**Division Introduction**

The Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine at UT Southwestern is committed to improving the health of infants, children, and young adults by providing quality clinical services, furthering the understanding of respiratory illnesses through original research, and participating in the education of physicians at all levels.

Under the interim direction of Philip Shaul, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair of Research, the Division’s eleven physicians and a number of associated health care professionals work together to form a truly multidisciplinary program.

The Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Division provides care to infants and children with a wide spectrum of respiratory illnesses, including disorders of respiratory control, the chest wall, and respiratory muscles, airway and lung parenchyma, and cystic fibrosis at Children’s Health™.

Varied research interests include cystic fibrosis biology and care, near-fatal asthma, pulmonary outcomes in neuromuscular disease, pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease, pulmonary complications of obesity, and sleep-related disorders in children.

Our faculty is committed to the education and training of medical students, residents, and fellows. Our Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship Program prepares pediatricians to be experts in pulmonary medicine through a combination of educational activities, competencies, and assessment methods.

**Faculty**

The Division has six full-time and five part-time faculty members and four fellows, all with varied interests in clinical and translational research. Dr. Folashade Afolabi joined the faculty in July of 2016.

**Folashade Afolabi, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>B.S.N.</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve University</td>
<td>Cleveland, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.D.</td>
<td>UT Southwestern Medical School</td>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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**Postdoctoral Training**

- Residency, Pediatrics
  - UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
- Fellowship, Pulmonary Medicine
  - UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

**Interests**

- Community based asthma education of general pediatricians, Cystic Fibrosis hospitalization and host pathogen interactions, emerging and changing patterns of antibiotic resistance, quality improvement process in asthma and sleep medicine
Honors / Awards

Folashade Afolabi
- Travel Award, American Thoracic Society International Conference

Steven Copenhaver
- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine
- Texas Super Doctor, Texas Monthly Magazine

Andrew Gelfand
- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine
- Texas Super Doctor, Texas Monthly Magazine

Yadira Rivera-Sanchez
- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine

Peter Schochet
- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine
- Texas Super Doctor, Texas Monthly Magazine
- Top Doctor, US News and World Report/Castle Connolly

Preeti Sharma
- Mom Approved Doctor, DFW Child Magazine

Conference Presentations

Afolabi F.
“A Unique Case of Pulmonary Lymphangectasia in a Teenager”

Afolabi F, Martinez-Fernandez T.
“A Rare Case of Eosinophilic Pneumonia”

Naqvi, K.
Speaker and Moderator, Carrell-Krusen Neuromuscular Symposium at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Dallas TX, Feb. 2016
“Sleep Disordered Breathing in Children with Neuromuscular Weakness”
Rivera-Sanchez, Y.


Poster, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 2016
“Use of Rituximab in Late Onset Leaky SCID”

Sharma P.

“Improving Newborn Screening through Improved Access.”

“Scheduling Three Month Follow-up Appointments: Quality Improvement Endeavor to Improve Adherence and Patient Satisfaction.”

Education and Training

The Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine provides educational opportunities for medical students and pediatric residents in addition to our accredited fellowship program.

Medical Students

A full curriculum based on the core competencies as published by the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP) is taught through bedside clinical supervision and daily rounds, in addition to various didactic sessions and interactive case-based discussions facilitated by faculty in nearly all the divisions in the Department of Pediatrics. The entire curriculum is reviewed on an ongoing basis through feedback from UT Southwestern Medical School faculty, national regulatory agencies, and students themselves. Students rotating through the core clerkship continue to outpace national averages on standardized assessments.

Medical students participate in outpatient specialty clinics staffed by members of the Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine faculty. During clinic sessions, medical students receive individualized, one-on-one teaching by the faculty. Third year medical students participate in the inpatient pulmonary service. As part of their rotation and under the supervision of the Division faculty, they are assigned to obtain the history, complete the physical exam and present their patients during daily rounds.

Residents

The evaluation of children with respiratory problems is an integral component of the practice of pediatric medicine. Respiratory symptoms and problems are the most common reason for childhood physician encounters and are the number one cause of school absenteeism and hospital admission. Hence, it is essential that the pediatric resident become familiar with the recognition, diagnosis, and care of respiratory diseases. The overall goal of the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine rotation is to provide residents with intensive exposure to a broad spectrum of pulmonary disorders, in order to highlight principles of management, current controversies, and the respective roles played by the pediatrician and pulmonary subspecialist, as well as other disciplines in the management of these patients.

The Pediatric Pulmonary rotation has been designed for upper-level residents which include second- and third-year general
pediatric residents. Goals are aimed at gaining experience in the daily management of children with known as well as presumptive pulmonary disorders. Expectations include the demonstration of medical knowledge, comprehension of pathophysiology, development of differential diagnosis, and development of increased independence in the formulation of management plans. In addition, residents should maintain an overall awareness of the acuity of the patients on the inpatient service.

Yadira Rivera-Sanchez, M.D., directs the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Resident Education Program.

Fellows

The mission of our accredited Pulmonology Fellowship Training Program is to prepare postgraduate pediatricians to be experts in pulmonary medicine. Training is through a combination of educational activities, competencies, and assessment methods, including patient care, guided reading, and discussion with regards to organization, business planning, and management of the pediatric pulmonary service, and research methodology.

Under the direction of Tanya Martinez Fernandez, M.D., and overseen by the ACGME, our three-year Fellowship Program began in July 2011. The majority of fellowship education is through didactic conferences and active participation in the inpatient, outpatient, and consulting services.

Research Activities

Research efforts in the Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine have been focused on the areas of clinical expertise of the Division faculty.

- Sleep positioning and other aspects of sudden infant death syndrome risk prevention are the focus of Dr. Michelle Caraballo’s research.
- Dr. Devika Rao’s research interests lie in the realm of the pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease.
- Dr. Kamal Naqvi’s investigative efforts involve pediatric sleep disorders.
- The respiratory consequences of early-onset scoliosis and neuromuscular disease are the focus of Dr. Peter Schochet’s research.
- Dr. Preeti Sharma’s research interests involve the optimization of the clinical care of cystic fibrosis patients, and observational studies and emerging treatments in children with cystic fibrosis.

Clinical Activities

The Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Division offers both inpatient and outpatient consultation for a wide variety of respiratory and sleep disorders in children.

Inpatient Services

The inpatient population consists primarily of patients with chronic respiratory failure on mechanical ventilation and patients with neuromuscular diseases hospitalized for an acute respiratory process, acute asthma exacerbations and status asthmaticus, complicated pneumonias, patients status-post airway surgery, and cystic fibrosis patients who require hospitalization.

Dr. Yadira Rivera-Sanchez oversees the inpatient activities of the Division. There is an attending pulmonologist assigned to the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Service at all times.
Outpatient Services

Outpatient activities are comprehensive and primarily centered on a busy general pulmonology practice. Physicians combine their efforts with a group of talented and dedicated nurse practitioners, who conduct clinical consultations on selected patients.

- Tanya Martinez Fernandez, M.D. has led the development and organization of the outpatient clinics.
- Kamal Naqvi, M.D., directs the sleep program, which provides clinical services on a variety of sleep and respiratory control related disorders.
- Peter Schochet, M.D., conducts specialized clinics on neuromuscular and chest wall related respiratory diseases, and on the respiratory complications of sickle cell disease.
- In 2015 Devika Rao founded a Pulmonary-Sickle Cell interdisciplinary clinic to address pulmonary needs of children with sickle cell anemia. This clinic takes place at the Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders once each month.
- Devika Rao, M.D., is Director of the Pulmonary Function Lab, Children’s Health
- Yadira Rivera-Sanchez, M.D., co-directs the Aerodigestive Multidisciplinary Clinic, which is conducted with the pediatric otolaryngology and gastroenterology services.

Patient Care Guidelines

Division members have been actively engaged in the establishment of patient care guidelines, including for the evaluation and implementation of non-invasive ventilation in infants at home, for the care of asthma patients, and for tracheostomy care.

Patient Statistics

Pulmonary at Children’s Medical Center Dallas

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<tr>
<td>Inpatient admissions</td>
<td>143</td>
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<td>Inpatient consultations</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>New outpatient visits</td>
<td>1,215</td>
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<td>Outpatient follow up</td>
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Pulmonary at Children’s Plano

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<td>New outpatient visits</td>
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<td>Outpatient follow up</td>
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Pulmonary at Children’s Southlake

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Procedures

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<td>Sleep studies – Plano</td>
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<td>Pulmonary function testing</td>
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<td>Laboratory procedures</td>
<td>36,682</td>
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<td>Bronchoscopies</td>
<td>170</td>
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Current Grant Support

Preeti Sharma

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Title of Projects: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: CF Teaching and Care Center Patient Registry, Screening Improvement Program Initiative, Mental Health Coordinator Award, Additional Research Coordinator Award, Clinical Award for Physical Therapist, and Multiple Observational Studies and Intervention/Therapy Trials in CF Patients.
Role: Principle Investigator
Dates: 01/2015 – 12/2018

Peer-Reviewed Publications


Book Chapters