To ensure children and families have access to healing, service, and innovation throughout their lifespan; and to provide training, education, and opportunities.

We are dedicated to creating a world in which all children, families, and communities achieve their full potential.
Dear Supporters & Friends,

It has been my pleasure for several years now to share with you our University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Department of Pediatrics & Children’s Hospital University of Illinois Annual Report. However, the 2020 Annual Report provides updates that bring me particular pride and appreciation.

Truly the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic were many and profound, especially for our patients who are often from some of the most affected neighborhoods in Chicago. With our clinical systems already in place, we were uniquely positioned to continue to improve the care of children and their families who were directly and indirectly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We maintained a safe and welcoming environment for in-person visits to make sure immunizations were kept on schedule, even as we effectively used telemedicine visits when appropriate.

Our researchers were well-poised to shift the focus of their studies or design new protocols with potential findings that promise to significantly advance knowledge in the field of pediatrics. A number of our experts were invited by local and national media to share evidence-based advice for families with children, and several prestigious awards were received. We were particularly proud of our learners who often used social media and other virtual venues to present results of their scholarly accomplishments, even as they continued to pursue clinical excellence. Community outreach was more important than ever in 2020, with new and existing population health programs serving patients including those with medical complexity.

The expertise and compassion of colleagues throughout the UI Health enterprise were upheld and enhanced through daily huddles during the height of the pandemic. Building on this collegial foundation, I have been honored to chair a Pediatric Clinical and Child Health Council that continues to coordinate interdisciplinary endeavors. Some of the activities and goals of our Diversity and Inclusion Task Force are described in more detail on pages that follow, and I also wanted to mention our new Wellness Committee has provided much-needed insights and connections. This was also a milestone year in terms of our philanthropic efforts, with donors providing unprecedented financial support and advocacy. Even as I urge you to learn more about our programs and projects, I invite you to join us as we move into our “new normal.” We look forward to your input and welcome your continued support.
Dr. Rachel Caskey received the Chancellor’s COVID-19 Response Award.

Dr. Michelle Barnes discusses the importance of pediatric visits during the pandemic on channel 7 news.

Dr. Kristen Kenan was on channel 9 WGN to discuss adolescent mental health during COVID-19.

High Impact Access

20,000 outreach phone calls
Expanded clinic hours

JULY EVENING CLINIC HOURS TIL 8PM
TUES and THURS
Monday and Wednesday: 8AM – 5PM
Tuesday and Thursday: 8AM – 8PM
Friday: 8AM – 2PM
Saturday: 8AM – 12PM

High Impact Giving

136% increase in philanthropic support
5th Endowed Professorship established

High Impact Research

140% increase in clinical trials
44 new research awards
$9M+ in new research funding

High Impact Recognition

IDPH EDAP and PCCC certified and designated as APC and NICU Level III in the state of Illinois

High Impact Media Engagements

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our pediatricians were continually engaged in sharing the latest evidence based safety advice.

Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees was awarded a new NIH award to develop and evaluate a novel primary care based-technology in adolescent mental health.

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At Our Core: Excellence in Education, Research and Patient Care, and Commitment to Community

- Training the next generation of pediatric healthcare leaders
- Contributing to pediatric research as a leading institution in Chicago and beyond
- Prioritizing children and families in our surrounding neighborhoods
- Providing care to more than 50,000 children and adolescents system-wide
Meet Our Residents

**Peds PGY-1**
- Areeg Hussein, DO
- Colleen Haller, DO
- Grace Hagen, DO
- Han-Wei Wu, MD, MBA, MPH
- Henna Park, DO
- Jason LaFave, MD
- Jennica Bouquet, MD
- Joshua Saucedo, MD
- Marie Chen, DO
- Nasiha Rahim, DO
- Raven Adams, DO
- Shahnoor Hussain, DO
- Zahra Al Khuridah, MD

**Peds PGY-2**
- Amy Schlegel, DO
- Brooke Becton, MD
- Caryn Pyle, DO
- Denita Linsey, MD
- Daphne Porat, MD
- Danielle Peterson, DO
- Elham BinKhamis, MD
- Henry Nguyen, DO
- Idia Ifianayi, MD
- Jennifer Cull, MD
- Leela Chandrasekar, MD
- Nicole Salach, DO
- Yaa Owusu-Banahene, DO

**Peds PGY-3**
- Alice Han, MD
- Astrid Leon Silva, MD
- Alejandro Pasaret, MD
- Camila Ospina Jimenez, MD
- Christina Serret, MD
- Dayana Dominguez Batista, MD
- Isabella Marranzini Rodriguez, MD
- Nicole Kafati, MD
- “Ozge” Nur Aktas, MD
- Patricia Jimenez Guzman, MD
- Uche Nwaogazie, MD

**Med-Peds PGY-1**
- Joe Horowitz, MD
- Jerry Luo, MD
- Madelyn Pérez, MD
- Anita Shanker, MD

**Med-Peds PGY-2**
- Jeffrey Cohen, MD
- Adriana Giuliani, MD
- Jessica Hsueh, MD
- Aisha Uraizee, MD

**Med-Peds PGY-3**
- Paul Cooper, MD
- Meghan Hudak, MD
- Charles Swanson, MD

**Med-Peds PGY-4**
- John “Jack” Flores, MD *
- Zoe Haemer, MD
- David Hodge, MD
- Ashley Zilberstein, MD *

**Chiefs**
- Ana Mauro, MD, MPH
- Jasmine Moreno, MD
Fellowship Program Highlights

Fellows Enhance Building Blocks of Careers

We proudly offer ACGME-accredited fellowships in Adolescent Medicine, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Pediatric Endocrinology, and Neonatology-Perinatology. In 2020, our chief fellows led the way to enhance the building blocks of careers through creating teaching curriculums that cover pediatric subspecialty-specific contents, as well as professional development with topics such as contract negotiations. Pediatric fellowship wellness activities ranged from in-person socials to online murder mystery parties. Shown below are some examples of awards that were received and presentations that were made.

Recognition Received through Awards

- Dr. Neal Sharma, a second-year fellow in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, received an AAP Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Advocacy Scholarship Award.
- Dr. Sri Lakshmi (Sindura) Jamalapur received the Fellow with Best Concept Sheet Award at the Hematology Fellows Consortium hosted by the HTRS (Hemostasis & Thrombosis Research Society).
- Dr. Meredithe McNamara was a Semi-Finalist in her application for a Fulbright Scholar Award (Uganda) from the U.S. State Department.

Scholarly Work Is Presented

- Dr. Rena Linderer presented a poster entitled “Finding Time to Teach in the NICU: Targeted Short Simulations Can Fill Gaps in Delivery Room Education for Pediatric Residents” at the APPD (Association of Pediatric Program Directors) meeting.
- Dr. Jamalapur presented her research at UIC’s Virtual Annual Regional Research Forum.
- Dr. Meredithe McNamara made several presentations at Busitema University in Mbale, Uganda; and presented “Cross-Sector Collaboration for Police-Free Schools” at the Illinois Adverse Childhood Experiences Collaborative in Chicago. Dr. McNamara also co-authored two peer-reviewed research articles: “Training Hospital Personnel in Trauma-Informed Care: Assessing an Interprofessional Workshop with Patients as Teachers” in Academic Pediatrics; and “Provision of Adolescent Health Care in Resource-Limited Settings: Perceptions, Practices and Training Needs of Ugandan Health Care Workers” in Children and Youth Services Review.
Summer Scholars Program

The Department of Pediatrics started the Summer Scholars Student Program in 2018 to enrich the experience of students conducting research in the Department. The program is sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics Research Committee, under the director of Molly Martin, MD. All students working in the Department are invited to participate, and all faculty in the Department had the opportunity to participate as mentors. In 2020 Zoom was used for didactic lectures, seminars, and student presentations; and students met with mentors remotely.

All who completed the evaluations in 2020 agreed that the program met or exceeded their expectations. One student wrote:

“I appreciated that the lecture series incorporated a diverse range of faculty that had unique research backgrounds. I was better able to understand the progression of translational studies to clinical practice.”
Research by the Numbers in FY 2020

The Department of Pediatrics received over $9 million in new research funding.

Pediatrics faculty were cited as authors on 203 publications (abstracts, articles & books/chapters).

Pediatrics faculty provided 101 academic and/or research presentations to external audiences.

#48 National Research Ranking
UI Health provided care to more than 45,000 unique children & adolescents in 2020.

- Inpatient and Emergency Care through Children’s Hospital University of Illinois, the Pediatric Emergency Room and the University of Illinois Hospital
- Outpatient Care through the Child & Youth Center, Family Medicine, Surgical Specialty & Psychiatric clinics
- Dental Care (pediatric check-ups and oral procedures) through the UIC College of Dentistry
- Neighborhood Primary & Urgent Care through the Mile Square Federally Qualified Health Centers network
- Genetic Screening, Testing & Care through our statewide genetics program
- Care Coordination for patients with medical complexity through the CHECK population health program
The overall goal of the Department of Pediatrics Quality Improvement and Safety initiative is to align our systems of care with all UI Health Hospital and Health Systems and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Triple Aim of patient experience, improving the health of populations, and reducing health care costs for more than 45,000 children in Chicago and across Illinois.

**Projects Align with Industry Standards**
- Early Recognition and Intervention of Pediatric Sepsis
- Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Risk Stratification and Prevention
- Hand Hygiene & Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infections
- The Breast milk At Discharge (BAD) Initiative
- Neonatal Delivery Response Team Initiative
- Babies Antibiotic Stewardship Improvement Collaborative (BASIC)
- Vermont Oxford Network iNICQ Families as Partners Initiative

**Accomplishments To Celebrate**
- Patient and Family Satisfaction: recent CAHPS and HCAHPS are at the 99%
- Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is in the top performing quartile in key performance (6/8 metrics, mortality, death or morbidity, and severe retinopathy of prematurity) and is performing similar to other comparable neonatal intensive care units in other areas.
- Strengthening of urgent airway management training has started as an inter-disciplinary effort.
- Multiple outreach and population health projects are being funded by partners, including Healthy Steps, PCORI mental health prevention trials, CHECK P4P, and DSCC care management.

Congratulations to all involved at the CYC for creating an outstanding patient experience based on the nationally implemented Clinician and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CG-CAHPS). The CYC received the “Star Award” for Q1 and Q2 based on achievement of the 25th percentile rank goal, and was also recognized with the “Rising Star Award” for Top Box Performance Improvement.
The Section of Adolescent Medicine seeks to guide individuals who are between the ages of 12 to 21 along a path of optimal health and wellness.

In addition to providing comprehensive primary care services, we are a safe and welcoming place to address:

- STI
- Contraception
- Substance abuse disorders
- Emotional and behavioral concerns
- Menstrual disorders
- Eating disorders and weight management

Numerous programs and projects focus on developing skills to make successful transitions into adulthood, including:

- We partner with UI Health’s Adolescent Gynecology Clinic, and we also provide services at the Paul Simon Chicago Job Corp.
- In 2020, Dr. Karen Bernstein was awarded a grant through Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) to investigate a multi-therapy approach to treating eating disorders. This feasibility trial is supporting adolescents through the use of family-based interventions and symptom reduction strategies.
- Dr. Felicia Scott-Wellington is a COVID-19 vaccine provider consultant with the Chicago Department of Public Health, evaluating efforts of clinics to distribute the vaccine and troubleshooting ways to increase vaccination rates.

Also, Dr. Jonathan D. Klein was named the 2021 Adele. D. Hoffman Visiting Professorship by the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine.
Our cardiology team specializes in treating all ages with birth defects of the heart, including the unborn fetus, newborn, child, and adult. Treatment modalities include medications, catheter procedures, and open-heart surgery. The expert cardiac care we provide includes:

**Fetal Program** (Dr. Naveen Imran, Director): By performing an echocardiogram on an unborn fetus, a birth defect of the heart can be diagnosed. It is important to identify such defects before birth because treatment may be required right after the baby is born, such as surgery.

**Adult Congenital Heart Program** (Dr. Peter Varga, Director): Internationally, persons with congenital heart disease are now never considered “cured” because issues that include scar tissue may create new problems such as abnormal heart rhythm. This program provides specialized care for adults with birth defects of the heart, even those who have had “curative” surgery.

**Electrophysiology Program** (Dr. Vithida Sueblinvong, Director): The focus of this program is the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal heart rhythms in the fetus, newborn, and child.

**Interventional Cardiac Catheterization Program** (Dr. Alexander Javois, Director): It may be possible to avoid open-heart surgery by using transcatheter treatment of congenital heart lesions, and even to replace the pulmonary valve. Typical lesions treated include aortic and pulmonary stenosis, atrial and ventricular septal defects, coarctation of the aorta, and patent ductus arteriosus.

**Cardiodiagnostic Programs:**

- Echocardiogram (ultrasound); exercise treadmill stress tests assess heart rate, blood pressure, and EKG response to exercise.
- Event recorders and Holter monitors document EKGs during symptoms and even during sleep.
- Cardiac CAT scans and MRIs create a precise three-dimensional reconstruction of birth defects of the heart to plan repairs.
### Meet the Team

#### Faculty

**Edmundo Cortez, MD, MHA**  
Chief, Division of Pediatric Critical Care  
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

**Jenny Wang, MD**  
Medical Director, PICU  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

**Meghan Harding, DO**  
Assistant Director, Pediatric Residency Program  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

#### Critical Care Nursing Leadership

**Lori Bakker, MSN-RN, CPN**  
Director, Patient Care Services

**Rosalind Cox, BSN, RN, CPN**  
Pediatric Child Life Specialist

**Dana Thornquist, MS, CCLS**  
Clinical Social Worker

**Roxanna Ocampo, LCSW**  
Care Coordination

**Amir Khan**  
Dietician

**Julie Hrejsa, MS, RD, CNSC**  
Pediatric Clinical Pharmacists

**Isabel Porto, PharmD**  
Lauren Oliveri, PharmD

**Tamika Lee**  
Section Coordinator

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**Our Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine cares for patients who are admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Step-Down Unit in the Children’s Hospital at the University of Illinois (CHUI). This is a busy medical/surgical unit with the capacity to provide state of the art care for a broad range of critical illnesses and/or complex diseases in infants, children, and adolescents including:**

- respiratory distress and failure,
- neurologic emergencies,
- diabetic ketoacidosis,
- kidney transplant and dialysis,
- metabolic disorders due to inborn errors of metabolism,
- and serious infections leading to sepsis
- post-operative management of complex craniofacial, oral maxillofacial, orthopedic, and general surgical patients.

Our pediatric critical care unit is staffed by highly skilled and compassionate nursing and board-certified/eligible pediatric critical care physicians who are dedicated to also working with patients and their families to facilitate care and healing.

In 2020, Dr. Edmundo Cortez (division chief) and Dr. Jenny Wang (PICU medical director) were joined by Dr. Meghan Harding (Assistant Director of pediatric residency program). They and other members of our critical care team are very actively involved in quality improvement and patient safety initiatives for the Department of Pediatrics and UI Hospital System. They are also very committed to important education and training components, including a core lecture series for rotating pediatric residents and medical students. They also proctor and facilitate monthly patient simulation curricula of the pediatric residency program. In addition to the pediatric critical care faculty, lectures are delivered by such specialists as nutritionists and respiratory therapists.
Section of Developmental Biology & Basic Research

Meet the Team

Faculty
Sekhar P. Reddy, PhD
Chief, Division of Developmental Biology and Basic Research
Professor of Pediatrics

J. Usha Raj, MD, MHA
Anjuli S. Nayak Professor of Pediatrics

Tianji Chen, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research

Jagadeesh Ramasamy, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research

Haranatha Potteti, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research

Chandra Mohan Tamatam, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research

Research Associates
Alyssa Guzman
Aparna Ankireddy

Our team of basic science and clinical researchers includes developmental biologists, lung specialists, and hematologists. Our cutting edge research is focused on investigating and providing new insights into the complex physiology and pathology of childhood and adult diseases. We are developing therapies and identifying biomarkers for devastating chronic childhood and adult lung diseases. The research team studying lung diseases is headed by Drs. Sekhar Reddy and Usha Raj, who have both been continuously funded by NIH for over 35 years. In 2020, Drs. Raj, Reddy, and Tianji Chen were funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to understand the molecular mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of hypoxia induced pulmonary hypertension and abnormal lung repair using gene targeted approach and preclinical models of inflammatory lung injury and pneumonia. Dr. Jagadeesh Ramasamy, a member of this team, is working on the impact of micronutrients on the clinical outcomes of sickle cell diseases and the mechanisms underlying this process. In preclinical studies, Dr. Reddy’s group used an experimental model of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) to demonstrate that preconditioning the immature lung with the activation of Nrf2 and its target cytoprotective gene expression protects the lung undergoing alveolar simplification, a major hallmark of BPD pathogenesis. The team of Drs. Raj and Chen, and Dr. Jeffrey Hubbell (University of Chicago), also collaborated on research aimed at studying the role of endothelium derived extracellular vesicles and microRNAs in the regulation of pulmonary hypertension, and this study was recently funded by Chicago Biomedical Consortium Catalyst Award. Dr. Reddy’s research team is collaborating with faculty at UIC (Drs. Jae-Won Shin and Dolly Mehta, Department of Pharmacology) and outside UIC (Dr. Hamid Rabb, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Johns Hopkins) to investigate the mechanisms underlying optimal and abnormal tissue repair after acute lung injury and acute kidney injury, respectively, using preclinical models and clinical samples.
The Division of Endocrinology at the Children’s Hospital of the University of Illinois is committed to the treatment of children and adolescents with endocrine disorders. The endocrine team includes board-certified pediatric endocrinologists, a pediatric nurse practitioner, certified diabetes educators, and a registered dietitian. The diabetes program at Children’s Hospital has been recognized by the American Diabetes Association for diabetes education.

Our areas of expertise include treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, metabolic syndrome, growth disorders, and disorders of calcium metabolism, thyroid, adrenal, and pituitary glands.

Our full-term faculty and staff participate in clinical care, teaching and research. The team provides inpatient care at the Children’s Hospitals NICU, PICU, and pediatric floors. As faculty members, our endocrinologists also provide education and instruction to medical students and residents. We are dedicated to improving the well-being, both medically and psychologically, of our patients and their families. In doing so, we make it our priority to get the family involved in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of the different pediatric endocrine diagnoses.
Meet the Team

Faculty
James Berman, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology; Clinical Assistant Professor
Esperanza Garcia-Alvarez, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Kiran Gorla, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
TS Gunasekaran, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Hector Hernandez MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Nurse Practitioner
Melba Williams, APRN

Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist
Leslie A. Briars, PharmD, FPPAG

Dietitian
Joanna Siciliano, RD, LDN

Section Coordinator
Xochitl Garcia-Klapproth

Our expert team of board-certified pediatric gastroenterologists provides a full range of diagnostic and treatment services for children with gastrointestinal (GI) and liver diseases. These conditions can be tough for children to deal with. We understand that, and we do our best to relieve their concerns and physical distress by providing effective and timely care.

We offer specialized care for children with:
- eosinophilic esophagitis
- celiac disease
- food allergies
- Crohn’s disease
- ulcerative colitis
- fatty liver
- autoimmune hepatitis

We offer diagnostic testing including endoscopy, colonoscopy, liver biopsy, manometry, and capsule endoscopy (camera pill), as well as other advanced procedures.

Children with feeding problems and/or developmental disabilities, who are among our most medically fragile patients, have the best outcomes with a team approach. Established in 2018, our G-Tube Clinic provides comprehensive care and support for children with (or who may need) a gastrostomy or nasogastric tube. In 2020, our team served 80 patients by offering appointments weekly or as needed. We also have telehealth capability.

Our faculty are active in pediatric GI research and have been invited speakers at regional and national conferences. Dr. James Berman and Dr. TS Gunasekaran have been listed among Chicago’s “Top Doctors” for eighteen years (and counting) by Castle Connolly, and Chicago Magazine.
Excellence in Education

2020 PEDIATRIC RESIDENT AWARDS

Facility Teaching Honor Roll

Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt
Dr. Amanda Osta
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. Jaye Schreier
Dr. Sonia Krishnan
Dr. Jordan Hupert
Dr. Andrew Kreppel
Dr. Sean Munoz
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 Hathcock
Dr. Rena Linderer (Fellow Teacher of the year)
Section of General Pediatrics

Meet the Team

Faculty

Jordan Hupert, MD
Chief, Division of General Pediatrics
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatric

Kelsie Avants, DO
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

Michelle Barnes, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics
Director, Pediatric Residency Program

Vyta Ben Barak, MD
Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics

Leslie Jabine, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

Kristen Kenan, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Alexandra King, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Andrew Kreppel, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Stacy Laurent, DO
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Associate Director, Pediatric Residency Program

Molly Martin, MD, MAPP
Associate Professor

Sarah Messmer, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

To uphold our high standard of excellence in meeting the needs of our patients, many unprecedented changes were implemented in the outpatient operations for the Child and Youth Center (CYC) during the pandemic.

To uphold our high standard of excellence in meeting the needs of our patients, many unprecedented changes were implemented in the outpatient operations for the Child and Youth Center (CYC) during the pandemic. When a child showed signs of illness, a physician-led triage model assisted our families with diagnostic testing and quarantine resources. Along with UIC family medicine practitioners, our general pediatricians provided the best possible care for sick children at the UI Health Pilsen COVID-19 Clinic.

This cohorting of sick patients allowed us to maintain a safe environment for well visits at our main clinic location. Our team focused on well newborns and children under two years of age, with older children accommodated on an as-needed basis to ensure vaccinations were kept up-to-date. Before each appointment, providers telephoned each family to explain our protocols and answer questions about how COVID-19 might affect the process of receiving healthcare.

General pediatrics and subspecialty teams used the telemedicine platform via both phone and video. Online patient portals assisted us in gathering screening information about patients while they remained safe at home. The CYC continued to provide essential procedures such as EEGs, EKGs, and Echocardiograms. We also expanded our infusion room services so that children with chronic diseases, such as cancer or immunodeficiencies, would not have to go to the hospital for their usual care. When we learned more about how COVID-19 was transmitted, we increased our services for more high risk procedures such as pulmonary function testing. Additionally, we assisted UI Health surgical and dental specialists by providing pre-procedure testing for COVID-19.

(Continued on next page)
Meet the Team

**Faculty**

Amanda Osta, MD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

Andrea Pappalardo, MD, FAAAAI  
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics

Jaye Schreier, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Jalene Shoener, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

Sara Boblick Smith, MD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics

Pavan Srivastava, MD  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics  
Director, Medicine-Pediatrics Residency Program

Daphne Vander Roest, MD  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Assistant Director, Pediatric Residency Program

Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD, MPH  
George R. Honig, MD, PhD, Endowed Professor in Pediatrics  
Professor of Medicine

**Nurse Practitioners**

Inger Anthony, CPNP, APN, DNP  
Katie Gebhardt, APN  
Renee Katsinis, APN

**Section Coordinator**

Jen Okonma, MBA, BSN, RN

In 2020 Dr. Leda Mugayar implemented the **Infant Oral Health Clinic (IOHC) at UI Health**. The IOHC:

- Provides infant oral health care for the zero to three population in a nurturing, nonjudgmental environment, informed by an interdisciplinary approach, an interprofessional team, and evidence based methods.
- Meets patient families where they are by including parents or caregivers in these crucial early oral health conversations.
- Incorporates assessment methods that look at the “big picture” of children’s lives, including biological, psychological, societal, and environmental factors and their impact on access to and engagement in care.
- Encourages behavior change to promote child’s oral health, while recognizing personal/family and cultural preferences, and patient family self-determination.
- Understands and acknowledges the inherent power imbalance between providers and patient families, especially with minority, immigrant, and undocumented families.

The main source of referral is the Department of Pediatrics, and our residents rotate at the IOHC to see patients and provide anticipatory guidance. Expedited dental evaluations are also arranged for high risk patients from Shriners Hospitals for Children – Chicago.

**Never Too Early To Spread the Love of Reading**

UI Health Section of General Pediatrics partnered with Dolly Parton Imagination Library to put brand new books into the homes of children in under-resourced communities. This includes enrolling newborns in the well-baby nursery and the NICU to receive a book every month until their 5th birthday.
To offer comprehensive and diversified services, our team includes professionals in the field of developmental-behavioral pediatrics, nursing, psychology, and pharmacy. We welcome children of all ages with such conditions as autism, ADHD, developmental or intellectual delays, learning disabilities, or other behavioral concerns. Our clinical, educational, and professional services include such programs as Preschool for Me. We have developed an intervention to enhance parent-child interactions that has demonstrated feasibility internationally, with child well-being being supported in India in addition to Chicago. Other global early childhood initiatives have been developed with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Kenya Paediatric Association. We are a LEND site, and supporters of our research include NIH Grants and a Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grant.

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) News featured Dr. Reshma Shah (at right in photo) in an article titled “Pediatrician Brings Early Child Development Experience to AAP Initiative in Kenya, Tanzania.”

Descriptions were included of how a program Dr. Shah developed and piloted in Chicago called Sit Down and Play provides support to mothers or other caregivers while they wait for well-child visits. Dr. Shah has shared the program with a team in India as well as being part of an AAP initiative to support pediatricians in Kenya and Tanzania as voices in their communities in support of the WHO Nurturing Care Framework for Early Childhood Development.
We provide state-of-the-art diagnostic and clinical evaluation services and treatment for children and adults who have birth defects and genetic disorders. Services also include genetic counseling, carrier testing, and prenatal diagnosis for prospective parents. We have an on-site comprehensive diagnostic biochemical and molecular genetics laboratory to provide fast and reliable diagnoses and treatments.

We treat inborn errors of metabolism including:
- amino and organic acid metabolism
- urea cycle abnormalities
- fatty acid oxidation disorders
- peroxisomal disorders
- lysosomal storage disorders

We are a diagnostic and consultation center for children with:
- birth defects
- intellectual disabilities
- connective tissue disorders
- neurogenetic disorders
- craniofacial disorders
- skeletal dysplasias
- ophthalmologic disorders
- disorders that affect skin and integument

In 2020, our multidisciplinary team was joined by Dr. Philip F. Giampietro as Section Chief. Dr. George Hoganson is Director of Newborn Screening and Biochemical Genetics. Dr. Giampietro is the Principal Investigator on an R03 NIH award entitled "Functional Analysis of Whole Exome Sequence Variants Identified in Patients with Vertebral Malformations." He is also UIC PI on a Shriners Hospital sub-award entitled “Registry for Arthrogryposis: Epidemiology, Etiology, Intervention, and Genomics.” Dr. Hoganson is PI on the Illinois Department of Public Health Newborn Screening and Metabolic Services Grant.

Another significant development was the establishment of the Asok K. Ray, MD, FRCS (Edin) and Purnima Ray Professorship in Pediatrics 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. 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.
Meet the Team

Faculty
Mary Lou Schmidt, MD
Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology; Professor of Pediatrics

Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD
Director of Pediatric Sickle Cell Center; Professor of Pediatrics

Cristiana Hentea, MD
Instructor

Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurse Practitioners
Breen, Kathleen, APRN
Cathleen Kiely, APRN

Sickle Cell Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Jocelyn Mallard, MSN, APRN
Anthony, Inger, CPNP, APRN, DNP

Clinical Social Workers
Zayda Stewart, MSW, LCSW, ACHP-SW, OSW-C
Shonda King, MSW, LSW

Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Clinic Team
Leslie Jabine, MD
Jessica Ittner, FNP-BC

Section Coordinator
Alana Burke, MS

Mary Lou Schmidt, MD
Section Chief

Facing the Challenges of Cancer and Blood Disorders

Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, Division Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, is involved in many research studies, and she is the Principal Investigator for a tri-institutional Children’s Oncology Group (COG) that includes John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County and Rush University Medical Center. UIC serves as the lead site for COG, which provides access to international pediatric cancer clinical trials and state-of-the-art cancer care. We are also engaged in research on the treatment and long-term consequences of retinoblastoma through an NIH-supported study: RIVERBOAT.

Dr. Hsu (pictured left) is director of the Pediatric Sickle Cell Center and maintains close ties to sickle cell community groups across the USA, United Kingdom, Brazil, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Australia. For example, he co-authored COVID-19 advisory statements for sickle cell patients and healthcare providers that have been translated into multiple languages.

Both Dr. Hsu and Dr. Schmidt were nominated for Departmental Faculty of the Year in 2020, and were included on the latest list of Castle Connolly Top Doctors in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology.

Dr. Cristiana Hentea joined the faculty in 2020 with clinical interests that include pediatric leukemias and lymphomas. Her research interests lay at the intersection between communication, social determinants of health, and patient-centered outcomes in pediatric oncology.

Numerous organizations and groups generously contribute funds that are used to grow programs and create more opportunities to enroll in clinical trials. We are generously supported by the Circle of Service Foundation for long-term survivors of childhood cancer and Healing Arts for our Snow City Arts Program which brings artists to the bedside of our patients and helps them dream, hope, and believe in a brighter future.
Our team of pediatric infectious disease specialists cares for children who have diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. We have a specialized clinic for children with HIV and infants born to HIV-positive mothers. Our team partners with and covers telephone consultations for Shriners Children's Hospital of Chicago, providing 24-hour coverage; and Dr. Karen C. Hayani participates in quarterly infection prevention meetings at Shriners.

Dr. Hayani, Dr. Arthur L. Frank, and Dr. Andrew J. Kreppel serve in leadership roles on Departmental and University-wide clinical and academic committees. Throughout the pandemic, Dr. Hayani and Dr. Kreppel have been instrumental in providing guidance for patients, staff, and faculty in the Department of Pediatrics as they continue to battle COVID-19. Dr. Hayani is also a member of the UI Health Hospital Infection Prevention Committee.

Dr. Kreppel (pictured left) is the Director of Quality Improvement in the Department of Pediatrics, where he leads our multidisciplinary team of pediatric specialists and nurses to achieve tremendous progress in patient safety.
Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

Meet the Team

Faculty

De-Ann M. Pillers, MD, PhD
Dharmapuri Vidyasagar Professor of Neonatology
Chief, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Vice Head, Academic Affairs
Director, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program
Co-Director, UIC-IDPH Perinatal Administrative Center

Hernan Sierra-Fernandez, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Howard Hast, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Lily J. Lou, MD
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Director, Government Relations

Wenxiang Luo, PhD
Assistant Professor of Research

Uwa Montgomery, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Shannon Murphy, MD
Director, Manager of NICU Hospitalist Team
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Saurabhkumar Patel, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Aarti Raghavan, MD, MS
Medical Director, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Director, Patient Safety
Program Director, Patient Safety and Leadership
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Our full-time faculty and staff participate in clinical care, teaching, and research. The neonatal service at UIC is a tertiary care center and serves as the Regional Center of Excellence for neonatal care. We offer both primary and specialized care to a large high-risk in-born population. We also have a highly skilled transport team available to our immediate community. Dr. De-Ann Pillers is Associate Head for Perinatology and Co-Director of the UIC-IDPH Perinatal Administrative Center. The services of this state-designated Perinatal Center include a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for premature newborns and infants with special health needs, as well as a normal mother-newborn nursery. Because of exceptional perinatal services and our top-notch nursing care, our Center serves as a referral destination for critically ill newborns from other hospitals in Illinois. Our High-Risk infant follow-up clinic, which is located in our Child & Youth Center, is staffed by our Neonatologists.

Our educational programs include a neonatology fellowship training program, responsibility for pediatric house-staff education, lectures provided for medical students, lectures and bedside training for Pediatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, and a variety of regularly scheduled conferences that are available for our community neonatologists for CME credit.

In addition, there is active ongoing clinical research that is supported by grants and contracts from a variety of agencies including the National Institutes of Health, American Lung Association, and the American Heart Association.

As her research contributes tremendously to our understanding of neonatal vision science and genetics, Dr. Pillers continues to receive many other honors and awards, including numerous “Top Doctor” awards from Castle Connolly/US News.

De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD
Section Chief

There is always a holiday to celebrate at the NICU
Meet the Team

Faculty

Joann Romano-Keeler, MD, MS
Director, NICU Transport
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Associate Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program

Phornphat (Paul) Rasamimari, MD, MPH
Neonatal Director, Labor and Delivery
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Director, Neonatology Follow-Up Program

Arvind Shukla, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Nishant Srinivasan, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Associate Director, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Program
Director, Neonatal Simulation and Crisis Resource Management

Lamia Tareen, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Research Specialists

Nicole Glaser, BS
Zaynab Kadhem, MD, MPH
Mona Strahan, MPH
Venkata Naga Sai Krishna Chava, MS

Section Coordinator
Joseph Greenia

Some selected faculty highlights include:

- In 2020, Dr. Lily J. Lou joined the Department of Pediatrics as a Professor in the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Lou is also serving as Director of Government Relations for Pediatrics. Most recently from Anchorage, Alaska, Dr. Lou has occupied the rank of Chief Medical Officer in state government, served as Executive Medical Director of a children’s hospital, and held multiple roles in state and national leadership in the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her career has been driven by her passion for the health of every child, advocating for policy that supports every individual reaching their fullest potential, and developing the professional thriving of her team. Dr. Lou conducts bench research.

- Dr. Lamia Tareen is a recent addition to our NICU Hospitalist Team. A focus of her previous research was studying the use of inhaled surfactant in fetal sheep and its effects on fetal lung compliance. Among her previous volunteer activities has been immunizing rural children in remote areas affected by poverty, war, and displacement such as the mountainous region of Balochistan.

- Dr. Joann Romano-Keeler documented our approach to caring for infants born to COVID-19 positive mothers in a preprint paper titled: “Center-Based Experiences Implementing Strategies to Reduce Risk of Horizontal Transmission of SARS-Cov-2: Potential for Compromise of Neonatal Microbiome Assemblage.” Dr. Romano-Keeler is also the medical director of the NICU transport team and the assistant director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Fellowship program.

- Dr. Aarti Raghavan is one of the only neonatologists in the country with a Master’s in Patient Safety Leadership. As Director for Patient Safety, she leads the quality improvement and patient safety efforts for the NICU and the Department of Pediatrics. In addition, she is the Program Director for Graduate Programs in Patient Safety Leadership at UIC - one of only five programs certified nationally by the Council for Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. Dr. Raghavan has been leading clinical activities related to COVID-19 in the UI Health NICU.

- Dr. Nishant Srinivasan serves as the Director for Simulation for Pediatrics and also serves on the board of the American Academy of Pediatrics District VI Association of Neonatology.

Dr. Arvind Shukla - Dr. Shukla retired from active clinical practice after an exceptional career and we are grateful for his service to UIC.
Section of Pediatric Nephrology

Our team of pediatric nephrology specialists collaborates with pharmacists, nurses, dietitians, and social workers to provide early intervention for children with kidney disease and kidney related issues. We also discuss cases and facilitate inpatient and outpatient services with professionals with expertise in transplantation. Our pediatric services include:

- preventative renal, cardiac, and hypertension clinic.
- multidisciplinary urology/nephrology clinic.
- kidney transplantation clinic, with a transition and long-term follow-up program to ensure no breaks in complex care or medical insurance.
- chronic peritoneal dialysis.
- continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT)/hemodialysis.
- multidisciplinary team for congenital renal anomalies with NICU and maternal-fetal-medicine.

Meet the Team

Faculty
Kimberly Czech, MD, PhD
Chief, Division of Nephrology
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Sonia Krishnan, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Pediatric Clinical Pharmacist
Leslie A. Briars, PharmD, FPPAG

Nurses
Roselyn Ventura, RN
Ramona Bottke, LPN

Dietitian
Joanna Siciliano, RD, LDN

Section Coordinator
Xochitl Garcia-Klapproth

Our care begins in newborns, consulting on congenital kidney anomalies diagnosed with prenatal ultrasound. We have a multidisciplinary clinic with pediatric urology to manage complex renal and urogenital anomalies. In addition to congenital renal disorders, we diagnose glomerulonephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and chronic kidney diseases that are common to pediatric patients, e.g., membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, IgA nephropathy. We also provide preventative treatment on chronic kidney disease that occurs in children with other chronic illnesses, e.g., sickle cell disease, diabetes, cancer. In the USA, many children suffer from hypertension and the leading cause of death in adults is cardiovascular disease. Our hypertension clinic offers 24 hour blood pressure monitoring to more accurately diagnose hypertension in children to begin early treatment. Our multi-prong approach to treatment involves lifestyle changes. Dietary changes are monitored by our certified nutritionist. Our in-clinic pharmacist counsels families on uses, formulations, and side effects of medications. We are a center of excellence for kidney transplantation based on UNOS (United Network of Organ Sharing); and we are involved in national research networks, such as CKIDS, to conduct multi-center studies.
Section of Pediatric Neurology

Our team of pediatric neurology specialists is committed to excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of children with nervous system problems, including epilepsy, headaches, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, and other brain disorders.

Meet the Team

Faculty
Saba Ahmad, MD
Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatric

Nikolas Mata-Machado, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Akira Yoshii, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Nurse Practitioner
Joyce Masterton, DNP, APRN, CPNPPC, PMHS

Section Coordinator
Annie Tan

The highest level of care is provided for children in both hospital and clinical settings, including:

- Pediatric Epilepsy Center of Excellence
- Sturge-Weber Syndrome (SWS) Center of Excellence
- Neurofibromatosis Center of Excellence
- Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic

Faculty are nationally recognized in their fields, with many scholarly contributions to the literature as well as participation in professional organizations and community groups. They are particularly known for research that links laboratory findings to diseases in patients. They have written textbook chapters and have shaped other forms of pediatric neurology curriculum for all levels of learners. A number of teaching awards acknowledge their excellence at both bedside and didactic teaching.

In 2020, Dr. Ahmad was appointed as the Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics. She is also the director of Pediatric Epilepsy Center and her clinical and research interests include epilepsy and neurogenetics/neurometabolic diseases, with a focus on epilepsy management, with an emphasis on dietary and surgical interventions. Her other titles include the Associate Head for Health Systems Integration, Co-Director of the Tuberous Sclerosis clinic, and course director for the Pediatric Neurology clinical rotation. Dr. Ahmad is actively involved in patient and physician advocacy and was named to the faculty honor roll by the pediatric residents for her outstanding teaching and mentorship.

Dr. Mata-Machado was awarded with an assistance grant from Neurofibromatosis Midwest to help patients living in underserved communities cover the cost of travel and food expenses while they attend the UI Health Neurofibromatosis Clinic.
Our experts in the Section of Pediatric Pulmonary, Allergy-Immunology, and Sleep Medicine are dedicated to diagnosing, evaluating, and treating infants, children, and adolescents. We offer extensive services for the evaluation and management of acute and chronic respiratory diseases, allergies (food and environmental), primary and secondary immune deficiencies, and sleep disorders. Our team provides an individualized action plan and comprehensive patient education. Our Sleep Center performs sleep studies in a safe and comfortable environment to provide high-quality care that is evidence-based. Our comprehensive asthma program focuses on preventive care to minimize visits to emergency rooms, unplanned doctors’ office visits, hospitalizations, and school absenteeism. Our team includes board-certified physicians in Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine, Allergy-Immunology, and Sleep Medicine, as well as nurses and pharmacists.

The full range of diagnostic evaluations and management includes:

- Expanded pulmonary function testing laboratory such as impulse oscillometry, spirometry, plethysmography, and diffusing capacity
- Skin testing for environmental and food allergies
- Pediatric bronchoscopy services
- Personalized asthma education
- Diagnostic sleep studies, sleep studies with CPAP titration and Multiple Sleep Latency Test (MSLT).
- Sweat Chloride testing for evaluation for Cystic Fibrosis
The Pediatric Diversity and Inclusion Task Force was established in 2015 in recognition that there are two main keys to diversity and inclusion:

1. Recognize that certain groups in this country have historically been marginalized and disenfranchised.

2. Give support and opportunities to those who have been affected by the structural violence of our history and are now underrepresented in medicine.

Yet at the same time – for us to be successful – we recognize that we must create opportunities for everyone to speak and have open conversations, as well as to share personal perspectives so that we all can learn from each other and make sure history does not repeat itself.

One of the ways that we highlighted our unity in 2020 was to create a diversity video, and we hope to do another in 2021. An inaugural Virtual Diversity Week Lecture Series was planned, and we sponsored other events such as workshops on bias reduction, a youth gun violence weekend, and a diversity spirit week. We provided community service in a number of venues, and we also conveyed information and interacted based on such topics as trauma-informed care and residency diversity recruitment. Eating was another way that we came together, and we produced a second annual Pediatric Diversity Cookbook that included inspirational quotes and statements of thanksgiving. We look forward to more ways to celebrate who we are, unify around common goals, and advocate for the change we want to see.

Wellness Committee

The Department of Pediatrics Wellness Committee was developed with the goal of fostering a workplace culture that supports the personal, physical, and mental well-being of the staff. Town hall meetings have been sponsored by the Committee to support and address faculty concerns. The Committee has produced a monthly newsletter and quarterly wellness challenges that have increased faculty/staff engagement. Other components range from workshops to suggestion boxes to uphold personal resilience, an environment of wellness, and an efficiency of practice.
In response to COVID-19, the CHECK team demonstrated a renewed commitment to our patients and families. After seamlessly transitioning services to a remote platform over the course of one of the most difficult years in our nation’s history, the CHECK program is meeting both previous and new goals. CHECK continued its long-term partnership with the Department of Specialized Care for Children to provide assessment, outreach, and coordination of care for these patients. The CHECK team also continued to engage Medicare Advantage patients in care in 2020, and raised the UI Health Star rating to **4.2 of 5 stars**, earning double the incentive than the prior year. Additionally, the pandemic and civil unrest caused many to disengage from care, creating a unique challenge for healthcare providers. CHECK rose to meet this challenge by implementing a model for outreach that re-engaged patients in care, resulting in over 100 new scheduled appointments in the first few months. Ongoing goals are to bring patients back into our clinics and keep healthcare as a focus, as our nation begins to heal and recover. Another major recent development was that the Healthy Steps program – building on nearly 15 years of success in the Department of Pediatrics – combined with CHECK to establish a highly specialized patient engagement and integrated care model. Throughout the pandemic, we at CHECK demonstrated our steadfast commitment to and our passion for our patients and families, and we look forward to advancing the mission of UI Health for years to come.

Meet the Team

**Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD**  
Professor of Research  
Core Director, Community & Population Health Research

**Rebecca Feinstein, MPH, MSW, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Research  
Project Director, PATH 2 Purpose

**Michael Gerges, MA, LCPC**  
Executive Director, CHECK Program

**Andrea Pappalardo, MD, FAAAAI**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics  
Medical Director, CHECK Program

**Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD**  
Director of Pediatric Sickle Cell Center; Professor of Pediatrics  
Medical Director, CHECK Program

**Shannon Murphy, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Healthy Steps Medical Director

**Monica Cella, LCSW**  
Director of Clinical Operations, CHECK Program

**Kelly Platz, MS, CLS**  
Coordinator, Healthy Steps Program
The PATH 2 Purpose (P2P) study is a free, voluntary research program for teenagers who want to improve their mood and learn coping skills to manage difficult situations. Funded by PCORI (Patient-Centered Outreach Research Institute), the P2P study is a clinical trial to determine how best to help teens build healthy lifestyles and prevent feeling down. With a $500,000 supplementary COVID-19 project enhancement award from PCORI, in October 2020 the P2P study initiated a mental health promotion campaign in Illinois, Kentucky, and Massachusetts. Media including a webpage and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) targeted at-risk youth who lacked mental health resources and supports while learning at home. Evidence-based tips and techniques were shared to help adolescents feel better, cope with the pandemic, manage the stay-at-home blues, and work through symptoms of depression, anxiety, and more. Messaging was focused on resilience building, increasing agency, mindfulness, and managing relationships. Over the course of the past year, the P2P study screened more than 500 adolescents for depression and enrolled over 120 participants.
At UI Health Pediatrics, "Community" is one of our core pillars of service

Melishia Bansa, Director of Community Engagement, and Alderman Raymond Lopez - 15th Ward joins Officer Sabrina King, Youth Liaison Officer, and the Chicago Police Department for a special “Children Hold On To Your Dreams” Graduation Ceremony to celebrate our 2020 graduates at our 9th district.

UI Health pediatric oncologist Dr. Lewis Hsu and his wife, dentist Dr. Judy Fan-Hsu, are joint collaborators on the “Reaching Chicago’s Vulnerables from South and Westside” grant from the Chicago Dental Society and the Mars-Wrigley Foundation. With summer health fairs being canceled due to COVID-19, they set up oral health awareness days in our Pediatric clinic. They supplied clinic staff, physicians, and students with dental hygiene kits to give to their patients, along with messaging about proper oral health.

UIC Department of Pediatrics collaborated with the Department of Family Medicine to administer COVID-19 tests at UI Health Pilsen Family Health Center (pictured left).

UI Health Pediatricians are actively engaged in the community and serve in Federally Qualified health Centers in the city such as Miles Square Main and Englewood (pictured right)
# UIC Pediatrics & Children’s Hospital University of Illinois
Scored by the US News & World Report 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights</th>
<th>What This Means</th>
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| • The UIC Pediatrics & Children’s Hospital met the criteria to be scored in **7 out of 10 specialties possible**. | • According to US News & World Report, hospitals may be  
  • 1) ranked and scored (top 50),  
  • 2) scored, or  
  • 3) ineligible to be scored. |
| • Specialties overall received                  | • To be scored, specialties at the hospital are evaluated and must meet minimums in volume and cases handled for the hospital to be scored as well the specialty.  
  • 9 subscores of excellent/high  
  • 28 subscores of above average. |
Subscores

Select specialties are chosen to be scored based on the volume and cases handled

7 Specialties were chosen to be scored

- Neonatology
- Pediatric Cancer
- Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology
- Pediatric Gastroenterology and GI Surgery
- Pediatric Nephrology
- Pediatric Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Pediatric Pulmonology & Lung Surgery

In addition, a full scorecard with subscores is released

Subscores of Excellent/High

Subscores of Above Average

Note: Neurology met criteria to be scored without Neurosurgery
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Comparison</th>
<th>Local Comparison</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UIC Children’s Hospital Among Hospitals Nationally Scored</td>
<td>Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals Ineligible to be Scored in this Specialty Nationally</td>
<td>University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatology</td>
<td>University of Illinois Chicago Children’s Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Cancer</td>
<td>Advocate Children’s Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Diabetes &amp; Endocrinology</td>
<td>Rush University Children’s Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Gastroenterology and GI Surgery</td>
<td>Ronald McDonald Children’s Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Nephrology</td>
<td>Shriners Hospitals for Children-Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Neurology &amp; Neurosurgery</td>
<td>John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Pulmonology &amp; Lung Surgery</td>
<td>No scores in any specialty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationally ranked and scored in all 10 specialties
Nationally ranked and scored in 2 specialties and scored in 6 other specialties
Nationally scored in 7 specialties
Nationally ranked and scored in 1 specialty and scored in 2 other specialties
Nationally scored in 1 specialty
No scores in any specialty
No scores in any specialty
Not listed, likely did not submit data
Building upon a collegial foundation formally established several years ago, interdisciplinary huddles were held on a daily basis during the height of the pandemic. Later in 2020, operations were integrated into one meeting structure to coordinate the range of clinical programs affecting children in inpatient and outpatient settings. Chaired by the Head of the Department of Pediatrics, the Pediatric Clinical and Child Health Council welcomes leaders from such departments and programs as anesthesia, pediatric dentistry, emergency medicine, family medicine, nursing, pediatrics, population health research, radiology and surgery, as well as the Office of the Vice Chancellor. Some of the recent issues addressed and initiatives established across the child health enterprise include:

- Establishing of COVID-19 testing sites for children and families in the Pilsen neighborhood
- Providing COVID-19 swab testing for children before medical procedures
- Arranging hospital facilities and training staff to accept children with COVID-19
- Sharing experiences and guidelines to facilitate the transition to the Epic electronic health records system
- Building protocols and training in pediatric emergency airway management
- Collecting numbers and evaluating inpatient and outpatient census trends
- Developing and sharing outreach efforts and clinical goals
- Reviewing quality improvement and patient experience data
- Discussing US News and World Report results
- Collecting input into facilities and strategy planning processes
In 2020, 11 pediatric providers were named among the region's top doctors by Castle Connolly. Providers were nominated by peers in a nationwide survey, then chosen by a physician-led research group. Eight of the recognized providers were distinguished as Exceptional Women in Medicine for their contribution to the advancement of healthcare through clinical care, research, community service, education, and/or leadership. Additionally, 5 of the recognized providers were featured in Chicago Magazine's "Top Doctors".

**Adolescent Medicine**  
Karen Bernstein, MD, MPH

**Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine**  
De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD

**General Pediatrics**  
Rachel Caskey, MD  
Amanda Osta, MD

**Pediatric Gastroenterology**  
James Berman, MD  
T.S. Gunasekaran, MD

**Pediatric Allergy/Immunology**  
C. Lucy Park, MD

**Pediatric Infectious Disease**  
Karen Hayani, MD

**Pediatric Hematology-Oncology**  
Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD  
Mary Lou Schmidt, MD

**Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics**  
Reshma Shah, MD
Endowed Professorships

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.

Benjamin W. Van Voorhees, MD, MPH, is the inaugural recipient of the George R. Honig MD PhD Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics, in the College of Medicine. The professorship is named for George R. Honig, MD, PhD. Now serving as Professor Emeritus, Dr. Honig was head of the Department of Pediatrics from 1984 to 2004 and was a co-founder and co-director of the University of Illinois Sickle Cell Center. The professorship endowed in his name will support the Head of the Department of Pediatrics. Preparations for an investiture ceremony are underway for Dr. Van Voorhees, Professor of Pediatrics, who is Head of the Department of Pediatrics and Physician in Chief of UI Children’s Hospital. Dr. Van Voorhees is an innovative physician/scientist with a focus on information and communication technology, system re-design, and clinical epidemiology to prevent onset of chronic disease in childhood and adolescence. As an educator, clinician, and administrative leader, his vision has done much to build the future of healthcare delivery for Chicago’s communities. He has a lifetime funding history of over $32 million in research funding, as well as more than 70 scientific publications and more than 100 scientific conference presentations.

Five endowed professorship have now been established in the Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
Philanthropic Highlights

The Ruth Andrea Seller, MD, Scholarship Endowment Fund has been established to address the shortage of primary care physicians. Fourth-year medical students who choose to enter such fields as pediatrics, family medicine, and general internal medicine can have scholarship funds directly applied to reduce their medical school debt. Ruth Seeler, MD, Res ’67, is a board-certified pediatrician, hematologist, and oncologist and longtime faculty member of the College of Medicine. She influenced countless lives through being a clinician and educator during her nearly five-decade career at UIC, and this scholarship fund will continue to develop medical minds.

We continue to be very touched by the efforts of the Friends of UIC Pediatrics, who have been our supporters and advocates since 2009. Through their events and other methods of fundraising, they have purchased medical equipment and funded programs that have “helped kids heal.”

The ability of our Department of Pediatrics to execute our mission isn’t possible without the generosity of donors, like you. To find out more about the vital role philanthropy plays in advancing forward the Department of Pediatrics and how your gift can impact the future of medicine, please call David Eaton, Director of Development, at 630-621-8019 or email djeaton@uic.edu.

Support for the UI Department of Pediatrics advances the health and well-being of children throughout Illinois. Our innovative programs span clinical, educational, research, and community settings as we endeavor to meet physical, behavioral, dental, and social care needs. Please join us as we strengthen our commitment to effective, compassionate, and accessible healthcare regardless of ability to pay.

To support the Department of Pediatrics, please visit: https://chicago.medicine.uic.edu/departments/academic-departments/pediatrics/ways-to-give/
Support for the Department of Pediatrics comes in many forms, and the accomplishments represented in this annual report are reflections of the honor and privilege we have of working with many collaborators to deliver clinical care, education, and research to benefit infants, children, and adolescents. What follows is a sample of some of those individuals and efforts that are investments in our long-standing commitment to work toward a world in which all children, families, and communities achieve their full potential.

$100,000+
St Baldricks Foundation
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
Hyundai Hope on Wheels

$25,000 - $99,999
American Heart Association
Circle of Service Foundation
Dr. Arthur L. Frank
Joconda Foundation
Mr. Michael P. Krasny
Dr. Asok K. Ray and Mrs. Purinima Ray (Deceased)
Dr. Malakia Ray

$10,000 - $24,999
American Academy of Pediatrics
Joy in Childhood Foundation
Lilly USA
Dr. Corina Nailescu and Dr. Drages Sabau
Dr. George R. Hong and Mrs. Olga Weiss

$5,000 - $9,999
Dr. Enrico Benedetti and Mrs. Carla R. Benedetti
Dr. Smitha Samuel
Mr. Suneeth Samuel and Mrs. Katherine J. Stonitch
Dr. Jennifer Van Voorhees and Mrs. Donica Van Voorhees

$1,000 - $4,999
Betsy and Altman Cohn Foundation
Ms. Ann T. Birdy and Dr. Jacob A. Birdy (Deceased)
Dr. Jonathan D. Klein and Dr. Susan E. Cohn
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Mr. Michael J. Gleeman
Mr. Michael Ittner and Mrs. Teresa Ittner
Mt. Sinai Foundation
Mr. David Gelfand
University Of California

$999 or less
Ms. Evelyn Adams
Ms. Abiba Ahmed
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Adams
Ms. Andrew Balter
Ms. Beulah Banks
Ms. Jane Andrews
Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Adams
Ms. Andrew Balter
Ms. Beulah Banks
Ms. Jane Andrews
Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Adams
Ms. Andrew Balter
Ms. Beulah Banks
Ms. Jane Andrews
Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Adams
Ms. Andrew Balter
Ms. Beulah Banks
Ms. Jane Andrews
Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
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Ms. Evelyn Almonte
Ms. Viraja S. Alluri
Ms. Evelyn Adams

Our Generous Supporters

This list is intended to include the names of all donors who made contributions to UIUC Pediatrics University of Illinois during Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). If your name has been misspelled, entered incorrectly or unintentionally omitted, please notify Bryan Lutes, bryanlut@uic.edu.
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Visit pediatrics.uic.edu to learn more about our academic programs and research

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