

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



Emma Anselin, MD (Asst Professor, Hospital-Based Medicine) is co-director of the Pediatric Residency Advocacy and Population Health Certificate Program, where she mentors residents in the development of a longitudinal advocacy project. She is also Co-director of the Community Health Advocacy Initiative, a curriculum delivered to all first- and second-year medical students at Feinberg. This past year she also developed projects in close collaboration with two Chicago-based community partners who have voiced an urgent need for improved housing conditions in Chicago: Northwest Center aims to improve the quality of life for residents of Belmont Cragin and surrounding communities, while the Metropolitan Tenants Organization pilot project aims to reduce the occurrence of asthma exacerbations and improve the well-being of children with asthma by addressing unhealthy housing conditions.

Emily Lieberman, MD (Health System Clinician, Primary Care Outreach) committed herself to firearm safety advocacy this past year after bearing witness to the Highland Park parade mass shooting. She is Leader and founder of March Fourth Medical Outreach Committee, a group of health care professionals uniting to provide evidenced based data and personal testimony to elected officials and the public about the need to federally ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines to decrease fatalities, injuries and trauma from mass shootings. She is also the leader and founder of #OnCall4Kids, a legislative advocacy group of physicians and health care professionals who speak with elected officials in the United States Senate and House of Representatives about firearm safety legislation. Her groups advocate use of scientific research and medical expertise to promote universal background checks, safe storage regulations, and a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.



Robert Garofalo, MD, MPH (Professor, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine) has played a leadership role during an unbelievably challenging and time-consuming year related to gender affirming care. He has spoken to a Congressional Subcommittee on issues related to the health and well-being of LGBTQ youth and worked with the Human Rights Campaign and the PACT Coalition on advocacy efforts related to the emerging bans on gender affirming care. Within Lurie, he has coordinated with hospital leadership to shape institutional policies, clinical practices and response to the current threats and challenges towards faculty and staff within adolescent medicine. Dr. Garofalo is also active in global health and advocacy. In a hostile political climate that criminalizes same-sex behavior and relationships, he helped develop a community-based intervention and HIV testing strategy using social media and peer navigation that targeted young gay men or other youth in four cities in Southwest Nigeria.

Excellence in Clinical Care



Sheetal Patel, MD, MSCI (Asst Professor, Cardiology) is applauded for her significant national and international recognition. As a director of the Fetal Cardiology Program and Co-Director of The Chicago Institute for Fetal Health, she has made impressive contributions to the field of pediatric cardiology, particularly through her work in point-of-care ultrasound. Her efforts have significantly impacted education, program development, and collaborations within the department. Under her leadership over the past five years, the fetal echocardiography services at Lurie have grown from 40 studies per year in 2017 to now more than 1100 studies per year and have expanded services in the outreach program by opening new fetal cardiology sites in Lake Forest, Huntley, New Lenox, and Winfield. Another clinical focus of her career is the cardiac care of patients with Turner syndrome, where she co-led the creation of an integrated multi-specialty

Turner Syndrome Program, focusing on improving the outcomes in these patients through currently published management protocols.

Russell Horowitz, MD (Assoc Professor, Emergency Medicine) is credited for his impact on implementing point of care ultrasound (POCUS) study incorporation into patient EMR. For years POCUS studies and interpretations were only visible to the individual provider performing the studies. He worked with IT, biomed, compliance, billing, EPMO and other departments within the hospital to allow “POCUS privileged providers” the ability to perform studies, upload them into the EMR and document findings. These studies and the documentation are viewable by all providers in the EMR under the imaging tab. To date over 500 POCUS studies have been performed in the Emergency Department. Additionally, this program has been expanded to PICU and NICU privileged providers and champions. Dr. Horowitz has excelled in presenting his work on a national stage and is a leader in his field.



Pei-Ni Jone, MD (Professor, Cardiology) joined the Heart Center at Lurie Children’s Hospital as the Echocardiography Lab Director. She brought her clinical acumen in 3D echocardiography for pre-operative surgical planning, catheter interventional guidance and functional analysis of the heart, which reduced radiation for patients. She was instrumental in hosting the first 3D Echo Academy Conference with more than 100 in-person participants which brought great visibility to the institute. Since joining Lurie this past year, she has moved many projects forward in a meaningful way. For example, she partnered with infectious disease team to start a joint Kawasaki Disease Clinic program. She is a prolific writer and has thirteen manuscripts published just this year that highlight her clinical and research interests and passions.

Excellence in Education

Arika Gupta, MD (Asst Professor, Neonatology) is co-director of the three-year longitudinal simulation-based boot camp curriculum for neonatology fellows in partnership with collaborators from University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago. She is also co-director for the three-year simulation-based curriculum for the neonatology trainees at our institution. She also facilitates a variety of simulation-based sessions for our pediatric residents, including simulations held in the KidSTAR lab, intern resuscitation day, or PL-2 assessment program (PLAP). This year, she was recognized by the neonatology fellowship program for her educational impact by being awarded the Kathy Farrow Teaching & Mentorship Award, in recognition of outstanding contribution to the education and mentorship of neonatology fellows.



Lacey Kruse, MD (Assoc Professor, Dermatology) serves as the recently appointed Program Director for the pediatric dermatology fellowship program. In addition to preparation of the extensive ACGME application for the training program (the first year for this type of accreditation for dermatology), she led us through the first-ever ACGME site visit. At the national level, Dr. Kruse serves as a question writer for the American Board of Dermatology pediatric certification exam; is participating in the development of a dermatology curriculum for pediatric residents with the Society for Pediatric Dermatology; serves as Chair of the SPD Education Committee and a member of the Mentorship Committee; and will serve as Co-Director of the upcoming Annual Meeting of the SPD in 2024.

Excellence in Outreach Care

Doan Le, MD (Asst Clinician, Hospital Based Medicine) assumed the dual roles of Lurie Pediatric Hospitalist Group Site Lead and Chair of Pediatrics at Humboldt Park from January 2021 to February 2023. In these capacities, she led collaborative efforts to provide high value pediatric care to our local community. Her responsibilities encompassed a wide range of tasks, from policy development to active engagement with IT for the creation of new order of processes for pediatric nursing and medical staff. When faced with challenges such as staffing shortages, high nursing turnover, and limited pediatric resources, she implemented various strategies, including huddle checklists and monthly simulations, to bolster their level of preparedness. These efforts resulted in significantly improved patient outcomes. Dr. Le has participated in and led multiple AAP VIP QuINN and ILPQC Projects, and is currently the co-lead for a multidisciplinary AQSI project at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital on Breastfeeding.





Corryn Greenwood, MD, MEd (Assoc Clinician, Hospital Based Medicine) leads the Silver Cross Level III NICU, which transitioned from a Level II-e to a Level III NICU in August 2022 and recently received another 3-year designation in July 2023. This would not have been possible without Dr. Greenwood’s leadership, enthusiasm, countless hours of administrative work, and close collaboration with Silver Cross leadership, clinical staff and collaboration with Lurie Children’s division leaders in medical imaging, surgery, anesthesia, neonatology, neurology and cardiology. In the past year, she led Silver Cross as they launched the neonatal surgical program, with their first surgery in May 2023. There was substantial coordination among many groups to bring this plan to fruition. Dr. Greenwood also developed and is about to launch the therapeutic hypothermia program, an intervention that will reduce transfers out to other level III hospitals and provide an intervention that may reduce death or disability in infants with moderate to severe neonatal encephalopathy.

Colleen Malloy, MD (Master Clinician, Neonatology) became Site Leader/Medical Director of Neonatology at Northwestern Palos Hospital in March 2023. Palos Neonatology clinical services were a new addition for Lurie, having taken over services from a private group, and is now a Level 2e Special Care Nursery. All Special Care Nursery protocols, including but not limited to hypoglycemia, sepsis, delivery attendance, ventilatory management, transfer, emergency room, primary care, and feeding protocols needed to be revised and clarified to be consistent with Lurie standards. In addition, services transitioned from out of hospital call to 24/7 in-house coverage. In 2023 Dr. Malloy also became the Medical Director for the inaugural Lurie New Lenox Neonatal Follow-up Clinic, which provides follow-up care for infants who are discharged from the NICU at Silver Cross Hospital. This NICU, which is staffed by Lurie Outreach neonatologists, was certified by the state of Illinois for NICU services in 2022. In March 2023, the clinic opened after months of planning, organization, and administrative work.



Excellence in Scholarship



Joyce Woo, MD (Asst Prof, Cardiology) is one of only three cardiologists elected to serve on the national Congenital Heart Surgery Taskforce on Evidence-Based Surgery. She won a best abstract award this year at the Annual Fetal Cardiology Symposium, and presented an invited national talk at “Fetology: Practice and Discovery.” Dr. Woo mentors on policy research; serves as an Editorial Board Member for Journal of Healthcare Advocacy; is an abstract reviewer for PAS for health policy and health services research; and conducts research with the Illinois Department of Public Health to advocate for neonates with congenital heart diseases. Dr. Woo’s commitment to advocacy is rooted in investigation and evidence. She published four articles this year on health care disparities, inequities and/or access to care for patients with congenital heart disease.

Amy Johnson, PhD, MSW (Res Assoc Professor, Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine) has had national and international impact on women's and young women's health with the publication of 8 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. She received two new R01s; in addition, she is the PI of a U01, M-PI of an R01, and Co-I on several other grants. Teaching and mentoring are an integral part of her scholarship. She has taken on the role of concentration co-director of the MPH epidemiology degree, in which she advises graduate students, serves on their independent project committees, and teaches two required courses. Her mentee won an award at Research Scholar's Day. She also works with colleagues in a Paris family planning clinic to investigate the knowledge and acceptability of PrEP for HIV prevention among women who immigrate to Paris from Africa.



Aaron Hamvas, MD (Professor, Neonatology) won the 2022 Midwest Society for Pediatric Research Founder's Award -- it is the highest honor of the Society and recognizes contributions to fostering academic development and advances in Pediatrics. This past year has also seen the dividends of long-term efforts to build the clinical research enterprise of the Division of Neonatology when they were awarded three highly competitive research grants: NICHD – Neonatal Research Network (UG1); NIH Office of the Director – Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (UG3); and NHLBI – Long-term Endotypes of Prematurity Associated Respiratory Disease (R01). Dr. Hamvas has also facilitated trainee and faculty development since assuming the role of Division Head of Neonatology and is committed to promoting scholarly for these mentees.