**Program Introduction**

The term “hospitalist” was coined twenty years ago, and this milestone was recently commemorated by the Society of Hospital Medicine, who referred to 2016 as the “Year of the Hospitalist.” The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) officially recognized subspecialty certifications for Pediatric Hospital Medicine at its October 2016 meeting in Chicago, IL. In another important step for hospital medicine, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the approval of a dedicated specialty billing code for hospitalists.

Nationally, the specialty of hospital medicine has grown exponentially and is now an important component of American hospitals with exciting opportunities for innovation and creativity. Under the direction of Vijay Kalidindi, M.D., the Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program at UT Southwestern Medical Center has shown similar growth.

Originating in 2002 as a single service line with five pediatric faculty members, the Program has grown to 25 faculty members, with the capability to staff nearly 120 patients across multiple service lines at Children’s Medical Center Dallas and Children’s Medical Center Plano. Hospitalists have expanded their specialty support at the Plano campus via a collaborative partnership with their oncology colleagues. The program emphasizes patient-centered care, which is evidence based, compassionate, culturally competent, and collaborative. Hospitalists have a commitment to excellence in patient care, quality improvement, teaching, clinical research, and have received many accolades, including the 2016 faculty teaching award.

**Faculty**

There are twenty-five full-time and three part-time faculty members in the Hospitalist Medicine program. Two new faculty members joined the Hospitalist Medicine team in 2016.

**Lauren Bouton, M.D.**
Assistant Professor

B.A.  
Carleton College, Northfield, MN, 2005

M.D.  
Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, 2011

**Postdoctoral Training**
- Residency, Pediatrics  
  Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, OH, 2011-2014
- Chief Resident, Pediatrics  
  Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital, Cleveland, OH, 2014-2015

**Interests**  
Hospitalist medicine, asthma care quality improvement
Jennifer L. Fuchs, M.D.
Assistant Professor

B.S., B.A., summa cum laude
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, 2007

M.D.
Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC, 2011

Postdoctoral Training
- Residency, Pediatrics
  Children’s Hospital of Richmond/Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, 2011-2014
- Fellowship, Pediatric Hospital Medicine
  Texas Children’s Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, 2014-2016

Interests
- Hospitalist medicine, family-centered rounds, pediatric hospital medicine fellowship, quality improvement, especially technologically-based improvements

Honors / Awards

2016 Faculty Promotions
- Ladan Agarokh, Assistant Professor
- Danielle Dukellis, Assistant Professor
- Katherine Keith, Assistant Professor
- Monica Peng, Assistant Professor

Ladan Agarokh
- Mentor, UT Southwestern PACT Program

Ben Lee
- Chair, Texas Medical Association Council on Health Promotion

Katherine Rodgers
- Excellence in Teaching Award, faculty teaching award, pediatric residency program

Vineeta Mittal
- Best Doctors in Dallas, D Magazine
- President Elect, Medical Dental Staff, CMC Dallas
- Member, PHM Inaugural Pediatric Hospital Medicine Certification Group

Bharath Thankavel
- Medical, Representative-at-large Elect, Medical Dental Staff, CMC Plano
Conference Presentations/Participation

Katherine Keith

- Effect of Viral Testing on Length of Stay for Neonatal Fever Patients with Negative Sepsis Evaluations
  
  Keith K, Morse R
  
  - Poster Presentation: Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, April 2016

Vineeta Mittal

- From “Academic” to “Accountable” Care: How Academic Medical Centers are Balancing the Triple Whammy of Academia to Meet the Triple Air of the Healthcare Reform
  
  - Symposium Co-chair and Presenter: Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, April 2016

- Management of Acute Viral Bronchiolitis: Isn’t’ it About Time for National Quality Metrics?
  
  - Symposium Co-chair and Presenter: Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, April 2016

- APA Educational Scholars Program
  
  - Faculty Mentor: Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, April 2016

- APA Speed Mentoring Session
  
  - Faculty Mentor: Pediatric Academic Society/Society of Pediatric Research, Baltimore, MD, April 2016

Education and Training

In addition to their clinical duties, Hospitalist Medicine faculty members actively participate in the educational programs of UT Southwestern Medical Center and Children’s Medical Center.

All hospitalists hold faculty appointments at UT Southwestern Medical School and are expected to develop one or more areas of expertise, for which they raise the standards of care, create novel educational opportunities for our trainees, or conduct original research. Our faculty teach pediatric residents and medical students from UT Southwestern, as well as family practice residents from Dallas-Fort Worth programs at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Baylor Hospital in Garland, Charlton Methodist in Dallas, and UT Southwestern. Hospitalist faculty also participate in the education of nursing and physician assistant programs. The educational activities include mentorship of trainees and contribution in several other areas, such as curriculum development.

Research Activities

Hospitalist Medicine faculty members develop one or more areas of expertise related to their clinical work. How these are ultimately configured depends on their personal interests, with some typical examples being clinical research, advancement of clinical practice through observation and publication, and quality improvement initiatives. Faculty members have partnered with colleagues in orthopedics to standardize the approach to management of bone and joint infections, with the purpose of reducing morbidity and length of inpatient stays. The hospitalist inpatient service also implements family-centered teaching rounds that prospectively and directly incorporate parents and patients into the discussion of their medical issues and the formulation of management plans.

Faculty research interests include quality initiatives and patient outcomes, clinical pathways, information technology, global health and complex care. Hospitalist accomplishments include publications and presentations at national and regional meetings.
Clinical Activities

Pediatric hospitalist faculty care for inpatients at Children’s Health, the primary pediatric clinical partner. Children’s Medical Center Dallas is licensed for 487 beds, and is one of the largest tertiary medical centers for pediatric patients in the United States. Children’s Medical Center at Plano, which opened in 2008, features 72 beds and serves the needs of the surrounding communities. Children’s Medical Center Dallas serves the inpatient care needs of patients from North and East Texas, Southern Oklahoma, and Northern Louisiana.

There are two types of services staffed during the year at the Dallas campus. The first relies on 24-hour, seven days a week, on-site attending coverage. The second resembles a prototypical teaching service with several levels of learners, from third-year medical students to third-year pediatric residents. Children’s Medical Center Plano coverage is based on a 24/7 on-site attending model. The number of services covered can vary based on seasonal demand for general inpatient beds. During peak season, this can exceed 120 patients across twelve service lines at Dallas and Plano.

Faculty encounter a wide range of medical conditions with varying complexity and provide the highest quality of care for patients through evidence-based practice and patient centered care, while ensuring optimal care transition. Hospitalists also function as primary attending physicians for several specialty inpatient services with specialists functioning as consultants. These include neurology, rheumatology, immunology, metabolic disorders, orthopedics (infections), oncology, and endocrinology patients at Plano, as well as patients with pulmonary and ENT services at Dallas. In addition, hospitalists provide general pediatric consultation for all specialty services at Dallas and Plano.

Peer-Reviewed Publications


