Division Introduction

"As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each one of us has something that no one else has—ever will have—something inside that is unique to all time. It’s our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression."

(F. Rogers)

These sage words are a guide for all who work with children and their families.

This charge is particularly important for those dedicated to working daily with children who are—more than others—especially vulnerable children. Those vulnerabilities encompass physical, emotional, behavioral, neurobiological conditions, and—too often—additional high-risk factors that are socially/environmentally determined.

For each component program conducted by the faculty in the Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (DBP), these vulnerable children and their families are the cohort seen daily. The severity of their vulnerabilities may vary. Their needs certainly vary. But common to all are the real and potential impacts such liabilities have on lifetime physical health, mental health, and quality of life. It is for these children and their families that the faculty of the Division come to work each day.

The Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics incorporates specialists with expertise that allows longitudinal support to children/adolescents with:

- global developmental delays; developmental differences related to communication, language, and/or behavior; complex attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); dyslexia; learning disabilities; neurocognitive disorders; myelomeningocele; long-term neonatal follow-up; end-of-life issues; past trauma—too often resulting in their being placed in the Texas foster care system; recent exposure to child abuse/neglect; challenges to well-being in the adolescent developmental phase of growth; chronic medical complexities; Down syndrome; 22Q deletion syndrome; Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and others.

The Division’s commitment to teaching is central to its work. In addition to providing all Pediatric and Med-Ped residents with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s (ACGME) required training in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, the Division’s Fellowship programs are robust and reflective of this commitment. This past year, five fellows were supported by the Division’s faculty in the sub-specialty areas of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Child Abuse/Neglect, and Adolescent Medicine. Drs. Meneses, Dakil, and Francis serve as fellowship directors. The Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics’ core value of integrated training is reflected by the active program for graduate students in clinical psychology who have been selected by the Division to focus on children with developmental disabilities and who train alongside the pediatric residents; this area of training is overseen by Dr. Bordes Edgar, the Co-director for the Division.

The increasingly active research endeavors of the faculty in the Division are clinically driven in nature. Both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies guide a better understanding of the needs, the applied interventions, and the outcomes among these vulnerable children and their families. Twenty-one publications from this past year are described below.

Details in this report outline the remarkable contributions of the Division’s faculty across the UT Southwestern campus, the broader community of North Texas outside the confines of the medical center, across the State of Texas, and across the nation.

All of the above are reflections of the Division’s unified focus of actions on behalf of the vulnerable child.
Division Faculty

The Division has 20 faculty specializing in a diversity of fields to provide collaborative and holistic care to the children we serve. These areas include developmental-behavioral pediatrics, adolescent medicine, complex care medical home, foster care medical home and research group, palliative care, and child abuse. There are five additional faculty scheduled to begin in the Division in the summer of 2023. There are presently two open faculty positions with active recruitment. Two faculty joined the Division in 2022:

Gunjan Singh, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Foster Care

M.D.
UT Southwestern, 2019
Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
UT Southwestern Medical Center/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, 2019 – 2022
Interests: Children with medical complexity in foster care and their healthcare utilization. Identifying barriers for foster and kinship families and advocating for their specific needs.

Grace Slater, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Palliative Care

M.D.
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria, IL, 2016
Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
Medical College of Wisconsin, Wauwatosa, WI, 2016 – 2019
Fellowship, Pediatric Hospital Medicine
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2019 – 2021
Fellowship, Hospital and Palliative Medicine
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, 2021 – 2022
Interests: Advanced Communication skill training; communication skills for responding to discrimination in the workplace; elucidating cultural health disparities; incorporating machine learning and artificial intelligence into diagnostic medical care.

Faculty by Specialty

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

Richard C. Adams, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics
Division Chief
Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics  
Division Co-Director

Sari Bar, D.O.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of DBP Clinics at CMC  
Director, Down Syndrome Clinics  
Director, DBP Resident Rotations

Sheryl Frierson, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders, TSRHC

Veronica M. Meneses, M.D., M.S.H.S.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of DBP Clinics at TSRH  
Training Director, DBP Fellowship

Claire Usala, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Clinical Staff to Down Syndrome Clinic

**Complex Care Medical Services**

Patricia Petroff, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of Complex Care Medical Services

Patricia Hicks, M.D.  
Professor of Pediatrics

Elizabeth R. Thomas, D.O.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine**
May Lau, M.D., MPH  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Program

M. Brett Cooper, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Jenny Francis, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Training Director, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Fellowship

REACH Child Abuse and Child Neglect Program

Suzanne Dakil, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of REACH Program  
Training Director, Child Abuse Fellowship

Kristin Reeder, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Palliative Care

Mark Stockton Beveridge, Jr., M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Director of Pediatric Palliative Care Program

Katherine Maddox, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Grace Slater, M.D.  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence

Hilda Loria, M.D., MPH
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Director, Foster Care Program

Gunjan Singh, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Kimberly Stone, M.D., MPH
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Honors / Awards

Mark Stockton Beveridge Jr.
• Texas Super Doctors – Rising Star 2022

M. Brett Cooper
• Best Pediatric Specialist in Dallas, D Magazine
• BNGAP Service Award – LGBT Health Workforce Conference

Grace Slater
• Best Poster Award – Dena Hofkosh Pediatric Educators’ Symposium

Invited Lectures

Richard Adams
• 17th Annual Hydrocephalus Association National Conference; Austin TX June 2022
  o “Bowel Continence Programs Across the Lifespan”
• American Academy Cerebral Palsy & Developmental Medicine, Denver, CO
  o “2022 Top Ten in Developmental Disabilities”
• CDC/ SBAA National Clinical Care Conf, (Virtual)
  o “Transition: Bridging the Silos of Med Clinic & School based Transition Efforts”

M. Brett Cooper
• Academic Pediatric Association Region 2 and 3 Conference, Virtual, March 2022
  o “You want to teach LGBTQ+ Health-now what? A Focus on Learner Assessment & Competencies”
• MAPS Brain Science and Health Course, Highland Park High School, Highland Park, TX, May 2022
• “Eating Disorders Overview”
  • Sam Houston State Summer Internship Series, Sam Houston State Medical School, Conroe, TX, June 2022
    o “Intro to Adolescent Medicine”
    o “Gender Affirming Medical Care”

Suzanne Dakil
  • Crimes Against Children, Dallas, TX, August 2022
    o “Gut Punch: Abdominal Trauma in Children”
    o “I’m Feeling HOT HOT HOT; Pediatric burns”
  • CPS/CPI Leadership Conference, Dallas, TX, November 2022
    o “Working with Medical Providers on Abuse Investigations”

Veronica Bordes Edgar
  • Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc Webinar, Virtual, September 2022
    o “The fun of two languages in your pediatric practice: Bilingual pediatric neuropsychological assessment”
  • American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, August 2022
    o “Focusing on the provider to re-envision and re-invent an inclusion and diversity-responsive practice” (with Dr. Shawn McClintock)
  • Spina Bifida Association Latino Education Summer Series Webinar, Virtual, July 2022
    o “Como la salud mental y el comportamiento influyen en el bienestar y la independencia de sus hijos con espina bifida”
  • American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, June 2022
    o “Is your pediatric assessment relevant? Recent advancements in pediatric cultural neuropsychology”
  • University of California San Diego and San Diego State University Joint Doctoral Program, Advanced Clinical Neuropsychology Seminar, San Diego, CA, May 2022
    o “Pediatric cultural neuropsychology and assessment of bilingual children”
  • Child Mind Institute, Visiting Professor Lecture Series, Virtual, February 2022
    o “Culturally informed pediatric assessment”
  • Girls Empowered by Mavericks (GEM) Program, Dallas Mavericks, Dallas, TX, May 2022
    o “Building a positive you: Managing social media stress”

May Lau
  • American Academy of Pediatrics Systems of Care for Healthy Mental Development, Virtual, June 2022
    o “Mental Health Needs of Children with Medical Complexity and their Families”
  • Texas Pediatric Society 2022 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, September 2022
    o “Practical Updates for Pediatricians on the 2021 CDC STI Treatment Guidelines”

Hilda Loria
  • National Head Start Winter Leadership Conference, Virtual, January 2022
    o “Covid-19, Masking, and Vaccines”
  • National Head Start Summer Leadership Conference, Virtual, June 2022
    o “Covid-19, Masking, and Vaccines”
  • UT Southwestern Department of Pediatrics Multidisciplinary Conference, Dallas, TX February 2022
    o “A Teenager with Abdominal Pain: Implicit Bias and the Hidden Curriculum”
  • UT Southwestern Patients, Physician, and Society Course, Dallas, TX, Aug 2022
    o “Trauma-Informed Care”
  • UT Southwestern Pre-op Bootcamp, Dallas, TX, August 2022
    o “Make it Stick: How to Not Just Survive but Thrive in Med School”
• UT Southwestern Community Health Track, Dallas, TX, August 2022
  o “Dallas County Immigrant Child Health Collaborative”
• American Academy of Pediatrics, Virtual, September 2022
  o “Influenza Prevention and Control Strategies in Early Education and Child Care Settings”
• Texas Pediatrics Society Annual Meeting, Galveston, TX, September 2022
  o “Hot Topic Presentation: Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention: The Role of the Pediatrician
• Child Abuse Grand Rounds, Children’s Heath, Dallas, TX, November 2022
  o “Let’s Talk Adoption: Celebrating Adoption with Insights from Foster Care”

Katherine Maddox
• AAP Trainees and Early Career Neonatologists National Advocacy Campaign, Virtual, June 2022
  o “Helping families thrive following NICU discharge”
• Epic Physician Builder Spotlight, Virtual, May 2022
  o “Advocating for a Physician Builder Program”

Veronica Meneses
• Mexican Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Virtual, March 2022
  o “Multidisciplinary Approach to the Child with a Gastrostomy Tube”
• International Conference for Autism Awareness, Chiapas, Mexico, April 2022
  o “Impact of the Covid19 Pandemic on Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders”
• Texas Pediatric Society Annual Meeting, Galveston, TX, September 2022
  o “Care of Girl with Autism Spectrum Disorder”
• Spina Bifida Association, Virtual, August 2022
  o “Bowel and Bladder Management for Children with Spina Bifida: Latino Education”

Kristen Reeder
• Child Abuse Prevention & Investigation for Intermediate Certification, Dallas, March & November 2022
  o “Medical Evaluations of Child Abuse”
• Child Abuse Training: How to Recognize and Respond, Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County, Woodstock, IL, April 2022
  o Co-Presenter, “The 5 Bs: Bruises, Burns, Bones, Bellies, & Brains”
• Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Morbidity & Mortality Conference, Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, April 2022
  o “Intracranial Hemorrhage in Acute Hemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn”
• PM Pediatrics Monthly Meeting, The Colony, TX, April 2022
  o “Key Points in Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse in the Urgent Care Setting”
• Summer Lecture Series and Continuing Education for Trauma/PICU Nurses, Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, May 2022
  o “Abuse Cases – How Can You Help?”
• Child Care Investigations 2022 SPARK Conference, TX Department of Family and Protective Services, Galveston, TX, May 2022
  o “The 5 Bs: Bruises, Burns, Bones, Bellies, & Brains”
  o “Child Sexual Abuse”
• Annual Crimes Against Children Conference, Dallas, TX August 2022
  o Co-Presenter, “Ask the Expert: Child Abuse Medical Issues with Pediatricians Drs. Dakil, Reeder and Steffey”
  o “Abusive Head Trauma: What Investigators and Prosecutors Must Know”
  o “Abusive Head Trauma: What Investigators and Prosecutors Must Know” (videorecording)
• Regional training for TX Department if Family and Protective Services, Virtual, August 2022
  o “FACN 101: What it is and how to use it (aka How to Ensure an Effective Medical Opinion”

• Advocacy in Action 2.0: A virtual Training Series, New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation, New Mexico, September 2022
  o “Family Violence and Abusive Head Trauma: The Basics”

• Child Abuse Grand Rounds, Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, December 2022
  o “Interesting Cases in Child Abuse 2022”

Gunjan Singh
• Child Abuse Grand Rounds, UT Southwestern/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, November 2022
  o “Celebrating Adoption with Insight from Foster Care”

Grace Slater
• Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Seminar, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2022
  o Panelist, “Hospice and Palliative Medicine Job Panel”

• Giving Serious News, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania September 2022
  o Lecture, “Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Virtual Underrepresented in Medicine Elective”

Kimberly Stone
• Academic Pediatric Association Southern Regional Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 2022
  o Session Moderator, “Population Health”
  o Workshop Presentation, “Fostering Collaboration: Supporting Interdisciplinary Learners in an Integrated Primary Care Clinic”
  o Abstract Reviewer

Conference Presentations

American Academy of Health Behavior (AAHB) Annual Meeting, Key Largo, FL, March 2022
Thompson EL, Preston SM, Francis JKR, Rodriguez SA, Pruitt SL, Blackwell JM, Tiro JA
Ignite presentation, “Social media information seeking for HPV vaccination and internet verification skills among parents of adolescents”

Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 2022
Bar S, Stephens SB, Mathew MS, Messiah SE, Bordes Edgar V
Poster Presentation, “Differences in Quality of Life Among Caregivers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder”

Francis JKR, Gribbons M, DeSilva N, Francis JM, Jetelina KK, Rosenthal SL, Tiro J
Poster Presentation, “Long-acting reversible contraception in the inpatient setting”

Francis JKR, Weerakoon S, Durarnte JC, Allouch S, Mathew MS, Lucas SL, Tiro J
Poster Presentation, “HPV vaccination before and during the COVID-19 pandemic”
Gambill L, Duc J, Loria H, Kaushik R
Poster Session, “Qualitative content analysis of a Statewide Advocacy Collaborative Framework: A once in a decade opportunity”

Poster Presentation, “Effect of the Electronic Health Record on Pediatric Faculty Job Satisfaction”

Koshy S, Loria H
Poster Session, “Leaders in Immigrant Child Health: A Needs Assessment to Inform Development of an Advocacy Curriculum for Trainees”

Saez C, Loria H
Poster Session, “Culturally Sensitive Care for the Latino Immigrant Population: An Introductory Curriculum for Pediatric Residents”

Vora AS, Johnson C, Francis J, Tiro JA, Jetelina K, Francis JKR
Poster Presentation, “Trainees’ confidence in prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)”

Wang A, McNeely C, Sanchez VK, Durante JC, Tiro JA, Jetelina KK, Francis JKR
Poster Presentation, “Characteristics of caregivers who prefer LARCs for their adolescent daughters”

Pediatric Hospital Medicine Educational Grand Rounds, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO, December 2022

Slater GN, Ostrander K, McCormick A, Mauer S, Brown A, Choi S
Lecture, “Realign-Respond-Repair: Responding to Discrimination with your Interdisciplinary Team”

Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM), San Diego, CA, March 2022

Edmondson S, Conrado AB, Sanchez V, Loria H, Mcleigh J, Francis JKR
Poster Presentation, “Foster caregivers and their role in contraception decision-making for adolescents in care”

Durante JC, Conrado AB, Sanchez VK, Lau M, Higashi RT, Tiro JA, Francis JKR
Poster Presentation, “Caregiver Perspectives about Initiating Contraception Discussions with Youth in Dallas, Texas”

Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, October 2022

Bar S, Stephens SB, Mathew MS, Messiah SE, Bordes Edgar V
Poster Presentation, “Differences in quality of life among caregivers of children with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder”

Symposium Presentation, “Continue to Improve EPIC Efficiency! How to Use Tools/Builds Within EPIC to Reduce Documentation Time: Round 2”

Zack, D. Curry, P., DeBattista, A., Olson, J., Foradori, M., & Bar, S.
Poster Presentation, “The State of the Nurse Practitioner Workforce in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics: Preliminary Results of a National Survey”

Other Conferences
Granberry R, Ford L, Loria H  
Texas Conference on Health Disparities, Virtual, June 2022  
Poster Presentation, “Mental Health Matters: An Educational Initiative For Dallas Youth”

Annual WORLD Symposium, San Diego, CA, February 2022  
Poster Presentation, “Preliminary safety data of a phase 1 first in human clinical trial support the use of high dose intrathecal AAV9/CLN7 for the treatment of patients with CLN7 disease”

Khan T, Awosogba O, Bordes Edgar V, Stewart S, Germann J  
American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Portland, OR, March 2022  
Poster Presentation, “The role of acculturation in parent-child relationships for ayas coping with cancer”

Ray C, Bordes Edgar V, Stringer A, Thaler N  
American Psychological Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, August 2022  
Symposium Presentation, “Race based norming and its impact on BIPOC groups: A townhall conversation”

Slater GN, Ostrander K  
Dena Hofkosh Pediatric Educators’ Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA, June 2022  
Poster Presentation, “Responding to Discriminatory Comments for Clinical Team Leaders”

Slater GN, Ostrander K, McCormick A, Mauer S, Brown A, Choi S  
Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2022 Conference, Orlando, FL, July 2022  
Workshop Presentation, “Responding to Discrimination for Clinical Team Leaders”

Ostrander K, Slater GN, McCormick A, Mauer S, Choi S, Brown A  
McGill International Palliative Care Congress, Montreal, Canada, October 2022  
Workshop Presentation, “Realign-Respond-Repair: Responding to Discrimination with your Interdisciplinary Team”

**Education and Training**

The vulnerable children served throughout the combined programs within the Division benefit from person-centered care that is optimally coordinated across medical and mental health and developmental disciplines, optimizing the holistic concept of “healthcare”. For clinicians across all disciplines to be able to provide this level of service, they need to be trained within such systems. The Division is built on the core value of providing integrated person-centered care and training medical students, residents, fellows, and graduate students in mental health to extend and improve upon the model.

The care of vulnerable children with complex bio-psycho-social issues is best delivered when clinicians with different professional perspectives combine their unique skillsets. Faculty in the Division of Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics are committed to collaborative physician and psychologist education and training. Active, integrated assessments and planning by medical and psychology graduate students, pediatric residents, psychology and neuropsychology interns, and pediatric and neuropsychology fellows throughout the Division greatly enhance the quality and effectiveness of the care provided to our children and their families.

Exposure to issues of mental health and participation in this care, overseen by faculty in the Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, is a crucial component of medical training. The Division oversees and provides the ACGME-required training to the more than 100 Pediatric residents in the Children’s Health System of Texas (CHST)/UTSW training program through two of the Divisional programs. All Pediatric residents are required to participate in extended training in both Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics and in Adolescent Medicine during their three years of residency.
Division faculty provide direct teaching in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics for PL1 and PL2 residents in various clinics, both within the walls of the medical center and in settings throughout the community. Beyond “bedside” clinical teaching, a three-year curriculum for learning has been developed for small group and semi-formal didactics. Topics for focus include (but are not limited to): dyslexia, myelomeningocele, autism, ADHD, Down syndrome, childhood externalizing behaviors, anxiety issues in childhood and adolescence, toileting issues, school and learning problems, and other developmental/behavioral concerns. Residents are also integrated with programs such as Early Childhood Intervention, Speech, Occupational, Physical, and Recreational therapies, and Child Life.

Within the Division, faculty in the Palliative Care Program who are themselves trained and qualified as instructors have developed a highly interactive and well-received series of educational modules and small group learning sessions devoted to attaining skills in shared decision-making. This program, too, is designed so that all Pediatric residents take part before graduation. Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics and ADHD electives, available for PL2 and PL3 residents and tailored to individual interests, remain popular electives among the trainees.

The Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics supports three growing fellowship programs. The Division’s Child Abuse Fellowship lasts three years and covers patient care and procedural skills, interpersonal and communication skills, medical knowledge, problem-based learning, system-based practice, and professionalism. Our Adolescent Medicine fellowship covers the support and guidance of future adolescent medicine physicians to promote the optimal health and well-being of all adolescents and young adults. The Division’s fellowship in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics emphasizes the evaluation of development and behavior and treatment of developmental disabilities.

As the Division began in 2017, there were no fellowship programs in these areas. To date, each program has filled its allotted fellowship slots during the match process (100% match rate). The first set of graduating fellows in the three fellowships have moved into highly regarded academic centers around the country.

Fellows within the Division as of July 2022 include:

**Adolescent Medicine**
- Julia Durante, M.D.
- Jessica Sims, M.D.

**Child Abuse**
- Erica Bohmer, M.D.
- Michael Yu, M.D.

**Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics**
Research Activities

- Funded through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Spina Bifida Association of America, the Spina Bifida Program at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC) is a selected site participant in the Center for Disease Control’s National Spina Bifida Patient Registry and continues to be a contributor to outcome studies and papers from the Registry.
- Whole Genome Sequencing for Monozygotic Twins with Myelomeningocele, Veronica Meneses, Jonathon Rios, et al. Funded through the TSRHC Research Center, Dallas.
- Six Minute Walk Test in Children/Youth with Spina Bifida. Funded through the TSRHC Research Center, Dallas.
- The Impact of the 2020 Pandemic on Pediatric Faculty: Measures of Quality of Life and Workplace Stressors. Funded through the TSRHC Research Center, Dallas.
- Psychotropic Medication Use in Children and Youth with Spina Bifida. Principal investigator is Veronica Meneses, M.D., and study personnel include Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP
- Assessing Caregiver Stress in School-Age Specialized Pediatric Populations. Study personnel include Sari Bar, D.O., and Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP
- Stress and Coping in Siblings of Children with Complex Medical Needs. Principal Investigators include Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP, Patricia Petroff, M.D., and Sari Bar, D.O.
- Development and Disability Across Various Phenotypes of 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. Principal Investigator is Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP
- Implementing a Mindfulness Intervention in Children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Principal Investigators include Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP, and Sari Bar, D.O. Study personnel includes Richard Adams, M.D. and Veronica Meneses, M.D.
- Biologic Effects of Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation. Funded by Raynor Cerebellum Project. Study Personnel includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP.
- Biologic Effects and Efficacy of Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Funded by the Department of Defense. Study Personnel includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP.
- Phase I Intrathecal Lumbar Administration of AAV9/CLN7 for Treatment of CLN7 Disease. Co-Investigator includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D. ABPP.
- Phase I/II Open-label Intrathecal Administration of MELPIDA to Determine the Safety and Efficacy for Patients with Spastic Paraplegia Type 50 (SPG50) caused by a Mutation in the AP4M1 gene. Co-Investigator includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D. ABPP.
- Identification and Validation of disease- and phenotype-specific clinical endpoints for Childhood Onset Progressive Encephalopathy. Co-Investigator includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP.
- The Development and Validation of the Neuropsychological Evaluation: Parent Satisfaction Survey (NE-PSS)/Evaluación Neuropsicológica: Encuesta de Satisfacción para Padres (EN-ESP). Co-Investigator includes Veronica Bordes Edgar, Ph.D., ABPP.
- Caregiver Stress Among Foster, Kinship, and Biological Parents. Study personnel include Kim Stone, M.D., and Hilda Loria, M.D.
- Description of Complexity of Patients in Foster Care Population. Principal Investigator is Jill McLeigh, M.D., and study personnel includes Kim Stone, M.D.
- Empowering Youth Aging out of Foster Care. Principal Investigator is Kim Stone, M.D.
• Incidence and Clinical Predictors of Intracranial Hemorrhage in Children with Non-Accidental Trauma. Study personnel include Suzanne Dakil, M.D.
• Bruising patterns of children in the ED- a validation of the TEN-4 study. Study personnel include Suzanne Dakil, M.D.
• Safer at home: STIs in the era of COVID study. Study personnel include Suzanne Dakil, M.D.
• Incidence and type of fractures in children with osteopenia of prematurity study. Study personnel include Suzanne Dakil, M.D.
• Supporting Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for Adolescents through Community-Based Connections. Funded through the Program for the Development and Evaluation of Model Community Health Initiatives in Dallas (PDECHID). Principal Investigator is Jenny Francis, M.D.
• Supporting the Uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for Adolescents in Foster Care. Funded through Children’s Clinical Research Advisory Committee (CCRAC). Principal Investigator is Jenny Francis, M.D.
• Use of Long Acting Reversible Contraception. Funded through National Institutes of Health K23 Award. Principal Investigator is Jenny Francis, M.D.
• Reducing Missed Opportunities in HPV Vaccination in Pediatric Programs at Children’s Health. Funded through American Cancer Society HPV Cancer Free Texas. Principal Investigator is Jenny Francis, M.D.
• Evaluating LARC uptake among vulnerable adolescents: Understanding the barriers to LARC procedures in the inpatient setting. Funded through Merck Investigator Studies Program. Principal Investigator is Jenny Francis, M.D.
• Dallas County Immigrant Health Collaborative. Principal Investigator is Hilda Loria, M.D.
• Evaluation of Integrated, Trauma-Informed Health Delivery Model for Children and Families With Experience in the Child Welfare System – various projects. Study personnel includes Hilda Loria, M.D. and Gunjan Singh, M.D.
• The Care of Children in the Child Welfare System: An Innovative Multidisciplinary Elective for Medical Students. Principal Investigator is Hilda Loria, M.D.
• Medical Education Elective for Medical Students: Curriculum Design, Implementation, and Assessment. Principal Investigator is Hilda Loria, M.D.
• Pediatric Chronic Critical Illness Clinician and Family Videos, Principal Investigator Katherine Maddox
• Electronic Health Record Usability for Caring for Children with Medical Complexity, Principal Investigator Katherine Maddox

**Clinical Activities**

The hands-on, direct provision of expert clinical care by the Division’s faculty to the tremendous number of high-risk/vulnerable children in our region of the state and their families remains the invaluable contribution to the Department of Pediatrics and to the community. Division faculty provide teaching, outpatient care, and consultation through clinics situated at Children’s Health (Dallas and Plano), at Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (Dallas), at Parkland Hospital, and at the UTSW Frisco facility. The eleven clinical Programs serve as sites for patient care, resident and medical student education, and clinical research. The Division’s faculty remain creative and highly productive in finding new and improved avenues through which to address the needs of this growing population of at-risk children across the DFW area. Several examples from the past year are noteworthy and reflective of the similar work across all component programs in the Division:

The Division’s Foster Care Program
• The previously planned implementation of HealthySteps into this unique medical home setting started slowly, but over the past year has been fully implemented and expanded. The Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence remains the first primary care clinic in the nation’s HealthySteps program that is dedicated solely to serving children in the child welfare system.
• Dr. Kim Stone’s program "Empowering Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: Community Engaged Development of Technology Solutions to Improve Transitions to Independent Living" was completed. Initial action to implement the proposed mobile app to assist young adults is underway.
• The program has expanded the reach to serve vulnerable children and families by increasing access and continuity of care through expansion of eligibility for children and families previously involved in the child welfare system, but now adopted or returned into the biological family’s care.
• The program has continued to expand efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through the Program’s continued participation as a pilot site for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network’s Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment and the Johns Hopkins Racially Just Trauma-Informed Pediatric Integrated Care Collaborative.

The Division’s Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Clinic Program
• The Program has continued to substantially increase the volume of patients seen and new patients enrolled (see the expanding growth rates reflected in the charts below).
• The provision of enhanced clinic space at CHST in 2022 has supported continued growth.
• The number of patients seen through the Down Syndrome Clinic is likewise continuing at a remarkable growth rate over the past four and a half years since the Division began the oversight and re-structuring of patient care programming for these children.
• The DBP Down Syndrome Program began the planning and support structure for the inaugural UTSW Symposium on Down Syndrome Research and Clinical Care to be offered in the spring of 2023.
• The Division faculty in DBP and participants in the 22q11 Deletion Syndrome Multidisciplinary Clinic continue to take leadership roles in this expanding Program.
• The Division faculty in DBP has furthered the prior planning efforts to initiate an inter-disciplinary clinic program for children with fetal alcohol syndrome; interaction with community partners, including parents, continues in this planning process.

The Division’s Adolescent Medicine Program
• Dr. Cooper has expanded the footprint of the Adolescent Medicine Program to the North Dallas region with new clinics in the UTSW Frisco facility and as a consultant to the Foster Care Program at the Plano site.
• The research endeavors of the faculty, particularly those of Dr. Francis, continue to expand.
• The Program successfully recruited Erik Su, a faculty member at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, to join in mid-2023. This will allow expansion into the ability to serve adolescents with aspects of eating disorders.

The Division’s Dyslexia Program
• A new technology-driven approach to serving children with dyslexia has been shown to be effective and allows for broader application of services.
• Recruitment for additional physician faculty is underway.

The Division’s Spina Bifida Program
• In 2021, the program one of nine selected sites to work with an initiative through the American Academy of Pediatrics to demonstrate quality improvement changes to enhance the success of structured programming for transition services for these youth and their families. Outcomes from that project are now actively integrated into the routine clinical content of clinic visits.

Patient Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Visits</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,816</td>
<td>1,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Patient Visits</td>
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<td>220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consults in Complex Care</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>Consults in 22Q Clinic</td>
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<td>42</td>
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Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Down Syndrome Clinic – CMC*
### Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics – TSRHC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td>2,508</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>1,418</td>
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<td>336</td>
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* began October 2018

### Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia and Learning Disorders – TSRHC

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Visits</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>2,225</td>
<td>2,112</td>
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### Complex Care Medical Services – CMC

<table>
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<th>2019</th>
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<th>2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient Visits</td>
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<td>1,944</td>
<td>1,911</td>
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<td>1,768</td>
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<td>380</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>328</td>
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### Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine – CMC

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<td>2,820</td>
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<td>New Patient Visits</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>732</td>
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<td>550</td>
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### Referral and Evaluation of At-risk Children (REACH) – CMC

#### Outpatient Visits

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<td>Plano</td>
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#### Inpatient/ED Visits

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<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>1,427</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>431</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plano</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>65</td>
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#### New Patient Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>857</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>504</td>
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<td>Plano</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>98</td>
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### Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence – CMC

#### Outpatient Visits

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<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>3,470</td>
<td>3,999</td>
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#### New Patient Visits

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
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<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>276</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>645</td>
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24883
Palliative Care *

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient Consults</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
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<td>401</td>
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<td>Outpatient Consults **</td>
<td>------</td>
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<td>------</td>
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<td>411</td>
<td>437</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Patient Visits</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>410</td>
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*began September 2019  **began September 2020

Total Patient Encounters Across Division

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Patient Encounters</td>
<td>16,411</td>
<td>24,541</td>
<td>26,017</td>
<td>18,790</td>
<td>23,487</td>
<td>28,009</td>
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Current Grant Support

Richard Adams

Grantor: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
Title of Project: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Spina Bifida Patient Registry  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Dates: 09/2019 – 08/2024

Grantor: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital Research Center  
Title of Project: Six-Minute Walk Test in Children and Youth with Spina Bifida  
Role: Principle Investigator  
Dates: 11/2020 – 04/2023

M Brett Cooper

Grantor: Merck & CO Inc  
Title of Project: Implantable Long-Acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention with MSM: A Qualitative Study of Patient and Physician Perspectives  
Role: Co-Investigator  
Dates: 01/2022 – 06/2023

Grantor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Inst  
Title of Project: Preventing Suicide among Sexual and Gender Diverse Young Adults in Primary Care in Texas  
Role: Co-Investigator  
Dates: 01/2022 – 07/2027

Veronica Bordes Edgar

Grantor: Raynor Cerebellum Project  
Title of Project: Biologic Effects of Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation  
Role: Co-Investigator  
Dates: 08/2022 – 07/2023

Grantor: Department of Defense  
Title of Project: Biologic Effects and Efficacy of Cerebellar Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder  
Role: Co-Investigator  
Dates: 07/2019 – 07/2022

Grantor: CureSPG50 Foundation  
Title of Project: A Phase 1/11 Open-label Intrathecal Administration of MELPIDA to Determine the Safety and Efficacy for Patients with Spastic Paraplegia Type 50 Caused by a Mutation in the AP4M1 Gene  
Role: Co-Investigator
**Dates:** 09/2022 – 01/2024

**Grantor:** Children’s Health

**Title of Project:** Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (CLN) Gene Therapy Program

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2021 – 12/2023

**Grantor:** Neurogene, Inc.

**Title of Project:** A Natural History and Outcome Measure Discovery Study of Charcot-Marie-Tooth 4J

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 04/2019 – 03/2022

**Grantor:** Taysha Gene Therapies

**Title of Project:** Peroxisome Biogenesis Disorders (PBD) Gene Therapy Program

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2021 – 03/2022

**Grantor:** Taysha Gene Therapies

**Title of Project:** Gangliosidosis (GM2) Gene Therapy Program

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2021 – 03/2022

**Grantor:** Taysha Gene Therapies

**Title of Project:** Angelman Syndrome Gene Therapy Program

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2021 – 03/2022

**Grantor:** Taysha Gene Therapies

**Title of Project:** Giant Axonal Neuropathy (GAN) Gene Therapy Program

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2021 – 03/2022

**Jenny Francis**

**Grantor:** UT Southwestern Funds to Retain Clinical Scientists (UT-FOCUS)

**Title of Project:** Long Acting Reversible Contraception for Adolescents

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2022 – 12/2022

**Grantor:** Merck Investigator Studies Program

**Title of Project:** Evaluating LARC uptake among vulnerable adolescents: Understanding the barriers to LARC procedures in the inpatient setting

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 02/2021 – 12/2023

**Grantor:** American Cancer Society HPV Cancer Free Texas

**Title of Project:** Reducing Missed Opportunities in HPV Vaccination in Pediatric Programs at Children’s Health

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 01/2020 – 12/2023

**Grantor:** NIH K23 – National Institute of Child Health & Human Development

**Title of Project:** Use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception

**Role:** Principal Investigator

**Dates:** 05/2019 – 04/2024
Grantor: Children’s Medical Center: Children’s Clinical Research Advisory Committee (CCRAC) Award  
**Title of Project:** Supporting the Uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for Adolescents in Foster Care  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 09/2018 – 09/2022

Sheryl Frierson  
Grantor: NICHD 1R01 HD089471  
**Title of Project:** Neurobiology and treatment of reading disabilities in NF1  
**Role:** Co-Investigator  
**Dates:** 09/2016 – 09/2022

May Lau  
Grantor: University of Wisconsin - Madison  
**Title of Project:** GENEtCIS Youth Advisory Board  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 09/2021 – 09/2022

Hilda Loria  
Grantor: American Academy of Pediatrics CATCH Program  
**Title of Project:** Dallas County Immigrant Child Health Collaborative  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2021 – 06/2022

Kimberly Stone  
Grantor: American Academy of Pediatrics: Community Access to Child Health Planning Grant  
**Title of Project:** Empowering Youth Transitioning from Foster Care  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 06/2021 – 05/2022

**Grantor:** University of Texas Southwestern 2021 Program for the Development and Evaluation of Model Community Health Initiatives in Dallas Community-Based Research Pilot Award  
**Title of Project:** Empowering Youth Aging out of Foster Care: Community Engaged Technology Solutions to Improve Transitions to Independent Living  
**Role:** Principal Investigator  
**Dates:** 08/2021 – 07/2023

**Peer-Review Publications**


7. Francis JKR, Weerakoon SM, Lucas SL, Mathew MS, Durante JC, Kelly N, Tiro JA. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic. JAMA Netw Open. 2022 Sep 1;5(9):e2234000. PMID:36121657


17. Thompson EL, Preston SM, Francis JKR, Rodriguez SA, Pruitt SL, Blackwell JM, Tiro JA. Social Media Perceptions and Internet Verification Skills Associated With Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Decision-Making Among Parents of


**Book Chapters**