



# UI HEALTH PEDIATRICS

DECEMBER 2021 / MARCH 2022 CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER

## News from the Department of Pediatrics

### 55<sup>th</sup> and Pulaski Location Opens

The UI Health 55<sup>th</sup> and Pulaski Health Collaborative opened on 2.2.2022, with a ribbon cutting planned for May 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition to UI Health, other partners in the TARGET Health Collaborative include 3 federally qualified health centers: Alivio, Friend Family, and UI Health Mile Square. Pediatrics clinics include Pulmonary and Allergy.



### Pediatric Residents Successfully Match into Fellowship Programs

Fellowship Match Day was 12.15.21, and the following pediatrics residents are celebrating the results: Elham Binkhamis (Pediatric Palliative Care): University of Michigan; Leela Chandrasekar (Pulmonology): Yale University; Paul Cooper (Cardiology): Baylor University; Denita Lindsey (NICU): University of Alabama at Birmingham; Isabella Marranzini (Endocrinology) and Alejandro Pasaret (Pediatric Emergency Medicine): University of Chicago; Nicole Salach (Nephrology): Children’s National Hospital; and Han-Wei Wu (Heme-Onc accelerated research program): Memorial Sloan Kettering

### Staff and Leadership Updates

- The Department of Pediatrics is pleased to announce that **Dr. Helene Gussin** has been appointed to the role of Director of Administrative Operations (DAO), effective immediately. She had been serving as Interim DAO since September 2021. Dr. Gussin joined the Department of Pediatrics in 2016 as Director of Research Administration, and she was appointed Research Assistant Professor in 2020.



- Dr. Geisel Collazo** has accepted the position of Peds M4 Clerkship Director. After completing her pediatric residency at UIC in 2013, she joined the faculty with clinics at Mile Square, the Craniofacial Center, and the Child & Youth Center. Dr. Collazo has taught medical students since residency, and she has served as team sponsor for several QI projects for residents. In collaboration with the Pediatric Dentistry Department, she is now leading an Oral Health Integration Curriculum. She is also actively involved with the Urban Health Program/IPC elective for M1-M2, resident outpatient learning, and Family Medicine outpatient pediatric rotation.

- After 8 years as a neonatologist with UI Health, **Dr. Hernan Sierra-Fernandez** joined the faculty of Rush University Medical Center as Medical Director of the Rush Copley NICU. He formerly served as the Director of Neonatal Informatics and Associate Program Director for the UIC Clinical Informatics Fellowship. His recent projects included using mobile technology to promote communication with patients, improving transfer of information in the delivery room, and developing rounding sheets in the EMR.

- At the recent Medical Staff Annual Meeting, **Dr. Sarah Messmer** was elected to be an “Alternate Delegate.” Thanks were extended to two other Pediatrics Faculty for past service as a “Delegate”: **Drs. Aarti Raghavan** and **Sara Smith**.
- Starting 3.16.22, **Dr. Molly Martin** will be the Director of Pilot Programs for the UIC Center for Clinical & Translational Sciences.

### Congratulations to Top Box Docs

- The following Pediatrics physicians were among the UI Health Top Box Docs for the past quarter (FY22 Q2) for their achievement of 100 percent in 3 CGCAPHS (Clinical and Group Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) categories (rate the provider, recommend this provider office, physician communication quality) throughout the year: **Dr. Roxana Aguirre, Dr. Saba Ahmad, Dr. Michelle Barnes, Dr. Karen Bernstein, Dr. Gifty Bhat, Dr. Rachel Caskey, Dr. Kimberly Czech, Dr. George Hoganson, Dr. Kristen Kenan, Dr. Sonia Krishnan, Dr. Winnie Lin, Dr. Pravin Muniyappa, Dr. Amanda Osta, Dr. Andrea Pappalardo, Dr. Jalene Shoener, Dr. Jaye Schreier, Dr. Pavan Srivastava, and Dr. Peter Varga.**
- Pediatrics physicians in the previous quarter were also honored for being rated in the Top 1 percentile for their communication and reflecting the trend toward improving patient experience scores. They included **Dr. Roxana Aguirre, Dr. Kelsie Avants, Dr. Vyta Ben Barak, Dr. Claudia Boucher-Berry, Dr. Rachel Caskey, Dr. Kimberly Czech, Dr. Geisel Collazo, Dr. Karen Hayani, Dr. Sonia Krishnan, Dr. Stacy Laurent, Dr. Nikolas Mata-Machado, Dr. Amanda Osta, Dr. Andrea Pappalardo, Dr. Alexandria Saulsberry, Dr. Jalene Shoener, Dr. Peter Varga, and Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees.**

## News from Children’s Hospital University of Illinois

### Holidays Were Merry and Bright



Santa spread comfort and joy throughout our NICU on 12.15.21 – with generous support from [TechNexus](#) and others who chose gifts for patients and families through an Amazon Wish List. Thanks also to all components of our wonderful community for providing presents and many other exchanges of happiness to our Hospital’s pediatric ward.

### Art Was Edible on Valentine’s Day

Thanks to DIY Dunkin’ Donut Kits, the NICU and Pediatrics teams at UI Health celebrated Valentine’s Day deliciously. Kids and caregivers got creative with donut rings, frosting flavors, and a sprinkle selection. Lots of love was sent back to [Dunkin’ Donuts](#).



### Doggie Magic Happens on Thursdays

There’s a method behind the magic every Thursday as volunteers from [Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy](#) provide goal-oriented interactions to facilitate the healing and rehabilitation of our pediatric in-patients. But even though Louie and Buddy are trained and registered therapy dogs, they are happy to also share some extra snuggles with our healthcare providers.

## Fundraising News

### Friends of UI Pediatrics Celebrate Successful Year

The Friends of UI Pediatrics wrapped up their 12<sup>th</sup> year as a group of dedicated and empowered volunteers by holding their December 2021 meeting at the Starbucks Roastery on North Michigan Avenue. Among guests enjoying the festivities were **Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees** (fifth from the right in the back row) and **Dr. Usha Raj** (to his left). More plans are being developed to support key educational, clinical, and research efforts at the Department of Pediatrics, which can be supported at <https://collegeofmedicine.webhost.uic.edu/GIVING/StartGivingMedicine2.html>





### Generous Donors Provide POCUS Funds

We are very excited to have met the goal of raising \$55,440 for a Point-Of-Care Ultrasound System (POCUS) for our NICU. We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Friends of UI Pediatrics who donated \$10,000 and were instrumental in submitting successful grant applications to the Service Club of Chicago for \$20,000 and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society for \$25,440. Thanks also to other generous groups and individuals, the POCUS is now in use in our NICU – providing the most advanced technology that will have a direct impact on more than 600 vulnerable babies each year.

### St. Baldrick's Holds Annual Head-Shaving Event

Nine heroes for kids with cancer had their head shaved on 2.18.22 at the annual St. Baldrick's Event. Some came in person to UI Health, and others participated virtually. All are sincerely appreciated, and we thank the awesome barbers from **Capelli Academy of Cosmetology**. We are also grateful to those who donated nearly \$8,500 for Team UIH Peds/PICU at the time of the event. It was particularly meaningful that we were awarded an infrastructure grant from the St. Baldrick's Do It for Dominic Heroes Fund for \$50,000 to support pediatric oncology, and that the family of the Do It for Dominic Heroes Fund attended our event. [https://today.uic.edu/st-baldricks-event-at-ui-health-raises-funds-for-pediatric-cancer-research?utm\\_source=mailpoet&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=today%2B02.22.22](https://today.uic.edu/st-baldricks-event-at-ui-health-raises-funds-for-pediatric-cancer-research?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=today%2B02.22.22)



## Joining Commemorations

### Food & Toy Drive Benefits Pilsen Food Pantry



In December, the Pediatrics Wellness Committee got into the holiday spirit by organizing a Food & Toy Drive for the **Pilsen Food Pantry**. More than 1,000 toys were donated, as well as edible items, diapers and baby wipes, and other sundries.

### Task Force Sponsors Event and Drafts Strategic Plan

Sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, UI Health faculty and staff showed their support for National Wear Red Day on 2.4.22. Information was shared on how raising cardiovascular disease awareness – heart disease is the #1 killer of women – can help to decrease health disparities. The Task Force also recently drafted a Department of Pediatrics Advancing Racial Equity (ARE) Strategic Plan” as part of a campus-wide initiative to affirm UIC’s commitment to addressing systemic racism, improving our campus climate, and advancing racial equity on campus.



### Lecture Celebrates Women's History Month

**Dr. Rachel Caskey** was the moderator of a Richard J. Weber, MD, Supported Lecture on 3.8.22. It featured Janice P. Nimura, the author of a book entitled “The Doctors Blackwell” that describes how two sisters brought medicine to women – and women to medicine. The lecture was presented by the Department of Medicine Inclusion Council as a celebration of March being Women’s History Month.

## Pediatrics News Briefs

### Faculty in the News

- The impact of the pandemic on medical care beyond COVID-19 was the focus of an interview with **Dr. Michelle Barnes** on 2.1.22. Her comments on the “21st Show,” which aired on NPR member stations in Illinois, included encouragement to use such options as telemedicine to be sure that preventive screening protocols and other important healthcare needs are met. <https://will.illinois.edu/21stshow/story/non-covid-care-in-a-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR3H90w11A2im-wlH4-nB1CFFn5aCLE0ITAsHvOlkU1veWyxtuXLbGSjmWo>



- Accomplishments of the past year that were highlighted in the Winter 2021 newsletter produced by Shriners Hospitals for Children for the *AMC Registry* included several mentions of the scholarly work of **Dr. Philip Giampietro**, including publications and a conference poster. Dr. Giampietro is a Co-I of the “Anthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita Registry on Epidemiology, Etiology, Genomics, and Interventions Targeting Research in Youth.”

- Dr. Andrea Pappalardo** was interviewed by *Healio* for an article in the 2.26.22 edition entitled “Providers Can Do More To Reduce Racial Disparities in Food Allergy Care.” She discussed the findings of FORWARD (Food Allergy Outcomes Related to White and African American Racial Differences) as well as her roles as Asthma Director of CHECK and Director of Mobile Care



Chicago. <https://www.healio.com/news/allergy-asthma/20220226/qa-providers-can-do-more-to-reduce-racial-disparities-in-food-allergy-care>



- Dr. Molly Martin** was interviewed on WBEZCHICAGO on 2.8.22 during the “Reset with Sasha-Ann Simons Program” for a segment on child oral health disparities. Dr. Martin and her research teams are hoping to find ways to support low income, urban families in improving routines and nutrition as well as making high quality providers more accessible. <https://www.wbez.org/stories/why-gaps-exist-in-childrens-dental-health-and-how-to-close-them-in-the-chicago-area/f0a8848b-55b1-4737-aec4-f8e3c8d2ba2f>

- Dr. Meghan Harding** was interviewed regarding successful treatment at UI Health of a patient with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome.

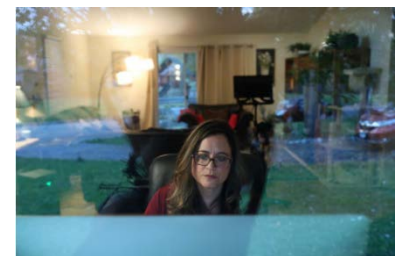
- “COVID in Children – Family of 7-Year-Old Hospitalized with COVID-19 Encourages Vaccination: Scariest Moment Ever” by Leah Hope was published on 1.24.22 by WLS Chicago/ABC 7: <https://abc7chicago.com/covid-illinois-vaccine-cases-symptoms/11505563/>



- “Chicago Mom Urges Vaccination after Daughter Catches COVID and then Comes Down with Rare Illness” by Sally Schulze was published on 1.25.22 by Fox 32 Chicago: <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/chicago-mom-urges-vaccination-after-daughter-catches-covid-then-comes-down-with-rare-illness>

- Dr. Kristin Berg** was interviewed regarding the PCORI funded study (Behavioral Health Stratified Treatment to Optimize Transition to Adulthood for Youth with IDD) that partners three UI Health organizations: Division of Specialized Care of Children and the Departments of Disability & Human Development and Pediatrics.

- “Teens with Disabilities Are 5 Times More Likely to Suffer from Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health Disorders, UIC Researchers Say,” by Darcel Rockett was published on 12.29.21 by the Chicago Tribune: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/people/health/ct-teens-disabilities-mental-health-uic-best-project-1229-20211229-pu6kufwogzfknc4pkmzll7tza-story.html>



### Honors and New Appointments

- More than 250 posters were submitted to the 2021 College of Medicine Research Forum, which was held virtually in Autumn 2021. Congratulations to **Dr. Amanda Knepper** for receiving an Honorable Mention in the Postdoctoral Fellows and Residents Category. She is a postdoctoral research associate who works with **Dr. Rebecca Feinstein** on the PATH 2 Purpose PCORI Study. **Anneik van Aarem**, another PATH 2 Purpose collaborator, received an Honorable Mention as an Undergraduate in the Other Category. Ms. van Aarem, who expects to receive a BS (Pre-Medicine/Pre-Medical Studies) from UIC in 2022, used the study as part of her Capstone Project

- **Dr. Lily Lou** received the Ray E. Helfer, MD, Award sponsored by the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance and the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Section on Child Abuse. The award is presented annually to a distinguished pediatrician for outstanding contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- **Folasade Odeniyi**, a second-year medical student at UIC pursuing a career in Med-Peds, has been chosen for the James Scholar for Independent Study Program. In addition to summarizing interventions that have been evaluated for use within children with developmental delays and neuro-disabilities in low- and middle-income countries, her project identifies conditions for which there are gaps in knowledge related to evidence-based interventions. **Dr. Reshma Shah** is her research mentor through the Global Medicine Program.



• **Dr. Jonathan Klein** (right) was elected on 1.6.22 to a 3-year term as the 9<sup>th</sup> president of the International Association for Adolescent Health. IAAH works globally towards improving the health, development, and well-being of adolescents and young adults.



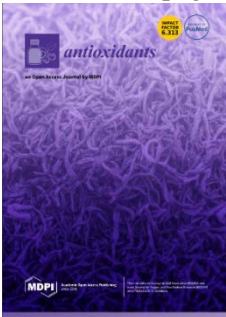
• **Dr. James Berman** (left) has been named a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association effective 2.1.22. He is a Clinical Associate Professor and Chief of the Section of Gastroenterology in the Department of Pediatrics.

### Other Pediatrics Scholarly Work

- The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has a new section on their website that highlights new science related to practice safety. The manuscript entitled “Nitrous Oxide for Dental Procedures in Pediatric Patients with Sickle Cell Disease: A Pilot Study” (published in *Pediatric Dentistry* in November 2021), was the first addition to the new web page. The authors are **Drs. Brittaney Hill, Marcio da Fonseca, and Lewis**



**Hsu.** <https://www.aapd.org/resources/member/practice-safety/nsh/>



- The January 2022 edition of *Antioxidants* included an article entitled “Nrf2 Is Required for Optimal Alveolar Macrophage-Mediated Apoptotic Neutrophil Clearance after Oxidant Injury” by **Drs. Narsa Reddy, Chandra Mohan Tamatam, Aparna Ankireddy, and Sekhar Reddy**. This study revealed the crucial role of Nrf2 in stopping inflammation and promoting tissue repair after either an infectious or a non-infectious lung injury. <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/antioxidants>



- **Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees** is among the authors of an article entitled “Effects of Engagement with an Online Depression Prevention Program for Adolescents on Suicide Risk Factors” that was recently accepted by the *Journal of Technology in Behavioral Science*.
- An article written by **Drs. Peter Varga, Stephen Alerhand, and April Choi** was published on 10.1.21 in *Pediatric Annals*. Entitled “Cardiac Ultrasound for Pediatric Emergencies,” it described ways that the Cardiac Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) is a valuable assessment tool that provides real-time views of the heart to answer specific questions in a timely manner. <https://journals.healio.com/doi/10.3928/19382359-20210913-01>

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