Division Introduction

The Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine at UT Southwestern is committed to improving the health of infants, children, and young adults by providing quality clinical services, furthering the understanding of respiratory illnesses through original research, and participating in the education of physicians at all levels.

Under the interim direction of Philip Shaul, M.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Research, the Division’s eleven physicians and a number of associated health care professionals work together to form a truly multidisciplinary program.

The Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Division provides care to infants and children with a wide spectrum of respiratory illnesses, including disorders of respiratory control, the chest wall, and respiratory muscles, airway and lung parenchyma, and cystic fibrosis at Children’s Health™.

Varied research interests include cystic fibrosis biology and care, near-fatal asthma, pulmonary outcomes in neuromuscular disease, pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease, pulmonary complications of obesity, and sleep-related disorders in children.

Our faculty is committed to the education and training of medical students, residents, and fellows. Our Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship Program prepares pediatricians to be experts in pulmonary medicine through a combination of educational activities, competencies, and assessment methods.

Faculty

The Division has seven full-time and five part-time faculty members, and four fellows, all with varied interests in clinical and translational research. Dr. Elisa Basora Rovira joined the faculty in September 2017.

Elisa Basora Rovira, M.D.
Assistant Professor

B.S.
University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus, Mayagüez, PR, 2003

M.D.
Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, 2007

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
University Pediatric Hospital, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR, 2010-2013
Fellowship, Pediatric Pulmonology
Jackson Memorial Hospital / University of Miami, Miami, FL, 2013-2016
Fellowship, Sleep Medicine
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, 2016-2017

Interests
Pediatric Sleep Medicine, General Pediatric Pulmonology
Honors / Awards

Steven Copenhaver

- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine*
- Texas Super Doctor, *Texas Monthly Magazine*

Andrew Gelfand

- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine*
- Texas Super Doctor, *Texas Monthly Magazine*

Yadira Rivera-Sanchez

- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine*

Peter Schochet

- Best Pediatric Specialists in Dallas, *D Magazine*

Conference Presentations

Arcinas R, Varghese P, Sharma P, Sathe M.

Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“The Challenges and Benefits of Implementation of a Physical Therapy Program in Outpatient CF Clinic”

Basora Rovira E, Wani A, Carter G, Caraballo M.

Poster, SLEEP 2017 – Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2017
“Investigating Caregiver Practice, Nurse Knowledge, and Adherence with an Infant Safe Sleep Policy in the Inpatient Setting: A Quality Improvement Project”


Poster, SLEEP 2017 – Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2017
“Non-Suicidal Ingestion of High Dose Anti-Histamine in a 57 Year-Old Woman with Insomnia and Restless Legs Syndrome”


“A Case Report of a 10-Year-Old Boy with Pulmonary Paraganglioma”

De Keyzer L, Rao D.

“From a Pain in the Leg to a Plugged Up Lung: An Unusual Complication of MRSA Pneumonia”
2017 Annual Report

Kamal D, Sharma P, Sathe M.

Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“Raising Awareness of Research at Children’s Health”


Poster, Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2017
“Use of Continuous Albuterol Nebulization Treatment on a 24/7 Attending-Only Inpatient Pediatric Asthma Unit”


Poster, Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, May 2017
“Use of Continuous Albuterol Nebulization Treatment on a 24/7 Attending-Only Inpatient Pediatric Asthma Unit”

Scott A, Sharma P.

Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“Sterilization of Respiratory Equipment: Everything is Great at 168.”

Sharma P, Moore R.

Oral, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“From Sippy Cups to E-Juice: High Risk Behaviors in Adolescents with Cystic Fibrosis”

Ueng S, Stuart K, TeKippe EM, Sharma P

Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“Evaluation of Ceftaroline Fosamil Therapy in Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis Patients With Methicillin-Resistant Staphlococcus Aureus s”


Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“Improving Bone Health: Implementing DEXA Scan Guidelines”

Williams K, Sathe M, Sharma P.

Poster, NACFC Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, October 2017
“The Role of a Nurse Educator in a large CF Clinic”

Education and Training

The Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine provides educational opportunities for medical students and pediatric residents in addition to our accredited fellowship program.

Medical Students

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 and interactive case-based discussions facilitated by faculty in nearly all the divisions in the Department of Pediatrics. The entire curriculum is reviewed on an ongoing basis through feedback from UT Southwestern Medical School faculty, national regulatory agencies, and students themselves. Students rotating through the core clerkship continue to outpace national averages on standardized assessments.
Medical students participate in outpatient specialty clinics staffed by members of the Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine faculty. During clinic sessions, medical students receive individualized, one-on-one teaching by the faculty. Third year medical students participate in the inpatient pulmonary service. As part of their rotation and under the supervision of the Division faculty, they are assigned to obtain the history, complete the physical exam and present their patients during daily rounds.

Residents

The evaluation of children with respiratory problems is an integral component of the practice of pediatric medicine. Respiratory symptoms and problems are the most common reason for childhood physician encounters and are the number one cause of school absenteeism and hospital admission. Hence, it is essential that the pediatric resident become familiar with the recognition, diagnosis, and care of respiratory diseases. The overall goal of the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine rotation is to provide residents with intensive exposure to a broad spectrum of pulmonary disorders, in order to highlight principles of management, current controversies, and the respective roles played by the pediatrician and pulmonary subspecialist, as well as other disciplines in the management of these patients.

The Pediatric Pulmonary rotation has been designed for upper-level residents which include second- and third-year general pediatric residents. Goals are aimed at gaining experience in the daily management of children with known as well as presumptive pulmonary disorders. Expectations include the demonstration of medical knowledge, comprehension of pathophysiology, development of differential diagnoses, and development of increased independence in the formulation of management plans. In addition, residents should maintain an overall awareness of the acuity of the patients on the inpatient service.

Yadira Rivera-Sanchez, M.D., directs the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Resident Education Program.

Fellows

The mission of our accredited Pulmonology Fellowship Training Program is to prepare postgraduate pediatricians to be experts in pulmonary medicine. Training is through a combination of educational activities, competencies, and assessment methods, including patient care, guided reading, and discussion with regards to organization, business planning, and management of the pediatric pulmonary service, and research methodology.

Under the direction of Tanya Martinez Fernandez, M.D., and overseen by the ACGME, our three-year Fellowship Program began in July 2011. The majority of fellowship education is through didactic conferences and active participation in the inpatient, outpatient, and consulting services.

Research Activities

Research efforts in the Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine have been focused on the areas of clinical expertise of the Division faculty.

- Sleep positioning and other aspects of sudden infant death syndrome risk prevention are the focus of Dr. Michelle Caraballo’s research.
- Dr. Devika Rao’s research interests lie in the realm of the pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease.
- Dr. Kamal Naqvi’s investigative efforts involve pediatric sleep disorders.
- The respiratory consequences of early-onset scoliosis and neuromuscular disease are the focus of Dr. Peter Schochet’s research.
- Dr. Preeti Sharma’s research interests involve the optimization of the clinical care of cystic fibrosis patients, and observational studies and emerging treatments in children with cystic fibrosis.
- Dr. Elisa Basora has research interests in pediatric sleep medicine.
The optimization of care of children with asthma is the focus of the scholarly pursuits of Dr. Yadira Rivera-Sanchez and Dr. Tanya Martinez.

Clinical Activities

The Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Division offers both inpatient and outpatient consultation for a wide variety of respiratory and sleep disorders in children.

Inpatient Services

The inpatient population consists primarily of patients with chronic respiratory failure on mechanical ventilation and patients with neuromuscular diseases hospitalized for an acute respiratory process, acute asthma exacerbations and status asthmaticus, complicated pneumonias, patients status-post airway surgery, and cystic fibrosis patients who require hospitalization.

Dr. Yadira Rivera-Sanchez oversees the inpatient activities of the Division. There is an attending pulmonologist assigned to the Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Service at all times.

Outpatient Services

Outpatient activities are comprehensive and primarily centered on a busy general pulmonology practice. Physicians combine their efforts with a group of talented and dedicated nurse practitioners, who conduct clinical consultations on selected patients.

- Tanya Martinez Fernandez, M.D. has led the development and organization of the outpatient clinics.
- Kamal Naqvi, M.D., directs the sleep program, which provides clinical services on a variety of sleep and respiratory control related disorders.
- Peter Schochet, M.D., conducts specialized clinics on neuromuscular and chest wall related respiratory diseases, and on the respiratory complications of sickle cell disease.
- In 2015 Devika Rao founded a Pulmonary-Sickle Cell interdisciplinary clinic to address pulmonary needs of children with sickle cell anemia. This clinic takes place at the Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders once each month.
- Devika Rao, M.D., is Director of the Pulmonary Function Lab, Children’s Health
- Yadira Rivera-Sanchez, M.D., co-directs the Aerodigestive Multidisciplinary Clinic, which is conducted with the pediatric otolaryngology and gastroenterology services.

Patient Care Guidelines

Division members have been actively engaged in the establishment of patient care guidelines, including for the evaluation and implementation of non-invasive ventilation in infants at home, for the care of asthma patients, and for tracheostomy care.
Current Grant Support

Preeti Sharma

Foundation Grants

Grantor: Children’s Medical Center
Title of Project: CC034-34 TX-34/34
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2016 – Current

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Title of Project: Therapeutic Drug Center
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2016 – Current

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics
Title of Project: ARC “Additional Research Coordinator” Award
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2015 – 2017

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Title of Project: MHC – Mental Health Coordinator
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2014 – 2018

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation / Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
Title of Project: CFC3N – Pilot Learning Network
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2016 – 2019

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Title of Project: PT – Physical Therapy
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2016 – 2019

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Title of Project: SIP – Newborn Screening Improvement
Role: Co-principle Investigator
Dates: 2014 – 2017

Clinical Trials

Grantor: Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network and Sarah Schwarzenberg, MD
Title of Project: GROW: “The Role of Oral Glutathione on Growth Parameters in Children with Cystic Fibrosis”
Role: Sub-investigator
Dates: 2017 – Ongoing
Grantor: Abbott Laboratories and Janssen Research and Development LLC
Role: Sub-investigator
Dates: 2017 – Ongoing

Grantor: Novartis
Title of Project: A retrospective Observational Study in Cystic Fibrosis Patients with Chronic Respiratory Pseudomonas Aeruginosa Infection Treated with TOBI Podhaler (Tobramycin Inhalation Powder) or Other FDA Approved Inhaled Antipseudomonal Antibacterial Drugs”
Role: Sub-investigator
Dates: 2016 – Ongoing

Peer-Reviewed Publications
