Pediatric Education Programs 2019 Annual Report

Introduction

The Department of Pediatrics views education as central to its global mission and its local long-term success. Our clinical training is built on the foundation of diagnosing and treating children from the large and diverse population we are privileged to serve in Dallas. As part of the only academic pediatric practice for children in the fourth largest metropolitan area in the United States, our trainees are shaped by their broad exposure to exceptionally diverse pathophysiology and our patients’ varied epidemiologic and social contexts. To offer depth to this process, we have cultivated our trainees and our faculty to consistently emphasize rigorous, mechanistic thinking. Departmental educational conferences like our Intern Case Conference with our Chairman and Chief Residents, the weekly Multidisciplinary Conference series created by Dr. Marilynn Punaro, and the Senior Resident led Friday Morning Report coached by our Chief Residents are now fundamental to our Department’s education culture: in which fundamental mechanisms of disease and treatments are discussed and explored in nuanced detail, among intellectually rigorous and curious colleges.

A common theme in our educational efforts is pediatrician empowerment and intellectual curiosity- at all levels of training. Our educational culture intentionally encourages critical questioning of hierarchy and a healthy intellectual discourse. At bedsides and in clinics during the past year, this has correlated with diagnostic discoveries or reversals by our trainees that have radically improved the care of specific patients. This is often due to the insights of our trainees who increasingly question assumptions: of each other and the broader system. Fears over the last decade that ACGME work hour restrictions would somehow hollow out the ethos (and/or critically reduce the “area under the curve”) of contemporary physician training have been addressed head-on here. Happily, we seem to have reached a healthy equilibrium state where our better rested, increasingly well-read, teams of M.D.’s engage in ways that make up for the potential disruptions of recurring circadian swaps of doctors. Part of this has been achieved by attention to programmatic details like our call schedules: designed to create overlap of trainees in ways that have increased the continuity of care offered by our teams. Most of it has been accomplished via our trainees’ dependably critical appraisal and questioning of their colleagues’ hypotheses and thought processes – at all hours and in almost all environments. Our Chief Residents have been effective champions of both. As fellow faculty members, they have significant empowerment and impact. This, and their comprehensive influence upon education in and by our Department, appears to be a major reason why a major percentage of each resident class volunteers each year to be chief residency candidates.

Associate Program Directors

Jeffrey McKinney, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Vice Chair for Pediatric Education

Pamela Okada, M.D.
Mackenzie Frost, M.D.
Andrew Yu, M.D.
Our three Associate Program Directors allow our program to further examine and respond to class cohort specific needs, via our APDs’ longitudinal tracking of the mentoring our clinical competency committee members offer to each of our residents.

Next, we seek to more formally “mentor our educational mentors” as part of the ongoing collaborative efforts of this highly committed group of educational faculty. Our current clinical competency committee group members, listed by 2018-2019 academic year class, below.

- Clinical Competency Committee Members for 2019-2020 Third Year Residents: Archana Dhar, Sing-Yi Feng, Athra Kaviani, Andy Yu, Maeve Sheehan, Jennifer Walsh, Tracy Wright
- Clinical Competency Committee Members for 2019-2020 Second Year Residents: Soumya Adhikari, John Andersen, Elizabeth Brown, Sam Davila, Mackenzie Frost, Rana Said, David Sutcliffe, Jennifer Walsh, Matt Wolf
- Clinical Competency Committee Members for 2019-2020 First Year Residents: Elizabeth Byrne, Pam Okada, Ashish Patel, Rana Said, Yadira Rivera-Sanchez, William Scott, Tiffany Simms-Waldrip, Jennifer Walsh

While our clinical competency committee addresses mandated program requirements, like ACGME milestones assessments, we also have intentionally emphasized career coaching and individualized curriculum support for each of our residents. Consistent with UT Southwestern’s Graduate Medical Education initiatives to build out of trainee wellness resources, our mentoring process also offers respectful, discrete, support of personal needs – behind a robust firewall of privacy. While drawing from intentionally distinct groups, anonymized summary overview reports from our UTSW GME colleagues suggest that our Department’s trainees are well connected with wellness center resources – and indeed have become campus role models for attending to long term physician wellness and resiliency.

Each of our APDs also manages a diverse portfolio of programmatic projects, designed to create and advance new educational opportunities and resources for our trainees. A sampling of these include Pamela Okada’s community outreach efforts, strengthening mutually beneficial ties between our Department and leading community pediatric practices in the metroplex; Mackenzie Frost’s robust pathways of quality improvement training sequences for residents; and Andy Yu’s thoughtful assessments of our current educational sessions’ scope and impact – plus our first forays into social media and alumni network cultivation.

Faculty

We continue to offer on-site Ambulatory Pediatrics Training with designated UTSW faculty; now in a clinic with significantly improved patient access and resources. Information about these faculty members is below.

Nancy Kelly, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor
Director, Community Pediatrics and Advocacy Program for Pediatric Residents

Michael Lee, M.D.
Associate Professor

Angela Mihalic, M.D.
Professor
Dean of Medical Students and Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Dorothy Sendelbach, M.D.
Professor
Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Honors / Awards

Nancy Kelly
- Southwest Academy of Teachers (SWAT) – UT Southwestern

Michael Lee
- 2019 Texas Super Doctor, Texas Monthly Magazine
Jeffrey McKinney
- 2019 Best Pediatric Specialists – D Magazine

Angela Mihalic
- Piper Professor of 2019 – Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
- UT Southwestern Outstanding Teacher Award, Class of 2022 Pre-Clerkship - UT Southwestern
- 2019 Careers in Medicine Excellence in Medical Student Career Advising Faculty Advisor Award - UT Southwestern
- 2019 UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers (SWAT) Distinguished Clinical Educator Award - UT Southwestern

Dorothy Sendelbach
- Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, UT System

Invited Lectures

Nancy Kelly
- AAP District VII Resident Delegate Monthly Conference Call, February 2019
  - “Vaccine Hesitancy: What Can We Do”
- Lumin Education Board of Directors Meeting, Dallas, TX, June 2019
  - “Community Partnerships: Teaching Valuable Lessons to Future Doctors”
- Grand Rounds, 2019 Research Symposium, Children’s Hospital of San Antonio, CHRISTUS Health
  - “Implementing an Intervention to Improve Children’s Health in a Community Setting”
- University of Texas Maternal and Child Health Training Program Seminar, UT School of Public Health
  - “Immunization Concerns: Separating Fact from Fiction” (presented at Dallas with video conferencing to Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Brownsville, and Michigan campuses)

Jeffrey McKinney
- Department of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine ID Boot Camp, UT Southwestern, July 2019
  - “Gram Negative Infections Cases and Management”
- Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Dallas, TX, August 2019
  - “Long Range Aspirations for Pediatricians’ Influence in Diverse Communities”
- Multidisciplinary Case Conference, Department of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern
  - February 2019 – “Case: An Adolescent with Persistent Facial Swelling”
  - October 2019 – “Case: Pre-adolescent Girl with Multiple Chronic Medical Conditions, Presumed Sepsis, Acute Cognitive Deterioration, and Rash”

Angela Mihalic
- Texas Medical Association Council on Medical Education, Austin, Texas, February 2019
  - “Perspectives of Student Affairs Deans on the Match”
- Department of Neurosurgery Faculty Development, UT Southwestern, January 2019
  - “Generational Issues in Teaching and Learning”

Conference Presentations

2019 Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting
- McKay S, Van Ramshorst R, Bocchini C, Kelly N, Hoffman B.
  Poster Presentation: “TEACH TX: A Survey of Pediatric Advocacy Education Programs in Texas”

- Siddiqui R, Kelly N, Nava P, McDonald T.
  Oral Presentation: “Utilizing Pediatric Community Clinics for Voter Registration”
Media Appearance / Print

Nancy Kelly
- CBS DFW, channel TXA 21, July 2019
  “Children’s Health – Texas Vaccination Requirements”

Michael Lee
- Children’s Health Dallas, February 2019
  “Allergies vs. Colds”
- Children’s Health Dallas, July 2019
  “Preventing Back to School Sickness”
- Children’s Health Dallas, November 2019
  “Five Common Winter Illnesses in Kids”

Jeffrey McKinney
- Children’s Health Dallas – Telehealth, October 2019
  “Typhoid Fever & Salmonella,”

Research

Nancy Kelly
- Research Advisor for 2018-2020 Resident AAP CATCH Grant Recipients, Drs. Camille Keenan and Annie Kennelly

Peer-Reviewed Publication


Book Reviews


Education and Training

Medical Student Education

As one of the largest medical schools in the country, and a member institution of the University of Texas system, UT Southwestern accepts approximately 230 students annually. The education of these students remains one of the core missions of the Department of Pediatrics. A solid foundation in childhood health and illness has long been recognized as one of the central components of a well-rounded medical education, and the Department of Pediatrics strives to offer students the opportunity to explore the full breadth of pediatric medical care through our many programs.

At the center of these offerings is the core clerkship in Pediatrics for clerkship year medical students at UT Southwestern. This required element of the medical curriculum consists of a six-week rotation through the many units housed at Children’s Medical Center, in addition to the Newborn Nursery at Parkland Health & Hospital System. During this six-week rotation, students spend four weeks on the inpatient service units at Children’s Health, a week in the Emergency Department, and a week in the newborn nursery. The inpatient experience is aligned to
maximize student participation in all aspects of patient care: students spend two weeks of their time on a general inpatient medicine ward and two weeks on one of the hospital’s subspecialty wards.

In addition, pediatric training makes up a significant core of the Ambulatory Care Clerkship, itself a six-week experience during which students rotate through the offices of one of a number of community-based pediatricians in the North Texas region in addition to rotations through the breadth of subspecialty clinics on the Children’s Health campus.

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, interactive case-based discussions, and team-based learning sessions where students work in assigned teams to solve real world case simulations. Students also participate in community advocacy through their involvement in nutrition education programs for elementary school students in the Dallas Independent School District. The entire curriculum is reviewed on an ongoing basis based on feedback from medical school faculty, national regulatory agencies and students themselves.

Fourth-year medical students at UT Southwestern have more flexibility to tailor their academic schedule to meet individual learning goals. Whether students want to gain a more in-depth exposure to pediatric subspecialties in preparation for an eventual career in pediatrics or to strengthen their foundation in caring for children in advance of another career path, the department offers numerous opportunities to fourth-year students through the facilities at Children’s Health and Parkland. Students can immerse themselves in acute/intensive care experiences via rotations in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Emergency Department. Extended experiences in any of a number of subspecialty clinics including Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Nephrology, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology and others are available for fourth-year students as well.

In addition, ~30-40 students from outside institutions come to UT Southwestern and Children’s Medical Center annually to do visiting rotations in pediatrics. The department also offers international elective opportunities to attract top students globally to do visiting rotations in Dallas every year.

The Department of Pediatrics plays a prominent role in the administration of the medical school’s pre-clinical curriculum as well, with several departmental faculty involved in pre-clinical course leadership and in the student-centered learning communities (UTSW Colleges) at the heart of the pre-clinical curriculum.

Resident involvement in medical student education continues to be one of the hallmarks of the educational experience for UTSW medical students on their pediatric rotations. Our Chief Residents directly coach medical students via their faculty sponsorship of the UTSW Medical School’s Pediatric Interest Group, and residents often partner with medical students on scholarly projects. All of our senior house staff also create and present high visibility, resident-led, teaching conferences to intentionally draw medical students into deep discussions of pediatric disease processes, treatment mechanisms, and social determinants of health.

Perhaps more telling than any of the above, is that more than 150 UT Southwestern students have chosen to pursue a career in pediatrics or some combined program including pediatrics in the last five years, many here at UT Southwestern.

**Resident Education**

We continue to optimize our educational venues and programming in an effort to best prepare our trainees for long-term career success.

In our residency program, this includes our intentional de-garrisoning of our M.D.’s longitudinal continuity clinic training opportunities, to link UT Southwestern educational systems to our broader community of high-quality pediatricians. This effort has benefitted from the thoughtful contributions of our residency program Associate Program Director, Pamela Okada.
As part of this process, we have now created a nascent network of clinically rigorous and innovative community-based pediatric educational partners. Anecdotally, the meaningful contact and mutual respect fostered between our Department and these excellent community-based pediatricians may have contributed to the large number of last year’s residency graduates who chose primary care for their careers. Modeled on co-op educational systems common in top engineering schools, our community-based partners have now also become extremely helpful in career networking and in well informed job placement advice for our residents, especially our residents who chose to stay on practice in our region.

Likewise, our intramural educational innovations like our individualized curriculum are led by faculty who have become highly engaged in the nuances of nationally competitive career development for our trainees. Our residency Associate Program Director, Mackenzie Frost, has been very influential in this effort. Continued education innovation, like the new academic half days for residents on elective rotations, allows the program to deliver curriculum in novel ways that best suits a wide array of content while engaging our trainees in interactive programming.

Our residency program(s) now include an increasing number of highly innovative dual training paths: including Pediatric Neurology, Pediatric Neurodevelopment Disabilities, and Medicine-Pediatrics. These joint programs have reached high levels of collaboration in their talent recruitment, development and advancement efforts. We also now have dedicated support for residents interested in research. This includes our established Physician Scientist Training Program in Pediatrics, led by Dr. Philip Shaul, and our new Burroughs Wellcome Funded Training Resident Doctors as Innovators in Science Program, led by Dr. Dwight Towler.

A primary goal of all our educational programs is now nationally competitive career development, executed at individual scales for each of our trainees. Our residency Associate Program Director, Mackenzie Frost, has developed a formal curriculum for Fellowship Preparation which includes guidance on the application process, interview strategy, and the residents’ transition to the role of fellow. A similar program is being developed for our residents pursuing primary care. We formally track the “diaspora” of our trainees, as shown in the geography of recent residency program graduates career destinations.

With our emphasis on our residents’ and fellows’ career development, we also seek to consistently promote their advanced endeavors like meaningful scholarly projects and individualized training. This year, many of our trainees presented their work in venues like the Pediatric Academic Societies national meetings, and in robust fellowship and resident research presentation days.
Pediatric Residents – June 2019

7th Annual Residents’ Scholarly Project Symposium
Fellowship Education

Our fellows’ core curriculum sessions are now being led by Mackenzie Frost. Working with Fellows, with Fellowship Program Directors, and with Jeff McKinney, Dr. Frost is reorganizing these weekly events as a focus of our fellows’ professional development and their long-term career success.

Scholarship Oversight Committee reports for every fellow are now being reviewed at the Departmental level, as part of our longitudinal tracking of fellows’ career development opportunities—particularly as related to their research mentorship and competitiveness for jobs in our Department and in our peer academic institutions. In addition, Mackenzie Frost, as the new Director of Pediatric Fellowship education, has begun to revamp the Fellowship Core Curriculum series with an increased utilization of adult learning theory and a focus on topics key to academic success: for example, an essentials in writing series has been developed to focus on the components of successful manuscripts and a hands-on CV/cover letter writing workshop has been added to aid in the fellows’ job search preparation.

In successive annual seasons, we have continued to expand our educational programs’ recruiting reach and competitiveness. Based on candidates’ follow-up communications, this may be due to the increasing contributions of our current and recent trainees to our national recruitment efforts. We have also intentionally expanded our faculty interviewer pool and practices, incorporating engaged faculty from every division for our resident recruiting processes, and better matching specific candidates to faculty with whom they appear to have shared interests or backgrounds. This may allow both our residency and fellowship programs new mechanisms by which they can also continue to expand their national recruiting reach and allow our Department to build a desirably robust talent pipeline across the resident-fellow training sequence. Our Physician Scientist Training Program in Pediatrics (PSTP2) is a prime example of this approach, in which select residents are offered ongoing research training support that extends across their residency and fellowship years and provided direct career mentorship by Philip Shaul.

Subjectively, visitors to our program consistently comment on our trainees’ high morale and their sense of influence over our educational programs. Objectively, we have record low levels of trainee attrition and disciplinary actions. We have also partnered with UT Southwestern Graduate Medical Education initiatives that have systematically promoted the wellbeing of residents and fellows. This is manifest both in resources like the UTSW residents’ and fellows’ wellness center, and via policies and procedures designed to default to actions that consistently support trainees.

In our residencies and our fellowships, we have integrated efforts of Program Directors and Program Coordinators in ways that are increasingly allowing our educational programs to share best practices with each other. Our educational websites have been redesigned to allow individual training program specific highlights, yet also a functional level of intradepartmental linkage. Some of our educational programs now have high quality dedicated printed recruiting materials, featuring the accomplishments of current fellows and their training opportunities here. The Pediatric Department’s educational programs have benefitted from strengthened UT Graduate Medical Education support systems and infrastructure, including shared data tracking of, and feedback about, essential elements of ACGME reporting and self-study processes. This will be helpful in our upcoming ACGME site visit, to review all our graduate Pediatric Training Programs, in 2019-2020.

Recent Fellow Graduates

The locales of our most recent fellows’ jobs after fellowship training at UT Southwestern
2019 Conference Presentations – Fellows

Poster Presentations

Duran SR, Lemler MS, Thankavel P.
- The American Society of Echocardiography, Portland, Oregon, June 2019
  “Congenitally Unguarded Tricuspid Valve in a Cyanotic Neonate”

Ghazala Z.
- American Thoracic Society, Dallas, TX, May 2019
  “Spontaneous Pneumomediastinum in a Neonate with Spinnaker-Sail Sign”

Ghazala Z.
- American Thoracic Society, Dallas, TX, May 2019
  “The Many Faces of Cytomegalovirus Infection in the Bone Marrow Transplanted Lungs”

Mejia JD, Lopez X, White P.
- Pediatric Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD 2019. Selected for presentation at PES Presidential Poster Reception (top-ranking abstracts submitted by a trainee).
“Effectiveness of Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis Suppression with GnRH Agonists in Transgender Adolescents”

Mejia JD, Mogri M.
- Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA 2019. Received Outstanding Abstract Award.
  “Primary Autoimmune Hypothyroidism Presenting with Sleep Apnea and Recurrent Episodes of Rhabdomyolysis in a Pediatric Patient: A Case Report”

Mejia JD, Lopez X, White P.
- Pediatric Endocrinologist of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas, Ft. Worth, TX 2019.
  “Effectiveness of Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis Suppression with GnRH Agonists in Transgender Adolescents”

Maple B., Wyckoff, M., Kapadia, V.,
- Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 2019
  “Impact of the 7th Edition NRP Guideline Changes on Outcomes of Meconium-Exposed Newborns”

Shah K., Chalak, L., Mirpuri, J., Brown, L.,
- Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 2019
  “Development of Anemia in Preterm Infants Alters the Microbiome”

Oral Presentations

Duran SR, Huffaker T, Dixon B, Butts RJ, Hussain T.
  “Myocardial Perfusion Reserve as a Marker for Transplant Coronary Vasculopathy”

Ghazala Z.; L. Millen; L. De Keyzer; P. Thomas.
- Senior Fellows Research Day at UT Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, TX, May 2019
  “Responsiveness of CFTR complex alleles to small molecule therapies”

Lowe G, Tweed J, Cooper M, Huang C.
- “Delayed Diagnosis of Injury in Children”. Presented at Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, April 2019

Nguyen M, Chunyu Cai.
- 41st Annual Carrell Krusen Neuromuscular Symposium, Irving, TX, February 2019
  “A Classic Case of a Rare Autoantibody”

Nguyen M, Julie Fuller.
- 41st Annual Carrell Krusen Neuromuscular Symposium, Irving, TX, February 2019
  “A Boy with Arthritis and Ground Glass Opacities”

Published Abstracts

Baldwin C, Zerofsky M, Sathe M, Troendle, DM, Perito E. Acute Recurrent and Chronic Pancreatitits as Initial Manifestations of Cystic Fibrosis and Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator-related Disorders. Accepted to Pancreas, May 2019

Ghazala Z., L. Millen; L. De Keyzer; P. Thomas. Responsiveness of CFTR complex alleles to small molecule therapies. North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (NACFC) 2019. Awaiting decision, if published will be Sept 4th, 2019 in Pediatric Pulmonology via Wiley Online Library


2019 Senior Fellows Research Day

Published After Fellowship


