Division Introduction

The Division of Pediatric Critical Care plays a vital role in providing care to critically ill children at Children’s Health™ and is continuously making improvements and innovations to ensure the patient care provided is of the highest quality.

Under the direction of Jessica Moreland, M.D., Division Chief, the Division provides top quality patient care with all the most advanced medical technologies in the 44-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. In addition, Critical Care faculty, in collaboration with the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and the Heart Center at Children’s Health™, provide state-of-the-art cardiovascular critical care services for children with congenital heart disease as well as other cardiac diseases in the 32-bed Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit. The Division also provides intensive care in the Children’s Medical Center in Plano in a 12-bed PICU.

The Division has a long-standing history of clinical, bench, and translational research, with several NIH-funded laboratories and regular participation in multi-center clinical trials to advance the care of critically ill children.

Some of the country's brightest pediatric graduates enroll in the Division's internationally recognized Critical Care Fellowship Program, one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the United States. The fellowship currently includes 14 trainees across the 3 years of training. Teaching of fellows, residents, and medical students takes place at the bedside and during lectures and interactive sessions.

In addition, there is an array of research training opportunities helping fellows learn to ask and answer scientific questions relating to the genetic, molecular, cellular, and physiologic aspects of pediatric critical care medicine.

Faculty

Drs. Blake Nichols and Alan Poole joined the Division in 2018, bringing the total to twenty-two faculty and thirteen fellows.

Blake Nichols, M.D.
Assistant Professor

B.S., magna cum laude, Biology
UT Dallas, 2008

M.D.
UT Southwestern, 2012

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, PA, 2012-2015
Fellowship, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
UT Southwestern/Children’s, 2015-2018

Interests
Acute respiratory failure, resuscitation, shock, neutrophil-based inflammation and development of diabetic ketoacidosis, improvement of resuscitation education, simulation-based education for multi-professional learners
Alan Poole, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Instructor

B.S., *summa cum laude*, Physics, minors in Biology and Mathematics, 2002
UT Dallas, 2008

M.D., Ph.D.
UT Southwestern, 2012

Postdoctoral Training
Residency, Pediatrics
UT Southwestern/Children’s, 2012-2015

Fellowship, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
UT Southwestern/Children’s, 2015-2018

Interests
In vivo tumor metabolism, cellular metabolic derangements in the setting of critical illness, infection, and inflammation.

Honors / Awards

Best Pediatric Specialists, *D Magazine*

- Cindy Bowen
- Peter Luckett
- Jessica Moreland
- Joshua Wolovits

Archana Dhar

- Promotion to Associate Professor

Michael Green

- Texas Rising Stars 2018, *Texas Monthly*

Blake Nichols

- Top Abstract, Senior Fellow Research Day, Department of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern

Paige Volk

- Schwartz Center National Compassionate Caregiver of 2018

Invited Lectures

Archana Dhar

- Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes: Frontline Provider Engagement at a Large Tertiary Care Academic Hospital, Children’s Hospital, Rosemont, IL, June 2018
  - “Measuring Sepsis Related Mortality: Fact or Fiction”

Michael Green

- Neonatal Heart Society 2018, Fort Worth, TX, March 2018
  - “Transposition Physiology”
  - Expert Roundtable Panelist, “Cardiopulmonary Interactions in the Neonate”
Luckett, Peter

- Annual Respiratory Care Conference, Great Wolf Lodge, Grapevine, TX, October 2018

Darryl Miles

- Pediatric Grand Rounds, UT Southwestern/Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, September 2018
  - “It’s Not a Tumor- Case Presentation of Neurocritical Complications of pediatric CNS vasculitis”
- 20th Annual Respiratory Care Conference, Children’s Health, Dallas, TX, October 23, 2017
  - “Respiratory Care of Trauma Patients”

Lakshmi Raman

- 7th EuroELSO Congress on ECMO-ECLS, Prague, Czech Republic, May 2018
  - “Cerebral Autoregulation: How Do We Measure on ECMO?”
- South West Asian ELSO Conference, New Delhi, India, January 2018
  - “Neuromonitoring on ECMO”
  - “Cerebral Autoregulation: How Do We Measure on ECMO?”
  - “Advances in PARDS”

Conference Presentations

Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, Toronto, Canada, May 2018

Biagas LV, Hinton HJ, Hasbani NR, Luckett PM, Wypij D, Nadkarni VM, Agus MSD

Platform, “Long Term Neurobehavioral and Quality of Life Outcomes after Tight Glycemic Control in Critically Ill Children”

Darnell Bowens C

Invited Science, “The Role of ECPR in Unresponsive Cardiac Arrest Events”

Dettori A, Young V, Pittman C, Zepeda M, Thomsen C, Danaher D, Macias C, Darnell Bowens C, Badawy M Mittal V


McMichael A

Invited Science, “Moving Beyond Unfractionated Heparin: Use of Direct Thrombin Inhibitors for ECLS”

Presenter and Moderator, “Let it Flow: What’s new in extracorporeal life support (ECLS) anticoagulation and neurologic complications.”

McMichael A, Dalton H, Raman L, Ozment C, Thiagarajan R

Invited Science, “Neurological Complications, Monitoring and Outcomes in ECLS”

Murthi S, Tweed J, Greenwell C, Zia A, Raman L

Poster, “Acute Traumatic Coagulopathy: Assessing Risk Factors Among Subgroups”
Mittal V, Badawy M, Darnell Bowens C

Poster, “Shifting Trends in High Flow Nasal Cannula Use between PICU and Wards and Role of Non-Invasive and Invasive Ventilation: A Six-Year Tertiary Care Practice Analysis of Children Hospitalized with Bronchiolitis”

Wolovits J

Invited Science, “Early Recognition and Strategies to Prevent Cardiac Arrest in Hospitalized Patients”

Other Conferences

Nichols B, Hook J, Weng K, Moreland J

Society of Critical Care Medicine, San Antonio, TX, February 2018
Oral Presentation, “Research Snapshot Theater” “Subjects with Type 1 Diabetes and Diabetic Ketoacidosis Have Ineffective Neutrophils”

Poole A.M., DeBerardinis, R.J.

Tumor Metabolism Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, Snowbird, UT, January 2018
Poster, “Glycerol Metabolism in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer”

Esangbedo I, Ikemba C, Jaquiss R, Nugent A

Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society (PCICS) 14th Annual International Conference, Miami, FL, December 2018
Poster, “Parental Refusal of Norood: Hybrid Palliation and Retrograde Aortic Coarctation”

**Education and Training**

The educational emphases of the Division of Pediatric Critical Care reflect the diversity of the trainees who rotate through the different PICUs and conduct research on the delivery of critical care to children. We provide educational opportunities for medical students and pediatric residents in addition to our fully-accredited fellowship program. While the major thrusts of educational activities focus on physicians in various stages of training, Division faculty also participate in the education of pediatric nurse practitioners, staff nurses, and respiratory care practitioners.

**Medical Students**

We offer elective opportunities for fourth-year medical students from UT Southwestern and outside institutions to rotate through our general medical/surgical, trauma/neurosurgical, and cardiac intensive care units. Prerequisites include acceptable academic standing at the student’s current medical institution and successful completion of a third-year pediatric clerkship. Outside rotators are required to provide a letter of recommendation from their residency program director confirming that these prerequisites are satisfied.

Medical students who select the PICU to fulfill their acute care rotation requirements are exposed to the full range of patients seen in the different units and participate as integral members of the multidisciplinary team of residents, fellows, and faculty. The rotation emphasizes patient-based learning, with the student taking primary responsibility for one or two patients, and using their illness as a jumping off point for learning that combines both didactic and self-directed study.
Other elective opportunities are available for students interested in learning about critically injured patients in a trauma/neurosurgical setting or children recovering from cardiovascular surgery to correct congenital or acquired heart disease.

Residents

Pediatric residents rotate through the PICU for one 4-week block during each of their 2nd and 3rd years of residency. This experience exposes residents to a broad spectrum of critically ill children at distinct phases of their training. To enhance this educational experience, our faculty and fellows provide formal didactic teaching on pertinent critical care topics to the pediatric residents during scheduled lectures three days per week.

As they progress from caring for critically ill children for the first time as 2nd year residents to functioning as leaders of the PICU teams as 3rd year providers, the pediatric residents experience both an increasing confidence in their ability to recognize and stabilize a critically ill child and a profound respect for the speed with which illnesses can progress and change the course of a child’s and a family’s life forever.

Residents from other specialty training programs also rotate through the PICU at varying stages in their training. These include trainees from Emergency Medicine and on an elective basis from Family Medicine, where critical care experience is a valuable adjunct to their education. Their experience is tailored to their educational needs to some degree, but their presence on the PICU teams is enriching for everyone because of the unique perspective they bring from the world of adult medicine.

Fellows

With the objective of providing excellent training in pediatric critical care medicine and preparing individuals to become future leaders in their field, we have trained more than 100 physicians in the art and science of intensive care for critically ill infants and children. Many graduates have become academic leaders within the field, both in the United States and abroad.

Now one of the largest in the United States, the Fellowship Program currently has 14 fellows. Clinical experience includes exposure to a wide spectrum of critical illness in the high-volume general PICU. Fellows aid in the management of trauma and Neurocritical care patients, and have significant exposure to advanced support modalities including ECMO and CRRT. In addition, fellows are a fundamental part of the team in the growing cardiovascular ICU where faculty from divisions of critical care and cardiology guide them in advanced care of cardiovascular critical illness. Intense periods of clinical rotations during the early part of the Fellowship progress to periods of protected time later in fellowship, allowing fellows to carry out a research program developed with the help of faculty both within the Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine and in the larger UT Southwestern community. In addition to the clinical and research opportunities, the Fellowship Program has a robust didactic curriculum designed to give fellows a foundational knowledge of the pathophysiology of critical illness. Other highlights include a simulation curriculum and journal club. Our fellows have an excellent success rate on the American Board of Pediatric Critical Care sub-board examination.

Research Activities

Division research activities are numerous and diverse, with faculty members engaged in bench, translational, and clinical research projects. There are multiple areas of investigation that we are proud to highlight:
- Cindy Darnell focuses her time on quality initiatives and improving daily care for critically ill children.
- Erin Gordon focuses her current research on breast milk (donor or maternal) and neurodevelopmental outcomes in those with congenital or acquired heart disease. Dr. Gordon is the primary UTSW investigator for a multi-center industrial study evaluating the growth velocity and clinical outcomes of infants with single ventricle physiology fed an exclusive human milk diet with early nutritional fortification following surgical repair.

- **Peter Luckett**'s current research interests include clinical trials in pediatric critical care. In 2002, he was an initial organizing member of the Pediatric Acute Lung Injury and Sepsis Investigators (PALISI) clinical trials group, which recently completed a collaboration with members of the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Network (ARDSnet) as part of the NIH Roadmap contract mechanism entitled “Reengineering Clinical Research in Critical Care.” Dr. Luckett continues to focus on review of pediatric critical care long term outcomes; the prevalence of acute rehab in kids in the PICU and observation of a Multi-Center Quality Improvement Project titled, “Improving Safety and Quality of Tracheal Intubation Practice in Pediatric ICUs and Pediatric EDs, NICUs.”

- **Darryl Miles**’s focus is to advance the care of Neurocritical illness in children and learn how the brain responds to injury to better understand what we can do to improve neurologic outcomes. He is the UTSW principal investigator for multi-center studies investigating the Approaches and Decisions after Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury (ADAPT) and MRI Biomarkers of Long-term Recovery after Childhood TBI. Dr. Miles is currently leading projects using ultrasound and transcranial Doppler technology to noninvasively measure intracranial pathology in brain related injured children, and has an ongoing long-term database describing the genetic and prognostic influencers of recovery after TBI. He is a member of the Center for Cerebrovascular Disorders at Children’s Medical Center and the Pediatric Neurocritical Care Research Group.

- **Ali McMichael**’s current research focuses on anticoagulation during extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Her projects include finding the best test for anticoagulation for pediatric patients, identifying risk factors for hemostatic complication during ECMO, and exploring alternative therapies for anticoagulation.

- **Jessica Moreland** focuses her research on better understanding the cell biology of inflammation with a specific interest in neutrophil biology. Her laboratory studies neutrophil priming by infectious and inflammatory stimuli and the role of the NADPH oxidase in pro- and anti-inflammatory signaling. In addition, the laboratory utilizes a murine model of SIRS and multi-organ dysfunction syndrome (MODS).

- **Blake Nichols**’s research focus is on patients with type 1 diabetes and diabetic ketoacidosis and their response to typical inflammatory stimuli. Dr. Nichols is currently analyzing data from a neutrophil study and is working to submit a publication of his findings soon.

- **Alan Poole**’s current research focuses on Glycerol Metabolism in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer in the Laboratory of Ralph DeBerardinis, MD, PhD.

- **Renee Potera**’s current research focuses on the role of alveolar macrophage signaling during acute inflammatory lung injury using a murine model of the systemic inflammatory response syndrome.

- **Lakshmi Raman**’s interest is in brain injury and the care of ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) patients. She is currently working on understanding the risk of neurological injuries on ECMO. She had funding from American Heart Association to do a pilot study on neonatal ECMO patients. She is also collaborating with Dr. Ann Stowe in the Neurorepair lab to study neuroinflammation on ECMO patients. This study was funded by Extracorporeal Life Support Organization and Center for translational medicine. In addition, she does research using both local and ELSO database.

- **Lakshmi Raman and Darryl Miles**, in collaboration with Dr. Ann Stowe, have received a grant from the Texas Institute of Brain Injury and Repair (TIBIR) studying the effects of cerebral perfusion pressure in severe traumatic brain injury on central nervous system inflammation after pediatric TBI.

- **Ivie Esangbedo** is the Principal Investigator for a multi-center retrospective cohort study ("Incidence and Risk Factors for Peri-Intubation Cardiac Arrest in Pediatric Cardiac Patients"). The study currently has three sites enrolled: UTSW, Cincinnati Children’s and University of Florida Gainesville. Dr. Esangbedo and Dr. Priscilla Yu are also the site co-investigators for Quality of Pediatric Resuscitation in a Multicenter Collaborative (pediRESQ), which is a prospective, observational, cohort study of pediatric cardiac arrests. The purpose of the study is to determine the association between chest compression mechanics (rate, depth, flow fraction, compression release) and patient outcomes. In addition, the investigators determine the association of post cardiac arrest care with patient outcomes.
Clinical Activities

Pediatric Critical Care faculty deliver the highest standard of care for critically ill children. The pediatric intensive care units at Children’s Health are primary referral centers for North Central and Northeast Texas. Depending on their diagnoses, critically ill children are assigned to one of four pediatric intensive care units at Children’s, 3 intensive care units on the Dallas Campus and one intensive care unit on the Plano campus. Specialized medical teams assume primary responsibility for their care in one of these units:

- General medical-surgical pediatric intensive care unit (PICU)
- 32-bed Pediatric cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU)
- Pediatric trauma-neurologic injury intensive care unit (PTICU)
- 12-bed PICU (Children’s Medical Center of Plano)

The Division, in collaboration with the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and the Heart Center, provides state-of-the-art cardiovascular critical care services for children with congenital heart disease as well as other cardiac diseases. More than 2,000 critically ill patients are admitted each year, giving the facility the highest admission rate in the United States.

Patient Statistics

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<th>2017</th>
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<td>CVICU</td>
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Current Grant Support

Cindy Darnell-Bowens

Grantor: Gerber Foundation  
Title of Project: Exogenous Melatonin Administration for Primary Prevention  
Role: Site Principal Investigator  
Dates: 11/2017 – 11/2019

Ivie Esangbedo and Priscilla Yu

Grantor: Zoll Medical Corporation  
Title of Project: Quality of Pediatric Resuscitation in a Multicenter Collaborative: An Observational Study  
Role: Co-Site Principal Investigators  
Dates: 07/2015 – 06/2018

Erin Gordon

Grantor: Prolacta Bioscience  
Title of Project: A Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate Growth Velocity  
Role: Site Principal Investigator  
Dates: 11/2017 – 11/2022
Susan Hupp

Grantor: UT Southwestern Medical Center
Title of Project: “In Situ Versus Simulation Center Training: Finding the Optimal Setting for Simulation Education Programs for Pediatric Residents”
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 09/01/2017- present

Peter Luckett

Grantor: Aerogen LTD
Title of Project: Comparison of Vibrating Mesh Nebulizer versus Jet Nebulizer
Role: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 06/16 – 06/2021

Grantor: Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Title of Project: Age of Blood in Children in Pediatric Intensive Care Units
Role: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 07/2013 – 05/2018

Ali McMichael

Grantor: Euro Extracorporeal Life Support Organization
Title of Project: Pilot Study of Bivalirudin Versus Heparin Anticoagulation for Neonatal and Pediatric Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation
Role: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 05/2018 – 04/2020

Darryl Miles

Grantor: NIH
Title: Approached and Decisions for Acute Pediatric TBI (ADAPT Study)
Roles: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 07/2013 – 06/2018

Grantor: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Title: Genetic and Environmental Influences on Recovery of Severe Pediatric Brain Injury
Role: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 08/01/2016-04/30/2021

Grantor: NIH Healthcare Systems Research Collaboration
Title: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Markers of Outcome after Severe Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
Roles: Principal Investigator
Dates: 04/2016 – 03/2020

Grantor: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Title: Multiple Therapies for Pediatric TBI: Comparative Effectiveness Approach (Year 5 transfer to CRI)
Roles: Site Principal Investigator
Dates: 07/2017- 06/2018

Julio Pérez Fontán

Grantor: NICHD K12 HD068369-07 (Child Health Research Career Development Award)
Title of Project: Antecedents Sequelae of Childhood Onset Disease
Role: Principal Investigator
Dates: 12/2018 – 11/2020
Alan Poole

Grantor: NIH/NCI T32 Physician Scientist Oncology Training Program
Title of Project: Glycerol Metabolism in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Role: Trainee / Assistant Instructor (Stephen Skapek, PI)
Dates: 08/2017 – Present

Lakshmi Raman

Grantor: Extracorporeal Life Support Organization
Title of Project: Prospective, Blinded Analysis of Bivalirudin Versus Heparin Anticoagulation for Neonatal and Pediatric Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation
Role: Faculty Mentor (Fellow: Jamie Weller)
Dates: 05/2018 – 05/2020

Peer-Reviewed Publications


**Book Chapter**