



# UI HEALTH PEDIATRICS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021 CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER

## News Briefs

### The Asok K. Ray, MD, FRCS (Edin) and Purnima Ray Professorship in Pediatrics

The **Asok K. Ray, MD, FRCS (Edin) and Purnima Ray Professorship in Pediatrics** has been established to focus on research and care management of genetically determined diseases. Of particular interest will be the development of programs related to the genetics of congenital bone disease. The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) benefits from regional and statewide partnerships. This Professorship will enable the holder to further expand services and research across the state of Illinois, accelerating the Department's momentum in gaining research funding and speeding the development of child health research. The inaugural Asok K. Ray, MD, FRCS (Edin) and Purnima Ray Professor in Pediatrics will be announced next year. [Read the full announcement here.](#)



Dr. Asok K. Ray with his daughter Mallika Ray (far right), Mrs. Purnima Ray (inset)

### CMO Leadership Update

The Pediatrics faculty was well represented in the December 2020 edition of *CMO Leadership Update*. Dr. Aarti Raghavan and Dr. Sara Smith were listed as Delegates on the Medical Staff Executive Committee; the first ever entirely virtual MSEC annual meeting was held on 11.11.20.

Sixteen Pediatrics providers were among the 43 in the College of Medicine who met compliance thresholds and successfully attested for Medicaid PI through the MIPS (Merit-based Incentive Payment System) Quality Payment Program: Vyta Ben Barak, MD; Katie Gebhardt, APRN; Kiranmai Gorla, MD; Lewis Hsu, MD; Jordan Hupert, MD; Leslie Jabine, MD; Kristen Kenan, MD; Stacy Laurent, DO; Molly Martin, MD; Paul Miller, MD; Mary Lou Schmidt, MD; Jaye Schreier, MD; Jalene Shoener, MD; Heather Taff, MD; Daphne Vander Roest, MD; and Akira Yoshii, MD.

In connection with the UI Health Top Box Doc Year-end Review, congratulations were extended to Pediatrics physicians who maintained 90 percent or above in 3 CGCAPHS (Clinical and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) categories (rate the provider, recommend the physician, physician communication quality) throughout the year: Dr. Kruti Acharya, Dr. Pranshu Adavadar, Dr.

Roxana Aguirre, Dr. Saba Ahmad, Dr. Rachel Caskey, Dr. Andrew Griffin, Dr. Alexander Javois, Dr. Shannon Murphy, Dr. Amanda Osta, Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, and Dr. Sindhuja Harsha Vardhan.

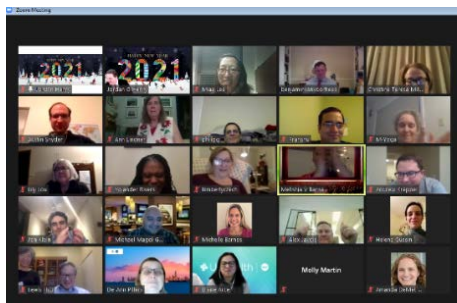
### Door Decorating Wreath Contest

Throughout the week of December 21, Child & Youth Center doors were decked with boughs of holly and more. In descending order, the winners of the Door Decorating Wreath Contest were: Customer Services Representatives; Medical Assistants; Endocrinology; Pulmonary, Allergy & Sleep Medicine; and Nurses.



### New Year Party

Although an in-person gathering was deferred, the Department of Pediatrics had a blast at a New Year Party via Zoom on 1.14.21. Leadership shared thanks for extraordinary efforts in 2020 and hopes for a brighter future in 2021 as we continue to work together toward a world in which all children, families, and communities achieve their full potential. Thanks to all who attended, and especially to those who contributed to the games and contests that kept things lively with co-hosts Melishia Bansa, Jordan Henry, and Miae Lee. To view one of the videos, please visit: <https://youtu.be/MUepUeoEH0E>



### Spreading Holiday Cheer

We couldn't begin to express our appreciation to every individual, family, and organization that brightened the lives of our patients during the holidays. You know who you are, and we are grateful! But we want to take this opportunity to say thanks to some noteworthy examples, including: Team Nicholas, Flamini Foundation, TechNexus, Project Linus, Ryan's Case for Smiles, Old St. Patrick's Church, St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Friends of UIC Pediatrics, Ready To Live Foundation, HOPE Ornaments, Kin + Carta, UI Health, Transplant Department, Revenue Integrity Department, Mosquito Squad Chicago, and College of Pharmacy. If you'd like to keep the momentum building by making a monetary donation, please visit: <https://hospital.uillinois.edu/about-ui-health/giving>



THANK YOU to our DONORS!!!



You made this holiday season extra special for all of our kids and families!



## 2020 PEDIATRIC RESIDENT AWARDS



### ★ Faculty Teaching Honor Roll

- Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt
- Dr. Amanda Osla
- Dr. Geisel Collazo
- Dr. Leah Finkel
- Dr. Paul Severin (from Stroger)
- Dr. Daphne Vander Roest
- Dr. Sarah Messmer
- Dr. Jalene Shoener
- Dr. Karen Hayani
- Dr. Claudia Boucher Berry
- Dr. Jayc Schreier
- Dr. Sonia Krishnan
- Dr. Jordan Hupert
- Dr. Andrew Kreppel
- Dr. Sean Miumoz
- Dr. Shannon Murphy
- Dr. Stacy Laurent
- Dr. Arthur Frank
- Dr. Nishant Srinivasan
- Dr. Pavan Srivastava
- Dr. Michelle Barnes
- Dr. Saba Ahmad
- Dr. Harsha Vardhan
- Dr. Kristen Kenan
- Dr. Phornphat "Paul" Rasamimari
- Dr. Felicia Scott-Wellington
- Dr. Peter Varga
- Dr. Amber Hathecock
- Dr. Rena Linderer (Fellow Teacher of the year)

### Pediatric Resident Awards

Although the Zoom resident graduation ceremony at UIC's Department of Pediatrics was held last spring, there's nothing like a new year to again embrace the spirit of celebration. Winners included: Intern of the Year, Dr. Elham BinKhamis; Senior of the Year, Dr. Paige Reilly; Fellow of the Year, Dr. Rena Linderer; Outstanding Faculty Mentor of the Year, Dr. Stacy Laurent; and Outstanding Faculty Teacher of the Year, Dr. Daphne Vander Roest. We also congratulate those on the Faculty Teaching Honor Roll (please see list on left).



COVID-19 Vaccination Progress

**Dr. Felicia Scott-Wellington** was among healthcare personnel who participated in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. UIC and UI Health joined in the effort to make the process as quick and safe as possible to help control community spread. A renewed commitment was also stated to keep on wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining social distance.



During this time, we are still here for you!

In addition to our regular pediatric clinic hours, we also have an emergency department that is available 24/7. Introducing our pediatric emergency specialists:



Dr. Amber Hathcock



Dr. Leah Finkel



Site Visits in 2020

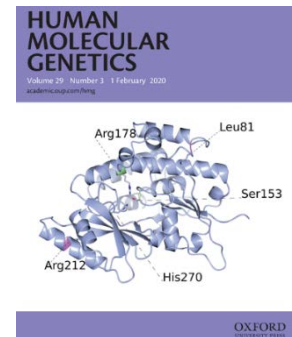
Many thanks to all who participated in the four IDPH site visits that were – very successfully – completed in 2020. Most recently they include the PCCC-EDAP site visit, as well as other site visits regarding the Level III NICU and the Administrative Perinatal Center.

**Among Recent Publications**



**Alice Zalan, MS, CGC**, Pediatric Genetics Counselor, published an article in the October 18, 2020, edition of the *Journal of Genetic Counseling* titled: “Parental Attitudes Regarding the Need for Genetic Services in a Pediatric Brain Tumor Survivorship Program.” Results were obtained that provide insight regarding the need for genetic services that have not traditionally been offered to this population as part of routine care. Please visit: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/jgc4.1339>

**Dr. Philip Giampietro**, Chief of Pediatric Genetics, is a co-author of a manuscript recently accepted by *Human Molecular Genetics* titled: “Heterozygous Loss of WBP11 Function Causes Multiple Congenital Defects in Humans and Mice.” WBP11 gene was found to play a role in embryonic development from axial skeletal, kidney, to esophageal growth. Its loss of function should be considered as a possible cause of VACTERL associations, as well as isolated Klippel-Feil syndrome, renal agenesis, and/or esophageal atresia. Please visit: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33276377/>



**Dr. Jordan Hupert**, Chief of General Pediatrics, is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pediatrics* and wrote the EBM Pearl column in the “Current Best Evidence” section of the January 2021 edition that highlighted and clarified basic statistical concepts and tools used in survey research. A commentary was also included by **Dr. Andrea Pappalardo** and **Dr. Ozge Aktas** titled: “Provider Behavior and AAP Complementary-Food-Introduction Recommendations at Variance.” Please visit: <http://jpediatrics.com/content/societyCollectionCBE>

## Among Recent Grants To Support Research and Projects



*Title:* Assistance for Patients Traveling to the UI Health Neurofibromatosis Clinic

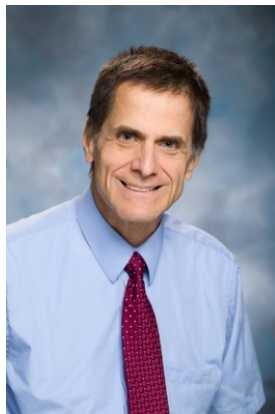
*Study Dates:* 1/1/21 – 12/31/21

*Amount:* \$2000

*Funder:* Neurofibromatosis Midwest

*PI:* Dr. Nikolas Mata-Machado

*Summary:* This award aims to facilitate travel of patients who come to the UI Health Neurofibromatosis Clinic, which will allow them to get the care they need even when some expenses for travel/food are involved. This will directly impact those patients who rely on UI Health for their care.



*Title:* Functional Analysis of Whole Exome Sequence Variants Identified in Patients with Vertebral Malformations

*Study Dates:* 12/1/20 – 4/30/22

*Amount:* \$250,290

*Funder:* NIH

*PI:* Dr. Philip Giampietro

*Summary:* This project investigates genetic determinants for vertebral malformations (VMs) in collaboration with the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) and the Hospital for Special Surgery (New York). Causal variants for VMs and congenital scoliosis (CS) identified through whole exome sequence analysis will be followed by validation using zebrafish models, helping to understand genetic prognostic factors.



*Title:* Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returning Families of Foreign Terrorist Fighters to Kazakhstan

*Study Dates:* 9/30/20 – 9/30/22

*Amount:* \$260,813

*Funder:* U.S. Department of State

*PI:* Stevan Weine, MD (Department of Psychiatry). Dr. Shah's role: Program Faculty

*Summary:* This project proposes a capacity building program for the Republic of Kazakhstan. To date, Kazakhstan has repatriated 611 citizens from the Islamic State including 447 children, and organized a rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) program which includes 16 regional, community-based centers. The proposed work will further build national and local government and civil society capacity for sustained implementation of community-based R&R of returning families of foreign terrorist fighters.

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Please continue to send news items to Ann Lindner at [lindnera@uic.edu](mailto:lindnera@uic.edu)

