Under the direction of Jeffrey Kahn, M.D., Ph.D., the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease directs and manages two active in-patient infectious disease consultation services; one dedicated to general infectious diseases and the other dedicated to infections in the immunocompromised hosts. The Division has an active ambulatory service for children with infectious diseases, including a large clinic for HIV-infected and HIV-exposed children and adolescents at Children’s Medical Center. The Infection Control and Prevention Programs at two Children’s campuses (Dallas and Our Children’s House) are managed under the medical directorship of Michael Sebert, M.D.

The Division was established in the early 1960’s with one faculty member, John D. Nelson, M.D. Shortly thereafter, Dr. George McCracken joined the Division and the two managed the Division for decades, graduating more than 100 fellows, many of whom are currently leaders in academics and in the field of Infectious Diseases, making the fellowship program one of, if not the, longest standing and productive Pediatric Infectious Disease fellowship programs in the world. Drs. Nelson and McCracken were the founding editors for the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal, the top publication in the field of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Currently, the Division has nine faculty members, five fellows, and several research and administrative support staff.

The Division provides an active infectious disease consultation service at Children’s and other hospitals on the UT Southwestern campus, including Parkland Memorial Hospital and Clements University Hospital. Each year the Division provides consultation and care to more than 700 infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Faculty care for patients with inherited or acquired immunodeficiency, including those receiving immunosuppressive therapy for cancer, organ transplantation, bone marrow, and stem cell transplantation, as well as patients with inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatologic disorders and a wide variety of classic, as well as unusual, infectious disease problems.

Division faculty members publish an average of 10-12 papers yearly in peer-reviewed journals and are actively engaged in clinically applied research involving the areas of:

- Molecular epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus and activation of the innate immune system by RSV
- The link between pulmonary infection and asthma, specifically the role of dendritic cells in response to rhinovirus infection in the pathogenesis of asthma
- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria epidemiology, eradication and elimination
- Molecular biology and drug discovery for protozoan parasites
- Hepatitis E virus
- Infections in immunocompromised hosts
- Fungal infections
- Transplant Infectious Diseases
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Outbreak investigations
- Innate immune response to neuroinvasive Flaviruses

The Division is dedicated to the training of medical students, residents, and fellows. Since 1965, more than 100 physicians have completed training in the Division’s fellowship training program, and greater than 80 percent of them have academic appointments at universities and children’s hospitals worldwide.
Faculty

There are nine full-time faculty members in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease.

Honors / Awards

Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine

- Natasha Hanners
- Jeffrey Kahn
- Michael Sebert
- Jeffrey McKinney
- Paul K. Sue

2020 Best Doctors - D Magazine

- Jeffrey McKinney

Michelle Gill

- Promotion to Professor

Michelle Hsiang

- Selected for WomenLift Leadership Fellow

Paul Sue

- Recipient, Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation Research Award

Invited Lectures

Natasha Hanners

- Internal Medicine Ground Rounds, UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX, September 2020
  - “Type I Interferon Modulation of RNA virus Infections”

Michelle Hsiang

- Pediatric Ground Rounds, UT Southwestern/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, May 2020
  - “Malaria Elimination and Eradication: Finding and Treating Hidden Infections”

Jeffrey McKinney

- Community Organization Resident Practicum Elective, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, Dallas, TX, September 2020
  - Physician Advocacy Leadership Development
- SUCCESS (Starting University Clinical Careers Efficiently, Scholarly, and Successfully), Faculty Diversity and Development, UTSW, Dallas, TX, October 2020
  - “Starting University Clinical Careers Efficiently, Scholarly, and Successfully (SUCCESS) - Professionalism”

Dawn Wetzel

- University of Georgia, Parasitology Seminar Series, Athens, GA, January 2020
  - “Targeting New Therapies for Trypanosomatids”
- UT Southwestern Infectious Diseases Seminar, Dallas, TX, July 2020
  - “Targeting New Therapies for Trypanosomatids”
Conference Presentations

Almatrafi MA, Dassner AM, Slone T, Aquino V, Sebert M.
IDWeek (Virtual), October 2020
Poster presentation: "Effect of cefepime prophylaxis on bacterial bloodstream infections in neutropenic patients with acute myelogenous leukemia"

Gill M
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), Philadelphia, PA, March 2020
Symposium Invited Speaker, “The Role of Biologics in Viral Infections and Asthma: Both Inception and Exacerbation”

Kang Y, Aquino VM, Koh AY, Wetzel D, Sue PK
American Transplant Congress, Philadelphia, PA (Virtual), June 2020
Poster Presentation: “Efficacy and Tolerability of Tedizolid Phosphate in the Treatment of Mycobacterium abscessus Infection Among Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients”

McKinney J
Children’s Health 13th Annual Transfusion & Laboratory Medicine Conference, Dallas, TX, February 2020
“Salmonella: Contemporary Insights into Diagnostics and Disease”

Education and Training

The Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease provides educational opportunities for medical students and pediatric residents in addition to its accredited fellowship program.

Pediatric Infectious Diseases is a consultative service, in which faculty interact with all divisions in the department and assist in the management of children with a variety of underlying medical problems. Most consultations involve hospitalized patients, but there are general infectious disease and HIV/AIDS clinics in which patients are managed on an outpatient basis. Medical students can elect to work in these clinics under supervision of the fellows and faculty. The elective rotation is open to second-, third- and fourth-year medical students and pediatric residents, the latter being given more autonomy because of their greater clinical experience. Visitors from other medical schools and residency training programs are welcome.

The Infectious Diseases Service is an elective-only rotation among our house officers. Thus, we are pleased to consistently attract residents who self-select month-long training experiences in Infectious Diseases. Individualized by Amanda Evans, these blocks have allowed residents to choose among training exposures in our outpatient clinics, our general infectious diseases consult service, and our immunocompromised host clinical service. Residents consistently contribute to our division rounds, including via formal presentations of contemporary cases and new research findings. In addition, trainees interested in infectious diseases work with our colleagues in public health, in the bone marrow transplant unit, the clinical microbiology lab, and with our dedicated infectious diseases pharmacists. Resident scholarly projects have been mentored by our faculty, and we take pride in facilitating nationally competitive ID fellowship searches by our UT Southwestern resident cadre.

The Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease has a long tradition of training fellows in the subspecialty. Since 1965, more than 100 fellows from 28 countries have completed training in infectious diseases. Eighty percent are involved in teaching and research in university-affiliated medical centers.

Many graduates are leaders in the field of infectious diseases, and some have become division directors and department chairs or deans of medical schools.
The purposes of the training program are to provide a background in laboratory techniques of classical microbiology, immunology, and molecular biology, to provide experience in application of the scientific method to clinical and laboratory research, and to develop competence in diagnosis and management of infectious diseases. Clinical training is in the form of consultations, rounds, and conferences, and outpatient Infectious Disease and HIV Clinics.

Dr. Kahn serves as the Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellowship Program Director. All division faculty, each with specific clinical and research interests, actively participate in the training program. Each trainee is instructed in all relevant basic laboratory methods, including fundamentals of aerobic and anaerobic bacteriology, antibiotic susceptibility testing, antibiotic assays, serologic techniques, as well as state of the art molecular diagnostic assays such as Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometry or MALDI-TOF.

Additionally, the fellows have ample opportunity to work with collaborators in molecular microbiology to acquire basic techniques such as PCR, microarray analyses, cloning, transcriptome analyses and purification of bacterial outer membrane components (e.g. endotoxin).

The trainee carries through one or more research protocols of his or her own design with supervision by the program directors and collaborators. This is tailored to the interests and capabilities of the individual trainee, either in basic laboratory experimentation or in clinical research.

The clinical experience at Children’s Medical Center and on the neonatal service at Parkland Health & Hospital System and the newly opened Clements University Hospital is extensive. There are approximately 120,000 outpatient visits, 9,000 pediatric admissions, and 16,000 deliveries per year. A high proportion of these have infectious disease problems; therefore, trainees have the opportunity to see many common infections and most of the rarer disorders.

Infectious disease clinical rounds are conducted daily; there are outpatient clinics at least four days each week. The Division averages approximately 60 inpatient consultations monthly and 15-20 new outpatient consultations monthly.

The three-year fellowship training program aims to provide individuals with sufficient background to pursue a career of independent research, teaching, and managing patients with wide variety of pediatric infectious diseases.

**Research Activities**

Pediatric Infectious Disease faculty are actively engaged in numerous investigations that provide an invaluable opportunity to learn the most modern molecular biologic techniques and to apply these to common clinical problems in pediatrics. The Division has a long-standing history in clinical investigation and has published landmark papers in many areas including clinical trials of anti-inflammatory agents in bacterial meningitis, diagnostic studies using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in congenital syphilis and pneumonia, and studies of endotoxin concentrations in body fluids of infants and children with meningococcal or Haemophilus meningitis and correlating these values with outcomes.

- Jeffrey Kahn’s areas of scientific research include emerging pathogens, respiratory syncytial virus, nanotechnology-based viral diagnostics.
- Michelle Gill, whose research centers on evaluating the role of dendritic cells in pediatric respiratory viral infections and allergic disease, partners with the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology to investigate the roles of dendritic cells, respiratory viruses and IgE-mediated allergy in asthma pathogenesis.
- Natasha Hanners' clinical and research interest is in viral encephalitis and the innate immune response in control on neuroinvasive viruses.
- Michelle Hsiang conducts malaria epidemiological and clinical research in low transmission areas of Africa and Asia to address the unique challenges of diagnosis, surveillance and treatment of individuals and populations in these settings.
- Dawn Wetzel focuses on host: pathogen interactions in, and drug development for, the parasitic infection leishmaniasis.
Paul Sue’s research interests include the epidemiology and clinical outcomes of viral and fungal infections among pediatric transplant recipients, novel therapeutics including the role of fecal microbiota transplantation among children, and the role of microbiota diversity in the emergence of MDRO among immunocompromised hosts.

Research areas include:

- The link between pulmonary infection and asthma
- Malaria
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunogenetic profiles of children with various infections
- Respiratory syncytial virus
- Hepatitis E virus
- Innate immune response to Flaviviruses
- Infection Control and Prevention
- Infections in immunocompromised hosts
- Fungal infections
- Transplant Infectious Diseases

The Division has established collaborative research programs with members of the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology at UT Southwestern. The principle goals of these collaborative projects are:

- To delineate the molecular immunobiologic basis for the pathogenesis of certain infectious diseases in pediatrics
- To define and control the inflammatory processes involved in bacterial infections, such as bone and joint infections
- To develop the immunobiologic profiles of children with infectious diseases

**Clinical Activities**

The Division provides an active infectious disease consultation service at Children's and other hospitals on the UT Southwestern campus including Parkland Memorial Hospital and Clements University Hospital. Each year, the Division provides consultation and care to more than 700 infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. Faculty care for patients with inherited or acquired immunodeficiency, including those receiving immunosuppressive therapy for cancer, organ transplantation, bone marrow, and stem cell transplantation, as well as patients with inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatologic disorders and a wide variety of classic as well as unusual infectious disease problems.

In addition to the infectious disease outpatient clinic and the infection control program at Children’s, the Division is responsible for directing:

- The AIDS-Related Medical Services Clinic (ARMS) under the leadership of Amanda Evans, M.D.
- The Infection Control Program under the leadership of Michael Sebert, M.D.
- The Solid Organ Transplant Infectious Diseases Clinic under the leadership of Paul Sue, M.D.
- Establishment of a new Congenital Infectious Disease Clinic, to address the increased rates of congenital infections, in particular congenital syphilis, under the leadership of Amanda Evans, M.D.

**Patient Visits**

Infectious Disease Patient Stats by Type of Visit By Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient consultations</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>790</td>
<td>852</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inpatient follow up visits</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,457</td>
<td>2,370</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Outpatient visits</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>448</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up outpatient visits</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Grant Support

Michelle Gill

**Grantor:** NIH NIAID Inner City Asthma Consortium 3 (ICAC3, UM1AI 114271)
**Title of Project:** Immunologic Approaches to Reduce Asthma
**Role:** Co-Investigator (PI: R Gruchalla)
**Dates:** 08/2014 – 07/2021

**Grantor:** NIH/NIAID Inner City Asthma Consortium 3
**Title of Project:** Mechanistic Study Development for ICAC3 MUPPITS and CoNAC Protocols
**Role:** Principal Investigator (NIAID ICAC3 Administrative Site: University of Wisconsin)
**Dates:** 08/2018 – 07/2021

**Grantor:** NIH/NIAID / Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason Seattle
**Title of Project:** Immune Tolerance Network: Dendritic Cell and T Follicular Helper Cell Pilot Study for CATNIP/ITN057AD
**Role:** Principal Investigator
**Dates:** 02/2019 – 01/2020

**Grantor:** NIAID; Immune Tolerance Network (ITN); Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
**Title of Project:** Impact of Anti-TSLP and antigen-specific immunotherapy on Dendritic Cell and T follicular helper cells in individuals with cat allergy.
**Role:** Principal Investigator
**Dates:** 02/2020 - 01/2021

**Grantor:** NIAID; Immune Tolerance Network (ITN); Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason
**Title of Project:** Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin (TSLP) Bioactivity Pilot Study
**Role:** Principal Investigator
**Dates:** 02/2020 – 01/2021

Natasha Hanners

**Grantor:** NIH K08
**Title of Project:** Interferon-mediated Control of Neuropathogenic Flaviviruses
**Role:** Principal Investigator
**Dates:** 02/2019 – 01/2024

Michelle Hsiang

**Grantor:** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
**Title:** Achieving Global Malaria Eradication through Accelerated Regional Elimination, Subproject 1.3: Evaluation of New, Highly Sensitive Point of Care Diagnostics for Asymptomatic Infections in Namibia
**Role:** Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Gosling)
**Dates:** 01/2017 – 12/2020

**Grantor:** NIH/NIAID K01
**Title:** Measuring Spillover Effects of Reactive, Focal Malaria Elimination Interventions
**Role:** Co-Mentor (PI: Jade Benjamin-Chung)
**Dates:** 06/2019 - 06/2023
**Grantor:** USAID (United States Agency for International Development)  
**Title of Project:** IMPACT Malaria, Operational Research Technical Assistance to US President’s Malaria Initiative-supported Countries  
**Role:** Collaborator (Co-PI: Gosling, UCSF; Consortium PI: Orford, Population Services International)  
**Dates:** 01/2018 – 12/2023

**Grantor:** Lampert Byrd Foundation  
**Title of Project:** COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Resilience Initiative in low and middle income countries (LMICs)  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 07/2020-02/2021

**Grantor:** United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
**Title of Project:** INFORM, President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) Evaluation & Research-to-Use Implementation Project, subaward from UCSF and PATH  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 10/2020 - 9/2025

**Grantor:** USAID  
**Title of Project:** IMPACT Malaria, Operational Research Technical Assistance to PMI; subaward from UCSF and Population Services International  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 04/2018 - 11/2022

**Grantor:** A128488 (Feachem and Gosling)  
**Title of Project:** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Achieving Global Malaria Eradication through Accelerated Regional Elimination, Subproject 1.3.1.  
**Role:** Co-Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 01/2017 - 12/2021

**Jeffrey Kahn**

**Grantor:** NIH / UT Dallas  
**Title of Project:** Digital Nanobubble Biosensor for Point-of-Care Respiratory Syncytial Virus Detection  
**Role:** Co-Investigator  
**Dates:** 05/2018 – 04/2020

**Grantor:** NIH / UT Dallas  
**Title of Project:** Rapid Diagnostic Test for Respiratory Syncytial Virus by Digital Nanobubbles  
**Role:** Co-Investigator  
**Dates:** 05/2020 – 04/2025

**Grantor:** DoD / UT Dallas  
**Title of Project:** Ultrasensitive and Rapid Diagnosis of Influenza by Digital Nanobubbles on a Microwell Array Platform  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 03/2020 – 02/2022

**Paul K. Sue**
Grantor: Allovir Inc  
**Title of Project:** Phase 3 Multicenter, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Viralym-M (ALVR105) for the Treatment of Patients with Virus-Associated Hemorrhagic Cystitis After Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 12/2020 – 06/2021

Grantor: Gilead Sciences  
**Title of Project:** A Phase 2/3 Open – label Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, Efficacy and PK of Remdesivier in Participants from Birth to < 18 years of age with COVID-19  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2020 – 07/2021

Grantor: Merck, Sharpe & Dohme Corp  
**Title of Project:** A Phase 2b, Open-Label, Single-Arm Study to Evaluate the Pharmacokinetics, Efficacy, Safety and Tolerability of Letemovir in Pediatric Participants From Birth to Less Than 18 Years of Age at Risk of Developing CMV Infection and/or Disease Following Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 05/2019 – 05/2021

Dawn Wetzel

Grantor: CCRAC/Children’s Clinical Research Advisory Committee  
**Title of Project:** Role of Host Cells in Treatment-Resistant Pediatric Leishmaniasis  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 04/01/2018 – 03/31/2021

Grantor: Harrington Discovery Institute Scholar, Innovator Award  
**Title of Project:** Developing Novel Antiparasitics That Affect Tubulin Dynamics  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 01/2019 – 12/2021

Grantor: NIH / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)  
**Title of Project:** Targeting a New Therapy for Trypanosomatids  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2019 – 05/2024

**Journal Publications**


12. Ullah I, Sharma R, Mete A, Biagini GA, **Wetzel DM**, Horrocks PD. **The relative rate of kill of the MMV Malaria Box compounds provides links to the mode of antimalarial action and highlights scaffolds of medicinal chemistry interest.** *J Antimicrob Chemother.* 2020 Feb 1;75(2):362-370. PMID:31665424


Book Chapter