

Department of Pediatrics

Department of Pediatrics 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 Clinical Care



Becca Stephen (Asst Prof, Hospital-Based Medicine) serves as the institutional physician lead for the national collaborative Improving Pediatric Sepsis Outcomes (IPSO). She has successfully led quality improvement efforts in patient care processes impacting care across multiple units in the hospital. Over the past year, the IPSO Team has seen significant improvements in sepsis recognition, treatments, and outcomes including ICU length of stay and organ dysfunction. Lurie Children's Hospital is consistently recognized as a "Top Performer" within the national collaborative and is one of five hospitals with improvement in all sepsis bundle processes over the past year. In her role in the Center for Quality and Safety, Dr. Stephen leads large, multidisciplinary teams to design and implement improvement projects for early recognition and prevention of in-hospital deterioration. Dr. Stephen was also instrumental in the deployment of Telemedicine services during the early phases of the Covid pandemic.

Malika Shah (Assoc Prof, Neonatology) was recognized for her high-impact work as the Medical Director of Prentice Newborn Nursery, where she met the challenge of developing procedures for the care of babies born to mothers with suspected or confirmed Covid-19. She worked with leaders from Neonatology, Obstetrics, Infectious Disease, and Community-based Pediatrics and adapted to changing and often conflicting guidelines. Her team developed a balanced approach that incorporated safety of the baby, mother, and healthcare staff along with the medical and emotional needs of the family. She was frequently a panelist for the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative and guidelines developed by her team are published on their website for use throughout the state.



Joel Fisher (Master Clinician, Hospital-Based Medicine Outreach) is Director of Northwest Community Hospital (NWCH) NICU and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at NWCH. He has introduced a number of new protocols and quality initiatives this year: 1) introduction of bubble CPAP which has been instrumental in earlier extubation of extremely low birth weight neonates; and 2) use of probiotics for VLBW newborns to improve digestion and decrease necrotizing enterocolitis. Dr. Fisher collaborated with other Lurie divisions on several research projects -- Infectious Diseases (examining cord blood for biomarkers signatures for diagnosis of

sepsis; examining maternal vaginal and rectal swabs and neonatal stool for perinatal transmission of multi-drug resistant bacteria) and Neonatology (providing parents of NICU babies access to certain clinical data and neonatology educational material, via a smart phone app). His leadership has helped the NCH NICU to thrive as a level III NICU.

Excellence in Leadership



[Kiona Allen](#) (Asst Prof, Cardiology) Is Medical Director of the Single Ventricle (SV) Center of Excellence, where she led the creation of a comprehensive program to manage fragile infant SV patients. Under her leadership, the team has been able to combine in-person clinic with telemedicine visits and remote patient monitoring via a novel digital platform. She also expanded the SV program for older children by helping to create the national Fontan Outcomes Network (FON) which is tasked with building a national registry and quality improvement collaborative to track outcomes for patients as they move into adulthood and beyond. As Co-Director of the NICU-Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program, she helped build the Child & Adolescent NCNP Clinic and its partnership with Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcomes Collaborative. In January of 2020 she stepped into the role of Interim Medical Director of the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit (CCU). She also received the Faculty Professionalism Award from this year's McGaw Fellowship Graduates.

[Nia Heard-Garris](#) (Asst Prof, Advanced General Pediatrics and Primary Care) has brought considerable national recognition to Lurie when she was catapulted into the national spotlight, given her research on racism and her position as Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Minority Health, Equity, and Inclusion. Closer to home, she participated in an advocacy video for residency applicants, and lead workshops on racism within our institution. As a former Public Voices Fellow, she has published numerous op-eds about advocacy in the Chicago Tribune as well as national outlets. She was awarded a career development award through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, a prestigious research grant to study the impact of adversities and trauma on Chicago's youth and to deliver a teen-centered intervention to reduce their stress. During this academic year, she engaged social workers, nurses, medical assistants, physicians, administrators, and academics across the Lurie Children's and Northwestern campuses in this work.



[Dana Schinasi](#) (Asst Prof, Emergency Medicine) has been a leading force bringing Lurie Children's Hospital to national and international attention as a frontrunner in Telehealth. She had been growing the Lurie Telehealth program for the past 5 years; with the Covid-19 pandemic, she led the initiative to quickly increase our capacity and change our culture to provide ongoing care to our patients. She trained over 1,000 providers including physicians and allied health professionals to provide HIPAA compliant telemedicine care in a vast number of pediatric subspecialties. She has provided telehealth leadership for the teams that recently successfully obtained grant funding for two innovative projects to expand and study the impact of telehealth, and has represented our organization in several important national consortiums and organizations. We are fortunate to have had her in this leadership position during this difficult time.



William Muller (Assoc Prof, Infectious Diseases) has demonstrated outstanding leadership in implementing new clinical care tools, workflows and scholarship during the pandemic response. Anticipating that clinical trials activity would be largely placed on hold, he expeditiously moved the clinical trials team into the workflow for remote testing of employees and patients. Ultimately, the SID lab performed more than 13,000 tests before the assay was moved to the main hospital. He is investigating ways in which our clinical trials team could support the development of therapeutics and vaccines for pediatric patients – an area that remains critically undervalued in the national response. He was one of six pediatricians from the US and UK asked by the manufacturer to help develop the pediatric study protocol for remdesivir, and Lurie became one of the first hospitals in the country to open this study. He was also asked by the Infectious Diseases Society of American to join a panel of nine experts (and one of only two pediatric ID physicians) to develop evidence-based treatment guidelines.

Kelly Michelson (Prof, Critical Care) formed the Chicago Bioethics Coalition (CBC) to address the myriad of ethical issues raised during the Covid-19 pandemic. The CBC includes 50+ bioethics experts from over a dozen Chicago-area institutions. Their collaborative efforts have led to publications in high impact journals such as JAMA network, Op-Eds, and media outreach. Dr. Michelson has participated in many local and national forums, invited talks, and media engagements in print, radio, and television. These pandemic-related activities are in addition to her established responsibilities, such as Director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, and Chief Ethics Officer for the newly formed Northwestern Institute for Augmented Intelligence in Medicine. She recently completed the Academic Leadership Program, facilitated by the Big Ten Academic Alliance, to learn about university administration. She was nominated by Dean Neilson and was one of four faculty across Northwestern University – and the only FSM faculty -- to participate in this program.



Excellence in Education



Robyn Bockrath (Asst Prof, Hospital-Based Medicine) is dedicated to improving the education of trainees and faculty through curriculum development, mentorship and teaching. She actively serves as a mentor across the continuum, particularly to those pursuing educational innovations and scholarship. Dr. Bockrath has taught in many venues this year, including large and small group lectures, Problem-Based Learning small groups, case conferences, simulations and bedside teaching. As an attending on General Medicine, Dr. Bockrath consistently receives the highest feedback from trainees. She was also recently recognized by medical students for her professionalism and outstanding contributions. With her strong background in curriculum development, she serves on two curriculum committees, an LCME Reaccreditation Self-Study Committee, and leads an annual faculty development workshop. Locally she serves the Feinberg School of Medicine as the Associate Pediatrics Clerkship Director, Problem Based-Learning Co-Director and Teaching Selective Director. Her leadership extends nationally, where she is a leader for the Research and Scholarship Collaborative for the Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics.



Zarina Norton (Asst Prof, Hospital-Based Medicine) serves as Associate Director of the Pediatric Residency program. She graduated from the Academic Pediatric Association's Educational Scholars Program, and used that expertise to develop and refine curricula for our pediatric residency program and hospital-based medicine fellowship program. She developed the pediatric residency's longitudinal Vaccine Hesitancy Curriculum and serves as co-director of the residency program's longitudinal Residents as Teachers curriculum. In July she became the course director of an innovative course – a Virtual Elective for Underrepresented Minority Medical Students. Undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education remains a large part of her day-to-day work. This past year, she received an outstanding teacher award from Feinberg School of Medicine for excellence in medical student teaching, and was nominated by medical students for demonstrating exemplary professionalism. Her collaboration with educators extends beyond our institution. This year, she worked with other educators through the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD) Curriculum Learning Community, and was also accepted from a pool of national applicants to participate in the APPD LEAD (Leadership in Educational Academic Development) program.

Mary McBride (Assoc Prof, Cardiology) has an impressive track record as an educator, mentor and educational scholar. She was newly appointed as the Director of the Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators, where she directs and co-leads a myriad of faculty development programs in medical education. She co-developed the curriculum for Today's Innovation in Medical Education (TIME) lecture series, a monthly presentation as well as an interactive workshop series to keep our faculty up to date in medical education. In addition, she holds leadership positions in the Division of Cardiology, and in the kidSTAR Medical Education Program. Her local teaching responsibilities related to pediatrics, resuscitation and faculty development extend across a spectrum of professions and various training levels. She has demonstrated a sustained commitment to excellence in scholarship, and is an active contributor to national and international meetings on topics related to pediatrics, simulation and pedagogy in ways that help shape the conversation in our field.



Mark Adler (Prof, Emergency Medicine) has focused on simulation-based education as a vehicle to gain insight into how clinicians learn and how one can meaningfully measure performance improvement. Dr. Adler holds many leadership roles in both the international general and pediatric simulation societies, and enjoyed a productive year in which several manuscripts and book chapters were published. He supports the fellows in the department's Office of Fellowship Programs, where his grant-writing course focuses on one-on-one

faculty coaching to assist second-year fellows in creating their required departmental grant submission. He was recently selected for the inaugural class of the Academic Pediatric Association's National Academy of Distinguished Educators in Pediatrics. This group is charged with providing mentorship, faculty development, and education for academic pediatrician educators. His most enjoyable activity is mentoring junior faculty and fellows.

Excellence in Scholarship



Sherif Badawy (Asst Prof, Hematology-Oncology) has achieved a number of scholarship milestones this year. In Aug 2019, he completed a 2-year career development award – Northwestern University-Patient-centered Intervention and Engagement Training (NU-PATIENT) K12 Faculty Scholars Training Program. In March 2020, he received funding from NIH-NHLBI for a 5-year Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23). In June 2020, he submitted his first R01 as a co-investigator and site lead PI for a multi-institution study, in collaboration with Nationwide Children’s Hospital and Cincinnati Children Hospital. He has held editorial responsibilities for some of the leading journals in his research area and has been involved in developing clinical guidelines working with professional organizations and societies in hematology, oncology and stem cell transplant. Furthermore, he has provided research mentorship to a number of medical students, residents and post-doctoral fellows at NU that led to several peer-reviewed publications, national presentations and institutional funding.

Todd Florin (Assoc Prof, Emergency Medicine) is an internationally recognized research leader in pediatric respiratory infections. His research trajectory and 8 years of NIH funding (KL2, K23, R03, R34) has led to his current work – developing validated tools to risk stratify children with CAP and interventional trials evaluating antibiotic use in pediatric pneumonia, occurring through large national and international multicenter cohorts. Dr. Florin’s work represents a paradigm shift in the way that we care for children with lower respiratory tract infections, with a focus on implementing targeted management strategies that limit unnecessary testing and treatment. An outstanding writer, this year he had several high impact publications and multiple new multi-institutional studies.



Anne Rowley (Prof, Infectious Diseases) has had an exceptional year. She is well-known to the Lurie faculty as a senior professor who has spent the entirety of her career focused on the clinical management and pathogenesis of Kawasaki Disease (KD). This past year, her team under her leadership published their findings identifying a new hepacivirus-like agent that was strongly associated with KD in several children. Her early results netted her and her team a grant award from the Falk foundation. Her landmark paper was published this year in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*. In addition to her work on KD pathogenesis,

Dr. Rowley stepped in this past year to inform our attempts to better understand and treat the Covid-associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). Since it was initially compared to KD, Dr. Rowley conducted many interviews with media outlets and wrote several editorials and commentaries to draw sharp contrasts between the two entities. She also served on local and national panels to design diagnostic and treatment algorithms.