

Department of Pediatrics

Department of Pediatrics 2023 Faculty Excellence Awards honorees

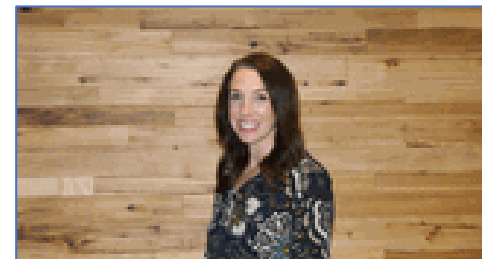
We are delighted to acknowledge the following individuals for outstanding performance and contributions to our mission over the past year. There were many qualified candidates for the awards and the selection of finalists was exceedingly challenging. Awards were bestowed in each category by rank (assistant professor/instructor; associate professor/clinician; professor/master clinician) and some awards had co-winners this year. Congratulations again!

Excellence in Advocacy



Kerri Machut, MD (Asst Prof, Neonatology) has two main advocacy pursuits. One, pediatric workforce issues to optimize the professional development of faculty and trainees. She was an inaugural member of the Women in Neonatology (WiN) Special Interest Group within the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, where she authored a Call to Action Statement on gender equity. She is also Co-Chair the WiN Advocacy Committee, leading this national group of physicians in advocating for pediatric workforce staffing improvements. Her second advocacy focus is on family centered care to increase family empowerment and education. She and partner Jessica Fry advocated for and built a NICU Family Partnership Council of 30 parent/staff partners. Together they built a parent-generated *Journey to Home* guide and educational videos to assist families in preparing for discharge.

Maria Rahmandar, MD (Asst Prof, Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine) is the founding medical director of the Substance Use & Prevention Program. She strives to de-stigmatize substance use treatment and focus on improving wellbeing through advancing evidence-based, harm reduction approaches. In partnership with her division's Community Programs and Initiatives team, they trained over 450 youth and adults to respond to overdoses in FY22. She also helped secure federal funding and serves as clinician expert on two Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grants. She is a nationally recognized expert in e-cigarettes, serving as an E-Cigarette Expert for the AAP, and working with IL Attorney General Raoul in his work to decrease e-cigarette harms to teens & JUUL litigation.



Kristine Cieslak, MD (Master Clinician, Emergency Medicine) is Co-Director of Advocacy for the Lurie PEM division. Major accomplishments this year have included: more extensive faculty/fellow engagement, active social media presence for advocacy topics, expansion of advocacy work impacting legislation and promotion of synergy with pediatric department wide advocacy efforts. She also serves on the Lurie Dept of Pediatrics Advocacy Advisory Board. She is a faculty lecturer in the Pediatric Residency Advocacy Pathway Core Program and PEM Fellow Advocacy Educational Series. She participated in medical student advocacy education this year and received a teaching award from FSM for serving as a mentor and faculty educator in the Community Health

Advocacy Initiative (CHAI), the first universal, longitudinal community health curriculum at a research - intensive medical school.

Excellence in Clinical Care



Amanda Hauck, MD (Asst Prof, Cardiology) is the Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Program. Over the past year, they have expanded the medical therapies available to patients to improve outcomes and have been chosen as a clinical drug trial site to aid in this effort. She also improved the recognition and management of PH throughout Lurie by providing educational lectures to Pulmonary, ICU and ED trainees and faculty who encounter PH, and established a new elective curriculum for Pulmonary fellows to augment their PH training. Dr. Hauck is also the Co-Director of the Pulmonary Vein Stenosis Program. This program has established an in-depth echocardiographic screening program, specialized PVS consult team for multi-disciplinary peer review to determine optimal treatment strategies, and post-intervention monitoring protocols.

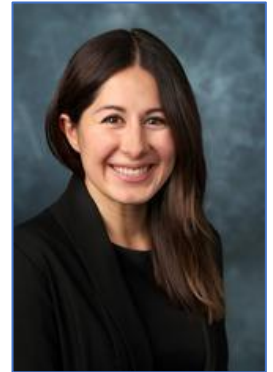
Paul Tannous, MD, PhD (Asst Prof, Cardiology) has helped grow the clinical program, developed innovative solutions for patients with complex congenital heart disease, and mentored the next generation of cardiologists. He is Co-Director of the Pulmonary Vein Stenosis Program which now has over 30 patients and has performed over 100 pulmonary vein interventions. With a maximum of four years of follow-up for premature infants with pulmonary vein stenosis, they have a 100% survival rate with 90% vessel preservation. Dr. Tannous is also devoted to education. He received numerous teaching awards, and is Associate Program Director for the Advanced Pediatric Cardiac Interventional Fellowship in Cardiac Catheterization.



Gregg Montalto, MD, MPH (Assoc Prof, Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine) is Associate Division Head for Clinical Practice. In this leadership role, he advises and mentors the medical directors of the Gender Development Program, the Substance Use and Prevention Program, and Integrated Mental Health in Adolescent Medicine Program. He instituted an inpatient consult service for subspecialized adolescent health care to support the needs of LCH inpatient units and the Emergency Department. Dr. Montalto developed a multidisciplinary eating disorder program which meets the needs of patients, families, and communities – especially those who are insured by a Medicaid MCO, or who come from a Spanish-speaking home. He is a member of the Chicago Council on Mental Health Equity, led by the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Excellence in Education

Nina Alfieri, MD, MS (Instructor, Advanced General Pediatrics & Primary Care) oversees the resident and medical student learners who rotate at Lurie Children's Primary Care at Uptown. She also created a curriculum module that teaches the basics of lactation and skills that can be used in primary care practice to support lactation. This module is used regularly on the PL-1 Outpatient and MS3/PA Rotations. During COVID this training was used to optimize virtual learning for trainees and continues to be in use on a regular basis on rotations. She has also created several primary care related curricula such as a novel curriculum to help child-focused clinicians detect atypical motor development in young infants. Dr. Alfieri serves numerous educational leadership roles in her division, in the residency program, and for the medical school.



Candace Mannarino, MD (Asst Prof, Cardiology) is the course director for a pre-conference bootcamp session for the Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Society meeting, and is developing an advanced practice provider bootcamp for nurses, advanced practice providers, fellows, and junior faculty. The course will focus on didactic lectures such as advanced ventilator management for congenital heart disease, cardiopulmonary interactions and have simulation sessions that participants can practice management skills for single ventricle physiology and temporary pacing. Dr. Mannarino serves as the PICU clerkship director for 4th year medical students. She has also been involved in simulation-based mastery learning through teaching, including the Designing and Implementing Simulation-Based Mastery Learning Curricula course at FSM. She also educates multidisciplinary groups (respiratory therapists, nursing staff, advanced practice nurse practitioners, medical students, etc.).

Jennifer Strople, MD, MS (Assoc Prof, Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition) is the GI Fellowship Program Director, where she has developed a highly popular "Case Conference" curriculum that allows for positive and instructive interactions between attendings and fellows in the discussion of complex clinical scenarios. Her success as fellowship director for the gastroenterology program has led her to be selected as co-director of the Office of Fellowship Programs for the hospital at large. Dr. Strople has now begun her work with the Association of Pediatric Program Directors LEAD program, a prestigious national effort which focuses on organizational leadership, competency-based curriculum development, faculty development, residency and fellowship program administration, scholarship and career development.



Excellence in Outreach Care



Brandi Kenner-Bell, MD (Asst Professor/Clinician, Dermatology) runs a high-volume, high acuity pediatric dermatology practice. Despite this full-time clinical commitment, she has dedicated her time and expertise to developing clinical initiatives to advance patient care. She has developed highly valued clinical expertise in inflammatory disorders such as hidradenitis suppurativa, and is also a founding member of the newly established multidisciplinary polycystic ovarian syndrome clinic. Dr. Kenner-Bell has made significant educational contributions as a regular lecturer for medical students, pediatric residents, and dermatology residents. She has established herself as a national leader in the field of pediatric dermatology and has held leadership positions in many national organizations.

Deborah Margulis, MD (Assoc Clinician, Hospital-Based Medicine) is the Lurie Outreach Site lead and Vice Chief of Pediatrics at Northwestern Lake Forest. She also serves as the inpatient pediatric coordinator for NLFH Family Medicine Residency Program. She is an active member of the Quality Management Committee at NLFH, which oversees quality performance. She received extra training in simulation and runs the low technology simulations at NLFH as well as being an active NRP instructor. She trained with the NM Quality and Safety Improvement Course (AQSI) and has been a valuable leader on countless QI projects. She is currently working on QI projects in both fever in the neonate and the new hyperbilirubinemia guidelines.



Lavanya Shankar, MD (Master Clinician, Hospital-Based Medicine) is President of the Medical Staff of Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital. This accomplishment, for a pediatrician within a general hospital, is certainly noteworthy and indicative of her wide recognition. She also serves as an Officer of the Medical Executive Committee. In this past year, Dr. Shankar completed her master's degree in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety from NU. She serves as the Co-director of Quality, Division of HBM Outreach, and has been the lead on many QI projects at CDH and provides guidance for QI at other outreach sites. In addition, Dr. Shankar led a multi-disciplinary group to conduct innovative research using a shared database of NM visits and Lurie visits to explore mental health visits before and during the pandemic.

Excellence in Scholarship



Jennifer Hoffmann, MD, MS (Asst Prof, Emergency Medicine) is a K12 Scholar with funding from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to develop and implement quality measures for acute agitation management in the ED. In a study published in *JAMA Pediatrics*, she demonstrated that youth living in U.S. counties with shortages of mental health professionals are at higher risk of death by suicide. Many of her recent studies have also focused on the mental health crisis facing children since the pandemic. Her work was featured at the APA Presidential Plenary session at the 2022 PAS meeting. Over the last academic year, Dr. Hoffmann produced 20 published articles, 9 oral platform presentations, 4 Grand Rounds, and 2 invited national talks. Dr.

Hoffmann recently became the first ever early career physician to be elected to the 10-member AAP Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

Sriram Ramgopal, MD (Assist Prof, Emergency Medicine) has published 46 peer-reviewed works this fiscal year – 21 as first author and 11 as senior author. In his current K12 work as a PEDSnet scholar, he is focused on stakeholder engagement in artificial intelligence based clinical decision support (CDS) for pediatric pneumonia in the context of a learning health system, qualitative assessments on the role of artificial intelligence CDS tools for the management of pneumonia, developing natural language-based tools for the identification of pneumonia, and developing prediction models for the identification of children at risk of CAP. These represent important preliminary work in his upcoming K23 application. This year he was awarded the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Collaborative Research Committee Research Award. He is the co-director of fellowship research in the division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and actively develops their research curriculum.



Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH (Prof, Advanced General Pediatrics & Primary Care) serves as the founding director of the Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR). In the past year, she has published over 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts as well as a book titled “Food Without Fear.” Dr. Gupta serves as the principal investigator on over 20 NIH, industry, and philanthropy funded projects totaling over 20 million in funding across three interdisciplinary and collaborative research cores—public health data, clinical research, and community/school

outreach. She is also an active mentor. Through CFAAR, she started multiple student programs including a summer internship, a high school ambassador program and a health leaders’ program to empower underserved students in Chicago interested in a health-related career.

Debra Weese-Mayer, MD (Prof, Critical Care) serves as Chief of Pediatric Autonomic Medicine at LCH and Stanley Manne. She is the world expert on a rare but important condition termed ROHHAD (Rapid Onset Obesity with Hypothalamic Dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Medicine). Of note, this year she and her group were awarded an R01 (for post-ventilation sequelae monitoring of pre-school age children who were intermittently hypoxemic as pre-term infants) and R03 (for physiologic readiness for clinical trials in CCHS patients). She has a continual track record of funding, publications, and mentorship – including being a direct academic mentor to several Critical Care Medicine faculty.

