Division Introduction

The Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, directed by Perrin C. White, M.D., provides inpatient and outpatient clinical services to Children’s Medical Center and the broader community in the areas of general endocrinology, diabetes and obesity. The Division’s catchment area extends north and east into Oklahoma and Louisiana, respectively, west to the Mid-Cities and occasionally into Fort Worth, and south as far as Houston. The faculty consists of 16 physicians (~10 clinical FTE), who conduct direct patient care and supervise a variety of other health professionals including nurse practitioners and advance practice nurses, certified diabetes educators, and endocrinology nurses. In 2017, the payer mix was 51% commercial, 44% Medicaid, and 5% other categories.

The Division includes three broad service categories, each with its own Medical Director.

- General Endocrinology, including growth, thyroid, puberty, pituitary and adrenal problems, directed by Dr. Soumya Adhikari
- Diabetes, directed by Dr. Abha Choudhary
- Obesity, the Center for Obesity and its Consequences in Health (COACH), directed by Dr. Olga Gupta

An additional multidisciplinary clinic, GENECIS, directed by Dr. Ximena Lopez, cares for children with gender dysphoria.

Faculty

The Division has 12 full-time and three part-time faculty members and three fellows, with varied interests in clinical and translational research. Additional support is provided by five advanced practice nurses and nurses, dieters, medical assistants, social workers, and research coordinators. Dr. Muniza Mogri joined the Division in 2017.

Muniza Mogri, M.D.
Assistant Professor

M.D.
Aga Khan University Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan, 2004

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, University of New York, Buffalo, NY, 2006-2009
Fellowship, Pediatric Endocrinology
Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo, University of New York, Buffalo, NY, 2009-2012

Interests
Bone and mineral metabolism, pituitary disorders, and quality improvement projects

Honors / Awards

Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, D Magazine
- Soumya Adhikari
- Bryan Dickson
- Ryan Stewart
- Grace Tannin

Texas Super Doctors, Texas Monthly Magazine
- Bryan Dickson
- Ernesto Fernandez
Ernesto Fernandez

- Distinguished Service Award, Texas Pediatric Society

Ximena Lopez

- Promotion to Associate Professor

Invited Lectures

Soumya Adhikari

- McKinney ISD Program Development Day, McKinney, TX, April 2017
  - “Adrenal Insufficiency: A School Nurse’s Perspective”
- Texas School Nurse Administrator’s Association, Grapevine, TX, June 2017
  - “Adrenal Insufficiency: A School Nurse’s Perspective”

Nivedita Patni

- 11th Annual Advanced Practice Conference, Dallas, Texas (USA), October 2017
  - “Dyslipidemia and Diabetes in #KidsTheseDays”

Melissa Ham

- Endocrine for Pediatric Primary Care Conference sponsored by Human Growth Foundation, Fort Worth, TX, September 2017
  - “Vitamin D: Calcium and Beyond”

Conference Presentations

Patni N, Garg A.

Poster, Endocrine Society Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, April 2017
“Etiology of Extreme Hypertriglyceridemia in Children: Data from a Tertiary Children’s Hospital”

Patni N, Huet BA, Garg A.

Poster, 10th International Meeting of Pediatric Endocrinology, Washington DC, September 2017
“Regional Body Fat and Metabolic Complications in Children with Familial Partial Lipodystrophy, Dunnigan Variety (FPLD2)”

Education and Training

The Division is committed to providing quality medical education for medical students, residents, and fellows. It has an active fellowship program and also provides inpatient and outpatient opportunities for residents and medical students.

Medical Students

Pediatric Endocrinology faculty are active in providing didactic education to UT Southwestern Medical School students. The Division offers two electives for fourth-year pediatric clerkships that provide in-depth exposure and care to patients with diabetes and endocrinologic diseases.
Residents

Faculty play a significant role in the education of the residents at Children’s and UT Southwestern. As one of the largest endocrine and diabetes clinics in the country, the Division is able to offer residents a very broad experience.

Fellows

The Pediatric Endocrinology Fellowship Program accepted its first extramural fellow in 1999 and has grown to accept up to two fellows per year. Approximately half of the Division’s fellows come from the Department’s Pediatric Residency Program.

The Fellowship Program emphasizes both broad and deep clinical training, as well as experience in clinical research, bench research, or both. Almost all of the fellows have published their projects as one or more papers in peer-reviewed literature, and the majority of graduates take academic positions at UT Southwestern or other medical schools.

Research Activities

Pediatric endocrinology faculty are involved in both clinical and translational research. The Division works with laboratories in other departments and institutions, providing fellows an opportunity to expand their research interests and learning opportunities.

- Dr. Perrin White has studied several genetic diseases of steroid hormone biosynthesis and metabolism, including the most common forms of congenital adrenal hyperplasia. He is currently the lead investigator on a multicenter clinical trial of an androgen biosynthesis inhibitor, abiraterone acetate, to ameliorate problems of androgen excess in prepubertal children with congenital adrenal hyperplasia.
- Dr. Soumya Adhikari conducts quality improvement research, utilizing the robust data-mining functions available within the Epic electronic medical record. Current projects include compliance with consensus guidelines for congenital hypothyroidism, and the efficacy of different intravenous fluids for resuscitation in diabetic ketoacidosis. He is also principal investigator on a study examining the role of remote patient monitoring through video visits on glucose control in type 1 diabetes.
- Dr. Ellen Grishman is studying the relationship between blood glucose control, quality of life, bullying and executive function in patients with type 1 diabetes. She is also examining the relationship between a blood biomarker and depressive symptoms in obese adolescents.
- Dr. Olga Gupta has conducted a pilot study of a novel intervention linking the care of a household pet with diabetes self-management tasks to improve glucose control in adolescents with type 1 diabetes mellitus. She has ongoing human and rodent studies evaluating the role of adipose mesothelial in metabolic diseases associated with obesity such as type 2 diabetes mellitus and dyslipidemia.
- Dr. Nivedita Patni has published a novel syndrome of generalized lipodystrophy associated with pilocytic astrocytoma, and continues her research work at the Center for Human Nutrition at UT Southwestern to determine the etiology of this syndrome. She is also doing clinical research on pediatric with familial partial lipodystrophy, Dunnigan variety (FPLD2), to gain a thorough understanding of the molecular basis of fat loss and insulin resistance in laminopathies, which will also throw light on the relationship between obesity, aging, and insulin resistance. She is working on determining genetic basis of lipid disorders in children and investigating the genotype-phenotype relationships in these patients. She designed a study to determine genetic bases of type 1 hyperlipoproteinemia (T1HLP) and received a service package grant from the Center for Translational Medicine at UT Southwestern. She is also spearheading a clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of orlistat for the treatment of T1HLP and studying various etiologies of extreme hypertriglyceridemia in children.
• Dr. Ximena Lopez’s studies focus on the long-term outcomes of mental and physical health of transgender adolescents that receive puberty suppression and cross-sex hormones before adulthood. She is also involved in clinical trials on the efficacy and safety of colesvelam and liraglutide, respectively, in the treatment of type 2 diabetes in adolescents.

Clinical Activities

Inpatient Services

The Division provides direct oversight to a dedicated endocrinology service, which is currently integrated as the “Blue-Endocrine” Pediatric Medicine team. In 2016 this service admitted 718 patients with diagnoses that included diabetes mellitus, panhypopituitarism, adrenal insufficiency, and diabetes insipidus, among other endocrine disorders.

The Endocrinology Division also provides inpatient consultative services to the entire hospital, including the intensive care units and the hematology-oncology, gastroenterology, pulmonary medicine, and cystic fibrosis services. The leading reasons for consultation are diabetes mellitus, secondary diabetes/hyperglycemia, diabetes insipidus, electrolyte abnormalities, hypoglycemia, and adrenal insufficiency. There were 437 inpatient consultations in 2016, with a total of 3,686 inpatient encounters resulting from inpatient admissions and consultations.

Recognizing the increasing demands of the inpatient consultation service, which now provides services at four different Dallas hospitals, the Division established separate inpatient and consultation services in July 2014, each with its own attending physician (except for the weekend and at night, when a single on call attending provides both services). The Division also added a third attending physician at the same time to be available for inpatient activities at the Legacy campus.

Outpatient Services

In 2017, the Division’s attending physicians performed 14,347 outpatient visits and supervised ~6,155 visits by non-physician providers. The physician totals included 2,399 new patient visits and outpatient consultations. The Division provides outpatient services at all three Children’s locations on the following schedule, which includes attending physician clinic sessions only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>Sessions Per Week</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Endocrinology and Diabetes</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Health Dallas</td>
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Current Grant Support

Olga Gupta

Grantor: NIH
Title of Project: Peritoneal Mesothelial Cells: Role in Obesity and Metabolic Dysfunction
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 08/2014 – 08/2018

Perrin White

Grantor: NIH
Title of Project: Abiraterone Acetate in Children with Classic 21-Hydroxylase Deficiency
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 09/2015 – 07/2021
Peer-Reviewed Publications


Book Chapters
