

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS *GOOD NEWS BULLETIN*

**Volume 4, Issue 8
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In this issue, we highlight several impressive faculty achievements, additions of new faculty and staff members to our UM/HCH family, publications, and platform and poster presentations at major meetings. Kudos to all!

AWARDS AND HONORS



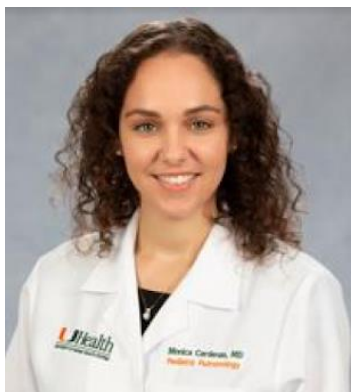
Walter Lambert, MD, received the Department of Children and Families' Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2024 Florida Children & Families Summit. This award was established to recognize Floridians whose contributions have led to significant outcome improvements or innovation, locally or statewide.



Karen Young, MD, is the principal investigator on a \$1 million grant the Korea-US Innovation Project entitled, "Promoting Healthy Population Growth: Novel Biomarkers and Regenerative Therapies for Neonatal Intractable Diseases."



Jason Jent, PhD, was the recipient of an XR Faculty Award from the University of Miami. His project is entitled, “Multimodal virtual reality (VR) simulation for training caregivers on evidence-based strategies helping young children to regulate problematic strong emotions.” The Faculty XR Awards is a technology incubator and experiential learning lab for the advancement of immersive media research projects. The 2025-26 XR Award will pair Dr. Jent with a team of XR developers to design and develop or prototype and XR app that will further his teaching, research, and creative scholarship.



Congratulations to **Monica Cardenas MD**, and her team on the recognition of Holtz Children's Hospital as a Platinum Level Asthma Center of Excellence and an Asthma-Friendly Hospital by the Florida Asthma Coalition.

Staff at Holtz Children’s Hospital have met all four criteria to be recognized as Asthma Friendly, which include: completing asthma management-related professional development for the asthma team lead, hospital pulmonologists, and at least one of the other specialties; providing all patients with an admitted diagnosis of asthma with a written asthma-action plan; ensuring all patients with an admitting diagnosis of asthma are provided with or referred to self-management education that meet EPR-3 Guidelines for adults and children discharged from emergency departments or hospital inpatient settings; and providing all patients with severe, persistent asthma with referrals and/or information about multi-component home-based asthma-management education.



Lourdes Quintana Forster, MD FAAP, has been appointment to the UMMG BOG Patient Experience Access and Optimization Committee by the UMMG Board of Governors.



Lisa Gwynn, DO, MBA, MSPH, has been appointed to the UMMG BOG Clinical Quality Committee by the UMMG Board of Governors

WELCOME, NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Markus Tauscher, MD, joined us as Assistant Professor in the Division of Neonatology. He was born in Germany and attended medical school in Cologne, where he completed his pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of the City of Cologne. After passing the German Pediatric Board exam, he did his neonatology fellowship at UM-Jackson Memorial Hospital in 2001. During that time, he met his future wife. To be eligible for the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Tauscher repeated his pediatric residency at William Beaumont Hospital. He worked for more than 17 years in the NICU at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. He was a member of the local IRB and leader of the Neonatal Respiratory Care Committee and the Golden Hour Committee. He enjoys modern architecture, photography, and traveling with his wife.



Zenaida (Zeny) Reyes Tauscher, MD, joined us as Assistant Professor in the Division of Neonatology. She first came to Miami after completing pediatric residencies at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital in Manila, and Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. She met her husband, Dr. Markus Tauscher, during neonatology fellowship at the University of Miami-Jackson Memorial Hospital in 2001. After fellowship, she then practiced neonatology in Lafayette, Indiana, from 2004-2008. She practiced neonatology at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis for the last 16 years, where she worked on neonatal respiratory care, delivery-room management, and nutrition of preterm infants, before moving back to Jackson Memorial Hospital. She loves to travel to New York, the Philippines, and Germany to visit family.



Haoyue Sheng, PhD, joined us as Researcher in the Division of Neonatology. Dr. Sheng is from China, and holds an MD and a PhD in Surgery. He was a urologist in China and spent two years as a post-doctoral scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Haojie Huang at the Mayo Clinic, mainly studying the progression mechanism of prostate cancer. His research has been published in journals such as *Nature Communications* and *Cancer Research*. Haoyue lives in River Landing with his wife Yawen and their daughter Zoe. Outside the lab, he enjoys spending time with his daughter exploring the world and having barbecues outdoors.



Meghan McCormick, MD, joined us as Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Dr. McCormick pursued a career in medicine while in high school and joined the accelerated medical degree program at the College of New Jersey (where she received her BS degree) and Rutgers University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (where she received her MD). Dr. McCormick then completed her pediatric residency and pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She obtained a MS in Clinical Research at the University of Pittsburgh during her fellowship, with a focus on clinical trials. Following graduation, she joined the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Her clinical and research activities have centered on improving supportive-care practices through cost-effectiveness modeling, administrative databases research, and quality-improvement studies. She has presented her work at national conferences, including the American Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and American Society of Hematology, and has received several abstract achievement awards. Outside of work, Dr. McCormick enjoys the circus arts (primarily hoop and trapeze), reading, and bicycle riding. Her lifetime goal is to visit all U.S. National Parks.



Taylor Rosenbaum, MD, joined us as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Pediatric Hospital Medicine. She grew up in New Jersey, went to Emory in Atlanta for college, University of Maryland in Baltimore for medical school, and Texas Children's Hospital/ Baylor College of Medicine in Houston for pediatric residency and her pediatric hospital medicine fellowship, where she was a chief fellow. During fellowship, she completed an MA in Social and Public Policy. Taylor is passionate about advocacy research and education. Her primary fellowship research project assessed if caregivers of children admitted to the hospital for suicidal ideation or attempt are receptive to receiving firearm safe-storage guidance and free firearm locks during their hospitalization. She is a proud educator of firearm violence reduction and legislative advocacy/civic engagement and has presented workshops and lectures at national and local conferences, including the Pediatric Hospital Medicine 2023 and Pediatric Academic Society 2024 conferences. She was the leader of a multi-year initiative focused on increasing voter participation among pediatric residents. Additionally, she was the leader of both the advocacy and wellness committees during residency and fellowship. In her free time, she enjoys running, traveling, eating ice cream, and now exploring Miami; she welcomes your tips and suggestions on Miami's best.



Sarah M. Sukkar, MD, joined us as Lead Pediatrician of the School Health Initiative and Assistant Professor in the Section of Community Pediatrics. She is a Broward County native and first generation American of Cuban and Lebanese parents. She attended University of Florida for her BS in Microbiology and Cell Science before obtaining her MD at the UM, where she was the Executive Director of the Department of Community Service (DOCS) program focused on serving underserved patients in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties. She completed her residency training at UM/JHS and was awarded the Charles H. Pegelow Award for her commitment to the care of children, as well as the Nancy Fawcett Excellence in Pediatric Hospital Medicine award upon graduation. She served as the Pediatric Chief Resident for the program in 2023-2024, with a focus on primary-care curriculum development and educational content for residency rotations.



José Hernan Martinez Ortega, NP, joined the Child Protection Team as a Nurse Practitioner. He was born in Colombia, and earned his DNP from Florida International University. For the last four years, he has participated in a humanitarian effort focusing on unaccompanied children crossing US borders. He has been married for 41 years and has two children. He has a fish tank with seven amazing discus fish.



Veronica Perez, BS, joined us as a part-time Research Assistant on the Jump Start ECC Program Data Management Team. She was born and raised in Miami, but is deeply connected to her Hispanic roots, as her family is from Managua, Nicaragua. Veronica is a first-generation college student and graduated with a BS in Biological Sciences from Florida International University, where she was enrolled in their Honors College Program. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. During her free time, Veronica enjoys cooking and baking, which led her to open her own small business called V's Very Berry Sweets that sells custom chocolate-covered strawberry boxes. She also enjoys spending time with her family and going boating on the weekends to relax under the Miami sun.

AUGUST AWARDS

Intern of the month goes to ...

DR. ADRIANA GONZALEZ

Hometown: Havana, Cuba

Medical School: USF Health
Morsani College of Medicine

Future Career: Critical Care

Adriana is amazing!! She always went above and beyond for each and every one of her patients. The way she connected with her patients was really special. She regularly bought them lunch and took them for walks around campus. She was also the best co-intern! I could always count on her for help with orders or getting tasks done. She was my biggest supporter throughout this month and I really couldn't have done it without her!

She took on a heavy workload her first week and had a positive attitude the entire time. She's a rock star!

Adriana is extremely professional, knows when to ask the right questions and very approachable.



Resident of the month goes to ...

DR. SOPHIA MAE BISCH

Hometown: Pompano Beach, FL

Medical School: Nova
Southeastern University College
of Osteopathic Medicine

Future Career: NICU vs A/I

Sophia Bisch in her first month as a NICU resident, she demonstrated remarkable dedication and hard work. She took full ownership of her patients, proactively expanded her knowledge in her spare time and had a positive attitude towards learning. Her pleasant personality and strong teamwork skills made her a joy to work with. Looking forward to working with her in the future.

Sophia is such an MVP. She took all the chaos in stride. She was putting in orders and had everything under control from day 1. She is a team player and added good vibes to the group dynamic. Such a pleasure working with her.

Mae is a great resident who is very thoughtful and a great bedside manner. She always shares knowledge and shares her reading materials. She is also pretty decent at pickleball.



Fellow of the month goes to ...

DR. RAYAN TERKAWI

Extraordinary human being. So so so helpful and patient during interns first month. Very smart and humble, makes nephrology seem easy.

Rayan is such a pleasure to work with! Always kind and approachable, I felt like I could come to him with literally any question and he would answer it. He closed the loop with us and made us feel involved in patient care and management decisions, as well as doing great teaching on rounds. 10/10 would love to work with him again!

Very responsive, respectful, teaches extremely well and calming when the service is busy while also giving autonomy!



Attending of the month goes to ...

DR. JUANITA HUNTER

Dr. Hunter is amazing! She is so knowledgeable, patient, and passionate about developing strong relationships with her patients and team! She provided a lot of evidence based clinical pearls and great insight into cardiac pathology and echo reads. It is a joy to work with her!

Dr. Hunter is very inclusive and is always available.

Dr. Hunter is a great mentor. Her door is always open to discuss any difficult situations and come up with helpful solutions. She takes the time to teach fellows and residents and always has our best interest at heart.



EVENTS

Congratulations to the Mailman Center 2023-2024 Pediatric Psychology Residents on their Graduation!



Manuel Marichal, Leah Phillips, Tatiana Magana, Megan Golson, Ayanna Troutman, Katie Balistreri, Evan Burdette, and LeAnna Kehl at their graduation.



In our NICU, **Nicole Birmaher**, Board-Certified Music Therapist, conducted an introduction to MNE (Multimodal Neurological Enhancement) a music therapy technique utilized to help premature infants learn to tolerate and process stimulation using different forms of stimulation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Davis TW, **Tolentino J**, Lee SMJ, Zaw C, Talante G. Cerebral Palsy. In: *Care of Adults with Chronic Childhood Conditions*. Springer Publishing. 2024. Page 311.
2. Fremion E, Hernandez N, Khavari R, Stewart J, **Tolentino J**. Spina Bifida. In: *Care of Adults with Chronic Childhood Conditions*. Springer Publishing. 2024. Page 575.
3. Luo S, Alwattar B, Li Q, Bora K, Blomfield A K, Lin J, Fulton A, Chen J, **Agrawal PB**. HBS1L deficiency causes retinal dystrophy in a child and in a mouse model associated with defective development of photoreceptor cells. *Disease Models and Mechanisms*. July 30, 2024. PMID: 38966981
PMCID: [PMC11317091](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PMC11317091/) DOI: [10.1242/dmm.050557](https://doi.org/10.1242/dmm.050557)
4. Provinciatto H, Barbalho M E, Araujo Júnior E, Cruz-Martínez R, **Agrawal PB**, Tonni G, Ruano R. Fetoscopic tracheal occlusion for isolated severe left diaphragmatic hernia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*. June 18, 2024. PMID: 38930102 PMCID: [PMC11204948](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PMC11204948/)
DOI: [10.3390/jcm13123572](https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm13123572)
5. Starke N, Challa N V D, Yuan H, Chen S, Duncan MR, Cabrera Ranaldi ED, de Rivero Vaccari JP, Schott A, Aguilar AC, Lee YS, Khan A, **Duara J, Tan A, Benny M, Schmidt AF, Young K, Bancalari E, Claire N, Wu S**. Extracellular vesicle ASC: A novel mediator for lung-brain axis in preterm brain injury. *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*. July 3, 2024. PMID: 38959416
DOI: [10.1165/rcmb.2023-0402OC](https://doi.org/10.1165/rcmb.2023-0402OC)
6. Porter C, Lyski ZL, Uhrlaub JL, Ellingson KD, Jeddy Z, **Gwynn L**, Rivers P, Sprissler R, Hegmann KT, Coughlin MM, Fowlkes AL, Hollister J, LeClair L, Mak J , Beitel SC, Fuller S, Zheng PQ, Vaughan M, Rai RP, Grant L, Newes-Adeyi G, Yoo YM, Olsho L, Burgess JL, Caban-Martinez AJ, Yoon SK, Britton A, Gaglani M, Phillips AL, These MS, Briggs Hagen M, Jones JM, Lutrick K. Evaluating immunologic and illness outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection in vaccinated and unvaccinated children aged ≥ 5 years in a multisite longitudinal cohort. *Diseases*. August 1, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.3390/diseases12080171>
7. Peskin A, Barth A, Mansoor E, Farias A, Rothenberg WA, Garcia D, **Jent J**. Impact of parent child interaction therapy on child eating behaviors. *Appetite*. 2024 Sep 1:200:107544.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2024.107544>
8. Borroto MC, Michaud C, Hudon C, **Agrawal PB**, et al. A genotype/phenotype study of *KDM5B*-associated disorders suggests a pathogenic effect of dominantly inherited missense variants. *Genes*. August 6, 2024, 15(8), 1033; <https://doi.org/10.3390/genes15081033>

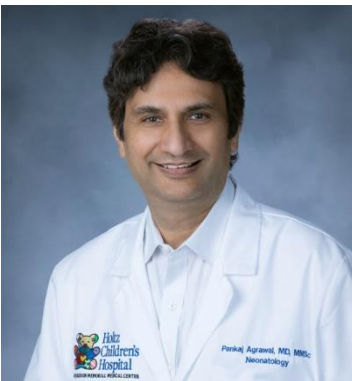
MEDIA APPEARANCES



Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP, was featured in the *University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Newsletter*: [Dr. Glenn Flores Honored for Career Devoted to Children's Health - InventUM \(miami.edu\)](https://www.miami.edu/newsletter/childrens-health-inventum)

Dr. Flores was the featured guest on the *First Focus on Children* podcast, *Speaking of Kids*: he explained that the most important lesson in child health research and policy is that children are not little adults - they have vastly different anatomy and physiology, depending on their age, which requires taking a developmental perspective.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/speaking-of-kids/id1711094805?i=1000666085148>



Pankaj Agrawal, MD, MMSc, was interviewed by *InventUM*: [Researchers Identify a Second Cystic Fibrosis Genetic Culprit - InventUM \(miami.edu\)](https://www.inventum.com/researchers-identify-a-second-cystic-fibrosis-genetic-culprit)



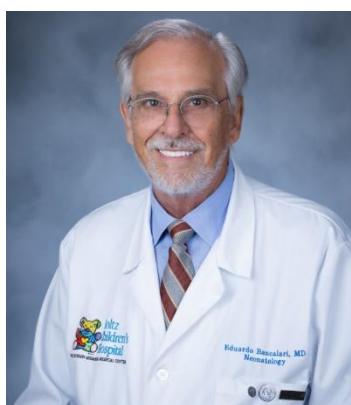
Ignacio Tapia, MD, was interviewed by *InventUM* to discuss his book: [UHealth Pediatric Pulmonologist Co-writes Textbook About Infant Sleep - InventUM \(miami.edu\)](https://www.inventum.com/uhealth-pediatric-pulmonologist-co-writes-textbook-about-infant-sleep)

PRESENTATIONS



Karen Young, MD, was a speaker at the 29th International Perinatal Collegium, in Quebec City, Canada, where she presented, “Extracellular Vesicles Shed from Senescent Pulmonary Microvascular Endothelial Cells Contribute to Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling in Newborn Rodents.”

Dr. Young also was a keynote Speaker at the 11th International Symposium of Cell and Gene Therapy Institute in Korea, where she presented, “Extracellular Vesicles: Friends or Foe in Neonatal Respiratory Diseases.”

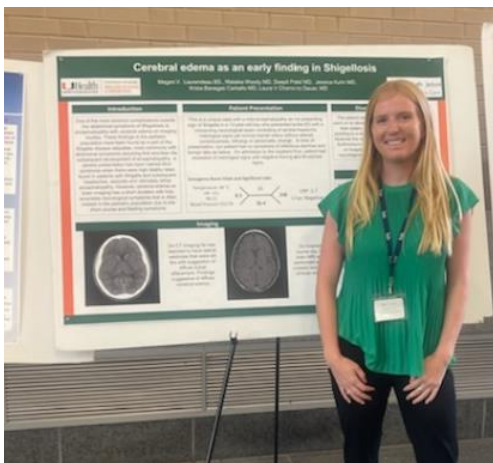


Eduardo Bancalari, MD, was a guest speaker at the Federación Nacional de Neonatología de México, where he presented, “Episodios de Hipoxemia en el Prematuro: Causas y Consecuencias,” via Webinar. June 19, 2024.



Laura Chamorro Dauer, Sabrina Taldone, Zeina Hannosh, and Hilit F. Mechaber, presented, “The Impact of Longitudinal Clinician Educators on Medical Students’ Professional Development” at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Julia Belkowitz, Lisa Gwynn, Tara Kenworthy LaMarca, and Elizabeth Pulgarón also presented, “Young people providing care: Emerging research-legislation nexus in the United States” at the International Academy of Law and Mental Health in Barcelona, Spain.



Megan Laurendeau, Malaika Woody, Deepti Patel, Jessica Kuhn, Krisia Banegas Carballo, and Laura Chamorro Dauer presented the poster, "Cerebral edema as an early finding in Shigellosis," at the 2024 New England Pediatric Hospital Medicine Conference.



Michelle Schladant and **Austin Garilli** were invited speakers at the One Goal Summer Conference for early childhood educators and leaders on July 18, in Tampa. They presented "How AT Benefits All Children in the Inclusive Classroom."



Juan Solano and **Jennifer Coto** presented at the Annual Concussion Workshop for the Miami-Dade County Public High School Athletic Directors and Trainers on August 5.

Please send your good news to Managing Editor Rosa Tamayo at rxp352@med.miami.edu, so that we may feature it in future *Bulletins*.