

Baylor  
College of  
Medicine

# Pedi Press



A Quarterly Publication of the Department of Pediatrics  
Baylor College of Medicine

Vol. 10, Issue 1, Part I

Winter 2021



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PART I

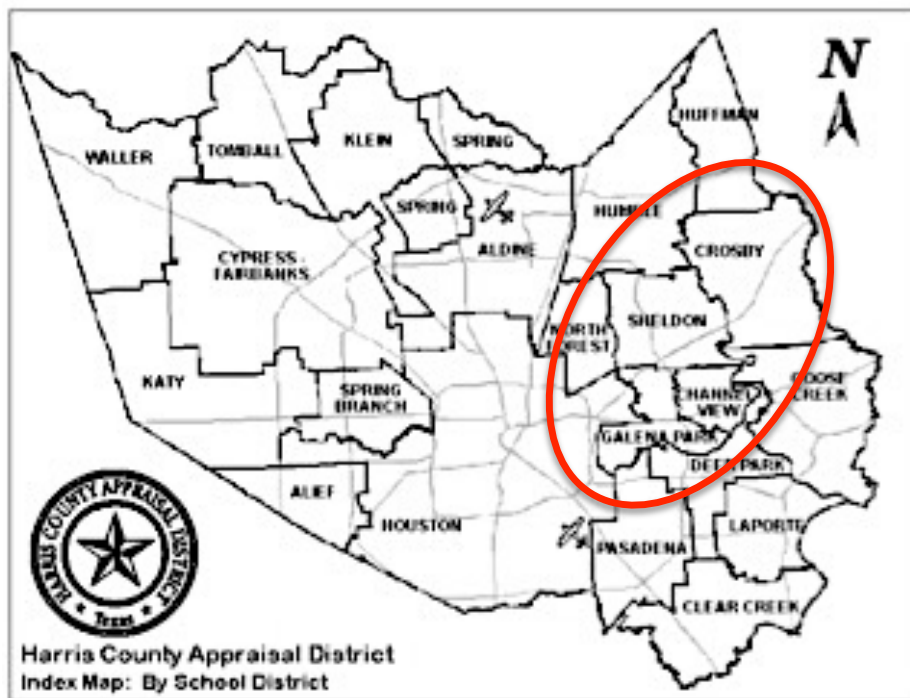
<b>FEATURE STORIES</b>	
"Building Community Capacity and Leadership in Addressing the Social"	
"Determinants of Health in East Harris County after Multiple Disasters"	3
"Learning to Eat Healthy Could be a Game-Changer"	6
"Let's Put a Stop to Obesity in Children"	7
<b>TRANSITIONS: PEDIATRIC TO ADULT CARE</b>	7
"Transitioning from Pediatric Care for Diabetes 1 to Adult Care - Our Teams are Here to Help!"	7
<b>DEPARTMENT NEWS: SECTIONS &amp; CENTERS</b>	11
"Annual McFarland Lecture Held Virtually"	11
<b>Diabetes &amp; Endocrinology</b>	12
"Discovery of Insulin Celebrated"	12
<b>Global Immigrant Health</b>	
"Program Selected for Participation in Local Planning Committee"	13
"Residents Contribute to Education Regarding Refugees"	13
<b>Global Health / BIPAI</b>	
"CDC Interview Highlights ART Use for TB in sub-Saharan Africa"	14
"BIPAI Hosts RAISE Symposium"	14
"BIPAI Launches Global Health Scholarship Community of Practice Program"	14
"Fundacion Baylor Argentina Physicians Receive First Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine"	15
"Partnership to Provide Medications Through Global HOPE for Patients with Cancer"	16
<b>House Staff</b>	
"Fellowship Matches Announced"	18
<b>Immunology, Allergy, and Retrovirology</b>	
"Food Initiative Launched to Help Families Find Appropriate Foods"	19
"Notes"	19
<b>Psychology</b>	
"New Associate Chief of Research Appointed"	20
"Blog Identifies Ways to Help Children Celebrate Black History"	20
<b>Renal</b>	
"Use of eHealth Transforms Ways to Treat Patients"	21
<b>Tropical Medicine</b>	
"Collaboration Will Address Hookworm Infection in Rural Alabama"	22
<b>DEPARTMENT NEWS: EVENTS</b>	
"Department and CRIS to Sponsor Upcoming PASREV Course"	23
"5 <sup>th</sup> Biennial William T. Shearer Symposium Held Virtually"	24
"Section Hosts Regional PESTOLA Conference"	25
"Diabetes Management Course for School Nurses Held Virtually"	26
<b>CALENDAR</b>	27

*Cover:*

*Houston, Texas, experienced an unprecedented freeze and snow in February 2021, requiring a shut-down of much of the Medical Center for several days.*

# FEATURE STORIES

## Building Community Capacity and Leadership in Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in East Harris County after Multiple Disasters



by Dr. Suratha Elango

During the past three years, the **Section of Public Health Pediatrics** has been building a unique community-academic partnership using a community driven approach to address the social determinants of health in East Harris County. The premise is that healthcare in the office is not the only way to get or keep people well.

East Harris County is a region that's home to major state football championships year after year, yet the only hospital in the area closed in 2017. The communities of Channelview, Crosby, Galena Park, North Shore, and Sheldon are often noted as some of the hardest hit by the numerous disasters that have faced our region in recent years, but they are also

some of the most underserved due to limited recovery-agency presence in an unincorporated part of the county. The area also lights up red on any map of health outcomes, which is no surprise considering that the ship channel and chemical plants, along with their toxic releases, are right in their backyard. Yet the area has seen increasing numbers of families seeking more affordable housing continue to move into the area from Houston, and the school districts grow in numbers every year.

In 2018, the Section of Public Health Pediatrics began to develop a collaboration with the schools in the area and ultimately started working more closely with a community nonprofit, East Harris County

Empowerment Council (EHCEC), which sought to bring systemic improvements to the area over time. Together we asked the question, **what would it look like to build long-term well-being in the area, to prevent people from needing to go to a hospital in the first place, to build health not healthcare?** And if the multiple Houston-based support agencies didn't have a strong presence here, we knew we had to start with its strongest asset - its people. We decided to focus on elevating the voice and role of people closest to the problems. In this setting they are the experts - they are critical to identifying issues and also designing and implementing the solutions.

In 2019, with the help of our community partner EHCEC and with funding by the Ed Rachal Foundation, we began meeting regularly with 50+ community members, sparking conversations about health equity and root causes of so many chronic, complex issues including lack of access to healthcare, social isolation, community identity, environmental pollution, and disconnected youth.



<b>EHC<sup>2</sup> Leaders' Project Overviews</b>
<b>Pedestrian Bridge Project</b> providing safe multi-modal transportation to increase overall pedestrian health of community.
<b>Uvalde Revitalization Project</b> and Community Cleanup Days. Phase one Bridge clean-up and phase two Uvalde 19 median project.
<b>The Sierra Challenge to Move</b> Rec-Leisure activities and creating safe spaces/areas for neighborhood.
<b>Little Sisters' Empowerment</b> positive experience sessions (health and wellness, pregnancy prevention, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, financial literacy, entrepreneurship) for girls.
<b>Sheldon ISD District All Star Alumni Mentorship Program</b> support for disadvantaged youth. Services and programs include one-on-one mentoring, life skills, positive coping and mental health awareness.
<b>Expanding Horizons</b> support and program guidance into local industry careers for students outside of traditional college/university paths.
<b>Center for Policy Studies</b> voter turnout and civic engagement at San Jacinto College, voter registrar training.
<b>Change. Your. World.</b> Leadership transformation - table sessions on value-based leadership development and collaborative community action.
<b>Hand-Up</b> Identifying and surveying homeless population and outreach resources and services.
<b>Moments and Memories</b> online platform and grief support services.



The pandemic certainly posed a challenge to our community development efforts, which traditionally revolves around in-person human-to-human connection. We pivoted by first focusing on providing a weekly virtual “Power Hour” for social connection by community residents and maintaining regular contact by phone/text with our Community Initiatives Coordinator.

A core group kept coming, made up of individuals 30-70 years old who served as parents, educators, healthcare workers, county staff, retail employees, and church volunteers by day, and in so many other roles for their communities by night.

This consistent space soon garnered their trust and evolved to fostering growth and action. They became a captive audience for our co-developed 6-month-long capacity building and advocacy training program - East Harris County Engaging and Helping Communities (EHC<sup>2</sup>) Leadership Development Program. We worked through topics including leadership, government, communication, community organizing, project planning, and applying for funding.

During the 2020 election, our class demonstration project was an on-the-ground Get Out the Vote civic engagement campaign from which 90 EHC<sup>2</sup> community members were registered to vote for the first time.

We also co-hosted two virtual Facebook voter engagement town halls with the County Clerk as a special guest that garnered 1.4K views.

Our first cohort of 13 graduated in January 2021. Representative Sylvia Garcia’s office as well as Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia both attended and shared inspiring words. Through the program each leader identified a need in their community and developed a project to address those needs. We provided them direct seed funding and they are now embarking on a variety of projects (see table) addressing the social determinants of health through the built environment, mentoring, youth career counseling, civic engagement, homelessness advocacy, and social connections. We will continue to support them with bimonthly check-ins and monthly zoom group sessions as they implement their projects this year and as their work evolves over time. As community connections between residents, institutions, and elected officials grow through these projects, we then plan to focus on and influence the related policies impacting the long-term health of the community. But for now, we pause to celebrate how far we’ve come!



## Learning to Eat Healthy Could be a Game Changer



Recently, **Dr. Robin Kochel**, Assoc. Professor, shared the dynamics of transitioning her family to a plant-based diet. She describes how after her mother was diagnosed with uterine cancer, she encouraged her

to eat more vegetables, according to recommendations for a cancer-fighting diet. Her mother then introduced Dr. Kochel and her family to a documentary entitled “The Game Changers” that convinced them to transition to plant-based meals.

In the article, she explains that her culinary interests were challenged at first, as she sought new ideas for meals. Initially, she started making roasted potato hash on the weekends, and then other bean varieties captured her husband’s attention: cannellini, mayocoba, mung. Along with various types of rice and quinoa, the beans offered a wider selection of foods, but Dr. Kochel was still determined to find substitutes for favorites from their pre-plant-based days. Wanting to incorporate vegan variations of foods such as queso, fettuccine alfredo, and buttermilk biscuits, she began exploring and found that there are numerous options for substitutions, especially for dairy items.

Noting the difference between a vegetarian diet, which can include animal-derived products such as cheese and eggs, and a vegan diet, which excludes anything associated with animals including honey, Dr. Kochel said they changed their meat-kit subscription to vegetarian.

One of the many advantages they found was the physical change, evident in their energy levels, weight loss, and physical exam. She notes that when her husband went for his physical at the beginning of January, one year after going plant-based, “every single metric in his blood work improved, many quite dramatically.” With that good news, they committed to staying on the new eating program, even though it is not always easy: eating out has been cut back, and occasionally family squabbles occur when trying to satisfy everyone’s preferences, especially those of the extended family. Nonetheless, they concur that this change has been well worth the trouble, and she encourages others to give a plant-based diet a try: “You may be surprised about what you don’t miss. In fact, it could even be a game changer.”

*Pedi Press thanks Dr. Robin Kochel for permission to share this information.*

## Let's Put a Stop to Obesity in Children



By Dr. Sonia Ozurumba, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Year Pediatric Resident

I never knew the definition of Obesity until 2006, when I immigrated to the United States as an early teenager. I am from Owerri, Nigeria. In Nigeria, we played outside for hours rather than being sedentary. We drank mainly water rather than sugary drinks.

Obesity was the first thing I noticed upon my arrival. I asked, "Why are people bigger here? Is it a sign of better wellbeing, less stress, food availability and health?" The answer: No, it was a sign of stress, availability of unhealthy food, and health problems. The difference was clear, and it made me wonder if there was an underlying factor or cultural habit that fostered obesity here.

Pediatric obesity is a growing epidemic in the United States that cannot be ignored. Currently, 17% of children in the U.S. are obese. Instead of reacting to obesity, we should prevent obesity.

Obesity should be viewed as a top public health threat due to its associated medical complications such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, certain cancers, stroke, liver disease, high cholesterol, and sleep apnea and other breathing problems that can lead to death. The U.S. spends approximately \$14 billion a year on medical care costs for childhood obesity. We need to spend time learning how the habits we create for our children can affect their health.

This piece is about the culture or habits we create for our children that can propel them towards the path of obesity. The focus here is the regular intake of sugary drinks. Sugary drinks include soda/soft drinks, juices, sports or energy drinks, fruit-flavored or powdered drinks, vitamin-enhanced drinks, sweetened tea, coffee drinks, chocolate/flavored milk and other drinks with added sugars or sweeteners.

Studies have shown that children who consume higher amounts of sugary drinks have a 55% greater chance of being overweight or obese compared to those who consume less. So, let us be wary about our children's sugary drink consumption. In 1999 to 2004, it accounted for nearly 11% of daily calorie intake in children. This is not to discount other behaviors that can lead to excessive weight gain, such as: high-calorie but low-nutrient foods, sedentary lifestyle, poor sleep etc. However, the goal here is to stop the culture of regular sugary drink intake.

In clinic one day, I was counseling a mother about her son's obesity. He drinks juices every day. I advised her to cut down or eliminate sugary drinks as



they are high in calories with low nutritive value. The mother replied, "It is the juice we get through WIC. I thought it was healthy."

WIC (*The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children*) is a great program that provides supplemental foods and nutrition education for low-income pregnant women, infants and children up to age five. In addition to nutrition education, let our provision be representative of our counseling. Juices should be removed from WIC packages in all States. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends water and cow's milk as the preferred primary fluid sources for children.

In Eastern Nigeria, we consumed sugary drinks only on special occasions such as birthday parties, Easter and Christmas. So sugary drink intake is not a habit for me. But for most in the U.S., the culture of regular sugary drink intake has already been ingrained in our children, even our parents. As best as we can, let us stop the culture of regular sugary drink intake.

If the habit is already there, replace it with good habits such as eating slices of apple instead of drinking a cup of apple juice or eating a freshly squeezed orange instead of drinking orange juice. And keep offering water for hydration. Parents, if you are having difficulties obtaining healthy food choices for your children, ask your pediatrician for available resources

locally. For example, the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) issues FMNP coupons to buy eligible fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants. Our schools should also help shift the culture by selling only water in beverage vending machines and offering only water or milk at breakfasts and lunches.

Stop the culture. Don't create the culture. Shift the culture. Obesity is a real epidemic and should not be taken lightly. Children who eliminate sugary drinks can return to healthy weight. I have seen this in Clinic. So, let us cut down and eliminate sugary drinks. No one wins a race starting at the finish line. We have to start somewhere and take steps. And this is my starting point. Let us walk together to prevent obesity.



# TRANSITIONS

*Editor's note: In previous editions of Pedi Press, we have included articles describing the challenges associated with transitioning patients from pediatric to adult care, given that many pediatric patients are living longer with conditions that once took their lives in childhood. Transitioning to adult care has specific challenges for the patient and family, as well as the medical teams involved, and each condition has its own particular challenges. "Transitions" highlights the work that is being done in different Sections of the Department of Pediatrics.*

## Transitioning from Pediatric Care for Diabetes 1 to Adult Care – Our Teams are Here to Help!

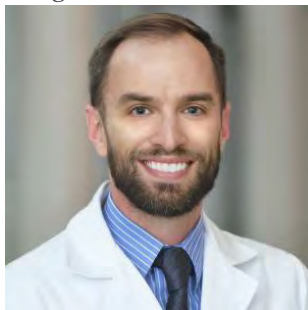
The Texas Children's Diabetes and Endocrine Care Center enjoys caring for teens with diabetes and endocrine conditions. Patients eventually will need to move from the pediatric center to an adult diabetes or endocrine doctor. As the move from pediatric to adult health care is so important, the pediatric and adult diabetes care providers at Texas Children's and Baylor Clinic want the experience to be positive and



smooth for every teen/young adult with diabetes.

To help teens with type 1 diabetes of all ages prepare for the transition from pediatric care to adult care, the Diabetes Care Center

offers a Transition Clinic, a new Transition Navigator Program, and a workshop for families.



The Diabetes Transition Clinic for teens 16 of age and older is co-led by **Drs. Sarah Kippenbrock Lyons**, Assoc. Professor, and **Daniel DeSalvo**, Asst. Professor. The clinic focuses on intensive diabetes

management and preparation for adulthood. It begins by preparing adolescents for the eventual transition to adult care and adulthood early in the teen years

and recommends where, when, how, and why the move to adult care needs to be discussed and planned in advance with the pediatric diabetes team.

Teens have many decisions to make for preparing for adult care, which for some of them might seem like an uncertain journey. However, they do not have to go on the journey alone because the team of providers at the Diabetes Transition Clinic are ready to help.

A "3-Step Guide for Transitioning into Adult Diabetes Care" has been provided online and focuses on the following steps for patients and family to take:

### Step One: Readiness

Starting in the early teen years, talk with your pediatric diabetes provider about your teen's individual needs and preferences. Together, identify what self-care skills are necessary for adult care and set goals to help your teen learn those skills. Slowly allow your teen to practice diabetes self-care skills while you are still involved and able to provide back-up as needed. In the older teen years, we also recommend your teen have time alone to talk with his/her diabetes provider, without parents in the room.

### Step Two: Planning

To find an adult provider who is a good match for your young adult, talk with your pediatric diabetes care team. We suggest your young adult try to meet



with the adult provider in person before leaving pediatric care. Young adults tell us that some of the most important characteristics of a great adult diabetes care provider include:

- Sensing genuine support, empathy and understanding of their experience living with diabetes by the adult provider
- Feeling understood – and not judged – about the challenges of achieving target blood sugar levels
- Receiving educational information that is personalized, helpful and directly relevant to their lives

### Step Three: Transfer of care

When your young adult has selected an adult provider and scheduled an appointment, your pediatric provider will help in sending the necessary medical records to the adult provider. We recommend you schedule an appointment within three months of the last visit with your pediatric provider to avoid major gaps in care.

Baylor College of Medicine also offers options for patients' transition to adult care. The **Young Adult Diabetes Clinic** at BCM, under the direction of

**Dr. Siripoom McKay**, Asst. Professor, is designed especially for patients aged 17 to 26 years old.

The team is composed of an endocrinologist, a certified diabetes educator, a dietitian, a psychologist, and a social worker. Dr. McKay and **Nelly Miranda, RN**, provide expertise in insulin pumps, continuous glucose monitoring devices, and other new technologies. Working closely with the pediatric endocrine team at TCH, they help to ensure patients' easy transition, helping patients and their families to achieve individual short- and long-term goals.

The clinic is one of a few in the country that offer a supportive structured program to meet developmental and social needs, as well as medical ones. By providing expert care for a comprehensive range of challenges that these patients confront, physicians and other healthcare providers help patients learn how to lead fully normal and independent lives.





## DEPARTMENT NEWS SECTIONS & CENTERS

### Annual McFarland Lecture Held Virtually

The annual **Virginia H. and Russell McFarland Lectureship in Pediatric Pathology – Grand Rounds** – was held on January 15, 2021. The guest speaker was Dr. Linda M. Ernst, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and director of Perinatal Pathology at North Shore University Health System (right). She did her residency training at Yale University and her fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, as well as Pediatric Pathology, she has devoted her career to perinatal pathology, with clinical expertise in placental pathology and perinatal autopsy. She is well known for her *Color Atlas of Human Fetal and Neonatal Histology* and has to her credit more than 90 peer-reviewed publications on subjects related to fetal and placental pathology. She has been a research mentor to many pathology, pediatric, and obstetrics residents and fellows. In addition to serving currently as the Vice Chair for Research in her department, she is co-investigator on three NIH-funded research projects to evaluate the importance of placental pathology in poor pregnancy outcomes associated with social disadvantage, race, and environmental exposures. The title of her lecture was “Chronic Placental Inflammation: Investigations into Pathogenesis.”



# Texas Children’s Hospital is Celebrating **100 Years of Insulin**



Virtual events held monthly beginning January 21st

Topics Include: Equity      Transition      Behavioral Health  
Sports                      Technology      Back to School  
And More



## Discovery of Insulin Celebrated

One hundred years ago, groundbreaking research by a team of Canadian scientists led to the discovery of insulin, changing the course of history. The discovery of insulin revolutionized the treatment for diabetes and changed the prognosis of the disease from a virtual death sentence to a manageable condition. The Department of Pediatrics Section of Diabetes and Endocrinology, along with TCH’s Diabetes and Endocrine Care Center, celebrates the centennial of this landmark event and looks to the present-day and future of diabetes care – we invite you to join us!

Throughout the year, we will be sharing a series of blogs, social media posts, virtual events and celebrations, in an effort to spread awareness and provide support for youth and families with diabetes.

You can find us on our new TCH Diabetes & Endocrinology Twitter handle:

**@TCH\_DIAB&ENDO**

Please join us as we celebrate, advocate, inspire and learn together!



Leonard Thompson is recognized as the first person with diabetes to be treated with insulin. He was treated in 1922, when he was only 14 years old.

## Program Selected for Participation in Local Planning Committee

# PIRCH | Program for Immigrant and Refugee Child Health



**Dr. Karla Fredericks**, Asst. Professor and Director of PIRCH (Program for Immigrant and Refugee Child Health), announced that PIRCH was selected by the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

as one of eight local organizations to form the new Health Access Planning Committee. Funded by the Episcopal Health Foundation, the goal of the year-long planning cohort is to "develop a comprehensive and innovative strategy for improving access to healthcare for immigrants" in the Houston area.

PIRCH is honored to represent the healthcare sector alongside a Federally Qualified Health Center, El

Centro de Corazon, and collaborate in this multidisciplinary group with colleagues specializing in legal services (Tahirih Justice Center and BakerRipley), community organizing (Living Hope Wheelchair Association and Mi Familia Vota), and benefits enrollment (Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services and Boat People SOS).

Over the course of the year, the Health Access Planning Committee will develop and test a pilot project to improve the dignity and equity of immigrants in the local healthcare system, concluding with a detailed, funder-ready plan to scale up the pilot for widespread implementation across the Houston region.

---

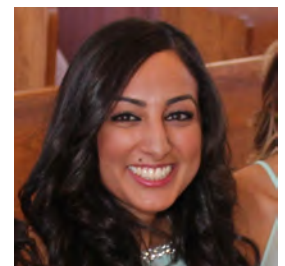
Dr. Fredricks presented on "Refugee and Immigrant Health" for the Baylor College of Medicine National School of Tropical Medicine's Diploma in Tropical Medicine course. The interactive session reviewed major health concerns for people displaced in urban settings and refugee camps abroad, as well as important considerations when providing clinical care for refugee and immigrant patients in the United States.

---

## Residents Contribute to Education Regarding Refugees



Fourth year residents **Dr. Amanda Small** (left) and **Dr. Maryanne Ibrahim**, (right) participated in the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health elective rotation under the direction of **Dr. Karla Fredricks**, Director of PIRCH. In addition, they presented to a virtual audience of nearly 100 participants at the 4th annual Refugee Mental Health and Wellness Conference, held on February 25, 2021, regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families served by the Texas



Children's Hospital Mobile Clinic. The goal of the event was to "educate mental health professionals, social workers, educators, and other service providers on the unique mental health challenges faced by refugees and best practices for serving refugee and immigrant opportunities." Lastly, they developed and delivered a Continuing Medical Education session on Common Pediatric Gastrointestinal Cases of refugees living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, which was recorded and will continue to be used in future trainings through the non-governmental organization, MedGlobal.

## CDC Interview Highlights ART Use for TB in Sub-Saharan Africa



In a podcast for CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases series, **Dr. Anna Mandalakas**, director of the Global Tuberculosis (TB) Program at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, discusses tuberculosis among children and teens with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Mandalakas highlights findings from the December 2020 manuscript, *Tuberculosis Among Children and Adolescents at HIV Treatment Centers in Sub-Saharan Africa*, which analyzed data from seven integrated pediatric HIV/TB centers in the BIPAI Network, representing six countries in sub-Saharan

Africa. The study found that every 10% increase in anti-retroviral therapy (ART) uptake resulted in a 2.33% reduction in prevalence of TB and favorable TB outcomes were associated with increased time in care and early ART initiation, whereas severe immunosuppression was associated with death. The findings from the manuscript support integrated HIV/TB services for HIV-infected children and adults and demonstrate the association of ART uptake with decreased TB incidence in high HIV/TB settings.

In the podcast, Dr. Mandalakas discusses the need for additional studies to not only improve testing to help better diagnose TB disease in children, but also to identify better ways to screen children at risk for TB disease and infection. Listen to the full interview:

<https://tools.cdc.gov/medialibrary/index.aspx#/media/id/415875>

---

### BIPAI Hosts RAISE Symposium (Research. Art. Innovation. Scholarship. Education)



BIPAI will host the first RAISE Symposium virtually during **the week of June 28, 2021**. The Symposium aims to catalyze the exchange of ideas through a showcase of innovative abstracts and interactive sessions, enhance education and research skills through workshops, foster a culture of scholarship, and promote a holistic approach to global health through arts and wellness. The theme for this year

is, "Forging Ahead: Maintaining Excellence through Teamwork and Innovation." This Symposium is a new stand-alone scholarly event replacing the poster segment of the annual BIPAI Network Meeting. Please review the official webpage for full details, submission, and registration for event: <https://bit.ly/BIPAIRAISE2021>.

---

### BIPAI Launches Global Health Scholarship Community of Practice (CoP) Program

BIPAI has officially launched the Global Health Scholarship Community of Practice (CoP) Program. This is a new initiative to foster a scholarship-rich environment among staff across the Network. This group meets regularly to create connections, enhance their skills and knowledge in a collective learning process, and practice through scholarly collaboration and projects. By fostering excitement and curiosity around scholarship, participants are encouraged to transform their daily work into scholarly activities that advance Foundation work and their careers.



## Fundación Baylor Argentina Physicians Receive First Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

As part of the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Argentina, the Fundación Baylor Argentina team began receiving their first doses of the Sputnik V vaccine in February at Añelo Hospital in Neuquén. The vaccination is a key milestone in the fight against COVID-19.

The BIPAI Network 2019–2020 fiscal year Annual Reports are available online. Read about the Network's recent achievements and activities.

Network Foundations: <https://www.texaschildrensglobalhealth.org/annual-reports>  
BIPAI Headquarters: <https://bit.ly/BIPAIHQ2020AR>



## Partnership to Provide Medications Through Global HOPE for Patients with Cancer



Global HOPE (Hematology-Oncology Pediatric Excellence), under the direction of **Dr. David Poplack**, announced in February 2021 a partnership to provide access to medication for patients in sub-Saharan Africa, where a majority of pediatric patients with cancer and hematology do not survive.

Through the partnership, formed with Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. And Direct Relief, Global HOPE will make the determinations regarding specific volumes and quantities of medications identified as needed for the different clinical sites.

Teva Pharmaceuticals has committed to providing the medications for treating cancer and blood disorders to Direct Relief, which will handle efficient shipping and delivery of the medications to Global HOPE facilities. Dr. Poplack noted that, "By partnering with a global leader in generic and specialty medicines like Teva along with Direct Relief's experience in cold chain logistics, we can have an immediate and sustained impact in low- and middle-income countries where

increased access to pediatric oncology treatments is desperately needed."

The plan is to begin with the Global HOPE program in Malawi and then extend to other facilities across sub-Saharan Africa. Medications donated by Teva through this partnership are expected to support treatment plans for almost 95% of all patients undergoing chemotherapy. Global HOPE anticipates that it will be able to diagnose and treat almost 4,000 new pediatric patients with cancer in Malawi.

"The success we've had in radically changing the course of pediatric cancer and hematology in sub-Saharan Africa is due in large part to our partners and donors who have made our work possible"

-- Dr. David Poplack, Director

A cautionary note released by Teva noted that "the press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Act of 1995 which are based on management's current beliefs and expectations and are subject to substantial risks and uncertainties . . . [and] speak only as of the date on which they are made . . ."

The information is extracted from an article published by Teva that can be accessed in full here:

<https://www.tevapharm.com/news-and-media/latest-news/Global-Partnership-Cancer-Medicines-to-Children-in-Africa/> Photo by Smiley Pool



## Patients Engage in Holiday Activities



The Cancer and Hematology Center celebrated **Happy Valentine's Day** with activities sponsored by The Periwinkle Foundation Arts in Medicine program, Child Life Department, and the Youth Hope Association. Patients in the outpatient clinic enjoyed various creative activities, taking photos, and receiving treat bags.



For **Go Texan Day**, the Child Life team hosted a parade for the patients. The children received snacks, books, and even special visits from TCH's furry friends, Elsa, Pinto, and Pluto.

## Center Expresses Appreciation for Creative Arts Therapists

On March 16, 2021, the Center posted their expression of thanks for the team of creative arts therapists who have supported patients and their families using arts-based methods and creative processes to optimize the health and wellness of patients and families. From left are Ashley Wood, Art Therapist; Marial Biard, Music Therapist; and Leara Glinzak, The Faris Foundation Art Therapist.



## Fellowship Matches Announced

Fellowship matches for the 2021 – 2022 academic year were announced on January 8, 2021, by **Dr. Elaine Fielder**, Assoc. Professor and Director of the Residency Program. In making the announcement, Dr. Fielder gave “kudos to all of you who served as educators, mentors, and support through their journey. Thank you so much for all that you do to foster the growth and development of our trainees.” The match results are below.



2021 Baylor Pediatric Resident Fellowship Match Results			
Nawara	Alawa	Boston	CCM
Ariany	Aquino Lopez	Baylor	Heme/Onc
Katie	Bedard	Boston	Combined ID
Amber	Berry	Northside (ATL)	Sports Medicine
DeMarco	Bowen	San Diego	PHM
Javi	Cabrera-Perez	Brigham	Allergy & Immunology
Celeste	Cleveland	Phoenix	Heme/Onc
Chasity	Custer	UTSW	CCM
Amy	Dutko	Baylor	CCM
Gabriela	Espinoza-Candelaria	Pittsburgh	ID
Zach	Foughty	Baylor	PEM
Nikki	Gambhir	Baylor	DBP
Ev	Goldart	Michigan	Cardiology
AC	Gomez	Boston	Combined Nephrology
Elit	Hadad	Baylor	PEM
Andrew	Headrick	Utah	Cardiology
Jisha	Jose	Columbia	Neonatology
Yassy	Koukaz	Baylor	PEM/Global Health
Julie	Lovin	Baylor	Cardiology
Laura	Mackay	Baylor	Metabolic Genetics
Rebecca	Markovitz	Boston	Allergy & Immunology
Zobia	Momin	Emory	PEM
Tara	Ness	Baylor	ID
Sahar	Rahiem	Kansas City	Palliative Care
Amira	Said	Baylor	ID
Amani	Sanchez	Dell	PEM
John	Shabosky	Baylor	Cardiology
Alex	Siller	Baylor	Endocrine
Allison	Silverstein	St. Judes	Palliative Care
Amanda	Small	Baylor	Child Abuse
Brandon	Stormes	CHOP	CCM
Zac	Tabb	UCSF	GH/Health Equity
Abhinav	Totapally	Vanderbilt	CCM
Russ	Wolters	Baylor	Heme/Onc
Ran	Xiao	Baylor	Cardiology

## Food Initiative Launched to Help Families Find Appropriate Foods

The Food Equality Initiative Program was launched February 1, 2021 to provide direct allergen-free foods to patients at Texas Children's Hospital with celiac disease, eosinophilic gastrointestinal disease, and food allergies. **Dr. Carla Davis**, Professor and Section Chief, presented the program to the Texas Children's Hospital Dietitians on February 1, 2021. The free-from-marketplace approach allows customers to buy directly, thereby bypassing the often confusing issue of determining what food is or is not safe for their children.



If physicians have patients who might qualify because they have difficulty accessing allergen-free foods, contacts at Texas Children's Hospital are Theresa Aldape, LMSW (tmaldape@texaschildrens.org), and Kathy Pitts, PhD, APRN, PNP-BC, MPH (kpitts@bcm.edu).

### DREAM RUN

The **David Elementary David's Dream Run**, a charity event that benefits the David Center and Clinic, directed by Dr. Javier Chinen at The Woodlands Hospital, was held virtually from Wednesday, November 11th - Tuesday, November 17th and consists of a 1 mile or 5K run/walk. The walk raised \$30,203.92 last year and the proceeds will be used for medical care and research for children with primary immunodeficiency disease.



### ANNUAL MEETING

The Immunology, Allergy and Retrovirology Section faculty attended and presented several lectures at the **American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology's Virtual Annual Meeting** which took place from February 26 - March 1, 2021. **Drs. Carla Davis, Aikaterini Anagnostou, Ivan Chinn, Lisa Forbes Satter, and Lenora Noroski** presented to an international audience, and the section presented seven posters. A Fun Run/Walk team was convened to bring the section together during the event.

### PUBLICATION

**Dr. Sara Anvari**, Director of Clinical Trials in the Food Allergy Program and Director of the TCH COVID Vaccine Allergy Clinic is a co-author of this New England Journal of Medicine case series describing the delayed reactions in 12 patients after receiving the Moderna mRNA vaccine. T cell-mediated pathogenesis for this delayed hypersensitivity was supported by skin biopsies showing superficial perivascular and perifollicular lymphocytic infiltrates with rare eosinophils and scattered mast cells. The patients were able to receive the second dose without a worsened clinical course, and 50% of the patients did not have a recurrence after the second dose. This finding should allay concerns and facilitate more vaccinations.

## New Associate Chief of Research Appointed



**Dr. Lisa Kahalley**, Assoc. Professor, was appointed Associate Chief of Research for the Psychology Section and Director of Neurobehavioral Oncology for the Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers. In addition, she was awarded a \$6.7M RO1 grant from the National Cancer Institute for a large, multi-national, multi-disciplinary study comparing symptom burden/toxicity, neurocognitive change, and functional outcomes in pediatric patients with brain tumors treated with proton vs. photon radiotherapy. She is leading the study with Dr. Donald Mabbott at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Dr. Pamela Hinds at Children's Hospital in Washington, DC. Other participating sites include MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center (Houston), Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (Toronto), and The Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne).

---

## Blog Identifies Ways to Help Children Celebrate Black History



**Dr. Stephanie Chapman**, Asst. Professor, identified several ways families can celebrate Black History Month safely during COVID-19. In a blog posted on the Texas Children's site, she described ways to help children learn about Black and African American culture, including contributions and achievements. Ways she suggests to encourage them are having a story time, setting aside a movie night, taking them to museums virtually, and enjoying Black culture through music. For *story time*, she provides a link to various books available through Amazon and suggests checking the school of public libraries for e-books and curbside delivery

borrowing. *Movie night* could include major streaming services that have options from which the children can select and, if weather permits, even have a friend or two over to watch a movie projected on a sheet or wall in the backyard, while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. Another good source is the *museum*, and she offers links to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis Tennessee, The national Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum in Atlanta



George, and the Houston Museum of African American Culture. Finally, Black culture can be celebrated by enjoying *music* through different streaming services and using children's favorite songs as a launching pad to help them learn more about the artist(s). The entire article, with the links, can be accessed at <https://www.texaschildrens.org/blog/helping-kids-celebrate-black-history-month-during-covid-19>.

## Use of eHealth Transforms Ways to Treat Patients



**Dr. Elizabeth Onugha,** Asst. Professor, along with Dr. Robert Ball, medical director of eHealth at TCH and colleagues, were instrumental in transitioning their patients to eHealth during COVID-19. Although video visits

already were being used at TCH on a small scale, they realized that a plan was needed to systematically adopt video visits across departments in the system, learning as they went.

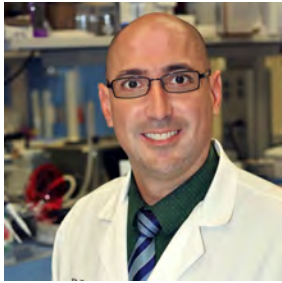
When they started at the beginning of 2020, Renal did not offer virtual visits, having instead a steady flow of in-person appointments. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, many patients who were sick and needed specialized procedures expressed concerns about coming to the hospital, and many either cancelled appointments or failed to come. Although telephone conferences were used successfully to refill prescriptions and keep physicians informed about their patients, they were not sufficient for certain situations, especially new patients and those needing comprehensive care.

Particularly concerning were patients who had urgent or emergent issues such as nephrotic syndrome or kidney failure and needed immediate intervention.

In an interview about the speed and efficacy with which the eHealth program was implemented, Dr. Onugha explained that they had to devise creative ways to examine patients using the video option. She explained that they "used parents as our surrogates to perform certain maneuvers, like palpating the abdomen of their child while looking at the child's face and body language for signs of pain or discomfort." Of course, this procedure was easier with older children who could verbalize their symptoms.

Between the end of March and end of May 2020, the renal department's use of eHealth visits had grown from 20% to 50%. Dr. Onugha noted that, "...even after this pandemic ends, we plan to continue offering virtual consultations for specific situations. Our physicians, clinical staff and the entire organization worked together and emerged stronger from this crisis. We are now equipped with new and valuable skills and knowledge about how to handle such emergencies in an expedient manner in the future."

## Collaboration Will Address Hookworm Infection in Rural Alabama



**Dr. Rojelio Mejia**, Asst. Professor and director of Tropical Medicine's Laboratory of Human Parasitology at TCH, has helped to effect a new collaboration between the National School of Tropical

Medicine and the Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company to provide albendazole for children with hookworm infection in rural Alabama. He has been studying the prevalence of this disease throughout the United States, and has found Americans from Texas to Alabama to as far north as New York City who are infected. According to the CDC, an estimated 576-740 million people are infected worldwide.



The company was started by Mark Cuban, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks, in an attempt to combat exorbitant prices on generic pharmaceuticals that are not expensive to manufacture, has donated 10,000 doses of albendazole, a drug that treats hookworm and other parasitic diseases. The costs for albendazole can be as high as \$500 per dose, bringing the value of the donation to almost \$2 million if purchased from a drug company. In addition to the donation to Baylor College of Medicine, the company plans to keep the prices at a minimal prices by making and distributing the drug for approximately \$13 and charging \$15 as a wholesale price, with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$20.



Dr. Mejia expects the donation can be used to further his study in Lowndes County, Alabama, where he has discovered evidence of numerous people infected with hookworms, a parasite widely thought to have been eradicated in the United States for several decades now. The infection is caused by a worm parasite that infects more than half a billion people in the world and is endemic in resource-limited areas of Latin America, China, and Africa. The hookworms live in the small intestine and pass eggs in the feces of affected individuals. When the eggs are deposited on soil, they mature and hatch, releasing the larvae, which mature into a form that in turn can penetrate the skin of other individuals. The disease can lead to anemia, loss of protein, cognitive disabilities, and stunted growth in children.

Hookworm is not the only disease of poverty or neglected tropical disease (NTD) found in the United States, according to Dr. Mejia. His research teams have also found evidence of toxocara in New York and intestinal parasites in Texas.

"The collaboration with The Mark Cuban Cost Plus Drug Company will help address the problem of hookworm and other parasites that are endemic in the Southern USA. These parasites disproportionately affect people living in poverty that cannot afford the high cost of these antiparasitic medications," said Mejia.



# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## EVENTS

### Department and CRIS to Sponsor Upcoming PASREV Course

The Department of Pediatrics, along with the Center for Research, Innovation and Scholarship for Medical Educators (CRIS) and Texas Children's Hospital, will sponsor "Practical Skills for Reviewing Evidence in Health Professions Education" (PASREV) course on **Thursday, April 15, 2021** (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) and **Friday, April 16, 2021** (9:30 am - 12:00 pm). The course is being offered to the Texas Medical Center in a virtual format.

A popular course, it usually is offered only at the annual Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) Conference in Europe. It is designed to present and develop a set of core skills that are key in using and undertaking different forms of systematic reviews in the healthcare professions.

**SYSTEMIC REVIEW:** BEME systematic review is Cochrane review but designed for health profession education. BEME reviewers require a unique set of skills with different philosophical and theoretical underpinning to determining ways to enhance outcomes of education intervention and/or the effective process of teaching and learning.

**SCOPING REVIEW:** Scoping reviews are an increasingly popular approach to reviewing health research evidence and involve "mapping" a process of summarizing a range of evidence and providing an analytical reinterpretation of the evidence in order to convey the breadth and depth of a field.

Registration fees are \$50 for faculty from the Texas Medical Center institutions and \$100 for medical trainees. For more information, email [remijioe@bcm.edu](mailto:remijioe@bcm.edu).



## 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial William T. Shearer Symposium Held Virtually

By Dr. Carla Davis

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, IAR held the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial William T. Shearer Virtual Symposium with approximately 300 attendees for the William T. Shearer Grand Rounds on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The event was Chaired by **Dr. Sarah Nicholas**, Director of the Immunology-Transplantation Program and organized by Ms. Christina Cowperthwait. Dr. Rebecca Buckley, a living legend, and pioneer in the treatment of severe combined immunodeficiency with non-myeloablative bone marrow transplantation spoke during the Texas Children's Hospital Grand Rounds. It was a rare opportunity to see the evolution of the treatment of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency through the eyes of someone who was a driver of major advancements in the field!

The Symposium continued after Grand Rounds with Ms. Carol Ann Demaret, the mother of David Vetter, also known as "the Bubble Boy," giving a touching remembrance of the care Dr. Shearer gave to her son. With engaging delivery, **Dr. Peter Hotez** shared his wealth of experience with the development of COVID-19 vaccines and the challenges in developing international herd immunity, and **Dr. Lisa Forbes** eloquently spoke on COVID-19 manifestations in primary immunodeficiency disease.

For the second part of the symposium, **Dr. Ivan Chinn** described the wonderful successes of the Immunogenetics Program at Baylor/TCH, and we heard three fantastic mystery clinical cases solved through genetic testing with functional immune evaluation spurred by the expertise of **Drs. Chinn, Sarah Nicholas, and Tiphonie Vogel**.

Dr. Neil Romberg, Jeffrey Modell Foundation Endowed Chair of Pediatrics Immunology Research from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, shared his elegant experiments from the University of Pennsylvania to characterize a new disease, PU.1 agammaglobulinemia, and **Drs. Natalia Chaimowitz and Vogel** shared novel disease discovery cases of TRAF2 and NFKB deficiencies so that everyone could understand how genetic testing has advanced our diagnostic ability.

**Dr. Jessica Palmieri**, BCM Allergy/Immunology Fellow, did a phenomenal presentation of a difficult case to Dr. Buckley, who immediately determined a key physical finding that helped crack the case. When the patient's mutation causing IKK $\beta$  Deficiency was determined to be present in two families, it was a special moment when the physician from Qatar chimed in and gave a clarification of the separate regions of origin of the two unrelated families! All this was only possible through the gift of Zoom conferencing. It was a remarkable day of learning and dialogue, a true silver lining of this pandemic.



**Pediatrics 2021**

5<sup>th</sup> Biennial William T. Shearer Symposium  
*Innovations in Primary Immunodeficiency  
and Clinical Immunology*

Friday, February 12, 2021  
Virtual via Zoom





# PESTOLA

PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINE SOCIETY  
OF TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, LOUISIANA, AND ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, MARCH 06, 2021 | 8 AM – 12 PM CST



**FREE REGISTRATION**



**MODERATOR**  
**DR. DANIEL DESALVO**  
PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST  
TEXAS CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL



**PRESENTER**  
**DR. BRADLEY MILLER**  
PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
HEALTH



**PRESENTER**  
**DR. MARIA REDONDO**  
PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST  
TEXAS CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL



**PRESENTER**  
**DR. G. TODD ALONSO**  
PEDIATRIC ENDOCRINOLOGIST  
BARBARA DAVIS CENTER FOR  
CHILDHOOD DIABETES

## Section Hosts Regional PESTOLA Conference

BCM/TCH hosted the **Pediatric Endocrine Society of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas (PESTOLA)** annual conference virtually on March 6, 2021. PESTOLA was kicked off with an introduction by **Dr. Rona Sonabend**, Assoc. Professor and Chief of Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology, and moderated by **Dr. Daniel DeSalvo**, Asst. Professor. Featured speakers from BCM / TCH included **Dr. Olivia Ginnard**, Fellow, who was a recipient of the PESTOLA Fellow Research Award, and **Dr. Maria Redondo**, Professor, who gave updates on the Rare and Atypical Diabetes Network (RADIANT). **Dr. Siripoom McKay**, Asst. Professor, served on the PESTOLA planning committee and organized CME credits for attendees. The virtual PESTOLA conference was very well attended and featured national speakers in pediatric endocrinology.

# Diabetes Management Course for School Nurses Held Virtually



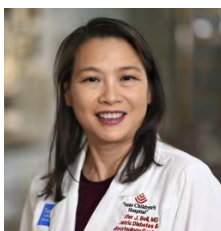
**Dr. Bonnie McCann-Crosby**, Assoc. Professor and Medical Director of the Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism for TCH The Woodlands, and colleagues held an all-day virtual conference for school nurses on February 6, 2021. The course on management of diabetes was attended by 170 participants and offered 6.5 continuing education contact hours and 6.25 CPEUs for registered dietitian nutritionists and dietic technicians.

In her talk, Dr. McCann-Crosby described the estimated prevalence of Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes, discussed the pathophysiology of Type 1 vs. Type 2 Diabetes, reviewed presenting symptoms of diabetes, discussed the diagnostic criteria for diabetes, briefly reviewed the management of diabetes, and discussed the effect of COVID-19 on diabetes.

**Dr. Sophia Jean Ebenezer**, Asst. Professor, discussed current diabetes technology, including insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors. She described how this technology is improving long term outcomes for children with diabetes and discussed new and emerging technologies.

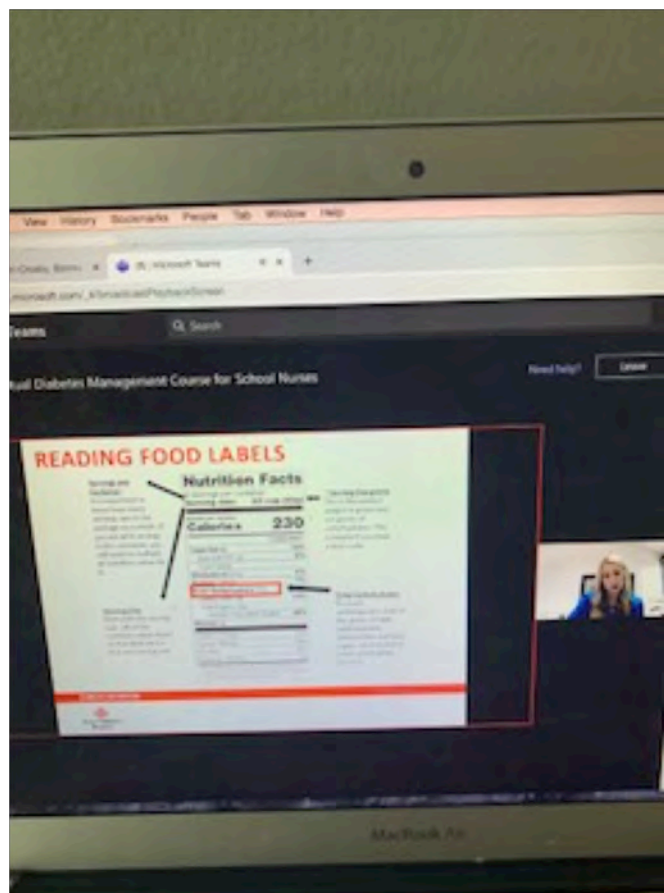


**Dr. Jennifer J. Bell**, Asst. Professor, discussed the different types of insulin that are available and how each one is used for management of diabetes. She reviewed with the nurses how to calculate appropriate insulin doses.



Radhika Koppanur, who is an RD and certified diabetes educator, went over practice examples of calculating insulin doses with the nurses.

**Silvia Michael**, Instructor and Nurse Practitioner, went through common challenging diabetes scenarios including management of hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia. She discussed treatment strategies and troubleshooting tips.



*Dr. Katelyn Yzquierdo gave presentation on counting carbohydrates (screen shot of virtual presentation)*

**Christy Gleason**, LMSW, who is our social worker, reviewed socioeconomic issues that can affect the management of diabetes in children. She provided resources that are available to help families who are struggling with obtaining insulin and diabetes supplies. She also discussed the issue of food insecurity and provided community resources that school nurses can share with their students.

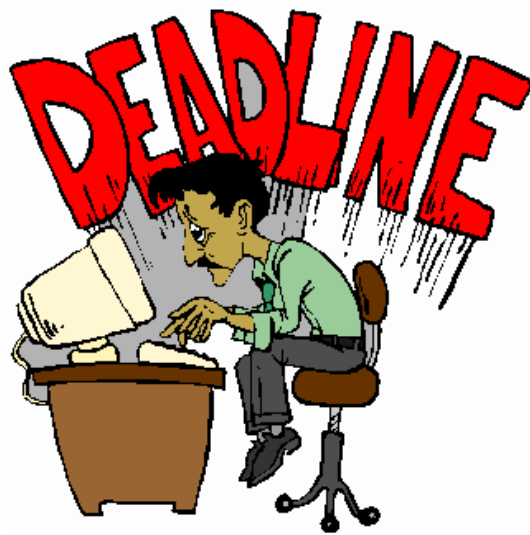
Katelyn Yzquierdo, our RD, discussed carbohydrate counting, healthy meal planning, and practice examples.

The rest of the day included representatives from different insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor companies. They provided information on the different technologies.



April 15-16, 2021  
PASREV Virtual Course  
“Practical Skills for Reviewing Evidence in Health Professions Education”  
Texas Children’s Hospital  
[CRIS@texaschildrens.org](mailto:CRIS@texaschildrens.org)

May 14, 2021  
Texas Educators Academies Collaborative for Health Professions Southeast  
2021 Teach-S Educational Symposium  
Virtual  
Contact:  
[MKMims@mdanderson.org](mailto:MKMims@mdanderson.org)



**Deadline for Next Issue of *PEDI PRESS***

**June 5, 2021**

*PEDI PRESS* is published quarterly by the Department of Pediatrics  
Dr. Gordon Schutze, Interim Editor-in-Chief  
Dr. B. Lee Ligon, Managing Editor/Graphics Design  
Julie O’Brien Anderson, Copy and Content Editor



**Faculty, Fellows, Residents & Staff**

**&**

**Research Features**

**Are in**

**Part II**