

# UIC PEDIATRICS & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS: 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Our **mission** is to ensure children and families have access to **healing, service and innovation** throughout their life; and to provide **training, education and opportunities** to the next generation of pediatric healthcare leaders.



Our **vision** is a world in which **all children, families and communities achieve their full potential.**

# Dear Supporters & Friends,

It is with great pride and appreciation that I share with you our University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Department of Pediatrics & Children's Hospital University of Illinois 2018 Annual Report.

This past year was defined by growth and momentum - growth in the number of children under our care, in opportunities available to our learners and trainees, and in our contributions to research and scholarship. Our momentum was captured in our progress toward achieving our 2020 strategic planning goals and the increase in support from our generous donors.

I am excited to share that the UIC College of Medicine launched a new Clinical Leaders and Academic Scholars (CLASS) Fellowship, through which general pediatrics trainees will have the opportunity to complete an Education or Research Leadership curriculum. Additionally, our departmental research portfolio grew substantially to more than \$16 million in total funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

I am particularly proud to share that our UI Health system provided care to more than 58,000 pediatric patients in FY 2018 via more than 180,000 encounters. More than half of our patients are Medicaid recipients and reside in Chicago's most under-served communities, and it is core to our mission to be able to provide expert care and support to these families.

In 2019, we will further expand our services to vulnerable populations via our CHECK (Coordinated Healthcare for Complex Kids) program's recent selection by the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (HFS) as an Integrated Health Home (IHH). CHECK will provide care coordination for Illinois Medicaid members to support their physical, behavioral and social care needs. CHECK is only one part of our plan for 2019, and we hope you will stay connected and support us in our work as providers, educators, researchers and advocates.

Gratefully,



**Benjamin W. Van Voorhees, MD, MPH**  
Head, Department of Pediatrics  
Physician-in-Chief, Children's Hospital

# Pediatrics Senior Leaders & Associate Heads



Jonathan D. Klein, MD, MPH  
Executive Vice Head



De-Ann M. Pillers, MD, PhD  
Vice Head for Academics



Edmundo P. Cortez, MD, MHA  
Vice Head for Clinical Operations



Saba Ahmad, MD  
Associate Head for  
System Design



Michelle Barnes, MD  
Associate Head for  
Education



Harsha Kumar, MD, MBA  
Associate Head for  
Finance



Molly Martin, MD, MAPP  
Associate Head for  
Research



Amanda Osta, MD  
Associate Head for  
Education



Mary Lou Schmidt, MD  
Associate Head for  
Faculty Affairs



Jaye Schreier, MD  
Associate Head for  
Clinical Affairs

# At Our Core: Excellence in Education, Research and Patient Care, and Commitment to Community



Training the next generation of pediatric healthcare leaders



Contributing to pediatric research as a leading institution in Chicago and beyond



Prioritizing children and families in our surrounding neighborhoods



Providing care to more than 58,000 children and adolescents system-wide





2018 UIC Pediatrics Residency Graduates

Our residents consistently match in competitive fellowships throughout the country. In 2018, these included: Hematology/Oncology at the Mayo Clinic, Endocrinology at Texas Children's Hospital, Neonatology at Duke Children's Hospital & Health Center, and Allergy/ Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis.

# Educational Excellence

## 15 Fellows

- 2 Adolescent Medicine Fellows
- 3 Pediatric Endocrinology Fellows
- 3 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellows
- 6 Neonatology Fellows
- 1 Neonatology & CLASS Fellow

## 55 Residents

- 39 Pediatrics Residents
- 16 Medicine/Pediatrics Residents
- 2,202 Residency Applications
- Community Advocacy Track
- Global Health Track
- Pediatric Hospital Medicine Track
- Research Track

## 93 Faculty

- 44% Caucasian
- 22% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 15% International
- 10% Black/African American
- 4% Hispanic

# Research & Innovation



The Department of Pediatrics received **\$16 million** in total research funding in FY 2018, a **\$5.1 million increase** from FY 2017.

Pediatrics faculty were cited as authors on **157 publications** (articles & books/chapters) in FY 2018.



Pediatrics faculty provided **162 academic and/or research presentations** to external audiences in FY 2018.

BLUE RIDGE NIH FUNDING NATIONAL RANKING 2014 - 2018  
UIC DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS



**#39** The UIC Department of Pediatrics' Blue Ridge Institute ranking for NIH funding rose to #39 nationally in 2018, up almost 30 places over the last five years. This places UIC as the highest ranked/most NIH-funded pediatrics department in Chicago and greater Illinois.

\*Note: Lurie Children's Hospital is listed as its own entity, not as a department of pediatrics

# Pediatric Global Health Program



To build upon preexisting global health collaboratives and to develop further partnerships, **we established a formal Pediatric Global Health Program in 2018. Its mission is to improve the health of low resource communities around the world through the integration of innovative research, quality education and service, and interprofessional collaborations in pediatric health.** We have engaged faculty from the Departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, the UIC Center for Global Health, the Colleges of Pharmacy and Nursing, and the Schools of Public Health and Bioengineering to establish multidisciplinary global health connections.



UIC Pediatrics faculty and residents visited **City Children's Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** in November of 2018. Two UIC residents had the opportunity to participate in a two week rotation, inclusive of pediatric infectious disease, intensive care and outpatient general pediatrics clinic. UIC faculty taught a Pediatric Acute Surgical Support (PASS) course to 28 City Children's Hospital learners. (first graduating class pictured left)

## Examples of Our Projects Around the World



Vietnam

Formal partnerships with City Children's Hospital Ho Chi Minh City & VNUHCM-University of Science



Nigeria

Sickle cell newborn screening in partnership with organizations from Nigeria and the United Kingdom



Kenya

Adapt and test the Clinical Effort Against Secondhand Smoke Exposure (CEASE) curriculum for use in Kenya



Ethiopia

Formal partnership with Mekelle University providing pediatric and OBGYN rotations for UIC trainees

## Our Faculty Co-Directors

Ai-Xuan Holterman, MD  
Professor of Pediatrics & Surgery



Arvind Shukla, MD  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics





# A Children's Hospital within a Hospital



Children's Hospital University of Illinois is a 90+ bed specialty children's hospital, inclusive of a Level III NICU and pediatric emergency room. It is located within the University of Illinois Hospital at UI Health, home to an additional 16 associated pediatric specialties. Outpatient care is provided at the Child & Youth Center at the UI Health Outpatient Care Center.

## Specialties within the Department of Pediatrics

Adolescent Medicine	Pediatric Cardiology	Pediatric Critical Care	Developmental Biology
Pediatric Endocrinology	Pediatric Gastroenterology	General Pediatrics	Behavioral/Developmental
Genetics	Pediatric Cancer Center	Pediatric Sickle Cell Program	Pediatric Infectious Disease
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine	Pediatric Nephrology	Pediatric Neurology	Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy & Sleep

## Associated UI Health Pediatric Specialties

Anesthesia	Craniofacial & Plastic Surgery	Cardiothoracic Surgery	Dermatology
Dentistry	Emergency Medicine	Ophthalmology	Oromaxillofacial Surgery
Orthopedics	Otolaryngology/ENT	Pediatric Surgery	Neurosurgery
Psychiatry	Radiology	Transplant Surgery	Urology

# Pediatric Patient Care in 2018

UI Health provided care to more than **58,000 children** served via more than **180,000 encounters**



**Inpatient and Emergency Care** through Children's Hospital University of Illinois, the Pediatric Emergency Room and the University of Illinois Hospital



**Outpatient Care** through the Child & Youth Center, Family Medicine, Surgical Specialty & Psychiatric clinics



**Dental Care** (pediatric check-ups and oral procedures) through the UIC College of Dentistry



**Neighborhood Primary & Urgent Care** through the Mile Square Federally Qualified Health Centers network



**Genetic Screening, Testing & Care** through our statewide genetics program



**Care Coordination** through the Coordinated Healthcare for Complex Kids (CHECK) population health program

# Pediatric Patient Safety & Quality

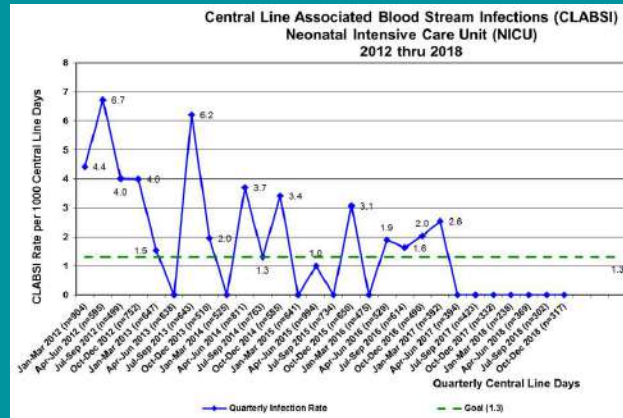
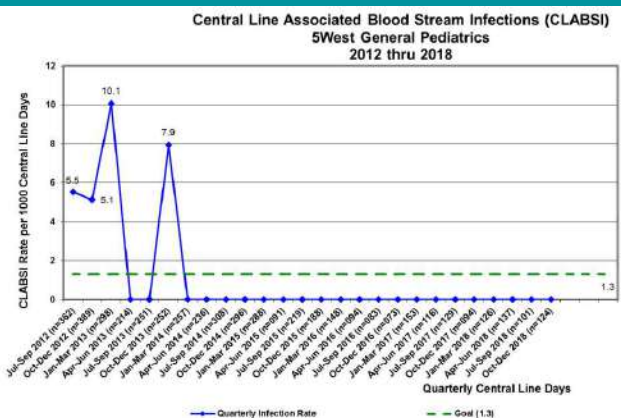
Our children's hospital celebrated noteworthy achievements in patient safety in 2018, including significant, sustained reduction of Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI). Our "Anti-CLABSI Team", or ACT, has been hard at work with their ACTION plan for the past 6 years chasing zero. Our **general pediatrics ward has gone more than five years without a CLABSI while our PICU and NICU have gone more than two years**. The prevention of these infections have extremely positive outcomes for children and infants - the most vulnerable patients at UH Health. These patient safety milestones were celebrated system-wide.



The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit team, including nurses, physicians and staff, celebrated a second CLABSI-free year with Jodi Joyce, Associate Vice Chancellor for Quality & Patient Safety.



The inpatient general pediatrics team, including nurses, physicians and staff, celebrated five years CLABSI-free in 2018.



# Section of Adolescent Medicine



Dr. Karen Bernstein meets with 13 year-old patient, Nov. 2018  
(Chris Sweda/Chicago Tribune)

Our team of adolescent medicine specialists focus on fostering healthy, successful transitions into adulthood. We offer primary care, sexual and reproductive healthcare, an eating disorder clinic, and a weight management program. Our **UI Health Bariatric Surgery Program is certified as a Comprehensive Center with Adolescent Qualifications** by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP).



Dr. Jonathan Klein, Adolescent Medicine & Executive Vice Head of Pediatrics

Dr. Jonathan Klein joined our section in FY 2018, enabling us to further expand adolescent medicine services. Dr. Klein is an internationally renowned health services researcher whose recent study comparing parent and adolescent attitudes towards confidential, private visits in adolescent medical care received widespread media coverage, including the Chicago Tribune, WGN and WBEZ Chicago Public Radio. Before coming to UIC, Dr. Klein served as Associate Executive Director at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Our Faculty

Karen Bernstein, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor  
**Section Chief**



Jonathan Klein, MD, MPH  
Professor



Felicia Scott, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Pediatric Cardiology

Our team of pediatric cardiologists provides diagnosis and treatment of both congenital and acquired heart disease in children of all ages ranging from fetus to collegiate aged young adults.

**Dr. Alexander Javois joined our faculty as Chief of Pediatric Cardiology in FY 2018.** His primary area of focus is pediatric interventional cardiology, and he is a leading figure in translational research, notably the Melody Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve Therapy and other research designed to develop new non-surgical techniques for avoiding clot transmission from heart to brain. Dr. Javois is also a reputable mentor in the field of international cardiology.



**We collaborate with neighboring institutions to ensure excellence in care.** In 2018, our team provided clinical coverage for Mount Sinai Hospital and provided backup for pediatric cardiology at Stroger Hospital of Cook County.

## Our Faculty

Alexander Javois, MD  
Assistant Professor  
**Section Chief**



Maria Serratto-Benvenuto, MD  
Professor



Andrew Griffin, MD  
Assistant Professor



Vithida Sueblinvong, MD  
Assistant Professor



Naveen Imran, MD  
Assistant Professor



## Our Nurse Practitioner

Kristin Elwart, DNP, MS, NP-BC  
Pediatric Cardiology & Cardiothoracic Surgery

# Section of Pediatric Critical Care



Children's Hospital University of Illinois was officially designated as a children's hospital in 2011.



Our dedicated team of nurses, child life specialist and support staff play an integral role in pediatric critical care and patient safety.

Our Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) houses 18 PICU/Step-down beds. We provide care for pediatric patients requiring complex medical and surgical services and support a pediatric transport system for the entire metropolitan Chicago area and beyond. Our staff includes highly experienced attending physicians and critical care nurses along senior pediatric resident physicians. We are **recognized as one of only ten IDPH approved Pediatric Critical Care Centers (PCCC) in the state of Illinois.**

In 2018, Dr. Ed Cortez, our section chief, was among an elite group of 16 doctors system-wide to be **nominated for 2018 UI Health Physician of the Year.** Our multidisciplinary team of pediatric specialists and nurses achieved tremendous progress in patient safety during 2018. The **pediatrics ward celebrated five years with zero Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) and the PICU celebrated more than two years with zero CLABSI.** Our team also implemented a new Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) risk screening tool for pediatric patients.

## Our Faculty

Edmundo Cortez, MD, MHA  
Associate Professor  
**Section Chief**



Muhannad Hammamieh, MD  
Assistant Professor



Jenny Wang, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Developmental Biology & Basic Research

Our team of developmental biology and basic science researchers and clinicians are carrying out cutting edge research activities and **addressing the critical need for novel insights, bio-markers and therapies to treat devastating chronic childhood lung diseases.**

“Exploring the body’s complex processes and translating the research findings to the bedside is a constant source of satisfaction. **We’re never done asking questions and discovering why dysfunctions occur and how we can stop them,** or looking for ways to repair the process.” - Dr. Sekhar Reddy

In 2018, our faculty were listed as Principal Investigators on seven active research studies, including three NIH R01 grants. Dr. Tianji Chen received an American Heart Association Career Development Award. Dr. Sekhar Reddy's research on suppression of inflammation and regeneration of lung alveolar epithelium is crucial for restoring optimal lung function after injury in both neonates and adults. This **innovative research is examining mechanisms that may accelerate lung repair and improve the lung function in preclinical models.**

## Our Faculty

Sekhar Reddy, PhD  
Professor  
**Section Chief**



J. Usha Raj, MD  
Anjali S. Nayak Professor



Tianji Chen, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Ramaswamy Ramchandran, PhD  
Assistant Professor




Haranatha Potteti, PhD  
Assistant Professor




Chandra Mohan Tamatam, PhD  
Postdoctoral Research Associate



# Section of Pediatric Endocrinology



Our Pediatric Endocrinology team is an American Diabetes Association certified diabetes education program. In 2012, we began hosting an **annual "Care of Students with Diabetes Conference" for school nurses and dedicated health aides**. In 2018, more than 270 people from Chicago Public Schools and other city and suburban schools attended.



Our multifaceted team of Pediatric Endocrinologists, Registered Dietitians and Certified Diabetes Educators specialize in caring for pediatric patients and families living with Type 1 and 2 Diabetes, Hypo- and Hyperthyroidism, Short Stature, Obesity and Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia. We have a **Lipid Clinic oriented to children with diabetes and high bad cholesterol (LDL)**. Our dietitians also offer healthy lifestyle classes for families.

## Our Faculty

Claudia Boucher-Berry, MD  
Associate Professor  
**Section Chief**



Roxana Aguirre Castaneda, MD  
Associate Professor



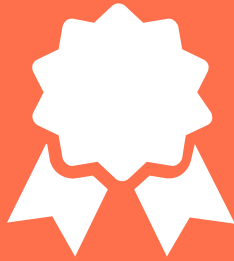
## Our Dietitians & Diabetes Educators

Ruth Melgoza-Walker, RN, CDE - Diabetes Educator  
Debara Preston, MsN, RD, CDE - Diabetes Educator  
Marla Solomon, RD, LDN, CDE - Registered Dietician & Diabetes Educator



# Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology

Our expert team of board certified pediatric gastroenterologists provide a full range of diagnostic and treatment services for children with GI and liver diseases. We offer specialized care for children with eosinophilic esophagitis, celiac disease, food allergies, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, fatty liver and autoimmune hepatitis. We offer diagnostic testing including endoscopy, colonoscopy, liver biopsy, manometry, capsule endoscopy (camera pill) and other advanced procedures. Our faculty are active in Pediatric GI research and have been invited speakers at regional and national conferences on a variety of topics.



**Dr. James Berman and Dr. TS Gunasekaran have been listed among Chicago's "Top Doctors" for fifteen years and counting by Castle Connolly and have also been recognized by Chicago Magazine.**

## Our Faculty

James Berman, MD  
Assistant Professor  
**Section Chief**



Kiran Gorla, MD  
Assistant Professor



Michele Cho-Dorado, MD  
Assistant Professor



TS Gunasekaran, MD  
Assistant Professor



Esperanza Garcia-Alvarez, MD  
Assistant Professor



Hector Hernandez, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of General Pediatrics

As the largest section within the Department of Pediatrics, **our team of General Pediatricians and Advanced Practice Nurses provided care to 10,403 unique children and families via 34,560 encounters in 2018.** Our providers offer newborn, primary, well child and acute care within our Child & Youth Center for Outpatient Care and inpatient care within the pediatric ward at the Children's Hospital and the Mother Baby Unit at UI Health.

Dr. Michelle Barnes and Dr. Jaye Schreier, two of our section leaders, were among an elite group of 16 doctors system-wide to be nominated for **2018 UI Health Physician of the Year.**



Dr. Michelle Barnes



Dr. Jaye Schreier

## Our Faculty

Jordan Hupert, MD  
Assistant Professor  
**Section Chief**



Andrew Kreppel, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor



James Antoon, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Stacy Laurent, MD  
Assistant Professor



Michelle Barnes, MD  
Associate Professor



Molly Martin, MD, MAPP  
Associate Professor



Leslie Jabine, MD  
Assistant Professor



## Our Advanced Practice Nurses

Inger Anthony, APN, DNP  
Katie Gebhardt, APN

# Section of General Pediatrics

Our general pediatrics faculty were awarded new grants or actively engaged as principal investigators on more than 16 projects in 2018, including:

## **PATH 2 Purpose - Primary Care & Community-Based Prevention of Mental Disorders in Adolescents**

**PI: Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD, MPH**

**Funder: PCORI**

A multi-site randomized control trial comparing effectiveness of an online intervention (Competent Adulthood Transition with Cognitive Behavioral Humanistic and Interpersonal Training - CATCH-IT) with an in-person group therapy intervention for adolescent depression prevention. The study will engage teens in urban and rural environments - in Chicago, Rockford (IL) and Louisville.

## **Asthma Action at Erie**

**PI: Molly Martin, MD, MAPP**

**Funder: National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (NIH)**

Compares the current best practice in asthma self-management education (AEC services) to an integrated Community Health Worker home intervention in which the real-life challenges of patients and the healthcare system are taken fully into account.



## Our Faculty

Shannon Murphy, MD  
Assistant Professor



Sara Boblick Smith, MD  
Assistant Professor



Amanda Osta, MD  
Associate Professor



Pavan Srivastava, MD  
Assistant Professor



Jaye Schreier, MD  
Assistant Professor



Benjamin Van Voorhees, MD, MPH  
Professor



Jalene Shoener, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of General Pediatrics

Our section of general pediatrics expanded significantly in 2018 to meet the growing needs of our patient population, both in terms of appointment availability and for specialized care needs. We **increased Child & Youth Center evening appointment availability to three nights per week until 8pm** to provide flexible hours to busy families.

Our new faculty also bring new expertise and opportunities for us to expand programming. Dr. Alexandra King completed a fellowship in Clinical Nutrition at Children's Hospital Colorado and will be implementing a **new "Healthy and Fit Program": an intensive, lifestyle-based management program with a focus on family engagement to achieve healthy weight while also screening for co-morbidities.**

Dr. Kavita Vankineni is a child abuse specialist whose expertise enables us to more comprehensively screen and provide care for children who may be victims of child abuse or neglect. Dr. Vankineni has begun development of a **new Foster Care Clinic to provide comprehensive care for children in foster care.**

## New Faculty in 2018

Kelsie Avants, MD  
Assistant Professor



Sarah Messmer, MD  
Assistant Professor



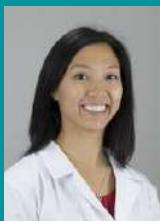
Kristen Kenan, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor



Daphne Vander Roest, MD  
Assistant Professor



Alexandra King, MD  
Assistant Professor



Kavita Vankineni, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of General Pediatrics Behavioral/Developmental Pediatrics



Our team of Behavioral/Developmental specialists offer comprehensive services for children with **developmental delay, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, learning disorders** and more. In 2018, we expanded availability of services with our Advanced Practice Nurse and new evening clinics to meet growing demand. Additionally, we diversified services with transitional care and pharmacist-led medical management.

Dr. Reshma Shah and colleagues designed "**Sit Down and Play**", a brief, parent-directed program which takes place during pediatric well-child visits in a child's first two years with the **goal of promoting positive parenting behaviors through take home play activities**. Dr. Shah's research related to this program is currently funded by an NIH K23 award and is being implemented in Chicago and in India (both sites pictured to the left). We are currently exploring innovative research partnership opportunities with the Chicago Children's Museum.



## Our Faculty

Reshma Shah, MD  
Assistant Professor  
**Section Chief**



James Ronayne, MD, ACT  
Clinical Instructor



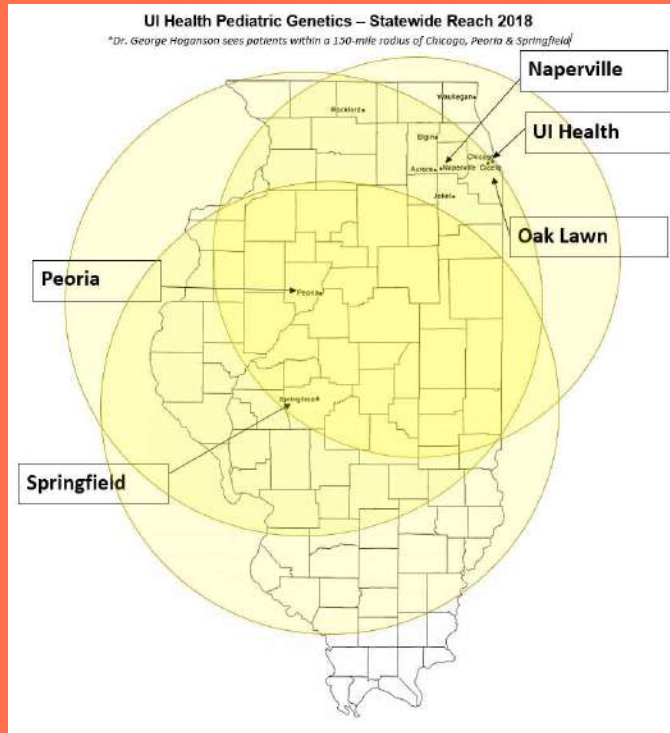
Alexandria Saulsberry, MD  
Assistant Professor



## Our Advanced Practice Nurse

Joyce Masterton, APN

# Section of Pediatric Genetics



We have established partnerships with Advocate Health Care, Cook County Health, OSF Saint Francis in Peoria, Shriners Children's Hospital of Chicago and more.

Our genetics faculty provide state-of-the-art diagnostic and clinical evaluation services and treatment for children and adults who have birth defects and genetic disorders. Services also include: genetic counseling; carrier testing; and prenatal diagnosis for prospective parents. We have an on-site comprehensive diagnostic biochemical and molecular genetics laboratory.

In 2018, we were awarded a "Regionalized Care in the Treatment of Biochemical Genetic Diseases" grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. This enables us to **provide comprehensive services, inclusive of nutrition, genetic counseling and case management, to rural areas of the state of Illinois where the services to manage these conditions is not otherwise available** (within a 150 mile radius of both Peoria and Springfield). Our team provided services via **more than 2,600 encounters statewide in 2018.**

## Our Faculty

George Hoganson, MD  
Associate Professor  
**Section Chief**



Gifty Bhat, MD  
Assistant Professor



## Our APN, Dietitians & Genetic Counselors

Christine Horne, APN  
Alice Zalan - Genetic Counselor  
Katherine Cobian - Genetic Counselor  
Beatriz Menendez - Genetic Counselor  
Lenika DeSimone - Genetic Counselor  
Katherine Ingle - Dietitian  
Krista Engen - Dietitian  
Shannon O'Brien - Dietitian

# Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Pediatric Cancer Center



Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis and Dr. Ero Amiridis join patients and families at the 2018 Holiday Festival.

Our team offers a full range of diagnostic and treatment services for children and adolescents living with cancer and leukemia. **UIC serves as the lead site for a tri-institutional Children's Oncology Group (COG)** that includes John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County and Rush University Medical Center. Through the COG, we provide access to international pediatric cancer clinical trials and state of the art cancer care. We take pride in providing excellent education and training to the next generation of multi-disciplinary practitioners.



Members of our Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Team at our fundraiser in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

We offer a **Childhood Cancer Survivorship Clinic** through which we provide comprehensive long term follow-up assessment and management for survivors of childhood cancer following the COG evidence based guidelines. We see children, adolescents and adults. Eligible participants have a prior diagnosis of pediatric cancer and must be at least two years out from any cancer therapy. In 2018, we evaluated 93 unique patients in this clinic.

## Our Faculty

Mary Lou Schmidt, MD  
Professor  
**Section Chief**



Daniel Choi, MD, MS  
Assistant Professor



## Our Advanced Practice Nurses & Social Worker

Kathleen Breen, APRN  
Jessica Ittner, APRN  
Cathleen Kiely, APRN  
Zayda Stewart, LCSW

# Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Pediatric Sickle Cell Program



Dr. Lewis Hsu and members of the sickle cell team discuss a patient's care plan in the pediatric infusion room.

Our team offers comprehensive services to children, teens and young adults living with sickle cell disease, inclusive of newborn screening, transfusion clinic, case management and individualized pain management. Our faculty are actively engaged in cutting edge research worldwide - Dr. Lewis Hsu has a **leadership role in a multi-national collaborative to set up newborn screening services and community health workers in Kaduna State in Nigeria.**



Dr. Hsu and Dr. Rivers meet with the M.R. Bauer Foundation to discuss the Peer Patient Advocate Program and STAR Clinic.

**The Sickle Cell Transition Adolescent-Adult Readiness (S.T.A.R.) Clinic, led by Dr. Angela Rivers, helps prepare patients and families for managing sickle cell disease into adulthood.** It focuses on five key areas of transition: 1) medical; 2) emotional/psychological; 3) social domain; 4) academic/education; and 5) vocation & career. The STAR clinic offered care and support to 49 unique patients, ages 16-21, during 2018. It is supported by funding from the UIC Division of Specialized Care for Children.

## Our Faculty

Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD  
Professor  
Director, Sickle Cell Program



Angela Rivers, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor



## Our Advanced Practice Nurse & Social Worker

Jocelyn Mallard, APN  
Shonda King, MSW, MPH, LSW



# Section of Pediatric Infectious Disease



Dr. Karen Hayani (section chief) has served on our faculty for more than 25 years and is consistently listed as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor.

Our team of pediatric infectious disease specialists care for children who have diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. We have a **specialized clinic for children with HIV and infants born to HIV positive mothers**. Our team partners with and covers telephone **consultations for Shriners Children's Hospital** of Chicago, providing 24-hour coverage; and Dr. Karen Hayani participates in quarterly infection prevention meetings at Shriners. Drs. Hayani, Frank and Kreppel serve in leadership roles on departmental and university-wide clinical and academic committees.

Dr. Hayani is a **Principal Investigator on the Pediatric HIV AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS) and the Surveillance Monitoring for ART Toxicities (SMARTT) Study in HIV Uninfected Children Born to HIV Infected Women**, both of which are funded by the National Institutes of Health. Our team has been actively engaged since the inception of PHACS in 2005. There are currently 363 study subjects enrolled (210 patients and 153 caregivers) with new enrollment ongoing.



## Our Faculty

Karen Hayani, MD  
Associate Professor  
**Section Chief**



Arthur Frank, MD  
Associate Professor



Jean Kim, MD  
Assistant Professor



Andrew Kreppel, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

Our nationally recognized faculty support a **48-bed unit designated by the Illinois Department of Public Health as a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)**. We are also state-designated as a Clinical and Administrative Perinatal Center, of which Dr. De-Ann Pillers is a Co-Director. In collaboration with UI Health Maternal Fetal Medicine, **we manage a perinatal network inclusive of three Level III NICUs and five Level II centers** conducting outreach, education, quality improvement projects and morbidity/mortality reviews.

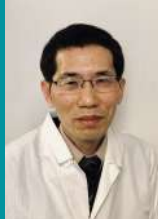
**Dr. De-Ann Pillers joined our faculty as Section Chief of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine and the Founding Director of the new Center of Excellence in Neonatal Vision and Neuroscience** in FY 2018. Dr. Pillers is an internationally recognized clinical, translational and basic science researcher whose leadership and vision for neonatal medicine have contributed tremendously to our understanding of neonatal vision science and genetics. She has received many honors and awards throughout her career, including numerous "Top Doctor" awards from Castle Connolly/US News (2003-19).

## Our Faculty

De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD  
Professor  
**Section Chief**



Wenxiang Luo, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Saurabhkumar Patel, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor



Shannon Murphy, MD  
Assistant Professor



Anantha Harijith, MD  
Associate Professor



Aarti Raghavan, MD  
Associate Professor



# Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

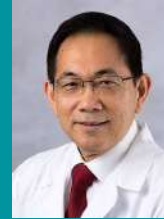
Our multidisciplinary team of highly skilled neonatologists, neonatal nurses, social workers, respiratory and developmental therapists, and lactation consultants work collaboratively to provide the highest quality of care 24 hours a day. Our team achieved tremendous progress in patient safety during 2018. The NICU celebrated **two years with zero Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)** and has additionally shown significant reduction in late onset sepsis and nosocomial infections among very low birth weight infants.



In 2018, we hosted our first annual UIC Neonatology Picnic where our faculty and fellows (current and alumni) welcomed incoming neonatal fellows. We were joined by Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasagar, Professor Emeritus and world renowned neonatologist.

## Our Faculty

Phornphat Rasamimari, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor



Arvind Shukla, MD  
Associate Professor



Joann Romano-Keeler, MD, MS  
Assistant Professor



Nishant Srinivasan, MD  
Assistant Professor



Hernan Sierra, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Pediatric Nephrology



Our team provides approximately 150 acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis treatments to newborns, children and adolescents annually.

Our team of pediatric nephrology specialists collaborate with transplant surgeons, pharmacists, nurses, dietitians and social workers to provide early intervention for children with kidney disease and kidney related issues. **We offer a preventative pediatric renal clinic, kidney transplantation, acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis, and continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT)/hemodialysis.** Our faculty are actively engaged in clinical research, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) multi center studies on progression of chronic kidney disease in children.



Eunice John, MD

**Dr. Eunice John, former chief of pediatric nephrology and medical director of pediatric transplant, retired in 2018 after serving UIC residents and patients for 42 years.** She was the first Chicago physician to start long-term peritoneal dialysis and to use the double lumen catheter for hemodialysis in children in the early 1980s. In 2002, Dr. John worked together with Dr. Enrico Benedetti, Chief of Surgery, to perform the first pediatric living-donor bowel transplant. The patient, who is now in his 20s, is the longest living recipient of this type of surgery.

## Our Faculty

Harsha Kumar, MD, MBA  
Associate Professor  
Interim Section Chief



Kimberly Czech, MD  
Assistant Professor



Sonia Krishnan, MD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Pediatric Neurology



In 2018, we completed our second pediatric epilepsy surgery in collaboration with multidisciplinary UI Health providers.

Our team of pediatric neurology specialists provide advanced, comprehensive care for children with nervous system problems, including epilepsy, headaches, cerebral palsy, developmental delays and other brain disorders. **We have Centers of Excellence dedicated to several conditions, including Pediatric Epilepsy, Sturge-Weber Syndrome and Neurofibromatosis (NF).** In 2018, the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance recognized our program as a designated Tuberous Sclerosis Clinic.



Dr. Mata Machado greets one of our therapy dogs in the Children's Hospital, a program that brings relaxation to patients with autism.

**Dr. Nikolas Mata Machado joined our pediatric neurology team in 2018. He is recognized internationally for his expertise in NF.** He has published several original articles and book chapters on the topic, and also serves on several editorial boards. Dr. Mata Machado is actively engaged in the Neurofibromatosis Network and Neurofibromatosis Midwest, a nonprofit committed to improving the lives of children, adults and families impacted by NF. He has played a major role in expanding our Neurofibromatosis Center, where we now provide care for 300 patients.

## Our Faculty

Saba Ahmad, MD  
Assistant Professor  
**Interim Section Chief**



Nikolas Mata Machado, MD  
Assistant Professor



Akira Yoshii, MD, PhD  
Assistant Professor



# Section of Pediatric Pulmonary, Allergy and Sleep Medicine

Our team of multidisciplinary specialists provide diagnostic evaluations and management of respiratory, allergy and sleep-related disorders in infants, children and adolescents. The full range of services include consultation, pulmonary function testing (PFT), skin testing for environmental and food allergies, bronchoscopy services and sleep studies.



In FY 2018, we established a new **partnership with the Mobile Care Foundation**, a nonprofit that operates mobile medical units throughout the city, **to provide asthma care to children right within their neighborhoods on the west and south sides of Chicago**. Additionally we expanded access to treatments for pediatric sleep, food allergy challenges and PFT services.

Harsha Kumar, MD, MBA  
Associate Professor  
Pulmonary  
**Section Chief**



Pranshu Adavadkar, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Sleep



Sindhuja H. Vardhan, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Pulmonary



Pravin Muniyappa, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Allergy/Immunology



## Our Faculty

Andrea Pappalardo, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Allergy/Immunology



C. Lucy Park, MD  
Associate Professor  
Pulmonary,  
Allergy/Immunology



Chithra Poongkunran, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Sleep



## Our Advanced Practice Nurse

Maureen Smith, APN (Sleep)

# Community & Population Health Programs & Research



(From left) Drs. Minier, Martin, Van Voorhees, Glassgow, Pappalardo and Caskey at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting in Toronto in May 2018.

Our pediatrics faculty were actively engaged as principal investigators on more than 25 community and/or population health projects in 2018. They focused on issues particularly imperative to the well-being of our surrounding communities, including early childhood education, sexual health among adolescents, obesity, mental health, tobacco control, asthma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Projects were funded by multiple sources, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**CHECK**, one of our population health programs, was originally funded by a \$19.8 million award from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. CHECK is a **comprehensive health and behavioral health care coordination model that has provided services to more than 6,300 low-income children/families with chronic medical conditions**. Outcomes data from the first four years of the program indicate decreased healthcare costs and inpatient utilization and improved patient engagement. **In 2018, CHECK was approved as one of the first Integrated Health Homes by the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services.**



## Our Faculty

Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD  
Professor  
**Core Director**, Community & Population Health Research



Rebecca Feinstein, MPH, MSW, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Project Director, PATH 2 Purpose



Anne Elizabeth Glassgow, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Executive Director, CHECK Program



# Community & Neighborhood Engagement

Our community engagement team, led by Melishia Bansa, MPH, has long been at work building a "Community Medical Neighborhood", and **in 2018, we designated "community" as one of our core pillars of service.** We are committed to prioritizing children and families in our surrounding neighborhoods on Chicago's west and south sides, as they are often underserved. **During 2018, our physicians and staff participated in more than 200 community engagement activities with federally qualified health centers, nonprofits and faith-based organizations,** including providing trainings and educational workshops and attending community health events.

In the summer of 2018, our community engagement team of staff, physicians, residents, medical students and interns **participated in more than 15 back to school community events, providing education and information to more than 1,000 community members.** Additionally, our faculty physicians and residents **provided more than 100 free back to school physicals at events in the Little Village and South Shore communities.**



Staff and families from El Valor, a community-based organization focused on supporting urban families and longtime partner of our pediatrics program, visited our children's hospital and clinics in August 2018 for our first ever "Peds Day". **Peds Days provide opportunities for our community partners to build health literacy among their participants and families through visits to our medical campus and educational seminars with our physicians and nurses.**



# Our 2018 Castle Connolly Top Doctors

One hundred UI Health providers across 44 specialties, including **12 pediatrics providers**, were named among the region's top physicians by **Castle Connolly**, the consumer healthcare guide. Providers were nominated by peers in a nationwide survey, then chosen by a physician-led research group. Additionally, 30 of the recognized providers were featured in Chicago magazine's January 2019 "Top Doctors" list.

## Adolescent Medicine

Karen Bernstein, MD, MPH

## Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics

Reshma Shah, MD

## General Pediatrics

Rachel Caskey, MD, MAPP

Amanda Osta, MD

## Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

De-Ann Pillers, MD, PhD

## Pediatric Allergy/Immunology

C. Lucy Park, MD

## Pediatric Gastroenterology

James Berman, MD

T.S. Gunasekaran, MD

## Pediatric Hematology-Oncology

Lewis Hsu, MD, PhD

Mary Lou Schmidt, MD

## Pediatric Infectious Disease

Karen Hayani, MD

## Pediatric Nephrology

Enunce John, MD



Top Doctors Mary Lou Schmidt, De-Ann Pillers and Lewis Hsu gather with Dr. Benjamin Van Voorhees, pediatrics department head, at our children's hospital in April 2018 during the dedication of our newly renovated teen room, donated by the Friends of UIC Pediatrics.



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

## Honoring Dr. George Honig's Legacy

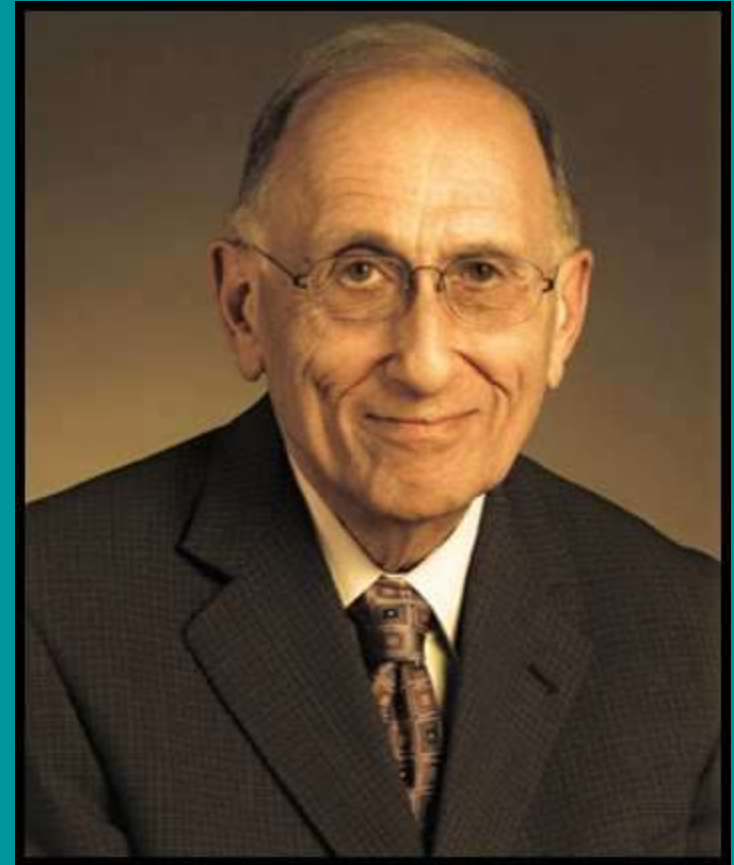
George R. Honig, MD, PhD, an esteemed physician/scientist and alumnus of UIC, was head of the UIC Department of Pediatrics from 1984 to 2004 and co-founded of the University of Illinois Sickle Cell Center. Dr. Honig is now serving as Professor Emeritus. He is a revered mentor and teacher to many of our faculty, past and present, and left an indelible mark in his time here.

Dr. Honig authored numerous scholarly articles, book chapters on medicine and biomedical science and scientific reports. He drew upon his experience as a physician, as well as his longstanding interest in history and religion, to write a novel, "The Alexandria Letter," which was published by Synergy Books in 2010.

In 2004, to honor Dr. Honig's contributions to UIC and the Department of Pediatrics, the George R. Honig, MD PhD Endowed Fund in Pediatrics was established. Among the key aspirations of the College of Medicine is to significantly enhance its national and international research reputation by recruiting and retaining top performing faculty to UIC. With this strategic goal in mind, the Department of Pediatrics aims to elevate the George R. Honig MD PhD Endowment to a level that will support the George R. Honig MD PhD Professorship in Pediatrics.

## Support the George R. Honig MD, PhD Professorship in Pediatrics

\$500,000 is needed to fully endow a professorship. Through the generosity of dozens of individual donors, we are currently less than \$50,000 shy of reaching this goal. You can help complete this important initiative: please [click here](#) or visit [give.uic.edu](http://give.uic.edu) and either search for "Honig" or enter "UIC George R.Honig M.D. Endowed Fund in Pediatrics". Thank you for your support!



George R. Honig, MD, PhD  
Head, Department of Pediatrics, 1984-2004

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Child's Play  
Anonymous  
Dr. Arthur L. Frank  
Mocerri Family Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

American Academy of Pediatrics  
CureSearch for Children's Cancer  
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Joy in Childhood Foundation  
Kevin W. Schmidt  
Dr. Benjamin & Mrs. Donica Van Voorhees

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# A Special Thank You to the Friends of UIC Pediatrics

The Friends of UIC Pediatrics, a group of empowered volunteers, was created in 2009 by a group of community members who saw the need to "help kids heal". During the past nine years, this group has planned and hosted upwards of 20 fundraising events and raised more than \$250,000 in support of the children we serve. Some of the equipment and projects they have funded include:

- Renovation of the children's hospital playroom and teen activity room
- The Reach Out & Read Program
- Transportation (parking fees, gas and bus passes) to the hospital for families
- Camp scholarships for cancer and sickle cell anemia summer camps
- Swaddling devices for our NICU babies

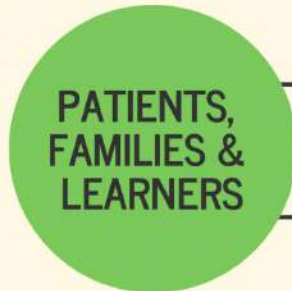
## Join the Friends of UIC Pediatrics

Membership is open to women and men who want to give time, talent, and a little bit of treasure to some of Chicagoland's most underserved children. 100% of every gift goes to equipment and services. We encourage you to attend a meeting and see how quickly you can help these precious children. Contact [maryj@uic.edu](mailto:maryj@uic.edu) to get connected to the membership chair.



## OUR WHY

Tying our strategies and goals to our mission



We have the expertise, research & capacity to improve the status of child health in Chicago & beyond

We have the opportunity and responsibility to train the next generation of pediatric healthcare leaders

## OUR GOALS

For 2019



Increase the number of patients under care to further serve our community and improve the training experience

Reduce expenses & improve collections to continue successful efforts toward a balanced budget

Increase gifts and philanthropic grants to support pediatric programs and care

## OUR STRATEGY

Guiding strategic planning priorities from 2016-present



Clinical & Subspecialty Growth

Business & Governance Development

Research Programs

Education Leadership

Strategic Partnerships

Population Health

Global Health & Technology

# Key Administrative Staff

## Office of the Department Head

Azisti Dembowski, MBA  
Director of Administrative Operations

Joe Werth  
Executive Assistant

## Business Support & Operations

Melishia Bansa, MPH  
Director of Community Engagement  
& Provider Relations

Piyush Hargunani, MS, MBA  
Associate Director of Operations

Jordan Henry  
Clinical Data Analyst

Mary Johnson, MA, MHA  
Director of Strategy & Planning (Report Author)

Ann Lindner  
Executive Assistant

## Finance & Accounting

Joshua Miller  
Accounting I

Alfred Pinto, MBA  
Accounting Associate

## Human Resources & Faculty Affairs

Jason Darwell, MS  
HR Associate

Latrice Nurse  
HR Associate

Austin Snyder  
Credentialing Officer

Nivid Thakar, MBA  
Business Administrative Associate

## Grants & Contracts Management

Susanne Feret, MBA, MPH, CRA, FACHE, PMP  
Director of Special Projects

Helene Gussin, PhD, CRA  
Director of Research Administration

## Education & Division Coordinators

Diane Arce  
Pediatrics Residency Coordinator

Chanel Brown  
Med-Peds Residency Coordinator

Alana J. Burke  
Hematology/Oncology Division Coordinator

Xochitl Garcia Klapproth  
Gastroenterology & Nephrology  
Division Coordinator

Joseph Greenia  
Neonatology Fellowship & Division Coordinator

Andie Jones Jackson  
Genetics Division Coordinator

Miae Lee, MD  
Adolescent, Endocrinology & Hematology/  
Oncology Fellowships Coordinator

Tamika Lee  
Endocrinology, Critical Care & Pulmonary  
Division Coordinator

Lewis Moseley  
Cardiology Division Coordinator

Jennifer Okonma, MBA  
General Pediatrics Division Coordinator

Annie Tan  
Infectious Disease & Neurology  
Division Coordinator

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UI Health  
Pediatrics



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