

# Pedi Press

A Department of Pediatrics Publication

April 2026



## Message from the desk of Dr. Lara Shekerdeman

Dear All,

As we welcome April, we are reminded of the energy and renewal that this season brings—a reflection of the hope and healing at the heart of pediatric care. Each day, your dedication helps shape brighter, healthier futures for the children and families we serve.

This season also marks the excitement of Match Day, as we celebrate and welcome the next generation of pediatricians. Their passion and commitment to caring for children inspire us all and reaffirm the strength and future of our field.

We also take this time to honor Doctor’s Day, recognizing the extraordinary physicians whose compassion, expertise, and unwavering commitment make a lasting difference in the lives of our patients. The care you provide not only heals but brings comfort, hope, and reassurance to families during their most vulnerable moments.

I am continually inspired by the compassion, resilience, and excellence that define this department. Thank you for the remarkable work you do each day and for your dedication to advancing the health and well-being of children.

Happy reading and take care!  
Lara

**For more Department of Pediatrics updates:**  
Connect with [Dr. Shekerdeman on LinkedIn](#)

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# Spotlighting a Pediatric Pioneer!

## Introducing Dr. Charleta Guillory

**Dr. Charleta Guillory** serves as Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program and Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology at Baylor College of Medicine. A passionate leader in pediatric and neonatal health, she has dedicated her career to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable patients—newborns and their families.

Through her leadership as Chair of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB), Dr. Guillory has helped drive meaningful advancements in maternal and infant health through collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. Her work continues to influence best practices and support healthier beginnings for children and families.



### Looking Back: Dr. Guillory's Most Meaningful Moments in Pediatric Care



**Dr. Guillory, among the many policy wins and program developments you've helped spearhead over your career - from expanding the Texas Newborn Screening Panel to establishing the Honey Child Program in Texas - what stands out as one of the most meaningful moments for you?**

One of the moments that I hold close to my heart is our work on critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screening in Texas, where early detection can literally change the trajectory of a newborn's life. Many babies who might have been sent home undiagnosed with a heart defect are now being screened early, giving them a fighting chance. Over the course of my career, I served as co-director of the Texas Pulse Oximetry Project (TxPOP), a comprehensive, multidisciplinary cardiac screening program that has transformed how we screen approximately 400,000 babies born in Texas each year for CCHD. This program allows healthcare providers to diagnose heart conditions before an infant ever reaches the emergency room in extremis, decreasing the incidence of mortality and morbidity. The project was a statewide collaborative effort. We recruited stakeholders, including cardiologists, nurse champions, parents, and neonatologists from across Texas, to develop and implement an effective screening program. Central to our success was the Nurse Champion model, which became the foundation of our implementation and expansion throughout the state. Together, we championed groundbreaking policy reforms in CCHD screening leaving an indelible mark on the state of Texas. Still today, when I receive calls from clinicians who tell me they picked up a baby using the CCHD screening toolkit, I experience a quiet satisfaction knowing that we gave that infant a chance at life they might not have otherwise had. That is what endures and motivates me to continue this important effort. Our team was honored twice by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) with the Special Achievement Award for this initiative: once for the development of the Texas Pulse Oximetry Project (TxPOP) Toolkit to support the implementation of statewide CCHD screening, and the second time, for promoting legislation that led to the state mandate for statewide CCHD screening for all infants.



**How do your experiences leading collaborative efforts at the local, state, and national levels shape your approach to strengthening bedside care, advancing quality initiatives, and building partnerships to improve maternal and infant health outcomes?**

Every role I have held, I approach with commitment, service, and the goal of improving the lives of others. Whether serving as Chair of the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies (TCHMB); President and Chapter President of the Texas Pediatric Society (TPS) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); Chair of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Newborn Screening Advisory Committee (NBSAC); a member of the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Perinatal Advisory Council (PAC); a member of the AAP Committee on Federal Government Affairs (Access to Care) and Committee on Fetus and Newborn; or the FDA Pediatric Advisory Committee on Newborns, I bring to TCH's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Newborn Center (NBC) extensive experience and preparation to work with like-minded experts to effect positive change. I am humbled and proud to be part of this extraordinary team. I remain committed to identifying the factors that influence maternal and infant health before and after NICU admission and understanding how they affect clinical outcomes. As a leader in neonatology locally, statewide, and nationally, my mission is to implement practical, evidence-based solutions that improve outcomes for mothers and infants. During my tenure as Director of the Level II NICU for over 20 years and Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program, I have pursued several key goals aligned with best practices in maternal and child health. First, I continue efforts to reduce infant mortality and improve child health outcomes, particularly for high-risk and vulnerable populations, by enhancing access to high-quality care. Second, I have supported quality improvement initiatives across neonatal and perinatal units, including developing guidelines and protocols to ensure consistent, evidence-based care. Collaborating with healthcare professionals statewide, I strive to foster a culture of continuous improvement. Finally, I promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among providers, researchers, and policymakers to drive innovation and maintain Texas as a leader in neonatal and perinatal care. Through these efforts, I aim to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of mothers and infants, contributing to a healthier future for families and ensuring the work at Texas Children's Newborn Center remains meaningful and impactful.

## What influenced or shaped your lifelong commitment to service and advocacy?

My story begins with my parents, who encouraged me, inspired me and instilled in me a lifelong love of learning. They had a vision for me, a vision that did not conform to the existing social norms. As a teacher and principal for 44 years, my mother valued and lived excellence in education. Little did I realize, by her example, I was getting a free, unsupervised, and unaccredited course in service, the importance of family, and in community involvement. My father was an engineer and a devout man of faith and fortitude. Most importantly, together, they taught me how to dream and visualize that dream. They set my feet upon a path, and the possibilities were endless. They lived by a rule: every life we touched ought to be better than we found it. My parents created a village that supported me and taught me to endure hardship, adapt and grow. I was also fortunate to have outstanding mentors who reinforced what my parents taught - that excellence is not a destination but a relentless pursuit, and who showed me that advocacy begins when we refuse to accept good enough for the most vulnerable among us.



## After decades as a neonatologist, what continues to inspire you to fight for mothers and babies?

You know, this profession is not just a career for me. It's a commitment that has been renewed in my heart every single day for more than 40 years. As a neonatologist, I have the privilege of witnessing the very beginning of life. I see our tiniest babies, born too soon, too small, or facing challenges far bigger than they are. In those moments, I see both the breathtaking fragility of life and its extraordinary resilience. Standing at the bedside of those newborns, holding the hands of their families, you realize that improving the health of mothers and babies isn't simply medicine. It is not a statistic. It is the most meaningful investment we can make in our collective future. That reality is what transformed my profession into a calling, a life's mission. It is my profound belief that every single baby, no matter their circumstances, deserves the chance to thrive, and I have devoted my life to fighting for that belief. What motivates me is something simple but powerful beyond words: a baby doesn't know about bureaucracy, paperwork, or politics. A baby only knows whether they are cared for. And when you center that truth and let the needs of the child speak louder than anything else, finding common ground becomes not only possible, but essential.

## From your perspective, what separates a good physician from a truly exceptional one, especially in a field as challenging and demanding as neonatology?

I believe what separates a good physician from a truly exceptional one is humility, discernment, and a genuine commitment to serving others. A good physician may know the medicine well, but an exceptional physician also knows how to listen—to the team, to the family, and to what the moment requires. In neonatology, that matters tremendously, because the work demands precision, patience, and an understanding that every decision can carry enormous weight. Exceptional physicians do not let experience make them distant. Instead, experience deepens their wisdom, strengthens their judgment, and expands their compassion. They understand that the smallest patients require not only advanced care, but also great tenderness. They remain teachable, they mentor others well, and they approach the work with a sense of responsibility and purpose that goes beyond themselves.

## ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



# Highlighting our Advanced Practice Providers (APPs)



## Nicole Triggs, MSN, APRN, NPNP-PC, CPN

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Texas Children's Hospital

### What inspired you to become an APP in your field?

I grew up 20 minutes north of Wichita, Kansas, and went to Kansas Newman College for Nursing School. Travel nursing brought me to Houston. I went to NP school at UT Health Science Center at Houston. The friends I've met and the opportunities I've had in healthcare are why I stay. I choose Hepatology not only because liver disease is medically complex and deeply impactful across a child's life but also because of the incredible team, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and other team members I've had the honor of working with for the last 12 years. We all have the same goal: to provide the best care for our patients.

### What does a typical day look like for you? What might surprise people about your role?

My typical day as a PNP in the Liver Clinic is a mix of clinic visits for elevated liver enzymes, MASLD, autoimmune hepatitis, and other liver conditions. I review labs, imaging, and participate in Patient Care Conferences. I adjust patient care plans, collaborate with dietitians and other specialists, and I spend a lot of time educating families and answering MyChart messages. What may surprise people most is how relationship-centered the job is; progress often comes from trust and consistency, not just prescriptions.

### When you're off the clock, how do you recharge? Any favorite hobbies, hidden talents, or go-to stress relievers?

I love to travel. Costa Rica is my happy place. Give me sunshine, nature, good food, music to dance to, and my friends (plus my pets waiting at home), and I'm fully reset.

## Texas Children's Hospital Advanced Practice Provider Conference (TCHAPP)

We are thrilled to invite you to the 13th Annual Texas Children's Hospital Advanced Practice Provider (TCHAPP) Conference on April 16-18, 2026 at the Texas Children's Hospital Pavilion for Women, with in-person and virtual options available.

### Registration is Open!

Please join us for an engaging conference that offers a unique blend of primary and acute care perspectives in pediatric and women's health care and opportunities to network, collaborate, and share with advanced practice colleagues. The conference promises to be an exceptional event, featuring a range of insightful presentations and discussions designed to enhance your professional practice. [Click here to agenda: 2026 TCHAPP Conference Agenda](#)

#### Thursday, April 16 - Saturday, April 18, 2026

- Full Conference (Live + Virtual)
- Full Conference (Virtual Only)



#### Payment Method:

Registration fees can only be paid by credit card.

#### Promotional Codes

- Promotional codes are available upon request for discounted registration.
- Eligibility is limited to **TCH, BCM, and MDA providers, students, and retirees.**
- To receive a promotional code, please email [appconference@texaschildrens.org](mailto:appconference@texaschildrens.org) from your professional or student email account before completing your registration.

Communication training focused on tough conversations with families facing serious illness with options like...

### Course highlights:

- Led by Trained TCH faculty/staff
- \$450-1000 value - free!
- Participants rate the courses 4.92/5 ★
- Open enrollment course each quarter
- Private courses can be arranged for a dept/division



### Mastering Tough Conversations

**Location:** In-person at TCH Medical Center  
**Duration:** 8 hour course  
**When:** May 22, 2026 and November 16, 2026  
**Highlights:**

- Delivering serious news
- Recognizing and responding to emotion
- Eliciting goals of care
- Making values-centered medical recommendations

### Delivering Serious News

**Location:** Virtual  
**Duration:** 4 hours course  
**When:** September 24, 2026  
**Highlights:**

- Delivering serious news
- Recognizing and responding to emotion

If interested, **click or scan QR code!** If you have any other questions, contact [VitalTalk@texaschildrens.org](mailto:VitalTalk@texaschildrens.org)

## Wellness Offering



### Introducing Inprint BCM Heal Book Club

**The Inprint BCM HEAL Book Club**, a collaboration between Inprint and Baylor College of Medicine Humanities Expression & Arts Lab (HEAL), is designed for those involved in the healthcare community. **Professional caregivers and students of all disciplines, including physicians, nurses, chaplains, pharmacists, therapists, patient care technicians, unit clerks, etc. are invited to participate.** We hope to offer a collaborative, restorative experience where the discussion of carefully curated books inspires a wellspring of intellect and emotion. Multiple genres will be explored, including biography-in-collage, autobiography, fiction, and poetry.

**The Inprint BCM HEAL Book Club** takes place quarterly on a Tuesday evening in **March, June, October, and December.** Most meetings are virtual via Zoom from 6:30 – 7:30 pm CST. The December 2026 meeting will be in-person at Inprint House, 1520 West Main St., 77006, 6:30 – 8 pm. When you register via Eventbrite, a Zoom link will be emailed to you in your registration confirmation. You will use the same Zoom link for all virtual gatherings.

#### Each session will showcase a different literary genre:

- June 30, 2026:** Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast (graphic memoir)
- October 13, 2026:** The People's Hospital by Ricardo Nuila (non-fiction)
- December 15, 2026:** Grace Notes by Naomi Shihab Nye (poetry, in-person at Inprint House)

For more information, scan or click on the QR code!



## Off Script | Stories from the Heart of Medicine

In honor of their 10th anniversary, the **Baylor College of Medicine Humanities Expression & Art Lab (HEAL)** warmly invites you to an evening filled with reflection, humor, and humanity, brought to life by medical students and physicians.

Enjoy light refreshments and linger afterward to meet and chat with the storytellers!

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2026  
From 6:30 - 8PM

**Location:** Brazo Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet St.  
Houston, Texas 77005

If interested, press or scan the QR code to register!





## Celebrating Two Years of Unity: The Houston Area Suicide Prevention Coalition's Commitment to Saving Lives

The **Houston Area Suicide Prevention Coalition (HASPC)** marked its 2-year anniversary with a celebratory breakfast on February 24th at the Briar Club. The event brought together 125 community members and partner agencies, all united in their commitment to advancing suicide prevention efforts across the Greater Houston area.

HASPC continues to serve as a coalition that connects community members and organizations to identify local strengths, address service gaps, and build a more coordinated approach to prevention. Signature initiatives highlighted at the event included the Ethan's Legacy Institute, which expands access to suicide prevention education; Packages of Hope, a program designed to provide comfort and support to families who have lost a loved one to suicide; and the addition of a Harris County Suicide Mortality Review Committee, which will strengthen local efforts by reviewing suicide deaths to better understand risk factors and inform prevention strategies.

In partnership with the BCM Public Health Pediatrics and Psychology Divisions, and Texas Children's Hospital, HASPC is also finalizing a comprehensive community needs assessment, expected to be completed later this summer. This work will help guide future strategies and ensure efforts are responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

To learn more about HASPC and get involved, visit [www.HASPC.org](http://www.HASPC.org).



### A Patient Featured Story!



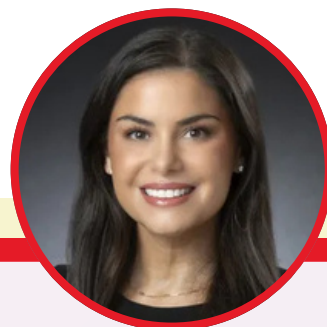
**Karla Fredrick, MD, MPH, FAAP**



**Christopher Greeley, MD, MS**



**Katherine Budolfson, MD, MPH**



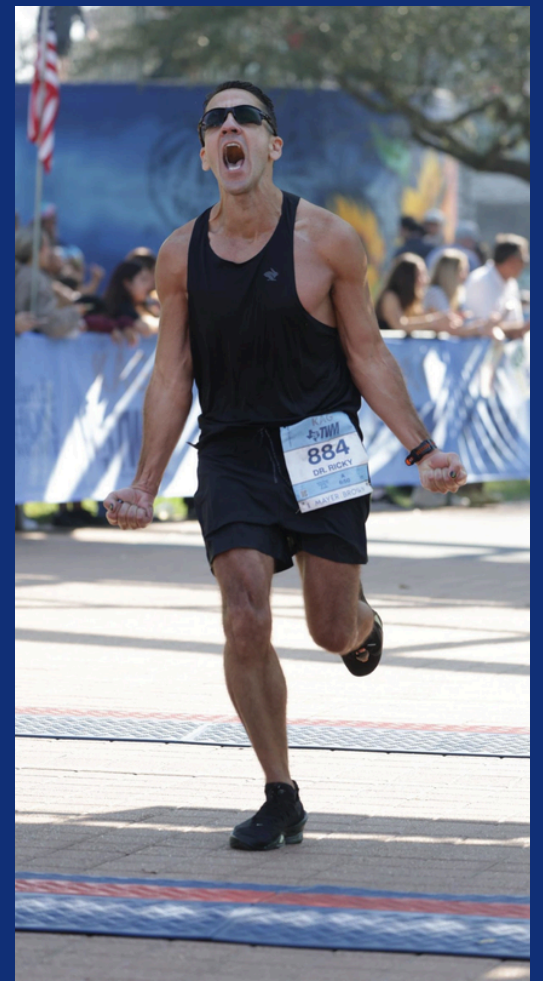
**Mackenzie Hughes, PhD**

### Healing Together: A Collaborative Approach to Transforming a Young Life

The **Divisions of Global Health, Psychology, Public Health, and Hospital Medicine** recently experienced a wonderful, patient-centered collaboration while caring for a very special young lady. The pre-teen was initially admitted to the Hospital Medicine service after presenting to the Emergency Center with an acute-on-chronic history of severe abuse. The inpatient medical and social work teams carefully ensured that her minor physical wounds were addressed and began the work of rebuilding her trust in others. As an outpatient, she was connected to primary care through the clinical service of the Program for Immigrant and Refugee Child Health (aka PIRCH, part of the Division of Global Health) at the Palm Center. **Dr. Karla Fredricks** (pediatrician and director of PIRCH) then facilitated her connection with the TCH Foster Care Clinic (a partnership between the Divisions of Psychology and Public Health). With the support of **Drs. Fredricks** and **Chris Greeley**, the young lady received a foster care multi-disciplinary evaluation with **Dr. Katherine Budolfson** (pediatrician) and **Dr. Mackenzie Hughes** (psychologist). She was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and, soon thereafter, started Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) with **Dr. Hughes**.

Within six months, her florid symptoms of PTSD resolved, and she described herself as a "whole different person" with a second chance at life. She is now able to engage in age-appropriate activities, navigate challenges with resilience, and move forward with a renewed sense of self. This incredible outcome in a relatively short period of time is a testament to the patient's hard work as well as the coordinated, multi-disciplinary efforts across Texas Children's. **Although she has a long road ahead, the foundation built by her care at TCH will undoubtedly be invaluable as she navigates a successful healing journey.**

# RUNNING FOR GOLD INITIATIVE



The **Running for Gold initiative**, developed in collaboration with **The Woodlands Marathon Committee** and the **Correa Family Foundation**, proved to be an extraordinary success—demonstrating the powerful impact of community, wellness, and shared purpose!

The marathon series began with the **Fun Run 2K/5K** on February 21, highlighted by a memorable and inspiring moment. **Jack Chilsom**, a 12-year-old kidney cancer survivor and Texas Children's patient, finished first overall in the 2K race. He later shared that his personal goal had simply been to beat "**Dr. (Ricky) Flores**"—but in doing so, he surpassed the entire field. The following week's races continued to build momentum, with strong participation from the Texas Children's Hospital community, including members of the **Hematology-Oncology and Pediatric Hospital Medicine teams**, as well as dedicated volunteers, patients, and families. The event was further elevated by the presence of inspiring guest runners, including Grammy Award-winning artist **Camilo**, astronaut **Marcos Berríos**—who traveled from Russia the night before while training for an upcoming space mission to run his first half marathon—MLB star **Carlos Altuve**, and prominent figures from the music industry.

The initiative ultimately exceeded all expectations, earning first place in both individual and team fundraising categories. **Together, participants raised a record-breaking \$125,000**, which was generously matched by **Carlos Correa**, bringing the total to **\$250,000**. These funds will directly support hematology and oncology patients in Texas and Latin America through the Correa Family Foundation.

Special recognition is extended to all those who helped bring this vision to life from its earliest stages. In particular, the Woodlands Sports Medicine team played a pivotal role, including **Drs. Jeff Shilt** and **Eric Dugan** for their leadership and guidance, and **Adam Saloom** for his dedication to coaching and educating staff throughout the initiative.



## Vaccine: 9<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World

Join us for an improv-a-ganza of vaccine science success, featuring the preeminent **Dr. Peter Hotez** and TIP Executive Director, Rekha Lakshmanan, and an elite cast of Improv Comedy Agents.

We GUARANTEE you have never seen a show like this! It will be an unforgettable and unrepeatably night of comedy and science that will make you laugh as much as it makes you think!

**Date:** April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM  
**Location:** St. John's School  
Lowe Theater  
2707 Buffalo Speedway  
Houston, TX 77019

[Click here for more info](#)



# Upcoming Changes in Medical Center EC: What to Expect and How You Can Help

By Dr. Sage Myers, Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine

The **Medical Center Emergency Center (EC)** is in the midst of a major, multi-year transformation that will ultimately expand our bed capacity by **over 40%** compared with our pre-construction footprint and bring new technology, redesigned care-flow elements, and improved patient-care capabilities to our emergency space. Construction began in mid-2024 and will continue through mid-2028.

We are now approaching the **most challenging and operationally complex phase** of the renovation - one in which both our available physical space and the usability of that space will temporarily decrease. This **next 18-month stretch** will require close collaboration across the entire pediatric enterprise.

**Beginning May 3, 2026, the parking lot will close due to construction, as part of the Emergency Center Phase 3 Renovation Project. The lot is currently projected to reopen sometime in 2027. EC physicians will have the option to use valet parking at no cost. Alternatives are still being discussed for physicians who currently utilize the 'Gucci Lot' after hours. All others will need to utilize your standard parking option. If you are not aware of your assigned parking option, please reach out to the Baylor Parking Office ([commuter@bcm.edu](mailto:commuter@bcm.edu)) or consult with your TCH Leader.**

## Biggest Challenges

**During this stage of the EC transformation, we will see disruptions to how we traditionally move patients and families through the EC.**

- **EMS bay will be closed** - Ambulances will be rerouted to the right two lanes of the breezeway between West Tower and Abercrombie. Pedestrians' walkway in the breezeway will be open only on the Abercrombie side of the building.
- **Temporary tunnel to be built** - This tunnel will allow patients arriving by ambulance to enter the EC without going through the West Tower lobby/EC waiting room.
- **Wait space will be limited** - The number of seats in the current waiting space (West Tower lobby) will be decreased by the tunnel, movement of the registration/visitor desk to one side of the lobby and triage having to be set up in the wait space. Patients and families will not be able to wait in the breezeway outside of West Tower.
- **Limited bed space** - The number of beds in the EC will fall below preconstruction levels, and some of those beds will be difficult to use operationally (separated from main body of EC and from each other). The resuscitation space will be smaller, as we will be primarily using EC rooms converted to resuscitation space

## What You Can Do to Help

**We appreciate everyone's creative assistance in identifying ways to:**

- Decrease foot traffic through West Tower Lobby
- Decrease use of the West Tower / Abercrombie Breezeway
- Accelerate patient time to disposition (home or admission to floor beds)
- Limit workup that occurs in the EC prior to admission to include only necessary components
- Decrease time between bed availability and movement of patient to floor
- Decrease use of the MC EC when it can be avoided (direct admission and direct inpatient transfers)

**Reach out to Dr. Sage Myers (Chief), or to Dr. Julie McManemy (Medical Director of the Medical Center EC) if you need more information, have questions, or have ideas on streamlining processes during the renovation.**

## TAKE AWAY POINTS





### Congratulations to Dr. Tony Piedra!

We're excited to share that **Dr. Tony Piedra** has been selected as the **RSV Society's Chanock Award** recipient! The Chanock award is typically presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the RSV field over the years. Without a doubt, Dr. Piedra is one of the world's foremost experts in all things RSV and has truly advanced the field through his extensive research contributions throughout his career.

# Buzz around the block

from the heart of pediatrics



### Fong Lam Advocates for Federal Support at Capitol Hill Science Briefing

**Fong Lam** presented at the American Physiological Society Capitol Hill Science Briefing Event on March 25, 2026, to advocate for sustained federal funding of physiological research! This conference, featuring prominent voices in science, highlights the critical importance of continuous federal investment in foundational research. Attendees can engage with interactive exhibits showcasing groundbreaking physiology-driven discoveries that drive innovation and shape the future of health.



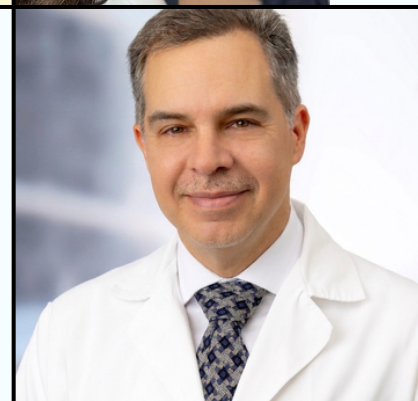
### Congratulation to Michelle Lopez

**Michelle Lopez** has been honored with the 2026 Clark Faculty Service Award for her professionalism and contributions to Baylor College of Medicine, aligning with its mission and values.



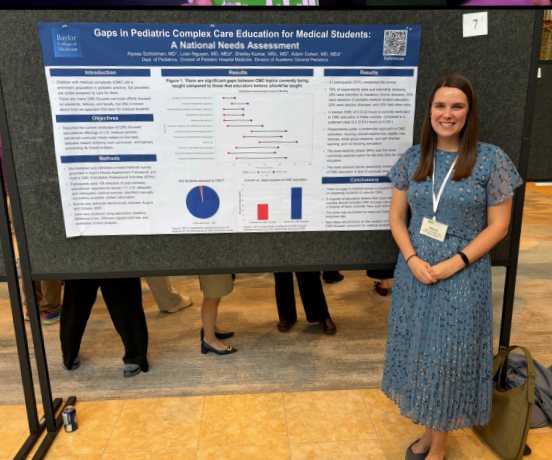
### Congratulation to the 2026 ACCM Fellows and Masters!

On March 24, 2026, **Fong Lam** and **Aarti Bavare** were honored with induction as Fellows of the American College of Critical Care Medicine (FCCM) at the Society of Critical Care Medicine's annual meeting in Chicago.



### Congratulations to Dr. Ricardo A. Quiñonez!

**Ricardo A. Quinonez** has been elected as the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Program Chair-elect. He will serve in this role from July 2026 through June 2028, overseeing planning for the PAS 2027 and 2028 meetings. He will then assume the role of Program Chair from July 2028 through June 2030, leading the PAS 2029 (Chicago) and PAS 2030 (Phoenix) meetings.



### Fellow Highlight: Alyssa Schlotman

**Alyssa Schlotman**, currently a pediatric hospital medicine fellow, received the prestigious Best Resident/Fellow Poster Award at the COMSEP conference. Her winning presentation was titled, "Pediatric Complex Care Education in the Post-Clerkship Space: A National Needs Assessment."



### Highlighting the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Diabetes Management Conference

Texas Children's Hospital hosted its **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Diabetes Management Conference for School Nurses** on February 21st, 2026. This CNE accredited conference is designed to meet the educational needs of school nurses, dietitians, social workers and other healthcare providers in managing students with type 1 or type 2 diabetes in the school setting. This year we had a hybrid format with both a virtual and in-person option at TCH The Woodlands Campus. Overall, there were over 200 participants from all across Texas as well as out of state. Attendees were able to learn about updates in the management of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, research advances, nutrition, psychosocial considerations, as well as a dynamic panel discussion. Diabetes technology vendors were available at the end of the conference to provide some hands-on education on the use of insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors. This course has been highly rated and continues to expand its reach to nurses beyond our local area.

# Buzz around the block

from the heart of pediatrics cont.

## Faculty Spotlight: Stitched with Care

**Marianna Sockrider (former Interim Chief of Pulmonology)** has been quilting for years, creating beautiful quilts for special occasions like retirements, new babies, and weddings. Her designs include a quilt for **Marsha J.**, a retiree from the Pediatric Pulmonary Administrative staff; a bow tie-themed quilt for **Dr. Mallory (retired)**; and a vibrant blue quilt for **Dr. Jefferson (retired)**!



## Medical Mission Initiative Empowers Adolescent Girls in Pakistan

**Dr. Aisha Mirza**, a fellow in Academic General Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, launched a medical mission initiative with Aspiring Futures in November 2025. Through monthly virtual sessions, she works with girls aged 11–18 living in a hostel in Pakistan, offering guidance on health and well-being. The program empowers participants with knowledge, confidence, and essential life skills, helping them become strong advocates for themselves and their communities.



## Congratulations to Manuel "Manny" Silva Carmona!

We are thrilled to announce that **Manuel "Manny" de Jesus Silva Carmona** is our new Chief of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology in the Department of Pediatrics. His tenure will begin on April 6. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Manny Silva on this significant achievement! **below is a poem from Marianna Sockrider regarding this achievement!**

## Casino Night Brings Excitement and Camaraderie to Pediatric Hospital Medicine

In February, **Dr. Ricardo Quinonez** hosted a thrilling Casino Night for the Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine, creating an unforgettable evening of camaraderie and excitement. The event was a perfect blend of celebration and relaxation, as colleagues came together to enjoy each other's company and test their luck at the tables. A special thanks goes out to **Brittany Blackston** for her exceptional planning skills in orchestrating such a memorable night!

## A Toast to the New Pediatric Pulmonary Division Chief!



Here you are ready for a big new phase in your career!  
And there are many here who are going to raise a cheer.

You may think you are in an Altered Reality at times with this new role,  
When just being a great pediatric pulmonologist was always your goal.

But the leadership and service you will give to our division and team,  
Should prompt all to work to make our care of children reign supreme.

There will be lots to learn about budgets, performance goals and such,  
Who needs more than a nudge, and who really needs a softer touch.

Keeping up with a big team of physicians, APPs and staff  
With lots of meetings and looking at tables, templates, and graphs.

You should be sure to set schedule limits and use your vacation days,  
Lest you get so worn out that you find yourself caught in a daze.

Know that you have the respect of those who are ready to serve,  
Giving all kids the healthy lungs and quality sleep that they deserve.

All the best – my prayers are always with you,

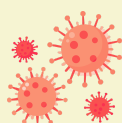
**From Marianna Sockrider MD, DrPH  
Professor, Pediatric Pulmonary  
Retiring Interim Division Chief!**



## Publication Highlight Latest Press Release from Tropical Medicine

Discover and learn about the groundbreaking hookworm vaccine advanced by our own **TCH Center for Vaccine Development** and partners at **George Washington University**. The hookworm vaccine showed promising phase 2 results significantly reducing infection intensity—an important step toward preventing anemia and improving global health.

Discover more about this exciting development here!



# Buzz around the block

from the heart of pediatrics cont.



## Congratulations to Dr. Niveditha Balakumar!

Congratulations to **Dr. Balakumar** on being honored with the **Living Our Values Award**. This prestigious award celebrates individuals who exemplify dignity, integrity, excellence, stewardship, and compassion. **Dr. Balakumar's** ability to guide others through challenges and change truly embodies the values of CHRISTUS and the spirit of Texas Children's.



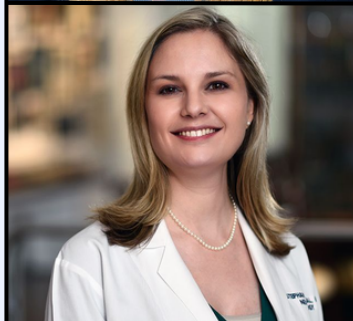
## Congratulations to Nicole Triggs

**Nicole Triggs** was recently promoted to Assistant Professor of the Pediatric Baylor College of Medicine!



## 2026 Walk to Cure Arthritis Honorees!

**Dr. Katie Stewart** (Rheumatology, Austin) will serve as the medical honoree for the upcoming Austin JIA walk!



## Congratulations to Stephanie Blair Deal

**Stephanie Blair Deal** earned a board certification in Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine from the North American Board of Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine!



## Dr. Yuezhen Lynda Lin Discusses Childhood Thyroid Diseases in a Mandarin Health Program

**Dr. Yuezhen Lynda Lin**, Pediatric Endocrinologist, was invited to speak on a local television health program for the Mandarin-speaking community, providing an overview of common thyroid diseases in children and underscoring the importance of early diagnosis and management. This presentation was part of an ongoing series focused on pediatric health topics and was presented in March 3, 2026.



## 2026 American Diabetes Association's Clinical Update!

The **2026 American Diabetes Association's Clinical Update Conference** was held February 6-8 in Houston with faculty in the Divisions of Diabetes & Endocrinology and Psychology contributing to the national conference. **Sarah Lyons, MD and Mili Vakharia, APRN, FNP-C, CDCES** were members of the planning committee. **Rebecca Schneider Aguirre, MD, PhD, Selorm Dei-Tutu, MD, MPH, Mili Vakharia, APRN, FNP-C, CDCES, Sarah Lyons, MD, Samantha Carreon, PhD, Stephanie Sisley, MD, and Elizabeth Kubota-Mishra, DO, MS,** were invited symposium



## Breakthrough T1D Community Summit

The **Endocrine Division at Texas Children's Hospital** partnered with **Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF)** for their annual Community Summit, a family education event for those living with Type 1 diabetes. This year's event was held on February 7th and had 200 participants, the largest summit in the past 15 years. Texas Children's Hospital endocrine and psychology providers gave engaging talks to the families on various topics.

- **Dr. Marisa Hillard and Hannah Manis** discussed "Transition to Adult Care"
- **Dr. Rebecca Aguirre** discussed "Preventing Complications"
- **Dr. Bonnie McCann-Crosby** provided "Type 1 Diabetes Research Updates"
- **Cynthia Sanders, NP** discussed "Diabetes 101"
- **Lauren Culbreth, NP** discussed "T1D and Sports"

These sessions were greatly appreciated by the families, and the event provided valuable community connections!

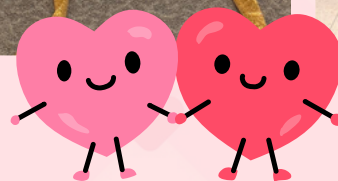
# News from Infectious Diseases



The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Group kicked off the new year with a fresh team photograph!



The Pediatric Infectious Disease Group celebrated the upcoming marriage of **Michelle Velasco, RN** to **Darin Daly** with a wedding "sprinkle" on February 11, 2026. The couple married as part of the From Sugar Land with Love event, where 100 couples were married, at the Sugar Land Town Square Plaza on Valentine's Day.



Welcome **Janine Dailey Garnes, MD, MPH, MS, FAAP, FACP**, who will be joining us as faculty.



Congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Starke (Distinguished Professor Emeritus)** who was selected to receive the 2025 William Stead TB Clinician Award from the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (NTCA). This award recognizes outstanding commitment and performance by a clinician providing tuberculosis care, leadership, or mentoring.



Welcome **Mehgan Kidd, MD**, Instructor of Pediatrics, who was recently appointed to our Austin Campus!



Congratulations to **Megan Carey, MD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, for her Thrasher Research Award!



The first year fellows and our Division Chief, **Dr. Deb Palazzi**, attended the St. Jude/PIDS Pediatric Infectious Diseases Research Conference in Memphis, TN, March 4-6, 2026.





**Dr. Tamra Ogilvie's laboratory** is dedicated to understanding medulloblastoma—the most common malignant pediatric brain tumor—at its roots. Using advanced disease models and multiomics technologies, her team investigates how these fast-growing tumors develop, progress, and spread throughout the central nervous system. Their work is revealing biological vulnerabilities and subgroup--specific biomarkers—insights that could shape safer, more precise therapies for children with brain tumors. [To learn more press here!](#)

**The Flow Cytometry Core Laboratory** empowers researchers across Texas Children's, Baylor, and affiliated institutions with advanced cellular analysis tools that make complex immunological and single--cell studies possible. The core provides access to high--parameter analyzers, precision cell sorters, a Helios CyTOF mass cytometer, and additional specialized platforms. Support includes operator--assisted services, expert data analysis, and hands--on training that help users advance their research with rigorous, high--quality results. Learn more about [this core laboratory](#).

## Awards/Achievements



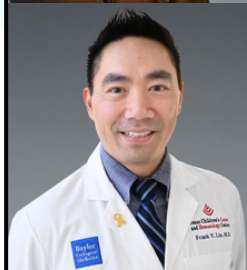
**Ionela Iacobas, MD** has been appointed Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee for the International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies, where she will help guide scientific strategy and global collaboration in vascular anomaly research.



**Paulette Reed** received the TCH Individual Clover Award for patient safety. Marking 40 years with our Center, Paulette's career reflects deep commitment to patients, families. We're grateful for her contributions.



**Sarah B. Whittle, MD** has been appointed to the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Subboard of the American Board of Pediatrics, supporting national certification standards and continued learning within the subspecialty.



**Frank Y. Lin, MD** has also been inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, joining a distinguished community of physician leaders.



**YoungNa J. Lee Kim, MD, MEd** has been inducted into the Texas Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, recognizing her commitment to leadership, scholarship, professionalism, and service.



**Aditi B. Kamdar, MD**, received a Department of Pediatrics Professional Development Grant. Thank you, Dr. Kamdar, for contributing to the advancement of the Hemostasis & Thrombosis and the Sickle Cell & Thalassemia programs.



**Sarah Scollon, MS, CGC** (above), and **Surya Rednam, MD, MS** (below), have been named Co-Directors of Cancer Genetics and Genomics—advancing risk assessment, counseling, precision care, and individualized care plans.



**Congratulations to Patricia Baxter, MD, MBA**, on receiving a Faculty Mentor Award from the Department of Pediatrics. Her generous mentorship, guidance, and advocacy have shaped the growth of countless individuals.



**Alessandro Baldan, PhD**, was named RTSS Laboratory Director. He leads biorepository operations—specimen management, cell biology expertise, and day--to--day workflows—enabling ideas to be translated from bench to bedside.

## News



**Dr. Titilope Fasipe, MD, PhD**, was highlighted in ABC 13's feature on the importance of blood donations for sickle cell patients. [Click here to read more.](#)



**Dr. Donald Williams (Will) Parsons, MD, PhD**, was featured in Cure Today, discussing strategies for managing the late effects of childhood cancer treatments. [Click here to learn more.](#)



**Jennifer Sullivan, MA, ATR-BC**, was featured on ABC 13, celebrating the remarkable achievement of a four-year-old leukemia patient winning the HLSR Art Contest. [Click here to learn more.](#)

# News

from the heart of  
Immunology, Allergy and  
Retrovirology (IAR)



## Honoring Excellence: Dr. Rui Yang's Induction into the Texas Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha

We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Rui Yang** has been inducted into the Texas Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (AQA). This prestigious honor at Baylor College of Medicine is a testament to a physician's unwavering dedication to the profession. AQA recognizes exceptional scholarship and research, honors gifted teaching, encourages the development of academic leaders, and promotes service and advocacy in medicine. Congratulations, **Dr. Yang**, on this well-deserved recognition!



## Honoring Excellence: Celebrating Dr. Sara Nandiwada's Impactful Legacy at TCH/BCM

On February 18, 2026, the IAR and Rheumatology divisions came together to celebrate and honor **Sara Nandiwada, PhD**, at a heartfelt farewell gathering. **Dr. Nandiwada** leaves behind an incredible footprint after more than 12 years of dedicated service to the TCH/BCM system, and her contributions will be felt for years to come.



Teddy Bear Clinic  
2026



## WC A&I Nursing Team Shines at 2026 Teddy Bear Clinic

The **West Campus Allergy and Immunology Nursing team** proudly participated in the successful **2026 Teddy Bear Clinic** hosted by **Child Life**. This public event invites children to practice various medical procedures on teddy bears, helping reduce fear and anxiety associated with medical appointments. A special shoutout to our nurses **Allison Keller, Carissa Scholin, and Cristina Petrarca** for generously volunteering their time and expertise.



## Celebrating 15 year milestone!

The **West Campus Allergy and Immunology Team** celebrated 15 years at West Campus, with the image on the right being when the clinic first opened up in 2011!



## 8th Annual Cooking Up A Cure: Supporting Allergy Awareness at The Revaire

On February 19, 2026, the **8th Annual Cooking Up A Cure** event was held at The Revaire in support of the **Allergy and Immunology Department**. This philanthropic initiative partners with restaurants from across the region to raise awareness about food-borne allergens.





# News

from the heart of  
Immunology, Allergy and  
Retrovirology (IAR)

## Honoring a Legacy: Celebrating Chivon McMullen-Jackson's Impactful Journey at Texas Children's Hospital

On March 27, 2026, the IAR and Rheumatology divisions came together to celebrate the retirement of **Chivon McMullen-Jackson**, Assistant Director of Clinical Research. With more than 35 years of dedicated service to TCH, Chivon leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The celebration was an emotional and unforgettable occasion filled with heartfelt laughter, grateful tears, and stories that reflected the profound impact Chivon has had on colleagues, the institution, and generations of work to come. Her influence and legacy will continue to inspire long after her well-earned retirement.



## Honoring a Legacy: Celebrating the 13th Annual William T. Shearer Lectureship with Dr. Donald B. Kohn on Gene Editing for SCID

On February 13, 2026, the IAR Division proudly hosted its 13th Annual William T. Shearer Lectureship, an educational event celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Shearer. We were honored to welcome **Dr. Donald B. Kohn**, Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, who delivered a compelling Pediatric Grand Rounds presentation on the "Use of Gene Editing to Treat SCID and Other Inborn Errors of Immunity." Following Grand Rounds, Dr. Kohn shared his expertise by listening to and providing feedback on challenging cases presented by A&I fellows **Lila Yang, DO**, and **Jocelyn McGill, MD**, making the day both inspiring and enriching for all in attendance.

**Featured in the 2026 San Antonio Magazine Top Doctor!**



## Celebrating Progress: The IAR Division's Lectureship Dinner with Dr. Katherine Y. King on Rare Genetic Diseases

On February 12, 2026, the IAR Division proudly hosted its Lectureship Dinner, an exciting prelude to the 13th Annual William T. Shearer Lectureship Grand Rounds and Difficult Case Study. Held at the vibrant Sixty Vines, the evening featured a captivating presentation by invited guest **Dr. Katherine Y. King**, who shared her expertise on "Addressing Rare Genetic Disease: A Community-Wide Effort at Texas Children's Hospital." The event brought together colleagues for an engaging night of learning, connection, and inspiration.



## Always raising the bar for kids!

Congratulations to our Top Pediatric Doctors from CHRISTUS Health!

### Elumalai Appachi MD

Critical Care

### Ravi Ashwath, MD

Cardiology

### Sreenivas Avula, MD

Neurology

### Niveditha Balakumar, MD

Critical Care

### Elizabeth Byrne, MD

Hospital Medicine

### Deborah Callanan, MD

Emergency Medicine

### Nadia Cheek, MD

Hematology/Oncology

### Adam Wolfe, MD

Hematology/Oncology

### Joe Cole, MD

Rheumatology

### Ashley Cooley, MD

Cardiology

### Elizabeth Davis, MD

Hospital Medicine

### Summer Donovan, MD

Infectious Disease

### Monica Dussan, MD

Endocrinology

### Oluwadamilola Ejike, MD

Nephrology

### Louise Giles, MD

Pulmonology

### Julie Voeller, MD

Hematology/Oncology

### Jaime Echartea Gonzales, MD

Gastroenterology

### Monesha Gupta, MD

Cardiology

### Jendi Haug, MD

Emergency Medicine

### Kristen Henley, MD

Critical Care

### Garrett Hunt, MD

Infectious Disease

### John Manaloor, MD

Infectious Disease

### Veronica Villareal, MD

Neurology

### Lucille McLoughlin, MD

Gastroenterology

### Javier Monagas, MD

Gastroenterology

### R. Adam Noel, MD

Gastroenterology

### Abishek Patel, MD

Critical Care

### Fred Perkins, MD

Neurology

### Matei Petrescu, MD

Critical Care

### Elizabeth Roeder, MD

Genetics

### Julie Voeller, MD

Hematology/Oncology

### Dimarys Sanchez, MD

Hematology/Oncology

### Maria Sandoval, MD

Hospital Medicine

### Hussain Shakir, MD

Emergency Medicine

### Felix Shardonofsky, MD

Pulmonology

### Melissa Svoboda, MD

Neurology

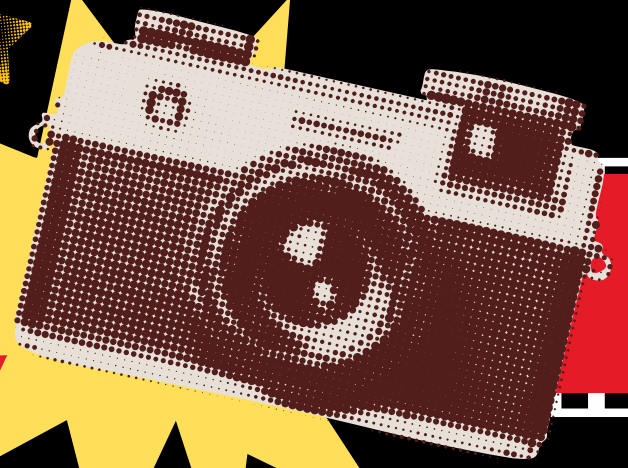
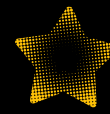
### Daniela Vidaurri, MD

Hospital Medicine

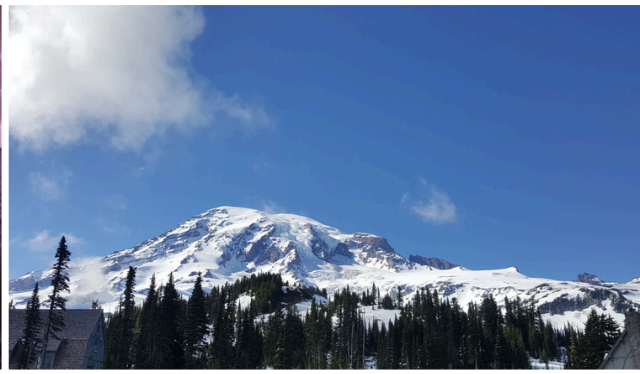
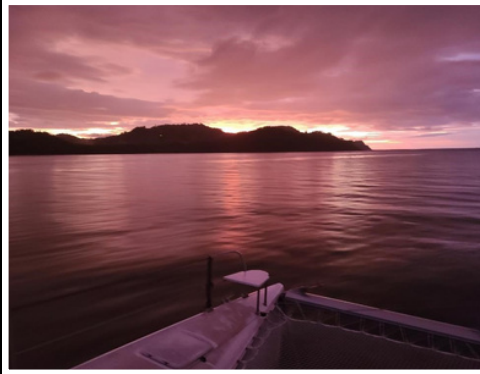
### Veronica Villareal, MD

Neurology

# HIGHLIGHTING OUR PEDIATRICS

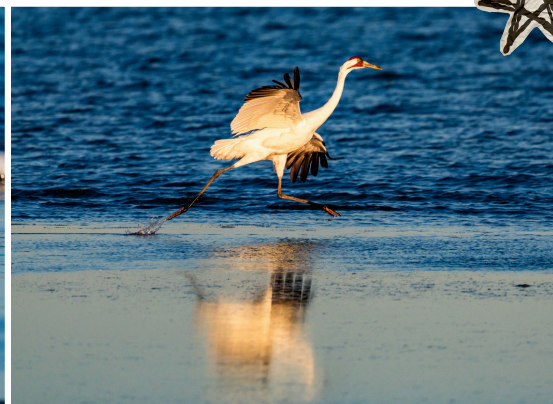
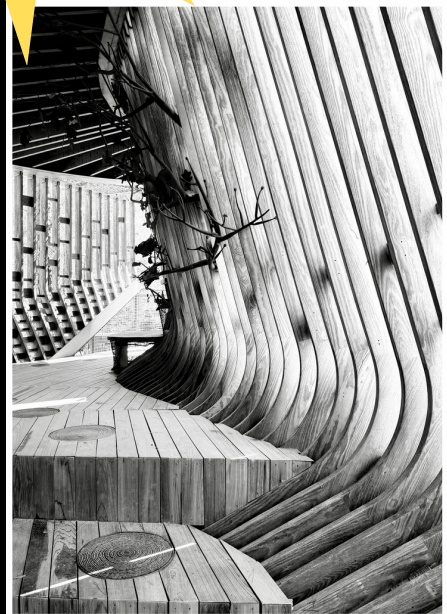


# PHOTOGRAPHERS!



**From: Janice Hopkins**  
Global Health

Image from left to right:  
Sunset in Costa Rica  
Mt. Rainier Seattle Washington



**From: Vimal Konduri**  
Global Health

Sanderling

Whooping Crane

- **A sanderling (*Calidris alba*)** runs along the shore at Malaquite Beach in Padre Island National Seashore. These endearing little birds run along the shore looking for crustaceans. They are migratory birds – spending the winter here in Texas (and at beaches in temperate and tropical areas worldwide) but breeding on the Arctic tundra in the summer.

- **A whooping crane (*Grus americana*)** jumping (after having had a close encounter with an American white pelican) at Lamar, Texas, on Aransas Bay. Whooping cranes are the tallest North American bird and are one of the most endangered birds in the United States; fewer than 1,000 remain. The only naturally migrating/self-sustaining population spends the winter along the Texas coast at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (as well as nearby Goose Island State Park and Lamar, near Rockport) and migrate to Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta, Canada, for the summer.



**From: Emy Kuriakose**  
Cardiology

Image from top to bottom:  
- **Shaped by Wonder:**  
Children's Treehouse  
- **Held in the Light:** Tulip Bloom



**From: Lina Merjaneh**  
Diabetes and Endocrinology

Image from left to right:  
Book Tower in Prague  
Montmorency Falls in Quebec



**From: Samantha Johnson**  
Immunology, Allergy & Retrovirology  
Rocky Mountains; Nederland Colorado



**From: Anna Grove**  
Tropical Medicine  
Image of Downtown Houston



**From: Magda Gomez**  
Immunology, Allergy & Retrovirology  
Muse: Samantha Johnson



# Spring Break!

faculty spring break highlights



From Joyee Goswami Vachani, MD, MEd

From Lacey Schmidt, PhD

# faculty at the RODDEO!



From Poonam Sarkar, PhD

From Joyee Goswami Vachani, MD, MEd

From Katherine Hwu MD, MEd

From Anna Grove, MBA

# Happy EARTH DAY

April 22, 2026

## A message from Daniel P. Mahoney, MD, FAAP

“On Earth Day, think of the planet as your patient. Your patient is sick; figure out why. The planet is facing climate change because of human activity that generates greenhouse gas emissions and waste. So what are my best treatments for changing human activity? First, you’d look at your own spheres of influence and say: what can I do to keep my patient healthier? I can reduce energy use and switch from fossil fuels to renewables. I can switch to active or public modes of transportation at least some of the time. I can reduce the single-use plastic and food waste my family generates. I can help my patient and improve my own family’s health by eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and less animal protein. Then you might ask how else you can influence human activity. Patients trust doctors and nurses to speak to them about climate change. They trust us more when we name the industries, lobbyists and politicians who obstruct policies that would make our planet—our patient—healthier. The health of a patient we all depend on is at stake. Pediatric clinicians are some of the best treatments on the planet.”

### Lower Your Carbon Footprint

- Bike or walk
- Carpool or take public transportation
- Choose an energy efficient vehicle
- Make fewer trips by grouping your errands
- Drive smart: go easy on the brakes and gas, use cruise control, and keep your car well-maintained



### Be H<sub>2</sub>O Smart

- Repair leaky faucets and replace old equipment like toilets and dishwashers when possible
- Turn off the water to brush teeth and shave
- Run full loads of laundry and dishes
- Collect rainwater to use in your garden



### Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

- Reuse or repurpose containers, clothing and cloth grocery bags
- Give clothes a second life by donating or buying used
- Know what items your local recycling programs collects, and what items are recyclable

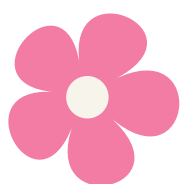


### Feed People, not Landfills

- Check your refrigerator, pantry, and freezer before shopping to avoid buying foods you don't need
- Plan your meals for the week before heading to the store
- Properly store fruits and vegetables so they last longer
- Befriend your freezer and leftovers



Source: EPA.gov (United States Environmental Protection Agency)



**Daniel Mahoney** (Palliative Care) will be presenting at the TCH Pediatric Grand Rounds on **Friday, May 8** on Healthcare Sustainability. **If you are interested in getting involved with the TCH Green Team, please email: [sustainability@texaschildrens.org](mailto:sustainability@texaschildrens.org)**

From Hasini Ediriweera, MD, PhD

# Happy Sinhalese New Year

**The Sinhalese New Year (Aluth Avurudu)** is celebrated in mid-April and marks the traditional New Year for the Sinhalese people of Sri Lanka, based on the solar calendar. It is a time centered on family, renewal, and gratitude, with homes cleaned and decorated and work paused to welcome a fresh beginning. Families prepare and share traditional foods such as kiribath (milk rice), sweetmeats, and oil cakes, and observe auspicious times for lighting the hearth, eating together, and exchanging blessings. The New Year reflects values of harmony, respect, and togetherness, bringing communities together to celebrate prosperity and hope for the year ahead.



**Kiribath** is a beloved Sri Lankan dish of creamy rice cooked with coconut milk, often served in diamond shapes for festive occasions. Made with starchy rice, water, and thick coconut milk, it's typically paired with spicy lunu miris or sweet jaggery.

# HAPPY Vesak Day

**Vesak** is one of the most sacred holidays in Sri Lanka, observed in May to commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. The celebration emphasizes compassion, generosity, and mindfulness, with people engaging in acts of charity, temple visits, and meditation. Homes and streets are adorned with colorful Vesak lanterns and illuminated displays, symbolizing the light of wisdom overcoming darkness. Many observe sil (religious observances) and offer free food and drinks at community stalls (dansal), reflecting the spirit of selflessness and kindness at the heart of Vesak.



# Scholarship Day!

## West Campus



The **West Campus Scholarly Showcase**, which took place on Friday, February 20th, highlights the diligent efforts of the planning committee—**Katie Ban, Thara Bala, Cynthia Nelson, and Fatima Westry**. Their work successfully showcased a myriad of outstanding academic contributions from the vibrant community.

The showcase featured a diverse array of projects focused on pivotal areas such as advocacy, research, quality improvement, clinical advancement, and educational development. The event hosted eight distinguished speakers alongside 18 informative posters, offering comprehensive insight into the innovative work being conducted.

**Warmly received, the event had over 40 attendees who came to celebrate and engage with these remarkable achievements.**

## Woodlands



The second annual **Woodlands Scholarly Showcase** highlighted the outstanding work of Woodlands faculty across Clinical Care, Research, Quality Improvement, Advocacy, and Education. The event featured a range of oral and poster presentations and drew strong attendance from leaders across the Woodlands campus, CRA, and Faculty College. The Woodlands Scholarly Showcase was organized by a dedicated committee, including **Drs. Ankhi Dutta, Bonnie McCann, Grace Kim, Serife Uysal, Swati Karmarkar, Sophia Ebenezer, Tosin Fatusin, and Lindsay Plasek (administration)**.

## Austin



**The Austin Scholarly Showcase** was a resounding success, featuring four insightful presentations—including a collaborative, multi-speaker session—and 18 engaging posters. With 40-50 attendees, the event fostered lively discussion and a strong sense of enthusiasm. Participants shared overwhelmingly positive feedback and walked away with valuable new insights.



# HAPPY DOCTOR'S DAY!

On Doctor's Day, we celebrate the hard work and compassion of physicians who make a meaningful difference in the health and well-being of our communities. Thank you for our doctors and the amazing work they have done!

March 30 - April 2

## Highlights from West Campus



## Highlights from Woodlands

The Woodlands Campus celebrated and honored their amazing doctors this past week (Doctors' Week – March 30 – April 2, 2026). Each year, they take the opportunity to celebrate the dedication, compassion, and hard work of their incredible physicians. Medical Staff Services hosted special events, which included massages and a luncheon, to express well-deserved moments of appreciation to those who care for others every single day.

This year's celebration had a western theme: "Saddling Up to Celebrate Our Docs," which included western-themed décor.



# ★ Match Day!

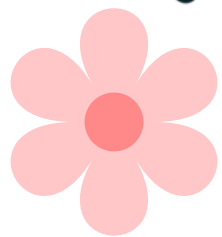
Welcoming our new Baylor College of Medicine Pediatrics incoming interns for 2026!

 Neeharika Bandlapalli Baylor COM Categorical	 Krista Bangs McGovern Medical School Categorical	 Megan Campbell OSU COM Categorical	 Anna Crain Baylor COM Categorical	 Kathryn Crouch UH COM Categorical	 Jerry Liu Texas A&M COM Categorical	 Joohi Maknojia TCU SOM Categorical	 Nyeomi McGaskey UH COM Categorical	 Alyssa Miguelino Rutgers Categorical	 Cristal Monzon-Hernandez UTMB SOM Categorical
 Emily Dolce FSU COM - FL Pierce Categorical	 Osasere Eke Ohio Univ Heritage COM Categorical	 Emily Ensley Texas A&M COM Categorical	 Bria Gamble UAB SOM Categorical	 Alyssa Gregory UTSW Categorical	 Julia Morales Baylor COM Categorical	 Yash Nagpal FAU COM Categorical	 Taylor Newman Texas A&M COM Categorical	 Deja Pegues Univ of Mississippi SOM Categorical	 Sukriti Prashar Nova Southeastern COM Categorical
 Andrea Guloy UIW SOM Categorical	 Cody Johnson Univ of Wisconsin SOM Categorical	 Koral Kaplan NYU Long Island SOM Categorical	 Gabriela Kim Univ of Michigan Categorical	 Pornsinee Laisathit Chulalongkorn Univ Categorical	 Ariel Repass Univ of Kansas SOM Categorical	 Danelle Saah UTMB SOM Categorical	 Ashira Santos Macswain Baylor COM Categorical	 Jordan Siegel OSU COM Categorical	 Gail Snyder McGovern Medical School Categorical
 Rachel Ceron Univ of Pennsylvania Peds-Medical Genetics	 John Wells IU SOM Peds-Medical Genetics	 Jonathan Alessi IU SOM Med-Peds	 Anne Cao Baylor COM Med-Peds	 Ross Dare UMKC SOM Med-Peds	 Amal Syed UTSW Categorical	 Cecilia Varga Univ of Florida COM Categorical	 Joseph Wahba Univ of Buffalo Categorical	 Andrea Yazbeck Tulane Univ SOM Categorical	 Christabelle Ayensu-Asiedu Philadelphia COM Global Health
 Megan Kelley Univ of Miami SOM Med-Peds	 Alyson Lee Univ of Pittsburgh Med-Peds	 Alisa Lu Baylor COM Med-Peds	 Eileen Malecki Univ of Miami SOM Med-Peds	 Layla Mokhtar UMKC SOM Med-Peds	 Alexis Elliott UCSD SOM Global Health	 Raquel Gupta Univ of Queensland SOM Global Health	 Aaron Hendrix Georgetown Univ SOM Global Health	 Sonia Padmanabhan MSU COM Global Health	 Courtney Huynh McGovern Medical School LEAD
 Heena Shah Univ of Minnesota Med-Peds	 Joseph Alish Brown Univ Child Neuro	 Nathan Bliss McGovern Medical School Child Neuro	 Karissa Chesky Baylor COM Child Neuro	 Cody Luong UTMB Child Neuro	 Varsha Mullangi UTSW LEAD	 Angelica Nibo TTUHSC SOM LEAD	 Vinit Shah McGovern Medical School LEAD	 Peter Dimitrion Wayne State Univ SOM PSP	 Conner Earl Indiana Univ SOM PSP
 Sarah Barnett WashU St. Louis SOM Child Neuro	 Aditi Basu St. George's Univ SOM NDD	 Nathania Pabon PHSU SOM NDD	 Dana Oakes Univ of Louisville SOM Basic Neuroscience	 Azalea Lee Emory Univ SOM Basic Neuroscience					

## CHRISTUS Match Day!



 Deborah Babalola Baylor College of Medicine	 Roman Barrera University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine	 Victoria Blue Meharry Medical College	 Natalie Bourgeois Texas A&M University Naresh K Vashisht College of Medicine	 Seranu Buatsi Meharry Medical College	 Alyssa Herrera University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine	 Baillie Jackson Boston University School of Medicine
 Sara Khammash Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine	 Ashlee Li Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University	 Mahnoor Nazeer University of North Texas - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine	 ShaMyria Newson Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Louisiana Campus	 Izabela Paraga University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine	 Ian Rogers University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health	



Let us know how we did!  
**Scan or press this QR code to share  
your thoughts!**



For **photo and content submissions**, email us at  
**[DepartmentofPediatrics@texaschildrens.org](mailto:DepartmentofPediatrics@texaschildrens.org)**  
If you want to **request a page for content**, email  
**Lana Thai at [Lxthai@texaschildrens.org](mailto:Lxthai@texaschildrens.org)**



*Thank you for Reading!*

keep doing you and take care!

