**Program Introduction**

Nationally, the specialty of hospitalist in medicine, which began about two decades ago, is growing exponentially and has become a crucial component of American hospitals. As the health care system shifts from volume to value, hospitalists are uniquely qualified to make a difference with their expertise in patient care and systems issues.

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 28 faculty members, covering up to eleven service lines during high season at Children’s Medical Center Dallas and Children’s Medical Center at Plano. Division faculty play an important role in patient care, teaching, research, quality and safety, utilization management, hospital throughput and implementation of information technology.

**Faculty**

There are twenty-four full-time and four part-time faculty members in the Hospitalist Medicine program. Five new faculty members joined the Hospitalist Medicine team in 2015.

**Ladan Agharokh, M.D.**
Instructor

**B.A., with honors**
UT Austin, 2008

**M.D.**
UT Southwestern, 2012

**Danielle Dukellis, M.D.**
Instructor

**B.A., summa cum laude**
University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 2006

**M.D.**
New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 2012

**Katherine Keith, M.D.**
Instructor

**B.A.**
Rice University, Houston, TX, 2008

**M.D.**
University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, VA, 2012

**Postdoctoral Training**
Residency, Pediatrics, UT Southwestern/ Children’s, 2012-2015
Monica Peng, M.D.
Instructor

B.S.
University of Texas at Dallas, 2008

M.D.
UT Southwestern, 2012

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Orlando, FL, 2012-2015

Giancarlo Toledanes, D.O.
Instructor

B.A., magna cum laude
University of Saint Thomas, Houston, TX, 2007

D.O.
University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Fort Worth, 2012

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics Rutgers University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NY, 2012-2015

Honors / Awards

2015 Faculty Promotions

- Rachel Gehring, Assistant Professor
- Erika Ondrasek, Assistant Professor
- Courtney Solomon, Assistant Professor

Vijay Kalidindi

- Completed Advanced Leadership Certificate Program, UT Southwestern

Amit Mehta

- SWAT Nominee for Outstanding Teacher Award, Medical Student Category

Michelle Thomas

- Completed Leadership Emerging in Academic Departments (LEAD) Program for Junior Faculty, UT Southwestern

Invited Lectures

Paul Hain

- Pediatric Hospital Medicine National Meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 2015
  - “Everything You Never Knew You Needed to Know about Health Insurance”
- Children’s Hospital of San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, July 2015
  - “Everything You Never Knew You Needed to Know about Health Insurance”
Oral & Poster Presentations

Vineeta Mittal

- Speed Monitoring
  - Workshop Presentation: Pediatric Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 2015
- Understanding Your Leadership Style and Leading with Awareness: Developing a Path to Transformational Leadership
  - Workshop Presentation: Pediatric Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 2015
- Innovative and Evidence-based Strategies to Incorporate Teaching on Family-Centered Bed Rounds
  - Workshop Co-leader: Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS), San Diego, CA, May 2015

Ben Lee

- Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia
  - Poster Presentation: Pediatric Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, July 2015

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 create novel educational opportunities for students and residents. Faculty teach residents from UT Southwestern’s categorical residency program, family practice interns from Dallas-Fort Worth programs at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Baylor Hospital in Garland, Charlton Methodist in Dallas, and UT Southwestern, as well as third-year medical students from UT Southwestern Medical School and trainees from outside programs doing elective rotations. Hospitalist faculty also participate in education of nursing and allied health professionals. The educational activities include mentorship of trainees and contribution towards curriculum development.

Research Activities

Hospitalist Medicine faculty members develop one or more areas of expertise related to their clinical interests and have engaged in a number of research endeavors, some collaborative with other disciplines. 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 has also served as the primary site of implementation of family-centered rounds, an innovative approach that prospectively and directly incorporates 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, bone infections, 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 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 high season there are ten day-time hospitalist service lines (eight at Dallas and two at Legacy), and three night-time services (two at Dallas and one at Plano) representing hospitalist coverage of over 120 patients at maximum census.

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. Hospitalists also function as primary attending physicians for several specialty inpatient services with specialists as consultants. These include neurology, rheumatology, immunology, patients with metabolic disorders and musculoskeletal infections besides certain pulmonary and ENT patients at Dallas. At the Plano campus, hospitalists staff diabetes patients with the endocrinologists functioning as consultants. In addition, hospitalists provide general pediatric consultation for all specialty services at Dallas and Plano.

Peer-Reviewed Publications


