre for middle income countries
4. Offer clinical skills training programs that are state-of-the-art in science, learning methodology and technology.
  - a. Expand use of simulation room, which includes exploring the possibility of offering virtual training opportunities for the Helping Babies Survive (HBS) program suite
  - b. Continue private-sector partnerships to achieve best quality training products
  - c. Expand clinical skills training portfolio

It is also one of our three-year stretch goals to diversify member participants in our global work by at least 30 percent. GCHLS has a wonderful network of member participants, but we recognize the growing domestic commitment to and interest in global work. As such, we want to ensure more of our members have the opportunity to become involved in our programs, as your time and expertise are invaluable. One way we are doing this is through use of the AAP's Volunteer Network. To that end, on behalf of the entire GCHLS team, I am excited to see how SoNPM and all of our members increase engagement in global programs, and look forward to working with you.

### Coding Answer (Question on page 12)

The correct answer is C - 99243, office consultation, 40 minutes.

During the current Public Health Emergency, a majority of Evaluation and Management codes which ordinarily require face to face presence are approved for interaction by telemedicine rather than face to face. Please see the article from the SoNPM Coding Committee in this Newsletter for a more complete discussion. Telemedicine requires a synchronous audio and visual interaction with the patient. In this case, the consultation was performed using a HIPAA-compliant platform, with audio-visual capabilities. Greater than 50% of the time spent was in patient/family counseling, which is documented in the note.

Many Medicaid programs and some commercial payers do not accept consult codes. If this consult is performed for one of those payers, the biller would convert the consult code to a time-based New Office Visit code, which, in this case, would be 99204 (if one was rounding up, per CPT) or 99203 (if one was rounding down, per CMS/government).

It is important that the billing office attach the appropriate place of service (POS) and modifiers to the bill. In this case the POS would be 02, indicating telemedicine and modifier 95, indicating telemedicine. Some payers may require other modifiers, or may not honor the current CMS guidance, so it is important for the billing office to verify with each payer the appropriate way to report these services.





# MIAMI NEONATOLOGY

## 2020 ONLINE CONFERENCE

**Virtual**

**November 16-20, 2020**

**Virtual**

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

[www.miamineonatology.com](http://www.miamineonatology.com)



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**Mark Hudak MD FAAP**

*Chairperson*  
Jacksonville, FL  
mark.hudak@jax.ufl.edu

**John A F Zupancic MD ScD FAAP**

*Immediate Past Chair*  
Boston, MA  
jzupanci@bidmc.harvard.edu

**Lily J Lou MD FAAP**

*Chair-Elect*  
Anchorage, AK  
lilylou@mindspring.com

**Munish Gupta MD FAAP**

*DISTRICT I, Exec Comm Member*  
Boston, MA  
mgupta@bidmc.harvard.edu

**Shetal Indravadan Shah MD FAAP**

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

**Michael Alan Posencheg MD FAAP**

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

**Brian Paul Hackett, MD FAAP**

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

**Beena Gaiind Sood MD MS FAAP**

*DISTRICT V, Exec Comm Member*  
Detroit, MI  
bsood@med.wayne.edu

**Joshua Erin Petrikin MD FAAP**

*DISTRICT VI, Exec Comm Member*  
Overland Park, KS  
jepetrikin@cmh.edu

**Clara Song MD FAAP**

*DISTRICT VII, Exec Comm Member*  
Oklahoma City, OK  
clara-song@ouhsc.edu

**James Scott Barry, MD FAAP**

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

**Alexis S Davis MD FAAP**

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

**Ravi Mangal Patel MD MSc**

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

**Carl L Bose MD MPH FAAP**

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

SECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
AND LIAISONS**Heather H Burris, MD, FAAP**

*TECaN Mentor*  
Philadelphia, PA  
burrish@email.chop.edu

**Ashley Lucke MD FAAP**

*TECaN Chair*  
Washington, DC  
ashley.lucke@childrens.com

**Sergio G Golombek MD MPH**

*History Chair*  
Scarsdale, NY  
sergi\_golombek@nymc.edu

**Edward A Liechty, MD FAAP**

*Chair, Coding Committee*  
Indianapolis, IN  
eliecht@iu.edu

**Mary Nock MD FAAP**

*Newsletter Editor*  
Cleveland, OH  
mary.nock@uhhospitals.org

**Thomas Parker MD FAAP**

*TECaN Mentor*  
Aurora, CO  
thomas.parker@childrenscolorado.org

**Stephen Pearlman MD MS FAAP**

*WeCaN Chair*  
Neward, DE  
spearlman@christianacare.org

**Renate D Savich MD FAAP**

*Chair, Women in Neonatology*  
Jackson, MS  
rsavich@umc.edu

**Ann R Stark MD FAAP**

*Chair, Fellow Education Committee*  
Boston, MA  
astark@bidmc.harvard.edu

**Krithika Lingappan**

*Website Committee Chair*  
Houston TX  
lingappa@bcm.edu

**Jorn-Hendrik Weitkamp MD FAAP**

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

**Dena K Wisner Hubbard MD FAAP**

*MidCaN Mentor*  
Kansas City, MO  
dkhubbard@gmail.com

**Rakhi Gupta Basuray MD FAAP**

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

## ORGANIZATION LIAISONS

**Wanda Barfield MD MPH FAAP**

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

**Media Esser**

*NANN Liaison*  
Wauwatosa, WI  
phair712@gmail.com

**Garrett K Lam MD**

*Liaison, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine*  
Chattanooga, TN  
lam@rocob.com

**Raylene Phillips, MD, FAAP**

*Liaison, National Perinatal Association*  
Lonedell, MO  
rphillips@llu.edu

**Heather French MD, MEd, FAAP**

*Chair, Organization of Neonatal-Perinatal Training Program Directors*  
Wynnewood, PA  
frenchh@email.chop.edu

## AAP STAFF

**Jim Couto, MA**

*Director, Hospital and Surgical Subspecialties*  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Phone: (630) 626-6676  
jcouto@aap.org

**Monique Phillips, MA**

*Manager, Hospital and Surgical Subspecialties*  
mphillips@aap.org

**Vivian Thorne**

*Manager, Hospital and Surgical Subspecialties*  
Phone: (630) 626-6669  
vthorne@aap.org



**DISTRICT I:**  
**Munish Gupta**
**CONNECTICUT**

*Stamford Hospital*

**Shruti Gupta** has been appointed Associate Director of the Division of Neonatology.

*Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital*

**Dianne Lee** completed her fellowship this year and will be starting as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Neonatology at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

**Leslie Harris** and **Amanda Ocran** will be starting neonatology fellowship at Yale in July. They are both superb graduates of the pediatrics residency at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

**Harris Jacobs** retired in January after a very productive and successful career that included important contributions in clinical neonatology, pulmonary physiology research, teaching, and leadership. So many patients, trainees, and colleagues are fortunate to have had their lives influenced by Harris.

**Liza Konnikova** and **Bunmi Olaloye** from University of Pittsburgh join our Division in July.

**Noa Fleiss** joins our faculty in July upon completion of her fellowship at Columbia.

Our former fellow, **Jake McPadden**, joins our Division as an Instructor in August after completing an additional fellowship in medical informatics.

**Mark Mercurio** was an invited speaker at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in May. He gave several lectures as part of a workshop on teaching medical ethics at Central South University, Changsha, China, in January. These international lectures, however, were delivered remotely from a dining room in Branford, CT.

The Richard A. Ehrenkranz Neonatology Symposium scheduled for this past April was cancelled. Undaunted, we have rescheduled it for April 20, 2021. Hold the date! We hope to see many of our friends from far and wide.

**MAINE**

*Maine Medical Center, Portland*

We are excited to announce new leadership for our neonatology services! **Misty Melendi** has been named Division Director of Neonatology for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center. Dr. Melendi has been a member of the Division since 2013.

**Alan Picarillo** has been named Medical Director of the NICU/CCN at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center. Dr. Picarillo has been a member of the Division since 2017.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

*Baystate Medical Center, Springfield*

After a nearly two-year extensive search, we are excited to welcome **Joanna Beachy** to lead our NICU team as Division Chief of Newborn Medicine. Joanna arrives to Baystate in September, most recently serving as the NICU Medical Director at Cohen Children's Medical Center. We are excited that her experiences with ROP, Bubble CPAP and neurodevelopment will improve our neonatal outcomes.

We want to thank **Rachana Singh**, Medical Director of our NICU and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at UMMS-Baystate, for her countless contributions over the past 15 years as she departs Baystate to join the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center as the Associate Chief of Neonatology and the Director of the Neonatal Fellowship Program.

**Robert Rothstein** will continue to serve as Interim Division Chief of Baystate's Division of Newborn Medicine until the fall arrival of Dr. Beachy. Upon Dr. Singh's departure, he will move to Interim Medical Director while continuing to champion NICU Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) quality improvement.

We welcome **Kate Horan**, Massachusetts native and former Baystate pediatric resident, as she completes her fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital University of Miami and joins our Division of Newborn Medicine in July.

**Laura Madore**, with the assistance of Baystate's newest neonatologist, **Amy Blake**, continues exciting research on breast milk macronutrient analysis and addressing racial disparities influencing the provision of breast milk for our preterm infants.

**Ruben Vaidya** continues his innovative research on volume ventilation in delivery room resuscitation.

We thank newborn hospitalist **Mustafa Caylan** as he expands Baystate Children's Hospital Pediatric Palliative Care Program, introducing the NICU Primary Palliative Care Program and the Children's Hospital Bereavement Committee.

We desperately miss our *per diem* neonatologists, **Stephen Bean**, **Thomas Campfield**, **Barbara Kelly**, **Kathleen Meyer** and **Gary Rockwell**, since COVID-19 has sidelined them from NICU.

*Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston*

Congratulations to **John Zupancic** who has been named the recipient of the 2020 Massachusetts Medical Society Henry Ingersoll Bowditch Award. The Bowditch Award recognizes a Massachusetts physician who has demonstrated outstanding initiative, creativity, and leadership in the field of public health outreach and advocacy. Nominees must have outstanding public health achievements beyond his or her primary professional activity.

**Dara Brodsky** is Senior Editor of a new AAP study guide, *Questions from NeoReviews*, for

pediatric residents, neonatal nurse practitioners, and neonatal nurses.

**Jonathan Litt** has been accepted for membership in the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Camilia Martin** received the Richard Rivas MD Memorial Great Teacher Award at the 2020 Specialty Review in Neonatology in San Diego, CA.

We are excited to welcome **Kristyn Beam**, graduate of the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program, who joins the core faculty of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Beam's research focuses on the application of artificial intelligence to radiographic images in order to predict newborn outcomes.

We are also excited to welcome **Monica Wojcik**, who will be providing daytime coverage in the BIDMC NICU. Dr. Wojcik is an attending neonatologist and clinical geneticist at Boston Children's Hospital.

Congratulations to BIDMC neonatal hospitalist, **Hayley Wilcox**, who will be joining the Tufts Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program in July.

*Boston Children's Hospital*

**Stella Kourembanas**, Chief of the Division of Newborn Medicine, received the extremely prestigious and richly deserved 2020 Mary Ellen Avery Award from the American Pediatric Society and the Society for Pediatric Research, in recognition of her lifetime achievements, leadership, and contributions to the research, diagnosis and treatment of neonatal lung disease and pulmonary hypertension.

We recognize numerous achievements for our fellows! **Lauren Frazer** was awarded an AAP Marshall Klaus Award in Basic Science for her work entitled, "Role for Specialized Pro-Resolving Mediators in Recovery from Neonatal Lung Injury." **Yarden Fraiman** was awarded an AAP Marshall Klaus Award in Health Services Research for his work entitled, "The Impact of Race and Ethnicity on High-Risk Infant Follow-up Participation in a National Sample."

**Jonathan Levin** was awarded the Medical Staff Organization House Officer Development Award for his project entitled, "Development and Implementation of an Evidence-Based Discharge Protocol for Preterm Infants with Lung Disease in the COVID-19 Era." **Julie Thai** was awarded the SPR Fellows' Clinical Research Award for her research involving the preterm intestinal microbiome and its relations to preterm infant health. **Madeline Keyes** was accepted into the Harvard Catalyst Clinical and Translational Research Academy. **Annie Sullivan** was accepted into the Fellowship in Bioethics at the Harvard Medical School's Center for Bioethics.

We are extremely proud of our graduating fellows: **Paola Alejandra Barrero-Castillero**, **Kristyn Beam**, **Erika Gabriela Cordova Ramos**, **Patricia Davenport**, **Samantha Enstad**, **Emily Herzberg**, **Jonathan Levin**,



**Omri David Soffer**, and **Julie Thai**. Dr. Beam will be joining the faculty at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Dr. Cordova Ramos will be joining the faculty at Boston Medical Center. Drs. Davenport and Levin will be joining the faculty at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Enstad will be joining the faculty at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies. Dr. Herzberg will be joining the faculty at MGH/North Shore. Dr. Soffer will be joining the faculty at Children's Hospital Omaha. Dr. Thai will be joining the faculty at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

**Ellen Grant** was elected to the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as well as the Radiological Society of North America Committee on Scientific Affairs.

**Ellen Grant** became Senior Fellow of the International Society of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and was invited to give the Mansfield Lecture and the ISMRM Annual Meeting 2020 lecture (postponed due to COVID-19). She also received an R01 for her study, "Targeting Human Milk Fortification to Improve Preterm Infant Growth and Brain Development" and an OT2 award for her project on the "Boston Consortium to Cure SCD."

**Banu Ahtam** was awarded an Office of Faculty Development grant from Boston Children's Hospital for her project, "How Seizure Activity Affects Brain Connectivity in the Immature Brain."

**Sarah Morton** received a research grant from the American Heart Association for her project on "Determining the Role of Genetic Risk in Increased Cancer Incidence among Individuals with Congenital Heart Disease," and an Office of Faculty Development grant from Boston Children's Hospital for her work on "Computational Prioritization of Coding and Non-Coding Variants in Congenital Heart Disease."

**Amy O'Connell** received an Office of Faculty Development grant from Boston Children's Hospital for her project on "Defining Intestinal Stem and Stromal Cell Populations in Necrotizing Enterocolitis" and a K08 award for her work on "The Role of Wnt2b in Intestinal Health."

**Gareth Willis** in the Kourembanas Lab received a NIH K99 award for his studies on "Mechanisms of Immunomodulation in Lung Injury by Mesenchymal Stromal Cell Exosomes."

*Boston Medical Center*

We express our endless thanks and gratitude to **Alan Fujii**, Medical Director of the BMC NICU, who retired this spring after more than 30 years of service to the families at our hospital. He was a true legend within the Department of Pediatrics at BMC and trained thousands of pediatric residents during his years of service. He will be missed!

**Meg Parker** received a grant from the American SIDS Institute, "SUID-Reducing Infant Care Practices among Opioid Exposed Newborns."

**Elisha Wachman** received a grant from the Public Health Informatics Institute in coordination with the CDC in which Boston Medical Center became one of five centers selected nationally to take part in the MAT-LINK Project (Maternal and Infant Network to Understand Outcomes Associated with Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder during Pregnancy).

**Vincent Smith** received a grant from the CDC, "Pediatric Public Health Partnerships on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program."

Welcome to **Bharati Sinha**, who joined our faculty as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics on March 1, 2020. She is the Director of Quality and Safety in Newborn Medicine.

*Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston*

**Elizabeth Flanigan** was promoted to the position of Medical Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

**Mandy Brown Belfort** was awarded R01 support from the NIH for her research project, "Targeting Human Milk Fortification to Improve Preterm Growth and Brain Development."

**Joseph Volpe** was awarded the Inaugural Honorary Fellow Award from the International Newborn Brain Society.

**Amanda Freeman** was named the Community Physician of the Year for the Charles River District of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

**Mohamed El-Dib** and **Terrie Inder** launched the Newborn Brain Society (NBS), an organization dedicated to advancing newborn brain care through international multidisciplinary collaboration, education and innovation. The NBS hosted a two-hour symposium focused on neonatal neuroimaging on May 5, 2020. Please see the NBS website: <https://newbornbrainsociety.org/>.

**Carmina Erdei** introduced the new parent-oriented My Brigham Baby app, which is now available online at the Apple App Store.

**Tanzeema Hossain** continues to expand offerings within the BWH Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine educational portal. The BWH NICU Education Portal is accessible on-line via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrG8s-wYajNvnWOylp0EDfg/featured>. A recent addition to the page, the ELBW skills station, can be view using the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQxxfiySCeo>.

The Departmental Grand Rounds series, organized **Sarbattama (Rimi) Sen** and **Linda Van Marter** can be accessed here: <https://bwhedtech.media.partners.org/programs/nicu/>.

*Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

MGH is excited to announce new partners that will be joining their neonatology services. As of July 2020, MGH Neonatology will provide in-

house neonatal and pediatric service at Exeter Hospital in NH, 24/7 telemedicine and advisory service at Wentworth Douglas Hospital in NH and York Hospital in ME, and infant developmental follow-up services at a new clinic site in Danvers, MA.

As part of MGH's COVID-19 response efforts, 62 Spanish-speaking clinicians across multiple specialties were assembled to form the Spanish Language Care Group (SLCG). This group works to assist teams caring for Spanish-speaking patients with low English proficiency by relaying condition updates, assisting with serious illness conversations, and educating patients and their families about their care plan. Three members of our neonatology community, **Alejandra Barrero-Castillero** (fellow), **Emily Herzberg** (fellow), and **Juan Matute** (neonatologist) have participated in this effort. Read the full story here: <https://www.massgeneral.org/news/hotline/habl-a-espanol-mass-general-creates-spanish-language-care-group>.

*South Shore Hospital, South Weymouth*

Under the leadership of **Zuzanna Kubicka**, the NICU at South Shore Hospital implemented Family Integrated Care (FICare) on September 15, 2019. This approach to NICU care makes parents equal members of the neonatal team, providing active care for their infant. As part of this effort, a SSH NICU FICare app was created by a multidisciplinary NICU team and former NICU parents. The app contains comprehensive, educational materials available for parental use during and after NICU stay. Data collection to assess impact of this program is ongoing!

*Tufts Medical Center, Boston*

We are excited to welcome **Rachana Singh!** Dr. Singh will be transitioning from her long-time home at Baystate Medical Center to serve as the Associate Chief of Neonatology and Fellowship Director at Tufts.

We also are excited to welcome our newest faculty member, **Andrea Miller**. Dr. Miller joins us from the CHOP system and continues her work in QI.

**Jonathan Davis** was awarded two new grants: "Development of a Preservative-Free Oxytocin Formulation and Pediatric Nasal Delivery Device for the Treatment of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome" from March of Dimes, and "The Comparative Effectiveness and Safety of Pharmacotherapies for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy" from NIDA.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

*Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon*

We are delighted to report that **Jessica Clem** has been recruited to join our faculty and will assume the Medical Directorship at the Catholic Medical Center Special Care Nursery. Jess graduated from the UVM School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Maine Medical Center. A native of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, Dr. Clem completed her fellowship at Dartmouth and a

concurrent MPH at The Dartmouth Institute. She brings exemplary clinical and leadership skills and a keen understanding of healthcare delivery across the varied landscape of Northern New England to the highly innovative program at CMC and Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

#### RHODE ISLAND

*Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, Providence*

**Martin Keszler** presented multiple respiratory talks at the Specialty in Review in Neonatology/Perinatology held in San Diego, CA in February 2020.

**Elisabeth McGowan** attended the 33rd Annual Gravens Conference on the Environment of Care for High Risk Newborns in Clearwater, FL on March 3-5, 2020 and presented "Preterm Infants Vocalization and Maternal Improvement in the NICU" and "Sociodemographic and Medical Influences on Neurobehavioral Patterns in Preterm Infants."

**James Padbury** presented "Developmental Origins of Adult Obesity, Hypertension and Obesity-Hypertension Overlap Syndrome: The New England Family Study" at the North American Primary Care Research Group Conference in Toronto on November 17, 2019.

**Betty Vohr** presented multiple talks at the 43rd Miami Neonatology Conference on November 10-13, 2019 at the Loews Hotel in Miami Beach.

**James Padbury** served on the NIH Study Section for the 2020 National Institute of General Medical Sciences Institutional Development Award Program Infrastructure for Clinical Translational Review Panel in Bethesda, MD on March 6, 2020.

**Surendra Sharma** received a 2020 Seed Award for the project, "Novel Analogs of Trehalose for Treatment of Preeclampsia, a Devastating Pregnancy Complication."

**Barbara Stonestreet** participated in a NIH Developmental Brain Disorders Study Section meeting in San Diego, CA, January 30-31, 2020.

#### DISTRICT II: Shetal Shah

#### NEW YORK

*Albany Medical Center*

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Gallup**, who is graduating from fellowship and joining the neonatology group at St. Luke's Healthcare, Utica, NY.

We welcome **Monique Abrams**, who joined our program as a transfer fellow, and **Beltina Guce**, our incoming first-year fellow.

**Joaquim Pinheiro** has been inducted as a member of the American Pediatric Society.

**Rubia Khalak** was appointed Associate Dean of Admissions for Albany Medical College and has been promoted to Professor.

**Michael Horgan** was named Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pediatrics at the Bernard and Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center.

**Gina Geis** was recently named Vice Chair for Professional Fulfillment.

**Upender Munshi** presented "Non-Pharmacological Measures for NOWS (Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome)" as part of NYS OUD in Pregnancy and NAS Project, sponsored by the NYSDOH in March.

**Meredith Monaco Brown** was elected as Chair of Faculty Senate.

**Jennifer Cerone** was appointed Associate Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program.

**Kate Tauber** was appointed Director of the NeuroNICU at AMC.

**Marilyn Fisher** was appointed Chair of the AMC IRB.

**Upender Munshi, Gina Geis and Joaquim Pinheiro** had their book chapters published in *Neonatology for Primary Care, 2nd Edition*.

**Joaquim Pinheiro** represented the AAP in a collaborative of national societies coordinated through the Society for Airway Management, chairing the Pediatric and Neonatal Actionable Patient Safety Solutions Development Task Force. RRT **Chad Pezzano** also contributed to this work. The resulting APSS, one on Pediatric/Neonatal General Airway Safety and another on Unplanned Extubation, have been published through the Patient Safety Movement Foundation (<https://patientsafetymovement.org/actionable-solutions/challenge-solutions/airway-safety/>).

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

Save the date: The Albert Einstein College of Medicine/ Children's Hospital at Montefiore will be hosting the 12th Annual Current Topics in Neonatal Nutrition and Advances in Neonatal Care on October 20-21, 2020 in Tarrytown, NY featuring **Josef Neu, Aaron Hamvas, Camila Martin, Jae Kim, Reese Clark and Anup Katheria**. **Thomas Havranek** has taken over as the program director for this conference.

The 2nd edition of the AAP's *Neonatology for Primary Care* was published in February 2020 and includes all updated chapters with the addition of new content from nationally recognized experts on prenatal diagnosis and fetal interventions, neonatal nutrition, immunizations, safe sleep, vascular anomalies, endocrine disorders, perinatal palliative care and shared decision-making around home technologies. The book has earned four stars from Doody's Review for its depth and outstanding content. **Deborah Campbell** is the Editor and a contributor to the book. Division members who contributed include **Katie Forman, Mamta Fuloria, Kendria Hall, Abieyuwa Iyare, Tamara Kalhan, M. Susan LaTuga, Suhas Nafday, Sheri Nemerofsky, Sarah Nitka, and Alecia Thompson-Branch**. Thanks to the many neonatology and other

specialty colleagues who contributed to the book and to the Committee of Fetus and Newborn and the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine for their invaluable content reviews.

Congratulations to our graduating fellows!

**Hoda Karbalivand** will be joining the faculty at Jacobi Medical Center and **Sunil Krishna** will be joining the faculty at MercyHealth in Rockford, IL.

**Raj Kuhan Jayanthan**, neonatal hospitalist, will be starting the neonatal-perinatal fellowship at Cohen Children's Hospital/Northwell Health in July.

The Division welcomes our incoming fellows: **Palanikumar Balasundaram** and **Michelle Lucena**.

**Kendria Hall**, newborn nursery pediatrician, completed her Master in Medical Informatics in May and is starting a Clinical Informatics fellowship in at the University of Buffalo in July.

In April, **Deborah Campbell** was appointed to the New York State COVID-19 Maternity Task Force whose charge was to address the impact of COVID-19 on maternity care. Deborah will also serve as a panel member on a COVID-19 Maternity Taskforce webinar on maternal health and equity in June.

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

We wish all the best to our graduating fellows and thank them for three years of wonderful work, especially during the current challenging times. **Camille Rodriguez-Gurdak** is joining Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx, NY. **Joseph Asaro** is going to join CHOP Newborn Care at AtlanticCare in Pomona, NJ. **Karishma Katti** will continue as faculty at NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY. **Arkar Hliang** is traveling cross-country to join Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, CA.

Both **Arkar Hliang's** work on ultrasound and gastric emptying and **Joseph Asaro's** work on MFG-E8 and intestinal inflammation were presented at virtual conferences at our Northwell Pediatric Fellows Research day in May and again in June at the 55th Annual Academic Competition and Research Symposium at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell, NY.

**Joseph Asaro** was awarded first place for innovation in basic science at the NYU-Winthrop 27th Annual NY Regional Neonatology and Perinatal Symposium.

**Lyndsey Garbi's** work on "IV Acetaminophen on Post-Surgical Opioid Use in Preterm Infants" was selected as a finalist for ESPR Young Investigator Award Competition in Philadelphia, PA in March.

*Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, Valhalla*

**Ed La Gamma** was a guest speaker at the California Association of Neonatologists Cool topics in Neonatology meeting in March on "Thyroid Function in VLBW Infants, What Every Neonatologist Should Know."

The Regional NICU at MFCH and Division of Newborn Medicine of NY Medical College has initiated a stem cell therapy program for an IVH research initiative with **Mitchell Cairo** (Division Chief, Heme-Onc), **Govindaiah Vinukonda** (Director Neuroscience Research Lab), and neonatologists **Karen Hussein**, **Shetal Shah** and **Ed La Gamma**.

Our NYS licensed Premature Baby Breast Milk Bank on location at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is operational for the past six months collecting, processing and dispensing donor milk to our inpatient service. It is directed by **Boriana Parvez**.

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Neonatal Telemedicine Management program in support of clinical services at one of our Level I affiliate hospitals.

Our graduating fellows are **Kristina Ericksen**, **Deepti Purohit**, **Morgan Salton** and **Dilani Wanasinghe**. We look forward to their future career successes as they move to hospitals in Brooklyn, Queens and New Jersey.

**Laura Perretta** is Director of our High Risk Neonatal Transport service.

**Shetal Shah** continues in multiple roles with the AAP. He serves as President of NYS Chapter 2. He was recently elected to represent New York State/District II on the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Executive Committee.

**Shetal Shah** appeared on CNN, at our state capital and in Washington DC to continue his work advocating for improved pediatric vaccinations and for pediatric health insurance protections.

**Heather Brumberg** is the first-ever female President of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR). She was also recently promoted to Professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Public Health with tenure at NY Medical College.

*Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine/Kravis Children's Hospital, New York*

**Annemarie Stroustrup** will be moving to Northwell Health as the Chief of the Division of Neonatology and Vice President of Neonatal Services.

**Alan Groves** leaves for a faculty position at Dell Children's Medical Center in Austin and **Ceyda Acun** will assume a faculty position at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital.

We wish our graduating fellows well as they move on to the next phase of their careers.

**Evelyne (Magali) St. John Sutton** will join the faculty at the Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai upon graduation. **Jeffrey Suell** will join the faculty at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson

We are welcoming **Jenna Menella** to the faculty following her graduation from fellowship at Brown.

*Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow*  
Congratulations to our two graduating residents who will pursue careers in neonatology: **Kate Dianova** and **Gabriella Fuchs**.

*New York City Health and Hospital Corporation Elmhurst Hospital*

The Department of Pediatrics at NYCH+H/Elmhurst are excited to welcome **Morgan Salton** and **Dinali Wanasinghe** to the Division of Newborn Medicine starting this academic year. Both are completing their fellowships in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College, Valhalla NY.

*New York City Health and Hospital Corporation Jacobi Medical Center, Bronx*

We are delighted to welcome three new faculty members to join our group this year: **Camille Rodriguez Gurdak** is a New York native and former Chief Resident of our pediatric residency program. Camille is returning to the Bronx to join the Division after completing her fellowship at Cohen Children's Medical Center/Northwell Health. **Hoda Karbalivand** is graduating from Montefiore neonatology fellowship. Her research interests include obesity risk factors and neonatal hypoglycemia, neonatal pain management, and palliative care. **Sadia Haleem** is graduating from Robert Wood Johnson/Rutgers University. She is returning to the NYCH+H after leaving to complete her fellowship. Her interests are resident education and quality improvement.

*New York University Langone Medical Center, New York*

The NYU Langone NICU welcomes our newest faculty member this summer, **Erin Hanft**. She moves her considerable talent downtown after graduating from her fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian.

We are proud to send our three graduating fellows to their new jobs. **Sarah Berman** will work at Robert Wood Johnson in New Jersey. **Shrawani Soorneela** has accepted a position at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, and **Melanie Jacobson** is preparing to move to Hawaii to work at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children at the University of Hawaii.

**Robert Angert** has been named Fellowship Director.

We welcome three new fellows this July: **Sarah Meister**, **Kashif Iqbal**, and **Gurpreet Kaur**.

We celebrate **Sean Bailey** on his promotion to Associate Professor. He holds the position of Medical Director of the Tisch NICU while mentoring fellows and conducting research.

Second-year fellow **Sweta Bhargava** is the proud recipient of the Patient Care Trust Fund Grant of the Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU at Bellevue Hospital, Health and Hospitals Corporation, to fund her research into developing point-of-care ultrasound in the NICU.

Second-year fellow **Eni Jano** received ESPR's Abbott Nutrition Trainee Young Investigator Award for her work in sedation during therapeutic hypothermia.

*State University of New York at Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn*

The hospital became a designated referral hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist in New York City's response.

**Thomas J. Duggan** was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and attending neonatologist, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences Center last July. Dr. Duggan, who served as Chief Resident in Pediatrics at SUNY Downstate in 2017, completed his Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at University of Cincinnati in 2019.

**Farah Hussain**, who completed her fellowship at SUNY Story Brook in 2019, was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and attending neonatologist at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences Center in July 2019.

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

We bid farewell to two of our three graduating fellows. **Jason Jackson** will be an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. **Perihan Ulema** will be joining Central Ohio Newborn Medicine, also in Columbus. We are happy to say our third graduating fellow, **Mallory Prideaux**, is joining our faculty in July.

We welcome our incoming neonatal-perinatal fellows. Joining us are **Hannah Giunta**, who completed her residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN; **Jin Lim**, who completed his residency at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ; and **Lakshmi Sridhar**, who completed her Chief Residency at RWJ Barnabas Health in Newark, NJ.

We are welcoming **Irina Prelipcean** as faculty. Dr. Prelipcean is joining us after completing her fellowship at University of Florida Health, Shands Hospital in Tampa, FL.

We congratulate **Sanjiv Amin**, who recently left us to become the Chief of the Division of Neonatology at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM.

After many years excelling in the fields of breastfeeding medicine and toxicology and playing a vital role in propelling the University of Rochester to international prominence, **Ruth Lawrence** retired from the University of Rochester Medical Center in February 2020. We are pleased to honor her as she transitioned to Professor Emerita of Pediatrics, OB-Gyn, and Toxicology.

Congratulations to **Gloria Pryhuber** on her recent Regents of the University of California, San Diego (NIH Prime) Award for her grant titled, "Foundational Mapping of the Neural Circuits that Control Intrinsic Lung Function (SPARC)."

Congratulations to **Kristin Scheible** for her NIAID U24 grant award for "A Single Comprehensive Assay for Gene Regulatory Profiling Optimized for Minimal Sample Input Requirements."



Congratulations to **David Dean** for his NIH/NIDDK R01 grant award for his study titled, "Gene Therapy for GERD-associated Esophageal Epithelial Barrier Dysfunction."

Congratulations to **Rita Dadiz** on her elevation to Co-Director of the Dean's Teaching Fellowship and on receiving the 2020 University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry Academic Mentoring Award for Trainees in Clinical Programs.

Congratulations to **Patricia Chess** on her graduation with a Master of Science in Health Professions Education. She was also chosen as an inaugural member of Academic Pediatric Association National Academy of Distinguished Educators in Pediatrics.

### DISTRICT III: Michael Posencheg

#### MARYLAND

*University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore*

**Rose M. Viscardi**, Associate Chair of Clinical Research for the Department of Pediatrics at UMSOM, received the Presidential Core Value Award for Collaboration from University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB). This award is in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the UMB community through her exemplary collaboration in all her activities at UMB.

**Colleen Hughes Driscoll**, Associate Medical Director of the NICU at UMD, has been appointed as the Physician Chair of the Technology Assessment Committee at the University of Maryland Medical Center. In this role, she will be overseeing the evaluation and implementation of novel and replacement medical device technologies.

**Natalie Davis, Suma Hoffman, Sriprya Sundararajan** and **Rose Viscardi** gave invited lectures in the new virtual seminar series, ONTPD Online with Experts, geared towards support of NPM fellow education.

We welcome our newest faculty member, **Christine Capriolo** who joined the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professor in April 2020 after working at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Drexel University College of Medicine.

We proudly announce the following graduating fellows and congratulations on their new positions! **Suhagi Kadakia** will be Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Rush University, Chicago. **Sarah Mahdally** will be Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Hershey Medical Center, Penn State University. **Kristin Ronan** will work as attending neonatologist at Lancaster Women and Babies Hospital, CHOP Newborn Care Network.

We welcome our new incoming fellows! **Emily Sangillo** is from University of Massachusetts Medical School. **Shruti Patel** is from Crozer Chester Medical Center. **Katherine Nyman** is from Children's National Medical Center.

#### NEW JERSEY

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

**Sergio G. Golombek** joined as Chief of the Division of Neonatology in March 2020. We are very excited to continue growing our Division with more academic endeavors under his leadership.

The ACGME has notified us that the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program at Hackensack University Medical Center has been approved. **Sabrina Malik** will be the Director of the Fellowship Program.

Hackensack University Medical Center NICU earned certification from the Joint Commission for Prematurity Disease Specific Care in December 2019. This is the first Prematurity DSC for New Jersey and only the sixth in the country.

*Hackensack Meridian Network*

We are happy to announce that **Suzanne Touch** has started her new position as Chief of Neonatology at Jersey Shore Medical Center. We look forward to continue growing and collaborating as a network.

**Nicole T. Spillane** has become a member of the Eastern Society for Pediatric Research.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

*Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

**Michael A. Posencheg** will become Chief Medical Officer at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center beginning July 1, 2020.

**Erik Brandsma** was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics.

**Kelly Wade** was promoted to Professor of Clinical Pediatrics.

**Heather French** has been appointed the Program Director for the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program and **John Filibotte** has been appointed Associate Program Director.

**John Chuo** was appointed Co-Director of the Center for Human Phenomic Science, Digital Health Innovation Core at CHOP Research Institute.

**Joanna Parga-Belinkie** has been chosen by the AAP to be the host of their new flagship podcast on the science behind children's health. This podcast, called Pediatrics on Call, will launch in July to discuss the latest science, news and other developments in children's health.

Congratulations to the following CHOP neonatologists who were named in *Philadelphia Magazine's* 2020 Top Doctors list: **Anne Ades, Janet Lioy, David Munson, Iyalla Peterside, Michael Posencheg.**

Congratulations to the following neonatologists from CHOP Newborn Care who were named in *Philadelphia Magazine's* 2020 Top Doctors list: **Benedict Asiegbu, Marjorie Curtis-Cohen, Elizabeth Fong Deleon, Gita Jani, Jennifer Tioseco.**

**Janet Lioy** was elected to the American Academy Mentorship Program.

**Huayan Zhang** is leading the CHOP-Guangzhou Women's and Children's Medical Center joint academic pediatrician training program which will include pediatricians from the NICU, PICU and CICU. The goal of the program is to provide training and improve skills in academic pediatrics through topics like QI, critical appraisal of medical literature, evidenced-based medicine, clinical research, scientific writing, and medical education.

**Jennifer Riehl James** is leaving the faculty at CHOP to join the Division of Neonatology at Maine Medical Center in July.

**Natalie Rintoul** presented at Focus on the Fetus 2019: A Unique Course on Fetal Echocardiography, Diagnosis of Fetal Anomalies and Fetal Treatment in Philadelphia, PA and at The International Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Symposium, Houston, TX in February 2020.

**Natalie Rintoul** presented "Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension in Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia" at the 36th Annual Children's National Symposium: ECMO and the Advanced Therapies for Cardiac and Respiratory Failure, February 23-27, 2020 in Keystone, CO.

*CHOP Fellowship News*

**Katharine Callahan** received a Travel Award to attend the Women in Neonatology meeting.

**Sarah Coggins** and **Morgan Hill** have been named as Chief Fellows.

**Rachel Flynn** received the 2020 ESPR Travel Award.

Graduating fellow **Russ Kesman** was accepted into the Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Fellowship Program at CHOP.

**Chris Thom** will give a talk at the ESPR webinar in June. He was also named recipient of the 2020 SOC Pediatric Research Award for Fellows sponsored by the Junior Section.

Graduating fellow **Leah Carr** matched in CHOP's Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program for July 2020.

**Leah Carr's** QI presentation received a platform at the final plenary session of the APA QI.

**Emily Echevarria** will be an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell.

**Kuan-chi Lai** is staying at CHOP as a neonatology attending.

**Kathryn Rubey** received a NIH F32 Research Fellow Training Award for her project, "Development of Neutrophil-Avid Nanocarriers as an Antibiotic Delivery System," and will be remaining at CHOP.

**Michelle Pena** was accepted to the Critical Care Health Policy Research T32 and was accepted into the CHIPS Fellowship Program and Penn MSHP Program for July 2020.

We welcome the following fellows to our training program: **Daria Murosko** (Children's

Hospital/Boston Medical Center), **Patrick Peebles** (University of Wisconsin, Madison), **Kathryn Paul** (New York Presbyterian Columbia Campus), **Ashley Osborne** (CHOP Residency Program), **William Corder** (CHOP House Physician Program), and **Liandra Presser** (CHOP House Physician Program).

*Penn State Health Children's Hospital, Hershey*

We are happy to announce the addition of **Sara Mola** to our staff earlier this year. She will be assuming the role of Director of Outreach Services.

**Charles Palmer** will be retiring from clinical responsibilities to focus on research in innovative therapies and his golf game.

Both **Kristen Glass** and **Christiana Oji-Mmuo** were elected members of Society for Pediatric Research.

**Kim Doheny** was awarded an NIH R44 HD grant for her clinical trial, "Development and Testing of Baby Gentle Stick (BGS) Vibrated Needle System to Reduce Stress, Pain Response, Long-Term Heel Damage and Developmental Harm from Heel Sticks in Neonates."

**Liz Matteson**, NICU Lead APC, is happy to announce that six of our APCs have moved up the clinical ladder within the Professional Advancement Model: Level 2 - **Megan Eberly**, **Sarah Sweigart**, **Kelly Weller**, **Michelle Wile**; and Level 3 - **Traci Jennings**, **Janelle Porath**.

**Christiana Oji-Mmuo** spoke at Pediatric Grand Rounds at Harlem Hospital on "Biomarker Identification for Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome."

**Jeffrey Kaiser** spoke at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Update in the Diagnosis and Management of Hyperinsulinemia and Neonatal Hypoglycemia on "The Conundrum of What to do for Transient Neonatal Hypoglycemia."

*Penn State Fellowship News*

**Imtiaz Ahmed** will be joining the neonatal group at Starmont Vail Hospital in Topeka, KS.

**Vivian Onuagu** will be joining the neonatal group at Sunrise Children's Hospital in Las Vegas, NV.

We are looking forward to the arrival of our newest fellow, **Dossalyn Thompson**, from Charleston Area Medical Center Women and Children's Hospital.

#### DISTRICT IV: Brian Hackett

#### KENTUCKY

*University of Kentucky, Lexington*

**Sumit Dang** will be promoted to Associate Professor effective July 2020. He gave an invited lecture in India in February 2020 entitled, "Neonatal Resuscitation and the Role of Simulation."

**Aparna Patra** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of

Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics. Her research pursuits include QI in reducing severe IVH, factors affecting non-response to PDA pharmacotherapy in preterm infants, improving kangaroo care utilization and increasing breastfeeding rates in the NICU, and streamlining multidisciplinary care of severe BPD babies who have prolonged need of respiratory support.

**Murali R. Palla** was recently promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology. He has been working at University of Kentucky since July 2014. His research interest is in neonatal neurology including QI initiatives and clinical protocols for treatment of neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy and neonatal seizures.

**Prasad Bhandary** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor in the Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics. His research interests include QI projects for ELBW neonates, utilizing cord blood for admission labs, and therapeutic hypothermia for neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy during ECMO.

*University of Louisville*

On March 1, 2020, Norton Healthcare and the University of Louisville Department of Pediatrics created the Norton Children's Medical Group. As part of the integration, the academic arm of the Division of Neonatal Medicine will complement a clinical practice to create Norton Children's Neonatology, with 38 neonatologists and more than 35 advanced practice providers.

The University of Louisville will be welcoming **Diane Buckley**, **Daniel Kahn**, and **Carrie Moore** as first-year fellows in July.

**Dan Stewart** was awarded the Career Achievement in Service Award from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

**Scott Duncan** will serve as Co-Investigator for a two-year study titled, "Studying Freedom House's Collaborative Approach to Cross-Sector Alignment in Kentucky to Improve Outcomes for Pregnant and Parenting Women in Recovery." The \$290,000 award is a component of the Aligning Systems for Health Program, led by the Georgia Health Policy Center and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The study will be led by researchers with the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences, and the Child and Adolescent Health Research Design and Support Unit, Division of Clinical and Translational Research in the Department of Pediatrics.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

*Brody School of Medicine/East Carolina University, Greenville*

**Patrick Polonio** joined the faculty in September 2019. **Jacquelyn Burnett** joined the faculty as a newborn hospitalist in November 2019. **Juan Guillen-Hernandez** will be joining the faculty in July 2020.

**John Kohler** was appointed Senior Medical Director for Quality for Vidant Medical Center in September 2019.

**Weili Chang** was appointed Medical Director for Quality, Maynard Children's Hospital in January 2020.

**Weili Chang** and **Leslie Peedin** have been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor, effective July 2020.

**Kelly Bear** will take over as Fellowship Director in July 2020.

Graduating fellow **Grace Minior** is joining the faculty at Jacksonville Multispecialty Clinic, Jacksonville, NC.

Incoming fellows are **Chinonye Eriobu**, completing residency at Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY and **Justin Castellow**, currently a hospitalist in Suffolk, VA.

Our NICU won the Silver Beacon Award.

*Duke University, Durham*

**Samia Aleem** will graduate from our fellowship program and Duke's Master Degree in Health Sciences in Clinical Research, and will join us as Duke's newest faculty neonatologist. Samia was one of three 2020 Society for Pediatric Research Clinical Research Fellow awardees for this year's PAS/SPR conference. Her abstract, completed with the NICHD Neonatal Research Network, "Assessing Three Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Definitions: Associations between Room Air Challenge Results and Respiratory Outcomes," will be presented in one of the upcoming PAS/SPR webinars.

Third-year fellows **Lashawndra Walker** and **Tricia Dias** will complete fellowship and join practices in Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC.

**Tricia Dias** and her mentor, **David Tanaka**, were awarded the Duke Snyderman Research Award for their development of augmented reality intubation training. She presented this work, and taught an innovative "Teaching Intubation Skills" workshop at the 11th annual Dresden (Germany) Symposium on Delivery Room Management and Regenerative Therapies.

Second-year fellow **Agnes Chao**, who works with mentor **Eric Benner**, was the recipient of a 2020 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award for her project entitled, "Therapeutic Potential of Oxysterols in Neonatal White Matter Injury."

First-year fellow **Adrian Epstein**, also in **Eric Benner's** lab, was named the Division's second Katz-Denny Fellow within the Duke University/University of North Carolina Unified Program for Therapeutics in Children (UPTiC) T32.

**Sarah Bernstein**, a second-year fellow, was named Career Development and Leadership Chair within the Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists group with the SoNPM.

**Rachel Greenberg**, newly promoted to Associate Professor, is leading the coordinating center for two NICHD-supported multicenter

trials on weaning from opiates: 1) Trial to Shorten Pharmacologic Treatment of Newborns With Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS); and 2) Eating, Sleeping, Consoling for Neonatal Withdrawal (ESC-NOW), a stepped-wedge cluster randomized controlled trial to assess implementation of the Eat, Sleep, Console approach.

We will welcome three new neonatology fellows this summer: **Aaron Adams**, who completed residency at Madigan Army Medical Center; **Kwai Tei Candy Chan Poon** from University of Miami; and **Ryan Kilpatrick** from Tufts. **Elizabeth Brown**, who is completing pediatric residency at University of Arkansas, will join us as our 2020-21 Infant Complex Care Program fellow.

## TENNESSEE

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

**Kent Willis** and **Vineet Lamba** joined as new faculty members in July 2019.

**Nitin Chouthai** and **Karis Browder** will join our division as new faculty members July 2020.

We welcome three new fellows this year: **Paul Molloy**, **Hussein Elmufiti**, and **Omoloro Adeleke**.

**Logan Key** and **Rebecca Pollack** will graduate from their fellowship training in June 2020.

**Sandeep Chilakala** and **Divya Rana** were promoted to Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at UTHSC.

**Ajay J. Talati** received the Founder's Award by Southern Society for Pediatric Research at the Annual Southern Regional Meetings in New Orleans on Feb 14, 2020.

**Ramasubbareddy Dhanireddy** visited Mahatma Gandhi Medical Institute, Sevagram, India and continues his outreach education for trainees and faculty there to improve newborn outcomes.

LeBonheur Children's Hospital and UTHSC will host the 3rd International PDA Symposium in Las Vegas on October 9-10, 2020.

*Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville*

**Stephanie Attarian** was the recipient of the Nurses for Newborns Miller Award. She also gave an interview on breastfeeding during the COVID-19 pandemic with WSMV, NBC-TV.

**Maria Krakauer** was selected to participate in the VUMC Quality Academy. She also became the Co-Chair for the Academic Pediatric Association Simulation Special Interest Group. Her Mock Code Team received the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Elevate Team Award.

**Stephen Patrick** was awarded the Druker Prize, a national award sponsored by a philanthropic donation to the Weil Cornell Medical Center. He also received the Mildred T. Stahlman Award for Innovation in Clinical Care, the QI Mock Team Award and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Biomedical Science Impact Award. He testified before the Tennessee General Assembly, Senate Health

and Welfare Committee and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Committee on neonatal abstinence syndrome and access to care for pregnant women with substance use disorder and their newborns.

**Stephen Patrick** is Principal Investigator on a five-year award from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services entitled, "Improving Outcomes for Pregnant Women and Infants affected by the opioid crisis." He is also the Co-Investigator on a five-year NIH-funded R01 entitled, "Antipsychotics and the Risk of Unexpected Death in Children and Youth."

**Lauren Sanlorenzo** has been selected as a Katherine Dodd Faculty Scholar.

**Hendrik Weitkamp** is an invited consultant for the Sepsis Center of Research Excellence (SCORE) of the Bloodworks Research Institute in Seattle, WA.

**Jennifer Sucre** is the recipient of a Turner-Hazinski Award for her work on understanding the molecular and cellular biology of bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

It is with great sadness that we say good-bye to three Vanderbilt colleagues. **Victoria DeVito** will be retiring June 30 after serving the patients and families in the Vanderbilt NICU for 18 years. **Barbara Engelhardt** will be retiring after 24 years of serving the Vanderbilt NICU patients and families. **Thomas Huang** will be leaving the Vanderbilt NICU at Tenova Clarksville, TN after 15 years there.

New faculty joining our Division of Neonatology this summer will be **Laura Shashy** as an attending neonatologist. She joins us from our fellowship training program. We will also be welcoming three neonatal hospitalists: **Lisa Clewner-Newman**, from Vanderbilt Pediatric Hospital Medicine, **Paige Dudley** from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and **Jane Hwang** from Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

Two of our outstanding fellows will be graduating in June. **Krystine Sandlin** will be joining the faculty at Dell Children's Hospital at the University of Texas at Austin. **Laura Shashy** will be joining the Division of Neonatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Our fellow **Meredith Campbell** is a 2020 recipient of a Marshall Klaus Award from the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the AAP. She was also selected as a *Pediatrics* Editorial Board Member.

We have four new fellows joining us in July 2020: **Zachary Anderson** from pediatric residency at Vanderbilt, **Benjamin Crawford** from pediatric residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, **Alexandra Muhar** from pediatric residency at the University of Minnesota, and **Meaghan Ransom** from pediatric residency at Vanderbilt.

Third-year fellow **Keadrea Wilson** has been named Chief Fellow for 2020-21.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel this year's Annual Neonatology Symposium Advances and Controversies in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

(40th year of continuing medical education) in Nashville in anticipation of travel concerns this fall due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, all invited speakers have agreed to join us for the symposium November 11-12, 2021.

Confirmed outside speakers are **Brenda Poindexter**, **Judy Aschner**, **John Dagle**, **David Askenazi**, and **John D. Lantos**. We look forward to seeing you next year in Nashville!

## VIRGINIA

*University of Virginia, Charlottesville*

**Karen Fairchild** spoke at Hot Topics 2019 on predictive physiologic monitoring for late-onset sepsis.

**Jonathan Swanson** and **Rachel Nauman** (NICU Nurse Manager) spoke at the Hot Topics Quality Day on the NICU's use of Lean methodology in enhancing and sustaining engagement and outcomes.

**Jonathan Swanson** spoke at the Fellow's Program at Cool Topics 2020 in San Diego on implementing new programs in the NICU.

Congratulations to **Brynn Sullivan** on completing her Master of Science Degree in Clinical Research from UVA.

**David Kaufman** recently spoke on detecting, preventing and managing invasive fungal infections in the NICU during the ONTPD's Online with Experts Virtual lecture.

**Lisa Letzkus** was recently awarded a two-year iTHRIV grant to study how infant cardiorespiratory events impact neurodevelopment.

We are sad to say goodbye to our third-year fellow, **Noelia Aviles-Otero**. She will be joining Pediatric Medical Group of Florida and attend in the Lee Health System.

We are thrilled to welcome two new fellows to the program. **Angelina June** comes to us from Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters program and **Charlene Bultmann** from UT Health San Antonio.

## DISTRICT V: Beena Sood

## MICHIGAN

*Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit*

We would like to congratulate our graduating 2020 fellows. **Ralph Ariss** will be joining Ascension St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI.

**Marina Migliore** will be joining Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI. **Pravesh Sangwan** will be joining UPMC Pinnacle, Harrisburg, PA.

**Helen Nguyen**, who completed pediatrics residency at University of Toledo, will be joining our fellowship program.

*Michigan State University, Lansing*

**Ira H. Gewolb** has recently retired as Emeritus Professor, Chief of Neonatology, and Associate Chair for Pediatric Research at MSU College of Human Medicine. From 1989-2004, he was Professor and Chief of Neonatology at



University of Maryland. He began his career at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He has been a Program Director at MSU and University of Maryland for the past 30 years. Dr. Gewolb earned his BS and MD at Yale University, followed by his pediatric residency at Boston Children's Hospital, and then returned to Yale for his fellowship in neonatology. Dr. Gewolb is internationally recognized for his investigations into biorhythms of infant feeding. He is a past President of the Eastern SPR and holds an Honorary Professorship at The Kazan Institute of Medical Science in Tatarstan, Russia. He continues to perform with the Alumni of the Yale Russian Chorus.

**Ira Gewolb** was a keynote speaker at International Xiang Ya Pediatrics Conference in Changsha, Hunan Province in China in November 2019, just before the coronavirus outbreak. At the Conference, Dr. Gewolb received a Special Contribution Award from the *Chinese Journal of Contemporary Pediatrics*.

**Said Omar** was appointed as the Division Chief of Neonatology at the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, Michigan State University. Dr. Omar completed his residency and fellowship at SUNY Stony Brook. He has been the Medical Director of the regional Neonatal Intensive Care at Sparrow Hospital, Lansing since July 2008.

**Ranga Prasanth Thiruvengataramani** has accepted a faculty position in the Division of Neonatology at Michigan State University starting July 1, 2020. He is finishing his neonatology fellowship at Michigan State University/Sparrow Hospital.

**Said Omar** received the 2019 William B. Weil Jr., MD, FAAP, Endowed Distinguished Pediatric Faculty Award from College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University.

## OHIO

### *Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Institute*

As part of the HEAL initiative, **Stephanie Merhar**, Research Director of the Cincinnati Children's NICU Follow-Up Clinic, and **Brenda Poindexter**, Director of Clinical and Translational Research, received an \$11 million NIH grant for a multicenter consortium to study brain development and outcomes of babies with opioid exposure. Research Triangle Institute International will be the data-coordinating center and the Children's National Medical Center will be the neuroimaging core. The consortium will enroll 200 opioid-exposed and 75 healthy infants to assess brain volumes and structural and functional connectivity by MRI, as well as behavior and development over the first two years of life.

On October 11, 2019, the Perinatal Institute held the 18th Annual Regional Perinatal Summit. This year's topic was "Maternal Mood Disorders and Neonatal Consequences." Keynote speaker **Lauren M. Osborne**, Assistant Director, Women's Mood Disorders Center, The John Hopkins University School of Medicine, discussed, "Psychotropic Medication

Use in Pregnancy and Lactation." Other speakers included **Scott L. Wexelblatt**, Regional Director of Newborn Services, Division of Neonatology, Cincinnati Children's; **Dawn E. Butler**, Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator and NICU Clinical Specialist, Division of Pharmacy, Cincinnati Children's; **Robert T. Ammerman**, Scientific Director, Every Child Succeeds, Cincinnati Children's.

*Cincinnati Magazine* named five Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Institute physicians as Top Doctors in Cincinnati in the Neonatal and Perinatal Category: **Heather Kaplan**, **Stephanie Merhar**, **Vivek Narendran**, **Amy Nathan**, and **Brenda Poindexter**.

Cincinnati Children's welcomes the following junior faculty this summer: **Andreas Damianos**, completing his fellowship at the Holtz Children's Hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL; **Katsuaki Kojima**, completing his fellowship at University of California, San Francisco, CA; **Emily Miller**, completing her fellowship at the University of Louisville Department of Pediatrics, Louisville, KY; **Cara Slagle**, completing her fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital; **Jessica Top**, completing her fellowship UCSF HEAL Initiative Global Health Equity in Sioux Falls, SD.

New staff physicians joining Cincinnati Children's this year include: **Holly Strike**, former Medical Director NICU and attending neonatologist at Intermountain Healthcare Medical Group Dixie Regional Medical Center, St. George, Utah; **Aditi Gupta**, former Clinical Instructor and attending neonatologist at Colorado Children's Hospital, Aurora, CO; **George Edwardson**, former newborn and pediatric hospitalist, Outpatient and Inpatient Medical Director and USUHS Pediatric Site Director at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH; **Annemarie Kelly**, former Chief Resident, Pediatrics at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Hospital McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.

Cincinnati Children's would like to congratulate our 2019 Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship graduates. **Michael Carl** will be joining Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Spokane, WA. **Cara Slagle** will be joining our faculty at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. **Anne White** will be joining the faculty at University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN.

Graduating fellow **Cara Slagle** received the SPR Fellows Clinical Research Award.

Fellows **John Erickson** and **Anne White** received the Strauss Fellowship Award.

Third-year fellow **John Erickson** received the AAP Marshall Klaus Award.

We welcome our incoming first-year fellows: **Rebecca Demaria**, **Ekaterina Dianova**, **Shipra Jain**, **Divya Khattar**, and **Michael Zujkowski**.

**Jeffrey Whitsett**, **Steve Potter** and **Yan Xu** were awarded the NIH U01 HL148856 grant, "Lung Map Phase II – Building a

Multidimensional Map of Developing Human Lung."

**Nehal Parikh** was awarded the R01 DC018734-01 (NIH/NIDCD) grant, "Earliest Predictors of Language Outcomes in High-Risk Infants."

**Jae Kim** is a new Council Member for the Midwest Society for Pediatric Research.

**Paul Kingma**, presented the work of the Cincinnati BPD Center to the Neonatology, Pulmonary and Research groups at the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Children's Hospital, UK.

**Brenda Poindexter** will be leaving to take on a new position at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University as Division Chief of Neonatology and Marcus Professor in Neonatology. Her research has focused on nutrition, growth, and neurodevelopmental outcomes, and her studies have helped us understand the benefits of human milk and early protein provision on neurodevelopmental outcomes. Dr. Poindexter will be missed by her colleagues, friends and mentees. We wish her well but know that Emory is lucky to have her in this new role.

### *Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital, Cleveland*

Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital will be hosting the 5th State-of-the-Art Reviews in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine virtual conference on September 24 and October 1, 2020. Over two afternoons, speakers will provide state-of-the-art knowledge in several "hot topic" areas related to neonatal ventilation, cardiac function, hemodynamics, kidney function and acute kidney injury, and QI in the NICU. The activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Register now at [www.ccfme.org/neonatal2020](http://www.ccfme.org/neonatal2020)

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

We welcome three new faculty members.

**Leeann Pavlek**, graduate of the NCH/OSU fellowship program will be joining on the tenure track. **Jason Jackson**, graduate of University of Rochester fellowship program, will be joining on the clinical track. **Valencia Walker** will be joining the faculty as the Associate Division Chief of Neonatology for Diversity and Health Equity.

We are welcoming four new trainees to the 2020-2023 fellowship class: **Yvette Chop**, **Paulina Krause**, **Timothy Rogers** and **Olivia Ruth**.

We would like to congratulate our graduating 2020 fellows! **Leeann Pavlek** will be continuing her research career as a physician-scientist at NCH/OSU. **Julie Dillard** will be continuing her research career as a physician-scientist at the St. Louis University. **Avante Milton** will be joining Pediatric Medical Group in Columbus, OH.

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

**Cynthia Bearer** is the Editor-in-Chief of Pediatric Research and, for the first time in the

history of the journal, her tenure has been extended an additional five years.

**Cynthia Bearer** was awarded a Science Advocacy Award last fall from the Children's Environmental Health Network.

We welcome **Anantha Harijith (Hari)** to our faculty. Hari completed his medical education at the Government Medical College, Trivandrum, University of Kerala, India in 1992, followed by residency in pediatrics with the same institution. He then continued training in the UK. He moved to the US in 2000 and completed residency at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, NY (part of Albert Einstein College of Medicine) and then worked as an attending physician in the same institution. He began the South Bronx Asthma Partnership to serve the children of that region. He joined Columbia University Medical Center to pursue clinical fellowship in neonatology in 2007. During fellowship, Hari pursued basic science research on the pathogenesis of BPD at the Yale University School of Medicine. Upon completion of fellowship, he joined the University of Illinois Chicago as a physician-scientist where he has been studying the role of lipid signaling in BPD and has received funding from NIH, American Heart Association, and industry. He has received two patents and is currently investigating the role of a potential drug in the therapy of BPD.

We sadly say good-bye to faculty member **Vidhi Shah** who joins Valley Children's in Madera, CA in August.

Due to extremely high NICU census during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the leadership and clinical guidance of **Mary Elaine Patrinos**, we have successfully opened a NICU Step-down Annex on a Rainbow general pediatric floor where the patients are cared for by our pediatric hospitalist team with input from neonatology.

**Anna Maria Hibbs** will be promoted to Professor of Pediatrics, effective July 1.

We say farewell and wish the best to our graduating fellows! **Carly Dykstra** will join Saint Francis Health System, Tulsa, OK. **Rebecca Fish** joins Avera Medical Group, Sioux Falls, SD. **Ira Holla** will join the group at the University of Mississippi.

We are excited to welcome new fellows in July: **Cara Beth Carr** and **Anupama Sundaram** (from Rainbow), **Hilal Yildiz-Atar** (from St. Louis University), and **Kelly Roush** (from Akron Children's).

In addition to **Cara Beth Carr** and **Anupama Sundaram**, a number of other Rainbow residents who worked diligently in our NICU and on research and QI projects with Division of Neonatology faculty and fellows are headed off to neonatology fellowship positions. **Richelle Reinhart** is going to Children's National Medical Center in DC, **Emily Ahn** heads to Cornell, and **Amina Qayam** is going to University of Illinois Chicago. We wish them the best in their fellowship training and beyond!

Rainbow recently held its 50th Science Day. Science Day, an annual presentation of resident

and fellow research projects, was the brainchild of **Avroy Fanaroff**, who coordinated and oversaw the event for decades. It has become one of our most honored traditions. Resident **Emily Ahn**, with Neonatology faculty mentor **Dee Wilson-Costello**, won the Best Springboard for Future Projects Award for their project, "Parental Preparedness for NICU Morbidities in Parents of Extreme Preterm Infants: A Pilot Study." Neonatology fellows **Ira Holla** and **Sean Curtis** won Fellows Science Day Awards for their projects, "Changes in Serum Biomarkers Following Neonatal Lipopolysaccharide Exposure: Implications for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome," and, "Infrared Thermography as an Early Predictor of Mortality in a Rodent Model of Neonatal Endotoxic Sepsis."

#### DISTRICT VI: Joshua Petrikin

The District VI Association of Neonatologists regrets to announce the cancellation of the annual in-person meeting, Controversies in Neonatal and Perinatal Clinical Care, planned for September 11-12, 2020, in downtown Chicago. Mark your calendars for the virtual conference featuring speakers on genetic testing, post-hemorrhagic hydrocephalus, necrotizing enterocolitis, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, and the AAP's legislative agenda, on Friday, September 11 from 9 am-1 pm. Watch your email for additional details later this summer. Also, mark your calendars for next year's meeting on September 10-11, 2021. Stay safe and well! For any questions about the conference or the District VI Association of Neonatologists, contact **Jane Brumbaugh** at [Brumbaugh.Jane@mayo.edu](mailto:Brumbaugh.Jane@mayo.edu).

#### ILLINOIS

*Rush University Children's Hospital, Chicago*

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Division: **Laura Seske** will join the Division in August 2020. She completed her fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 2016 and will be returning to the Midwest after spending a few years on the East Coast. **Suhagi Kadakia** will be joining the Division in September 2020 after completing her fellowship at University of Maryland School of Medicine. **Esther Lee** will join us in August 2020 after completing her fellowship at Johns Hopkins. **Tomas Munoz** will join in August 2020. He completed his fellowship at Loyola University Medical Center in 2016.

We would like to thank our departing faculty for their contributions and friendship over the years: **Robert Kimura** will be retiring in July 2020. Dr. Kimura served as the Division Chief of Neonatology for 29 years. He led the growth of the NICU and the faculty and the transition to our new NICU in 2014. **Stefanie Spanier-Mingolelli** will be leaving us in July 2020. **Patoula Panagos** will be leaving us in September 2020. **Chirag Talati** will be transitioning from Rush University Medical Center to Rush Copley Medical Center in July

2020. We will miss them all and we wish them well!

**Jean Silvestri** was appointed as the Department Chair of Pediatrics in May 2020.

**Aloka Patel** was appointed as the Division Chief of Neonatology in January 2020.

**Andrew Berenz** will be appointed as the Interim Medical Director of the NICU in July 2020.

**Debra Selip** will be appointed as the Interim Associate Medical Director of the NICU in July 2020.

**Aloka Patel** received funding from National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for a five-year randomized controlled trial, "Reducing Disparity in Receipt of Mother's Own Milk in Very Low Birth Weight Infants: An Economic Intervention to Improve Adherence to Sustained Maternal Breast Pump Use." This innovative trial will determine the effectiveness of the intervention in reducing the disparity in mother's own milk feedings and provide an economic analysis of the interventions.

We are excited to welcome the 1st fellow to our brand new ACGME-accredited Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program!

**Jennifer Estanilla** completed her pediatrics residency at Loyola Medical Center in Chicago. She completed her undergraduate education in Child Development at the University of the Philippines, and she went on to complete a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Jennifer worked as an Early Intervention specialist in Nevada prior to completing her medical school training at the Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. Jennifer has a strong interest in child advocacy and has worked with the AAP during medical school and residency.

#### IOWA

*University of Iowa, Iowa City*

**John Dagle** received a Distinguished Faculty Award from Carver College of Medicine and was the recipient of the 2019 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

**Ed Bell** was the Recipient of the Society for Pediatric Research 2019 Mentorship Award.

**Patrick McNamara** led the formalization of the Neonatal Hemodynamics-TnECHO Specialty Interest Group (SIG) at the American Society of Echocardiography, which provides additional endorsement to this expanded role as a neonatology sub-specialty.

**Patrick McNamara** was appointed the Vice-Chair for Acute Care within the Department of Pediatrics.

**Tarah Colaizy** was promoted to Full Professor of Pediatrics and named the Research Director for the Human Milk Banking Association of North America.

**Regan Geisinger** will be promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

**Julie Lindower** was named as Co-Chair for the Iowa Neonatal Quality Care Collaborative.

**Steve McElroy** was named Chair of the Savvy-Ferentz Grant Competition, Associate Program Director (research lead) for the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program, and was the recipient of two PI-initiated industry funding awards.

**Tim Elgin** was the successful recipient of several educational grants to support our simulation program. He enrolled in a Masters in Health Care Simulation at the National University of Ireland (Galway), Ireland.

**Danielle Rios** joined as the 3rd Neonatal Hemodynamics faculty member having completed her fellowship and early neonatal career at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. Danielle is completing her K award with a focus on comprehensive multimodal hemodynamic monitoring.

**Adrienne Rahde Bischoff** was the 1st Neonatal Hemodynamics Fellow and will join the faculty at uOWA this August. Adrienne will be the 4th Hemodynamics faculty member and will develop a focus on neonatal cardiac MRI and preterm cardiac development.

**Amy Stanford** is our graduating hemodynamics fellow this year.

**Stephanie Lee**, who completed her fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, will join our faculty this July to work with **Heidi Harmon** in building our Neurocritical Care Program.

**Sam Wong**, who completed his fellowship at Riley Children's in Indianapolis, will join as a new faculty member this July and will work with **Regan Giesinger** to support the development of the NeoPeds transport program.

## MINNESOTA

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

We are delighted to welcome four neonatologists this summer! **Christopher Lust** completed his fellowship at Washington University and has been in practice at St. Louis University/Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. The three other neonatologists are joining us after completion of their fellowships: **Emilee Parsons** (University of Chicago), **David Gonzalez** (University of Minnesota), and **Ryan Meinen** (University of Wisconsin).

*University of Minnesota, Minneapolis*

**Michael Georgieff** stepped down as Director of the Division of Neonatology at University of Minnesota after 13 years of service.

**Raghavendra "Raghu" Rao**, Professor of Pediatrics has been appointed Acting Director.

Congratulations to our fellows who will be graduating from our Program in 2020! **David Gonzalez** will be joining the neonatal group at Children's Minnesota. **Julie K. Johnson Rolfes** will be joining the Division of Neonatology at the University of Minnesota.

We welcome our new fellows who will be joining our Program in July: **Leah Jordan** and **Elisa Moran**.

The Division of Neonatology at University of Minnesota welcomes **Julie K. Johnson Rolfes**,

**Anne M. White** and **Rachel Koski** into the faculty rank as Assistant Professors. All three are recent NPM graduates, Dr. Johnson Rolfes from the University of Minnesota, Dr. White from Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Dr. Koski from University of Connecticut.

**Erin Stepka** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Pediatrics on the Master Clinician Track.

## MISSOURI

*Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City*

**Steve Olsen** was named Director, Division of Neonatology in November 2019, after having served as the Interim Division Director since July 2018.

In July 2020, the Division welcomes **Karishma Rao**, **Ekta Patel** and **Dianne Lee** as new faculty.

**Venkatesh Sampath** has been awarded a March of Dimes Clinical and Social Sciences Challenge grant (PI **Mike Morowitz**, Associate Professor, Pediatrics Surgery, UPMC) to study "Genetic and Microbial Risk Factors for Adverse Outcomes in the NANO Trial." The study examines how early antibiotic use in preterm babies alters the gut microbiome, and how genetic risk factors interact with gut microbial changes to increase the risk of sepsis and necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants.

**Alain Cuna** has been awarded a CTSA Frontier KL2 Training Award "Gene-Environment Interactions in Necrotizing Enterocolitis: The Impact of SIGIRR Mutation and Gut Microbiota on Intestinal TLR Hyperactivity." Dr. Cuna, working under the mentorship of **Venkatesh Sampath**, will investigate the mechanisms of TLR hyper-responsiveness in the neonatal intestine arising from genetic mutations. Additionally, they will examine whether microbiome modulation strategies mitigate TLR-hyperresponsiveness and NEC vulnerability in SIGIRR-mutant mice.

**Danielle Reed**, who serves as one of the leaders on the Division's ECMO Core Team, recently presented, "Neonatal ECMO Circuit," as part of the ONTPD Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship National Curriculum. She also presented "Neonatal ECMO: A 'Quick' Overview" at the Child Health Grand Rounds, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Children's Mercy Hospital now offers transport of critically ill infants on ECMO via a specialized transport team. This team consists of a neonatal intensivist or pediatric intensivist, perfusionist, transport nurse, and transport respiratory therapist. The team will offer transport service via ground ambulance and rotor or fixed-wing aircraft. The primary purpose of the team is to safely and efficiently assist facilities with management of infants and children on ECMO with congenital heart disease or other complex etiologies that that require a specialized ECMO center. **John Daniel** is leading the Division's efforts in this new and exciting program.

*Washington University in St. Louis*

We are pleased to announce two new members joining our faculty this summer: **Melissa Riley** is our new NICU Medical Director and comes to us from the University Of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where she served as Medical Director of Neonatal Transport and Outreach, and Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She is active within the national neonatal QI association, the Children's Hospital Neonatal Consortium, leading efforts around nosocomial infection prevention. **Carly Schuetz** completed her residency training at the University of Louisville and fellowship with us at Washington University with a research focus on MSSA/MRSA colonization.

**F. Sessions Cole** is being recognized by the St. Louis Academy of Science with the Pete Raven Lifetime Achievement Award. The quality and consistency of his work have resulted in continuous funding as Principal Investigator from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for >20 years, service on >50 NIH study sections or Special Emphasis Panels, and, most recently, successful competition for an Undiagnosed Diseases Network Clinic Site Award from the NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute. His investigative and clinical contributions form a coherent, consistent, and exemplary body of work that has substantially impacted science, pediatrics, and health care delivery and fostered the careers of pediatric physician-scientists.

**Joan Downey** received the Washington University Distinguished Faculty Award in Community Service for her long-standing commitment to bridging pre-medical to medical education, an International Medical Elective, and support of the Hospital Santo Hermano Pedro in Catacamas, Honduras.

**Misty Good** received funding from the Children's Discovery Institute of Washington University/St. Louis Children's Hospital to examine "Modulation of the Intestinal Immune Response in Hirschprung's Associated Enterocolitis" as well as a Sponsored Research Agreement with Takeda Pharmaceuticals for targeted prevention of NEC.

**Misty Good** was named as full member to the Perinatal Research Society and recently hosted the virtual PAS session, "NutGut – the Science of Nutrition, Metabolism, Human Milk, Gut Development and NEC."

**Steve Liao** was named as Chief, Department of Pediatrics at Missouri Baptist Medical Center. He remains active in leadership for the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative.

**Cynthia Ortinau** was named to Society of Pediatric Research and continues in her K award investigating fetal origins of developmental delay associated with congenital heart disease.

**Zachary Vesoulis** was selected as winner of the International Pediatric Research Foundation (IPRF) and the Pediatric Research 2020 Travel Award Grant for Early Career Investigators given to three authors of papers that have appeared



in the Journal during the previous calendar year and meet the criteria of Early Career Investigator. We are hoping the pandemic recedes so he may put it to good use!

**Zachary Vesoulis** was recipient of the Midwest SPR James Sutherland Junior Faculty Award for outstanding presentation. He also recently organized and moderated a virtual webinar for the Neonatal NIRS Consortium.

**Jennifer Wambach** is NIH R01 funded to examine “Functional Characterization of ABCA3 Variants” in respiratory distress syndromes. She also received the American Thoracic Society 2020 Robert Mellins Award for her achievement in scholarly research in the practice of pediatric respiratory medicine.

**Barbara Warner** received the F. Sessions Cole Chair in Newborn Medicine.

Fellow **Lila Nolan**, mentored by **Misty Good**, received the AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine 2020 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award for her project entitled, “The Immunoregulatory Role of CD11c+ Immune Cells in Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Signaling during Necrotizing Enterocolitis.”

Fellow **D. Taylor Hendrixson**, in conjunction with his mentor **Mark Manary**, authored the *UpToDate* publication, “Undernutrition in Pregnancy in Resource-Limited Areas.”

Fellows **Lila Nolan** and **Rachael Fewell** have both been appointed to T32 training grants from the Department of Pediatrics.

We say goodbye and thank you to our current third year fellows. **Hallie Morris** is joining Children’s National, **Rebecca Martinez** is joining L.A. Children’s, **Hugo Kato** is going to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso, **Stephanie Lee** is heading to University of Iowa Steed Family Children’s Hospital, and **Carly Schuetz** will be transitioning to faculty here at Washington University.

We welcome our incoming fellows: **Joshua Baiei** (Saint Peter’s University Hospital), **Alexander Crider** (Washington University), **Aaron Delgado** (University of Illinois College at Peoria), **Stephanie Diggs** (Washington University), **Luke Viehl** (Washington University), and **Jack Wren** (Washington University).

## NEBRASKA

*University of Nebraska, Omaha*

**Nathan Gollehon** has been promoted to Associate Professor of Pediatrics at UNMC and has accepted the position of Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UNMC.

**Nathan Gollehon** has completed Master of Health Professions Teaching and Technology degree.

**David Soffer** will join the Division of Neonatology at UNMC after completing fellowships in neonatal-perinatal medicine and medical ethics at Harvard University in Boston, MA.

**Brianna Brie** will join the Division of Neonatology at UNMC after completing fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Eric Peebles** has been recognized as the UNMC Child Health Research Institute Scholar, a three-year position with protected research time and grant funds.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

*Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center, Sioux Falls*

We welcomed **Maria M. Barber (Talavera)** to our group in November 2019 from Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

This summer we are excited to welcome two newly graduated fellows to our neonatology group: **Rebecca Fish** from Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, OH and **Taylor Hansen** from Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO.

## DISTRICT VII: Clara Song

## LOUISIANA

*Louisiana State University Health, Shreveport*

**Arun K. Pramanik** has been nominated to the Committee of Fetus and Newborn of the AAP.

## MISSISSIPPI

*University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson*

**Renate Savich** has stepped down as Chief, Division of Newborn Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and will be returning to the University of New Mexico in the Division of Neonatology as a Professor of Pediatrics in August 2020.

**Mobolaji Famuyide** is the new Division Chief.

## OKLAHOMA

*University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City*

The Children’s Hospital at OU Medicine is planning the 4th Annual Neonatal Resuscitation Symposium at OU this coming October (pending COVID-19 restrictions). Organizing Committee Members include **Marilyn Escobedo**, **Birju Shah**, **Edgardo Szyld** and **Clara H. Song**. This year’s speakers include **Bobbi Byrne**, **Peter Davis**, **Khalid Aziz**, **Beena Kamath-Rayne**, **Jeanette Zaichkin** and **Henry Lee**.

Congratulations to **Hala Chaaban**, **Faizah Bhatti**, and **Abhi Makkar** on successful promotion to Associate Professor.

**Hala Chaaban’s** project entitled, “Novel Strategies for Prevention of Necrotizing Enterocolitis” was successfully funded as part of a NIH Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) award to OUHSC.

**Marilyn Escobedo** was featured as the “WiN Beneath Our Wings” in the WiN Newsflash for

February. She currently serves as the Chair of the WiN Steering Committee.

**Marilyn Escobedo** and **Edgardo Szyld** are finishing their terms on the AHA Neonatal Resuscitation Writing Group, Marilyn as the Past Chair, and Edgardo as the Vice Chair for the Group for 2020-21. The Group just published the COVID-19 guidelines for resuscitation and the next five-year guidelines will be published in June in *Circulation*.

**Abhishek Makkar** started a new role as Director of External Operations in the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

**Clara Song** was an invited faculty speaker to teach a workshop at the 2019-20 OUHSC Faculty Leadership Program on “Working with the Media: Digital Communication for Healthcare Professionals” and transitioned to Director of Advocacy and Innovative Strategies at OU Section on NPM.

**Clara Song** chairs the SoNPM Digital Communication Committee, served on the Organizing Committee for the 2020 NeoPrep, and is the SoNPM NCE Program Chair for the upcoming Section meeting at the NCE in October.

**Clara Song** is Co-Editor for SoNPM Perinatal COVID-19 Collaborative website, along with **Krithika Lingappan**.

**Edgardo Szyld** was an invited speaker at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Nuffield Department of Population Health and was Visiting Professor, Section of Neonatology, Women’s Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford University Hospitals, both in Oxford, UK.

**Edgardo Szyld** was an invited speaker at the 11th Dresden Symposium, Delivery Room Management and Regenerative Therapies, University Hospital Carle Gustave Carus, Dresden, Germany in March.

**Patricia Williams** has been named the Director of Clinical Operations in the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

**Anne Wlodaver** has been named the Medical Director of the SSM Health Saint Anthony NICU in Oklahoma City, OK.

We are excited to welcome the following new PhD faculty members: **Jolyn Fernandes** joins us from Emory University as an Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Metabolomics for OUHSC; **Peter Vitiello** joins us from Sanford Research in Sioux Falls, SD, as an Associate Professor and will serve as Director of Laboratory-based Research for the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and Co-Director of the Center for Pregnancy and Newborn Research at OUHSC.

We wish the best to **Courtney Atchley** as she transitions to a new professional opportunity.

We are proud of our graduating fellows! **Tavleen Sandhu** will join our Section as an Assistant Professor. **David Box** will join Valley Children’s Hospital in Madera, CA.

## TEXAS

*Dell Children's Hospital/Seton Network, Austin*

We welcome **Alan Groves** who completed his neonatology fellowship at National Women's Health Auckland in New Zealand and a research fellowship in neonatal medicine. He then completed a clinical research fellowship in neonatal cardiac MRI at the Imperial College London. He will be joining our Division in August and will help lead our clinical research efforts, as well as develop a point of care ultrasound program for the neonatal intensive care unit.

**Ashley Lucke** will also join us in August to help build the interventional fetal program at Dell Children's Medical Center. She completed her neonatology fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine and an additional fellowship in fetal and transitional medicine at Children's National Hospital.

**Kiran Natique** joins us after completing her fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where she is Chief Fellow. She will be joining our Division in August to help build our neonatal neuro ICU.

**Christine Sandlin** joins us after completing her fellowship in neonatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She completed her pediatric residency at The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, where she served as Chief Resident. She will be joining our Division in August and is eager to participate in our neonatal developmental follow-up.

*Texas Children's/Baylor College of Medicine, Houston*

**Binoy Shivanna**, along with **Manimaran Ramnani** from UAB, hosted a virtual Regional Neonatal Research Conference on May 26-27 for all fellows from District VII and X to present their PAS-accepted posters and platform presentations.

**Charleta Guillory** was honored for her service as Chair of the Department of State Health Services Newborn Screening Advisory Committee on January 31, 2020.

**Krithika Lingappan** and **Binoy Shivanna** were promoted to Associate Professor.

**Krithika Lingappan** was awarded her 2nd R01 grant from the NIH, "Leveraging Multiomics and Advanced Mouse Models to Delineate Mechanisms Underlying Sex-Specific Differences in Recovery and Repair After Neonatal Hyperoxia Exposure in the Developing Lung."

**Mohan Pammi** was awarded an R03 grant from the NIH, "Metagenomics of the Circulating Blood Microbiome and Systemic Inflammation in Preterm Infants."

**George Mandy** was promoted to Professor.

**Bhagavatula Moorthy** was inducted into the American Pediatric Society.

**Amy Hair, Melissa Carbajal, Tiffany Mckee-Garrett, and Annamarie Arias-Shah** were all

awarded the Baylor College of Medicine 2020 Women of Excellence Award.

**Shweta Parmekar** was awarded the Baylor College of Medicine Pediatric Department 2020 Teaching Award.

**Chris Rhee** and **Binoy Shivanna** were each awarded the 2020 Baylor College of Medicine Young Investigator Award.

**Michael E. Speer** was appointed Chair of the Pediatric Department at The Houston Methodist Hospital.

**Brandy Wells** recently completed her DNP and is the recipient of the 2020 Harris County Medical Society Auxiliary's Clinical Excellence Award.

**Krithika Linggapan** is Co-Editor for the SoNPM Perinatal COVID-19 Collaborative website and is Chair of the SoNPM Website Committee.

**Charleta Guillory** was The Endowed Berggren Lectureship Visiting Professor at the Maurer Center for Public Health, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE in October. She spoke on "Addressing Disparities in Preterm Births in African-American Women: Methods and Results of the Honey Child Project."

**Charleta Guillory** was an AAP invited panelist for the First Focus on Children and the March of Dimes Congressional Briefing, hosted by the Co-chairs of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, Congresswomen **Lauren Underwood** and **Alma Adams**, addressing "Maternal and Infant Mortality: What Does the Data Tell Us and What Can We Do?" in Washington DC in November.

*University of Texas Health San Antonio*

UT Health San Antonio will host the 2nd Annual Neonatal-Perinatal Research Conference at Alamo City on November 12-14, 2020 in San Antonio, TX (pending COVID-19 restrictions). All neonatal-perinatal fellows are invited. Contact **Cristalina Trevino** [trecinoc6@uthscsa.edu](mailto:trecinoc6@uthscsa.edu) for more info.

*UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas*

We were thrilled to welcome **Manjula Muddurulu** to the Neonatal Section of the Division.

**Lina Chalak** was elected as a member of the American Pediatric Society.

**Becky Ennis** obtained a Post-Masters Certificate in Bioethics.

**Vishal Kapadia** was invited to speak at Baylor's Avoiding Lung Injury (BALI) Conference and was elected to membership in the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Eric Ortigoza** won the Young Faculty Research Award at the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

**Julie Mirpuri** was elected to the Council of the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

**Rashmin Savani** was elected to the Council of the International Perinatal Collegium and was featured on Fox4 with the March of Dimes.

**Myra Wyckoff** was an invited speaker at Hot Topics 2020 and NeoHeart 2020.

Fellows **Katie Hoge, Kiran Natique** and **Jordan Reis** presented their research projects at the AAP Western Conference on Perinatal Research in Palm Springs, CA.

The Children's Health NICU passed the AAP Level IV Designation Survey with flying colors and the FETAL Center celebrated its 5th birthday.

#### DISTRICT VIII: James Barry

The 44th Annual District VIII Conference on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine scheduled for June 2020 has been postponed until June 17-20, 2021 due to that evil SARS CoV-2 and COVID-19. It will be held in splendid Sante Fe, NM and will surely be an enjoyable and educational session. Hold the date and join us!

The 45th Annual District VIII Perinatal Meeting will be held in beautiful Big Sky, MT. It is now scheduled for June 16-19, 2022 due to COVID-19. It will be a great event! Please join us for great learning and unsurpassed adventure.

## COLORADO

*Pediatrix Medical Group Colorado*

**Bob Kiley, Stephen Wade, Kara Murphy, Mary Laird, Mark Shoptaugh, Sue Townsend,** and **Pastora Garcia-Jones** celebrated the one-year anniversary of the opening of the NICU at Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs.

**Sue Townsend**, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, was an invited national speaker at NEO: The Conference for Neonatology in February 2020 and at the ONTPD Online with Experts Virtual Lecture in April 2020.

**Sue Townsend** was appointed to the American Board of Pediatrics Sub-Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine from January 2020 through December 2025.

*University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora*

**Laura Brown** was named President-Elect of the Western Society for Pediatric Research and was voted President-Elect of the Perinatal Research Society.

**Stephanie Chassen** has received the Children's Hospital Colorado Research Institute Research Scholar Award for her work on understanding the effects of IUGR on the placental transfer and metabolism of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

**Susan Hwang** was promoted to the position of Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**Susan Hwang** is PI for the Colorado Hospitals Substance Exposed Newborn Quality Improvement Collaborative that has received renewal of annual funding from the Colorado Medicaid Upper Payment Limit Program.

**Erica Mandell**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Colorado School of Medicine, was

recently awarded a K08 from NHLBI entitled, "Role of Vitamin D in Lung Development and Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia."

**Yin Stein, Brittany Butler, Cindy Schreiner** and **Sarah Cilvik** are graduating from the University of Colorado School of Medicine Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program. Drs. Stein and Butler will be joining the Colorado Permanente Medical Group as neonatologists at St. Joseph's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital in Denver. Dr. Schreiner will be joining the Pediatrix Medical Group at Renown Children's Hospital in Reno, NV. Dr. Cilvik will be joining Wake Forest University Health System as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Section of Neonatology. She will have a research focus on the developmental origins of disease, with a particular interest in how perinatal insults affect long-term cardiovascular health.

We welcome our incoming fellows: **Hilary Hesse** (medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, residency at University of Colorado), **Yo Nishihara** (medical school at St. George's University of London, residency at the University of Colorado), **Christina Ramo** (medical school at University of Michigan, residency and Chief Resident at Oregon Health and Sciences Center), **Pavika Varma** (medical school at University of California San Francisco, residency and Chief Resident at University of California San Diego).

## HAWAII

*Kapiolani Medical Center, Honolulu*

The NICU at the Kapiolani Medical Center was selected as a site for a NIH-funded grant to study the Eat, Sleep, Console protocol for NAS.

Our Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship Program site visit led to full accreditation for 10 years through 2030.

**Melanie Jacobson** is joining our faculty this summer after completing her fellowship at the NYU School of Medicine.

We have embarked on a new joint QI collaboration for fellowship training with the Washington, Oregon, and Colorado programs.

**Megan Doty** has taken over as the Hawaii state representative for the District VIII Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

## MONTANA

*St. Vincent's Healthcare, Billings*

Thanks to **Jeff Carroll** who has retired from St. Vincent's Healthcare after 20+ years of providing fantastic clinical care.

**Namrita Odackal** joined St. Vincent's Healthcare after completing her fellowship at the University of Virginia in June 2019.

## OREGON

*Oregon Health and Science University, Portland*

**Cindy McEvoy** has been designated as an American Thoracic Society Fellow.

**Mitzi Go** is joining the Division of Neonatology at OHSU. Dr. Go originally completed her fellowship at OHSU and returns after almost 10 years to join the faculty.

**Emily Carter** will become the Associate Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program at OHSU beginning July 1, 2020.

**Angela Douglas**, pediatric and neonatal hospitalist, is the new Medical Director of the OHSU Hillsboro Medical Center and will supervise a Level II NICU and a pediatric inpatient unit.

**Catherine Caruso**, 2nd year fellow, has been awarded the Marshall Klaus Award in Newborn Medicine Education for her work on developing resident neonatal resuscitation education using Entrustable Professional Activities.

OHSU NPM Fellowship congratulates **John Adair** and **Atoosa Craighead** on graduation in July 2020. Dr. Adair is joining the Mednax practice in Little Rock, AR and Dr. Craighead is joining the neonatology team at Kaiser Roseville, NC.

Welcome to our incoming fellows: **Jina Park** is completing her Chief Resident year at the Northern California Kaiser Pediatric Residency Program. **Katy Ruch** has been working as a neonatal hospitalist in 2019-20 after completing her residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Oakland in 2019.

The Northwest Neonatal Improvement Priority Alliance Annual Meeting will be virtual only on Friday, September 11, 2020. The keynote speaker will be **Susan Hwang**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado.

## WASHINGTON

*University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle*

In July 2020 we are welcoming back **Sandra Juul**, who will resume her position as Division Chief after a one-year sabbatical in Australia.

**Rachel Umoren** is leading the expansion of the innovative Neonatal Telehealth Service with a dedicated team of tele-neonatologists offering prenatal consults via telehealth and neonatal telerounding/teleconsult services to the WAMI region (Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho).

**Kirtikumar Upadhyay** will join our Division starting July 1, 2020. He completed his medical degree at BJ Medical College, Ahmedabad, India and residency at Flushing Hospital Medical Center in New York. He is coming from University of Tennessee Health Science Center where he completed his fellowship and holds an appointment as Assistant Professor.

**Robin LaGrandeur** will join the Division in August 2020. She completed her medical degree at Stanford University and her residency at University of Washington/Seattle Children's, followed by fellowship at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach, CA. Currently she is an Assistant Clinical Professor at University of California San Francisco.

**Daron Vandeleur** joins the Division from University of California San Francisco, where she is completing her pediatrics residency. During training, she has sought out and excelled in NICU clinical experiences, and is interested in building a career as a neonatal hospitalist with a focus on BPD.

**Amy Thompson** joins our Division from Chicago, IL where she has been a hospitalist working in a level III/IV NICU for the past four years. She completed a Fishbein Fellowship with *JAMA* and worked previously as a copy and content editor at *JAMA* and other research organizations.

**Henna Shakikh** joins the Division from Yale University where she is completing her pediatrics residency. Dr. Shakikh has been involved in advocacy and global health work. She has been accepted to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Global Health Fellowship for July 2021, which will take her to the Dominican Republic for ongoing work with at-risk populations.

**Krista Birnie** joins the Division from Boston, MA where she currently serves as Medical Director for the Special Care Nursery at the Tufts Medical Center affiliate site in Lawrence, MA.

Graduating fellow **Brianna Brei** accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha where she will continue her work on simulation-based education.

Graduating fellow **Shubha Setty** will join Emory University in Atlanta, GA as Assistant Professor and will continue to work on global health projects.

We welcome our incoming fellows: **Sara Neches** is a graduate of the Seattle Children's Pediatric Residency Program and a current University of Washington NICU hospitalist. She is interested in neurodevelopmental follow-up and will join the Neuroscience Group in the Division. **Allison Lyle** is graduating from Indiana University's Pediatric Residency Program. Dr. Lyle's fellowship focus will be on bioethics in the NICU.

## DISTRICT IX:

**Alexis Davis**

## CALIFORNIA

*California Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC)*

Released in March 2020, the Mother and Baby Substance Exposure Toolkit was developed by a multidisciplinary task force of maternal and newborn health care experts to improve outcomes for substance-exposed mothers and newborns. The interactive online toolkit shares best practices across the care continuum by topic area, including screening assessment and level of care determination, treatment, transitions of care, and education. Best practices can also be viewed by practice



setting: Outpatient, labor and delivery, or nursery/NICU.

Released in May 2020, the Primary Care for Preterm Infants and Children Toolkit prepares the pediatric primary care provider with the skills and knowledge to care for preterm infants and children who are at increased risk of morbidity and serious illness, and hospitalization. The toolkit combines key primary care recommendations and guidelines from the AAP, CDC, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in one easily accessible reference. The accompanying Tip Sheet and Periodicity Chart summarize the information from the Toolkit in two easy-to-use formats that can be downloaded and used in a clinic setting.

CPQCC has recently opened registration for a new collaborative slated to begin in January 2021. The Optimizing Antibiotic Stewardship in California NICUs (OASCN) collaborative aims to implement and evaluate an innovative, scalable antibiotic stewardship intervention which pairs prospective audit and feedback with the ECHOTM (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) collaborative learning model. ECHOTM is an evidence-based method of practice dissemination used globally in >120 health collaborations since 2003 and is actively endorsed by the AAP.

CPQCC and our sister organization, the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), have launched a webinar series aimed at supporting perinatal units during COVID-19 by providing practical information on how frontline hospitals are responding to the crisis. Webinar topics have included transitions of care, neonatal nutrition, mental health considerations for patients and health care workers, outpatient care, and patient education. The most recent webinar recordings are available on our COVID-19 resource site along with sample hospital policies, recommendations, and guidelines from the AAP, ACOG, SMFM, and CDC, and support resources for patients and caregivers.

For more news and updates from CPQCC, follow CPQCC on our website ([www.cpqcc.org](http://www.cpqcc.org)) or Twitter (@CPQCC) or Facebook ([facebook.com/cpqcc](https://www.facebook.com/cpqcc)).

*California Association of Neonatologists (CAN)*

**Robert Kahle** assumed the office of CAN President in March 2020 and **Thomas Shimotake**, **Erika Fernandez**, **Meera Sankar** were elected as Vice President/President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively.

The CAN electronic NICU Directory (Chairs: **Ronald Ariagno**, **Henry Lee**, **Dilip Bhatt**) is ready to launch and the goal is to put the directory into good use by invitation to all so that members can review their data and verify if complete. Nine training centers have been included in the Directory so far.

The 26th Annual CAN/AAP District IX SoNPM Conference, Cool Topics in Neonatology, and the CPQCC Pre-Conference were held March 6-8, 2020 at the Coronado Island Marriott

Resort. **Richard Pan**, CA State Senator and health advocate gave the keynote address in an interactive fireside chat format.

Based on her outstanding scholarly activities during fellowship at Stanford, **Vidya Pai**, was awarded the 2020 Bhatt-Ramanathan Scholarship from the CAN/AAP District IX SoNPM. Dr. Pai received a certificate and \$2000 at the conference in March, and presented to fellows attending the conference's Life after Fellowship Workshop.

**Lisa Chyi** from Kaiser Permanente Northern California and **Robert Castro** from Stanford University were co-recipients of the 2020 David Wirtschafter Award. This year's award acknowledged their outstanding work on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome management. The award is co-sponsored by CPQCC and CAN and recognizes outstanding neonatal QI leadership.

**Meera Sankar** gave a podium presentation on behalf of the CAN Research Committee. Dr. Sankar shared the preliminary results of a multi-site prospective research study of transcutaneous bilirubin (TCB) in extremely preterm infants less than 30 weeks' gestation from California NICUs. The study objective is to develop guidelines for when to consider serum bilirubin levels based on TCB levels and to monitor levels during and after phototherapy in extremely preterm infants.

The 2021 CAN Cool Topics Meeting is scheduled to be held March 5-7, 2021 in San Diego, CA.

*Loma Linda University Children's Hospital*

The Division of Neonatology will be adding the following new faculty this summer and fall: **Shaina Lodhi** and **Bradley Cacho** are both completing their fellowships at Loma Linda. **Vikash Agrawal** is currently a fellow at University of Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. **Antonie Meixel** is currently Chief Fellow at University of California San Diego. **Fu-Sheng Chou** is currently practicing neonatology at San Antonio Regional Medical Center and recently relocated from Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. He has been a faculty member at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. **Yoginder Singh** is a consultant in pediatric cardiology and neonatology at Addenbrooke Hospital in Cambridge. He organized Pediatric and Neonatal Echocardiography in Cambridge and has facilitated hands-on echocardiography workshops in the UK, Europe and beyond. He is the lead author on the "Expert Consensus Statement on Neonatologist-Performed Echocardiography: Training and Accreditation in the UK."

**Pulak Agrawal**, our third 2020 LLU neonatal fellow graduate, will be practicing pediatrics/neonatology at Valley Children's Hospital, Fresno.

*Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns, San Diego*

We deeply mourn the loss of our colleague **Michael Segall**, who passed away on March 4, 2020. Dr. Segall served as the Division Chief of Rady Children's Hospital Neonatology for 28 years until 2010 when he joined San Diego Neonatology, Inc. He also served as President for Children's Specialty Care Coalition from 2000-2009 and was an initial founder and Past President of CAN. He was a brilliant neonatologist and an exceptional leader of our group.

**Katherine Coughlin** joined us after completing her fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Coughlin has expertise in continuing QI projects and has been trained in bedside ultrasound.

**Jenny Koo** will be joining our group in July 2020. She is the District IX TECaN representative and a recent AAP/VON Scholar for her QI work. She hopes to continue that work at SMBHWN after completion of her fellowship at UC San Diego.

The Neonatal Research Institute recently received a research grant from Chiesi Pharmaceuticals to perform a multicenter randomized trial comparing early caffeine with less invasive surfactant administration vs. CPAP in ELBW infants. The study will enroll 150 subjects in San Diego, Irvine, and Loma Linda.

*Stanford University, Palo Alto*

**Lance Prince** will assume the role of Chief of the Division of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine at Stanford, and Co-Director of the Johnson Center at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, effective November 1. **David K. Stevenson** will depart his role as Interim Chief of the Division. Dr. Prince is currently a Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Neonatology at UCSD, where he serves on the Women's and Infants' Services Executive Council. He has a long and distinguished career as a mentor for clinical and research trainees, and as an investigator focused on developmental immunology and lung biology.

**Henry Lee** is an editor and co-author of *Questions from NeoReviews*, which includes more than 1,000 questions to help clinicians enhance their neo knowledge and/or prepare for board certification.

**Shazia Bhombal** and **Sonia Bonafacio** were faculty speakers at 2020 NeoPREP: An Intensive Review and Update of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in Long Beach, CA, February 7-11.

Speaking on behalf of our Stanford Point-of-Care Ultrasound team, neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow **Caroline Yeon-Kyeong Noh** (class of 2021) gave oral presentations at the Lung Ultrasound in Neonates and Children Conference in Paris, France in February and Cool Topics in Neonatology annual conference in Coronado, CA in March.

**William Benitz** gave the 22nd Annual Arnold J. Rudolph Lecture at Texas Children's

Hospital/Baylor School of Medicine in Houston, TX, where he spoke about management of the patent ductus arteriosus in preterm infants and new approaches to recognize early-onset neonatal sepsis.

**Philip Sunshine** is the recipient of the 2020 Albion Walter Hewlett Award, the highest honor for an academic physician at Stanford. Given by the Department of Medicine, this annual award is named after Dr. Albion Walter Hewlett, who served as the Executive Head of the Department of Medicine from 1916-1925 and was known for his compassion and outstanding contributions to patient care and medical science.

**Henry Lee** is the PI of a new R01-funded project entitled, "Improving Outcomes of Perivable Births via an Enhanced Prediction Tool." The goal will be to develop, implement, and evaluate prognostic tools for neonates born at or near the limits of viability in the setting of the CPQCC.

**Jingjing Li, Gary Shaw, and David K. Stevenson** have formed an interdisciplinary team and were awarded the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative grant of \$520,000 for a project entitled, "Single-Cell Placental Epigenomes and Social Disparity of Preterm Birth." The goal will be to determine how socioeconomic status (SES) may reprogram epigenomes, and identify SES-associated epigenomic alterations in the placenta. Dr. Li was trained at the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center, Stanford, and recently moved to an independent position at UCSF. This grant will establish a strong connection between UCSF and Stanford to integrate genomic, epidemiological, and clinical approaches for prematurity research.

**William Rhine** (PI) and **Anoop Rao** (Co-Investigator) were awarded an NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 grant to continue work on a non-invasive blood pressure device. Designed to monitor the blood pressure of critically ill neonates, the device will be comfortable, low-cost and easy to use. This device has also been granted the Breakthrough Device Designation by the FDA, thereby advancing this work one step closer to clinical use and offering potential advantages in reimbursement policies. This NIH-SBIR grant is in conjunction with a Stanford spin-off named PyrAmes Inc. Drs. Rhine and Rao are looking to expand this study to include neonates, pediatric, and adult patients at interested centers across the country in fall 2020.

Neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow **Pearl Houghteling** (class of 2022), received a Clinical Trainee Support Award (2020-2022) from Stanford's Maternal and Child Health Research Institute. Dr. Houghteling, with her mentor **David Relman**, will assess the impact of supplemental iron and anemia on the microbiome of premature neonates.

**Nicole Yamada** was selected for membership in the Society for Pediatric Research.

**Lou Halamek** was selected to the American Pediatric Association National Academy of Distinguished Educators in Pediatrics.

**Shazia Bhombal** was selected to serve on the leadership team for the American Society of Echocardiography Neonatal Hemodynamics TnECHO Specialty Interest Group.

**Lisa Bain** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

**Malathi Balasundaram** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

**Sonia Bonifacio** was promoted to Clinical Professor.

**William Benitz** was appointed as the Philip Sunshine MD Professor in Neonatology Emeritus, effective January 31, 2020. He was recalled to active service for the period of February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2022.

*University of California, Davis*

**Payam Vali** received a 2019 *Pediatric Research* reviewer award. Out of over 1,200 *Pediatric Research* peer reviewers, he was among ten individuals recognized for his exemplary concise and substantive review submissions.

**Kristin Hoffman** received the Children's Miracle Network Achievement Award in 2019 for her work in developing FamilyLink, which allows families to view their NICU baby remotely. This is a national honor that goes to one caregiver, team, or unit that has significantly elevated the care of children and has specifically been impacted by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' funds.

**Vaneet Kalra** has taken a position in the Bay Area. We will miss his insights, experience and warmth.

We have two new fellows who will join us in July: **Shoshana Newman-Lindsay** (VCU) and **Jessica Vaughn** (Valley Children's).

Our two graduating fellows are **Jennifer Weber**, who will be going to Phoenix Children's, and **Sameeja Iqbal**, who will be joining the neonatology group at Children's Hospital of Orange County.

The third bi-annual NEC Symposium is slated to be held in the spring of 2021 in Cincinnati. Specific dates and logistics in terms of whether the conference will be in-person or virtual are yet to be determined. The symposium offers an opportunity to connect with NEC researchers, policy makers and family advocates. Its format is unique in that families affected by NEC are included. Keep an eye on the NEC Society website for details.

*University of California, San Diego*

**Sandra Leibel** has developed a novel pluripotent stem cell-derived in vitro human lung organoid which can be used to study lung disease, genetic mutations, and pulmonary infections. This model has been instrumental in important collaborations across UCSD and Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute to study the disease process and treatment options specific to COVID-19.

**Carlos Ramos** was named the AAP's technical advisor for the Accessible Continuum of Care and Essential Services Sustained Activity, a five-year health program in Madagascar. The aim is to improve maternal-child health for the most vulnerable and underserved people in the country. Dr. Ramos will oversee capacity and systems in neonatal and child health. Specifically, he will guide the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in proven high impact interventions and build the capacity of MOPH actors in order to better manage health services and programs in their catchment areas.

#### DISTRICT X: Ravi Patel

#### ALABAMA

*University of Alabama at Birmingham*

The first Virtual Regional Neonatal Research Conference was held on May 26-27. This was a collaborative effort between UAB and Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine and was co-led by **Maran Ramani** (UAB) and **Binoy Shivanna** (Baylor). Eleven academic programs from the Southeast participated. Forty-one abstracts were presented, of which 10 were from UAB.

#### FLORIDA

*University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville*

**Colby Day-Richardson** and **Mark Hudak** are helping to spearhead a new statewide Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative project focused on improving family-centered care. Participating hospitals will implement two common initiatives and be able to choose from an extensive toolkit of educational material and interventions that can improve family-centeredness in four domains.

**Josef Cortez** and **Samarth Shukla** have championed the debut of a new milk bank at UF Health Jacksonville to serve our preterm infants.

**Samarth Shukla** has worked with our residents on QI research related to NAS. A resident project on improving parental counseling and education was chosen as one of the top six resident projects across 15 residency training programs.

**Sireesha Nandula** was selected for training in a Clinical Informatics fellowship.

**Sireesha Nandula** has initiated a BabyConnect telemedicine project that has improved the ability of parents to visit their baby and to interact with NICU staff and has been especially valued during the COVID crisis.

**Sfurti Nath** gave a presentation at the 20th First Coast Neonatal Symposium on "To Treat or Not to Treat: The Sepsis Risk Calculator."

*University of Florida, Gainesville*

After 34 years as the Program Director in Gainesville, **Josef Neu** is (happily) handing the

reins to **Diomel de la Cruz**. Dr. de la Cruz has been the Associate PD for the last two years and is ready to continue the success Dr. Neu has established.

After 25 years, **David Burchfield** is stepping down as Medical Director of the Donald V. Eitzman Neonatal ICU at UF-Shands Children's Hospital, handing over to **Meredith Mowitz**, who has served as Co-Director for the past two years. Dr. Mowitz has special interest in QI and cost effectiveness and has already instituted multiple system changes in the NICU.

In January, the Division hosted the 27th Eitzman Visiting Professor in Neonatology with **Patrick McNamara** from the University of Iowa giving Departmental and Divisional Grand Rounds on Targeted Neonatal ECHO.

#### GEORGIA

*Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative (GAPQC)*

The GAPQC has grown rapidly over the past three years, engaging 63 centers in maternal and neonatal initiatives, covering 80% of Georgia births. Our NAS initiative involves 46 centers and 45 are participating in the maternal hypertension and hemorrhage projects using the AIM bundles. We have joined the National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives and are grateful to be a CDC-funded collaborative. The Neonatal Chair is **David Levine** from Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital and **Ravi Patel** from Emory University serves on the Leadership Committee. Please visit <https://georgiapqc.com> to learn more.

*Augusta University*

The Southern Society for Pediatric Research commends the service of **Brian Stansfield**, who served as President from 2019-2020 and oversaw a successful Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans, LA, February 13-15, 2020.

**Amy Thompson**, a graduating fellow, will be joining the Division as an Assistant Professor.

**Daphne Pineda** will be joining as a neonatal-perinatal fellow beginning in July.

*Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta*

We are excited to announce the new Division Chief of Neonatology, **Brenda Poindexter**. She

### **The Section would like to thank the following sponsors:**

#### **Abbott Nutrition**

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NCE Poster Session & Reception  
ONTPD Networking Session & Reception  
NeoPREP  
Apgar Award Dinner  
Women in Neonatology  
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Klaus Grants  
Perinatal Spring Workshop  
4 Fellows Conferences on Perinatal Research  
Perinatal & Developmental Medicine Symposia (2)  
ONTPD Lunch at NCE

#### **Prolacta**

Women in Neonatology

will succeed **David Carlton**, who has led the Division for over a decade. We look forward to Dr. Poindexter building on his legacy and bringing her talents and leadership to an amazing team.

**Estefania (Stefi) Barbian** and **Allison Rose** are our graduating fellows for 2020. We are excited to announce that both will be joining the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professors of Pediatrics, along with **Shubha Setty**, who will be joining as faculty after completing her fellowship training at Seattle Children's.

We are excited to welcome two new neonatal-perinatal medicine fellows, **Hope Arnold** from Emory University and **Anisa Lakhani** from McGill University.

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## 2020 Marshall Klaus Perinatal Research Awards

### Joern-Hendrik Weitkamp MD, FAAP Chair, SoNPM Research Committee

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 2020 Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award! The Research Committee received 48 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 Mead Johnson, 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 10 ranked fellows with the \$5,000 research award. The money will be used towards supplies, etc. to support the proposed research project.

### Marshall Klaus Bench or Clinical Research Awardees

#### Geoanna M Bautista MD

*The Role of Piezo1 in Biomechanical Stretching of the Small Bowel*

University of California, Los Angeles

Mentor: Martin Martin MD, MPP

As a budding physician-scientist, I have always been particularly motivated to understand, treat, and manage children born with congenital anomalies, malformations and postnatal insults that can occur in the gastrointestinal tract. Prior to medical school, I pursued an opportunity to work with Drs. Michael Harrison and Tippi MacKenzie at the UCSF Fetal Treatment Center. I specifically studied the potential role of maternal-fetal cell trafficking and presence of cytokines in various congenital anomalies including congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) and gastroschisis. During medical school, my growing scientific curiosity subsequently led me to pursue an opportunity to spend a summer at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden in order to further my experience in tissue engineering and use of stem cells, specifically working with the diaphragm and esophagus, and I gained valuable skills to apply for my subsequent research pursuits. Since starting my neonatology



fellowship, I have been fortunate enough to have Dr. Martin G. Martin as my mentor, who has done exciting work with intestinal disorders that can specifically affect the neonatal population. The aim of my project has been to further our understanding of the mechanical and functional properties of the intestinal tract, specifically looking at the role of Piezo1 in the mechanotransduction-induced growth and adaptation of the intestine. My overarching research goal is to establish novel targets for potential new therapies and solutions in neonates suffering from short gut syndromes, small bowel obstruction, GI anomalies and motility disorders. The Marshall Klaus Award will help me with these goals and open up new opportunities to continue my trajectory as a physician-scientist in neonatology.

#### Danielle Callaway MD, PhD

*Epigenetic Mechanisms of Alveolar Epithelial Cell Plasticity and Injury Susceptibility in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia*

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Mentor: Edward Morrisey PhD



My overall goal is to become a clinician-scientist who can translate experiences with patients in the NICU into novel findings in the laboratory, particularly involving pulmonary diseases such as bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). My scientific career thus far in graduate school and residency has revolved around exploring how oxygen and oxidative stress can lead to pathology in various organ systems. As a neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, I have the opportunity to further my knowledge of oxygen-induced pathology and neonatal pulmonary disease in the laboratory of Dr. Edward Morrisey. Here, I will be well equipped to answer important questions on pulmonary regeneration and alveolar epithelial cell plasticity in a model of BPD. I will expand my scientific skill set to include the thoughtful use of specific transgenic mouse models to address cell fate after injury. Further, I will have access to the laboratory's incredible expertise in next-generation sequencing and single-cell bioinformatics with a large repository of shared data in both mouse and human tissue. Through the work on this project, I will also examine how epigenetics contributes to alveolar epithelial cell fate, helping to lay the groundwork for a new area of exploration in the laboratory. Support from the Marshall Klaus Award will help me continue along my path in becoming a productive and compassionate neonatal clinician-scientist that can use my work to positively impact the outcomes of premature infants.

**Meredith Campbell MD***Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction in Former Extremely Premature Infants*

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Mentor: Eric Austin MD, MSCI

I am honored to receive the generous support of the Marshall Klaus Award, which will serve as an excellent foundation for my pursuit of an academic career as a

physician-scientist. Under the guidance of my mentors Drs. Eric Austin and Jennifer Sucre, we crafted a proposal to test the central hypothesis that premature birth disrupts normal cardiopulmonary development and results in detectable right ventricular and pulmonary vascular abnormalities in mid-childhood. This project will serve as a platform from which I will gain experience in study design, grant proposals, data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing. In order to acquire tools essential to performing patient-oriented, hypothesis-driven clinical and translational research in an ever-changing practice environment, I am also pursuing Vanderbilt's Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) program, a two-year program that I will complete during my fellowship. The MSCI offers a three-pronged approach to medical scientist training ideal for this point of my career: Fundamental courses (e.g., epidemiology, biostatistics, and clinical trial design), mentorship, and a mentored research project. The Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award will support my professional trajectory as a physician-scientist, and will help to cultivate a productive, independently funded research career.

**Agnes S Chao MD***Therapeutic Potential of Oxysterols in Neonatal White Matter Injury*

Duke University Medical Center

Mentor: Eric Benner MD, PhD

Through research during medical school, residency, and now fellowship, I have developed an interest in basic science and translational research designed to improve the neurodevelopmental outcomes of high-risk neonates. Neonatal sepsis and chronic hypoxia



are common complications of preterm birth, placing newborns at an increased risk for poor neurodevelopmental outcomes such as cerebral palsy, profound cognitive delay, and/or neurosensory impairment. Novel drug development in neonates is challenging due to appropriate concern for safety, thus our lab decided to look into compounds present in human maternal breast milk, such as oxysterols. In our in vitro experiments, we found that oxysterols are able to direct neural stem cells into the oligodendrocyte lineage. In our in vivo experiments we were able to show that oxysterols can rescue neonatal white matter injury both clinically and via stereological methods. In addition to expanding efficacy testing into a human genetic background using human brain organoids through the support of the Marshall Klaus Neonatal-Perinatal Research Award, I am also expanding efficacy testing of oxysterol-induced oligodendrogenesis into a model of neonatal hypoxia. Completion of these experiments will lead to a better understanding of the complex mechanisms of oxysterol-mediated repair in neonatal white matter injury and bring us closer to a novel and safe therapeutic strategy to prevent associated neurological deficits. I plan to continue my research under the mentorship of Dr. Eric Benner and under the support of our Duke Pediatric Departmental T32, with the goal of becoming an independent physician-scientist.

**Lauren C Frazer MD, PhD***Role for Specialized Pro-Resolving Mediators in Recovery from Neonatal Lung Injury*

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Mentor: Bruce Levy MD

My primary career goal is to become an independent investigator who conducts clinically relevant research focused on neonatal immunology and who is a leader in the field of newborn medicine. I completed a PhD in immunology as a part of the Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Pittsburgh. I hope to apply my basic science training towards answering clinically relevant questions and to ultimately improve outcomes for neonates. My current research focus is on exploring the mechanisms utilized by a class of bioactive lipids known as Specialized Pro-Resolving Mediators (SPMs) in enhancing resolution of inflammation and recovery from tissue injury. SPMs are derived from essential fatty acids via a series of enzyme-mediated steps. Exploration of these pathways in neonates and characterization of how they function in the hyperoxia model of Bronchopulmonary





Dysplasia (BPD) represents a step towards a potential new therapy for BPD where novel therapies with reduced side effects are urgently needed. I will complete this project with the mentorship of Dr. Bruce Levy at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Dr. Cami Martin at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. The Marshall Klaus Perinatal Research Award will provide invaluable support towards accomplishing the goals of this project

#### Lila Nolan MD



*The Immunoregulatory Role of CD11c+ Immune Cells in Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Signaling during Necrotizing Enterocolitis*

Washington University in St. Louis

Mentor: Misty Good MD, MS

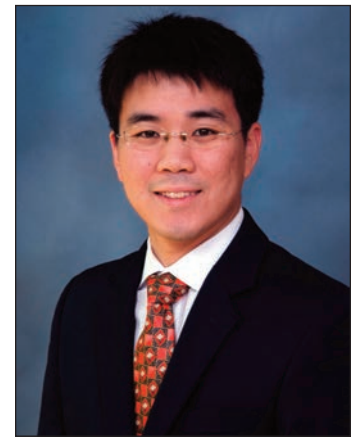
I am currently a fellow in the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Program at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. My research

interests involve the study of the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), which remains a leading cause of high morbidity and mortality in premature neonates. I joined the laboratory of Dr. Misty Good upon starting fellowship and currently study the mechanisms by which dietary aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) ligands mediate protection against intestinal inflammation using a murine model of NEC. This investigation will introduce a novel therapeutic for infants with NEC and will advance the current understanding of NEC pathogenesis. An abstract describing these findings was accepted for a platform presentation at the 2020 Pediatric Academic Society's Annual Meeting and was recognized with the SPR Basic Research Award for Fellows. I am currently supported by Dr. Gary Silverman's T32 training grant for pediatric physician-scientists at the Washington University School of Medicine. I have most recently published a manuscript in *Shock* entitled, "Exploring Clinically Relevant Experimental Models of Neonatal Shock and Necrotizing Enterocolitis" and in *Nutrients* entitled, "Immunomodulating Features of Maternal Breast Milk and Protection against Necrotizing Enterocolitis." In the long term, I aspire to a career as a neonatologist-scientist to contribute to the discovery of preventative and therapeutic factors in NEC in order to protect our most vulnerable population.

#### Timothy A Wang MD

*Role of IL-22 in Alveolar Repair and Regeneration in the Newborn Lung*

Cincinnati Children's  
Hospital Medical Center  
Mentor: Hitesh Deshmukh  
MD, PhD



I am a 2nd year neonatology fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. My career in research encompassed both basic science and clinical research spanning various fields. However, during my clinical pediatric training, I was drawn to the care of premature infants and began to ask a fundamental question as to why premature infants are more susceptible to infections. Previously, it had been hypothesized that the neonatal immune system was "immature," but more recent evidence has found that the neonatal immune system is rather in a unique state of development during which commensal bacteria may play a significant role. After matching into neonatology fellowship at Cincinnati, my passion to understand the basis of neonatal susceptibility and interest in the development of neonatal immunity led me to join Dr. Hitesh Deshmukh's laboratory, which has long term interest in understanding the role of commensal bacteria on the development of lung mucosal immunity. Our lab has recently shown that dysbiosis in our murine models leads to increased susceptibility to respiratory infections and that this could be reversed with interleukin (IL)-22 treatment. Along with my previous research experiences, I am now using an *ex vivo* model with lung organoids to help define the mechanistic pathway of IL-22 and identify potential therapeutic interventions with the goal of promoting lung healing for neonates. Along with Dr. Deshmukh, I am excited to be joined by Drs. Jeffrey Whitsett and Alan Jobe as mentors in my research and development from a neonatology fellow to an independent physician-scientist.

#### Newborn Medicine Education Awardee

##### Catherine G Caruso DO

*Assessing Neonatal Delivery Room Management Using an Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) Assessment Tool*

Oregon Health and Science University  
Mentor: Patty Carney PhD





I am currently a 2nd year neonatal-perinatal medicine fellow at Oregon Health and Science University, where I also completed my pediatric residency and Chief Resident year. My research interests focus on improving outcomes for neonates through clinical research, medical education (evaluation and procedural competency), and QI work. I plan to pursue my passion for medical education via a career in academic medicine encompassing teaching, leadership, and research. As such, I am currently working towards a Master of Medical Education degree through the University of Cincinnati. Neonatal resuscitation is a critical and required skill for pediatrics residents as many will go on to take positions that require delivery attendance. Unfortunately, pediatric residents cite lack of opportunities for hands-on experience and presence of other providers as some of the barriers to achieving confidence and competence in delivery management. Furthermore, residency programs do not have a standardized method of assessing and monitoring progression towards competence. This project applies an Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) framework to delivery room management and aims to design, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of an assessment tool in tracking pediatric resident progression towards entrustment. It is my hope that this project will increase resident participation and leadership in delivery room management, allow for assessment and tracking of competence, speed acquisition of skills, and foster independent neonatal resuscitation management.

This project integrates and builds upon my interests in education and neonatal resuscitation and allows me to develop critical research skills that will serve me in my career. I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of the Marshall Klaus Award and am grateful for the support of this award and community.

## Health Services Research Awardees

### Yarden S Fraiman MD, MPH

*The Impact of Race and Ethnicity on High-Risk Infant Follow-up Participation in a National Sample*

Boston Children's Hospital  
Mentor: Jonathan S Litt MD, MPH

My career goal is to become a physician-researcher in the field of health services research focused on racial and ethnic disparities in neonatal care. I am particularly interested in identifying system-level, modifiable factors, that contribute to, sustain, and perpetuate disparities in the field of



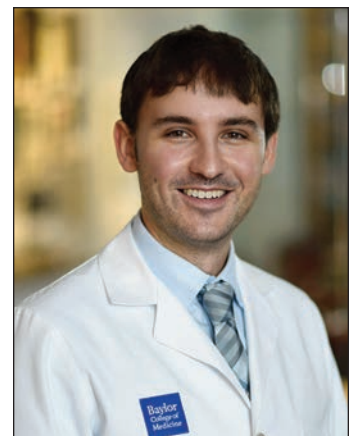
neonatology. While completing my residency training in the Boston Combined Residency Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, the largest safety-net hospital in New England, I witnessed firsthand the impact of community, family, socioeconomic and social factors, perhaps to a larger extent than biology, on neonatal care, health, and outcomes. There, I also learned how innovative, evidence-based, targeted interventions can make a difference in improving care and reducing disparities. I am currently a fellow in the Harvard Perinatal-Neonatal Fellowship Training Program, as well as the Harvard-Wide Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship. Coupled with my additional training at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health where I am pursuing a Master's in Public Health, I hope to develop and utilize advanced research methods, grounded in eco social epidemiological theory, to identify community- and population-level modifiable social factors as unique targets for interventions to eliminate disparities and increase equity. My current project, under the mentorship of Dr. Jonathan Litt, will explore racial and ethnic disparities in infant follow-up program participation, a critical component of neonatal care. Our project will specifically seek to identify individual- and hospital-level factors that contribute to successful infant follow-up program participation. With the support of the Marshall Klaus Award, this project will be the first step in a career that seeks to identify modifiable social factors, amenable to community and population-based interventions, to close the racial- and ethnic-based gaps that continue to persist in neonatal care.

### Brian C King MD

*Using Wisely - Echocardiography in Preterm Infants*

Baylor College of Medicine  
Mentor: Jonathan Slaughter MD, MPH

My long-term research goal is to improve the value of neonatal patient care by incorporating utilization patterns, costs, and effectiveness data to determine the clinical utility of specific interventions and diagnostic tests and identify opportunities to reduce waste.



# Hot Topics in Neonatology

**Virtual**

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## **SAVE THE DATE!**

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  - TECaN, MidCan, WECaN and WiN meetings!
  - Welcome reception
  - Time for recreation
-



## Update on the SoNPM Clinical Leaders Community

### Jessica Davidson MD, FAAP

The SoNPM Clinical Leaders Community is off to a great start! We held a kickoff webinar on May 27th to formally bring our community together, get to know each other, and start to outline a plan for moving forward. To recap, this group was formed in recognition of the increasingly important roles served by NICU medical directors and quality improvement directors. As our specialty evolves and special interest groups continue to form, there is a great opportunity for medical directors and quality directors to share and reflect on role-specific responsibilities.

Our kickoff webinar was attended by nearly 100 leaders from across the country. Attendees represented both academic and private institutions and ranged in experience levels from newly-appointed to well-established. The energy was wonderful and several participants have come forward to volunteer additional time or resources for the benefit of our whole community. We welcome more volunteers!

Our next steps start with a survey to assess interest in various topics pertinent to our community. We anticipate being able to choose three discrete topics that will inform three webinars over the next 9-12 months. We also plan to create a virtual home for our group where we can house webinar recordings and other resources that we will gather and create. Finally, we look forward to meeting and mingling in person at the Workshop on Perinatal Practice Strategies in Scottsdale, AZ next spring!

Please contact any member of our Planning Committee if you wish to join our listserv. Though we have a clear mission of supporting NICU clinical leaders, medical directors, and quality improvement directors, we welcome anyone with an interest to join our community.

#### Clinical Leaders Community Planning Committee:

Munish Gupta (mgupta@bidmc.harvard.edu)

Jim Barry (james.barry@cuanschutz.edu)

Jessica Davidson (jessica.davidson@hsc.utah.edu)

Jeff Meyers (Jeff\_Meyers@URMC.Rochester.edu)

## Spring Workshop in Scottsdale, AZ March 19-21, 2021

### Krithika Lingappan MD, MS, PhD, FAAP

The 2020 Perinatal Practice Strategies Workshop was canceled because of the travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After much thought and consideration, the Planning Committee had to make the difficult decision of canceling the conference and refunding the registration fees. We are looking forward to the 2021

Workshop, which will be held at the beautiful Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, AZ on March 19-21, 2021. The 2020 workshop was going to feature an exciting collection of speakers, interactive breakout sessions and thought-provoking talks and workshops. For the 2021 meeting, we aim to present most of the talks, topics and speakers that were finalized for the 2020 Workshop. As always, the goal is to empower leadership, provide a forum for networking, guide change, encourage quality and promote advocacy among care providers in neonatology.

This meeting provides the attendees with the opportunity for closer interaction with AAP leaders and speakers in an ideal setting. The topics are carefully selected to cater to a wide range of neonatology providers and all stages of neonatologists from trainees and early career to more senior neonatologists.

As a bonus, we will have two Butterfield lectures delivered in 2021, including our past Apgar awardee, Dr. Barbara Schmidt, and the awardee for the year 2021. I would like to thank all the Planning Committee members and the AAP staff who have worked hard during these difficult times to keep the educational offerings afloat and to re-organize the 2021 meeting. This meeting is truly unique and offers topics imperative to the practicing neonatologist. We hope to see many of you at Scottsdale in 2021!

## Etiquette in the NICU during COVID-19: The Handshake

### Gilbert I. Martin M.D.

As I was growing up, I clearly remember my father emphasizing the importance of a firm handshake (with three up and down pumps) and looking directly into the eyes of the individual to create sensitivity and bonding. I have tried to ingrain the same ideals into my children and now grandchildren...with variable success.

Consider the following. Before COVID-19, when making rounds in the NICU, we would go from bed to bed speaking with the nurse, examining the baby and then talking with the parents. Most often, if this was the first encounter, I would introduce myself, stating my name and explain that I was the attending neonatologist caring for the baby. Invariably, at the same time I would extend my right hand and shake hands with both parents if present. I would smile at the same time trying to form a bond with some affection added to this scenario.

In today's world, with COVID-19 pervading our lives, these obvious gestures have been altered. What makes matters worse is that we are now required to wear masks, which add an additional barrier. A smile often softened news of any sort, while a grim expression portrayed some serious concern. Now we are learning to "read eyes" as part of this introductory or continued process.

Handshaking, also known as “dexiosis,” is an old custom. According to historians, the handshake was seen in early caveman art (1). In the 4th century, a funerary stele depicted Thrasesas and Euandria handshaking (2). A Greek sculpture in the 5th century depicted Hera and Athena shaking hands. Later, in the 9th century we are presented with a stone image depicting King Shalmaneser III of Assyria and King Marduk-Zakir-Shumi I of Babylonia shaking hands (3). The gesture promoted trust. The Romans included handshakes on their coins to symbolize agreement and compromise. Later on, gravestones in Greece presented the image of the deceased individual and a living person suggesting “both a final farewell and continuity between the living and the dead” (4). In these early days, the open-hand shake was protective as the initiating individual would not be able to have a small dagger in his/her hand (1). The shaking up and down would dislodge a weapon carried in the clothing.

Like the fairy tale of the three bears, you do not want to offer a handshake that is too firm (trying to promote dominance or demonstrate how strong you are) or too weak (indicating a submissive quality or insecurity). It needs to be (ideally) just right. With women, a prudent

suggestion is to match your grip with the original pressure of hers (4). The length of time for the handshake is also important. Longer handshakes with stronger grips can transmit larger amounts of pathogens (5).

In the Elizabethan era, in several of his plays, William Shakespeare used handshaking as part of the narrative. Both *The Tempest* and *Midsummer Night's Dream* have prose depicting hand shaking as part of the dialogue.

Many areas throughout the world have their own allowances and restrictions regarding this encounter. Countries whose primary religion is Islam do not encourage this practice (1). Others realize that if the handshake is employed as a greeting, parting, expressing gratitude or culminating a business agreement, it becomes an integral part of daily life. Specifics should be elaborated here. In Russia, handshakes are rarely initiated by women. In India, a Namaste gesture is performed. In some counties, bowing is preferred. In others, a ceremonial kiss on the cheek is a common method of greeting. It is interesting that the Boy Scouts of America initially used the left hand to shake hands as the founder of the organization, Lord Baden-Powell, who was a British cavalry officer, was introduced to this practice when in Africa (1).

In the United States, historians have noted that the average US President shakes hands with “sixty-five thousand people per year” (3). It has been recorded that “President Theodore Roosevelt shook more than 8000 hands in one afternoon” (4). His record was broken in 1977 by New Jersey Mayor, Joseph Lazarow, who shook more than 11,000 hands in a single day. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, in 2011, the record was

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33 hours and 3 minutes. However, to recognize the popularity of handshaking around the world, in January 2020 there was a handshaking relay which included more than 1800 participants (1). A book authored by Pamela Holland and Marjorie Brody entitled *Help! Was That a Career Limiting Move?* explains well the proper technique, making full contact “web-to-web” (6).

Scientists tell us that, on average, we carry thousands of bacteria and viruses on our hands and transmission is very common. Has an outstretched hand become a “bioweapon”? The World Health Organization has produced a strategy entitled, “Five Moments for Hand Hygiene” which details a user-friendly design to promote hand hygiene in health care (7). Other researchers believe that the handshake will be eliminated in the future (8).

So, that said, what can we do, knowing that we need to continue rapport with the parents of our neonates on many levels? Several years ago, UCLA developed a handshake-free zone to limit the spread of pathogens. This practice was short-lived and disappeared six months later (3).

There are alternatives. These include greetings that are becoming increasingly popular. The names of these greetings are: The fist-bump; elbow-bump; Roman salute; foot tapping (also known as the “Wuhan shake”); the high-five; the Namaste gesture; a bow of the head; an air shake; a salute; a hand hug, where the remaining free hand covers the clenched hand like a cocoon; hand over the heart; the shaka sign, which is part of the hang loose or surfer’s culture; and jazz hands, where the hands are open with palms facing out and finger’s splayed, directly looking at the other individual (3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12). My early favorite was the fist bump. The fist bump is derived from “dap” meaning dignity and pride, which symbolizes solidarity. The fist bump became popular in 2008 when Barack and Michelle Obama gave each other a fist bump after a campaign rally (13). Other names for this fist bump are a Bro Fist, Power 5, Pound it Bro (PIB), Knucks, or Pibbys (13). I do not think a fist bump conveys the feelings, warmth, and compassion necessary for the physician-parent relationship.

We should do away with ceremonial kissing on each cheek, although this has always been an important part of European culture. Kissing an outstretched hand and bowing will probably disappear in the future as well.

So, what should we do now? Since we understand the science concerning transmission of bacteria and viruses, washing hands correctly would seem to be the obvious place to start. Washing hands for twenty seconds should remove virus-containing droplets, which when touching the face, can transmit disease. Twenty seconds seems like a long time to actively scrub one’s hands. Singing, “Happy Birthday to You” twice is the proper amount of time needed for continued scrubbing. Hand sanitizers do seem

a reasonable addition, although I am concerned that resistant bacteria may emerge from continued hand sanitizer practice. It certainly will be difficult to reverse centuries of cultural and accepted practice.

My choice for proper etiquette in the NICU for meeting the family, in this time of COVID-19, is to employ jazz hands (12). With this approach, you are facing the parent, and can stare directly into the eyes of the receiver (even with a mask on). Warmth, empathy and caring can be transmitted while actively displaying one’s hands. I encourage parents to do the same in returning the gesture. The handshake does not have to disappear; it can evolve and be modified in today’s COVID-19 world.

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## Neonatology Telemedicine during Coronavirus Pandemic

### Edward Liechty MD, FAAP and the SoNPM Coding Education Committee

In response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has relaxed the rules on telemedicine visits, now allowing an expanded list of services to be reported as if physically present when conducted by telemedicine. Of interest to neonatologists, this expanded list includes both



inpatient and outpatient consult codes, as well as inpatient global critical care and intensive care codes.

These rules will be of most use to neonatologists in the conduct of prenatal counseling. Exactly how telemedicine can be used in the providing of critical or intensive care is less clear. However, there may be situations where a neonatologist provides direct supervision of an Advanced Practice Provider (APP) or physician not trained in critical care via telecommunication and is thereby able to report a critical care code as if physically present. Other models of virtual care may also be feasible while maintaining safety and effectiveness.

Keep in mind that telemedicine currently requires real time synchronous audio and visual connection to the patient. At the present time, audio connection (i.e. traditional telephone service) alone would not qualify as telemedicine. From the CMS publication: “For the duration of the public health emergency as defined in § 400.200 of this chapter, Interactive telecommunications system means multimedia communications equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment permitting two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and distant site physician or practitioner.” That said, CMS continues to consider the acceptability of audio only, as some patients may not have suitable devices to participate in audio-visual consultation. CMS has been adapting its guidance to the evolving emergency, so monitoring CMS publications becomes essential. Keep in mind that individual state Medicaid and private payers may vary in their approach to audio-only E/M when compared to CMS/Medicare.

Many hospital systems have in place a format for telemedicine, such as WebEx or a similar system. These are best suited for outpatient consults, as they often require setup and patient contact by hospital scheduling personnel. If such a system is available, it is best to use. However, if not available, Zoom, Skype or FaceTime are acceptable alternatives for the duration of the PHE.

We recommend clear documentation in the medical record of the mode of telemedicine used. A sample attestation might be as follows: “This prenatal consult was conducted by telemedicine, using the Skype platform. Real time audio-visual communication was used for the entirety of the consult, which lasted xx minutes, all of which was counseling.”

#### Important Caveats:

1. The PHE is defined to have begun on March 1, 2020, lasting until it is declared over. At that time the temporary rules will expire, and the previous telemedicine rules likely will resume.
2. CMS rules apply to Medicare, and individual state Medicaid programs or private payers may not apply the rules in the same manner.
3. Specific Place of Service codes and modifiers need to be added to the CPT code. In most cases, these are added by the billing office before the bill is submitted. Before applying these temporary telemedicine rules, be sure to notify your billing office, so that appropriate modifiers are added. Some payers require the telemedicine place of service (02) while others state to use the place of service where the face-to-face service would have taken place (e.g., 11 – office).
4. Your billing office should verify with each individual payer that the payer is applying the rules as set forward by CMS.
5. If you have an internal auditing and compliance program, you should verify with them that your coding and documentation adhere to applicable rules.
6. Be alert for the ending of the PHE, when the temporary rules may expire. Once CMS declares the PHE has ended, CMS may modify this emergency guidance, so clinicians will want to re-assess CMS position once that occurs.

This guidance is from the SoNPM Coding Education Committee and represents the opinions of its members. It is not an official statement of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

For a list of all telemedicine services see [https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/coding\\_factsheet\\_telemedicine.pdf](https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/coding_factsheet_telemedicine.pdf)

For additional information on AAP resources related to COVID-19 please see <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>

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