

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS *GOOD NEWS BULLETIN*

**Volume 6, Issue 5
May 2026**

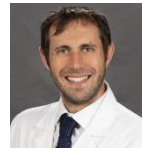
In this issue, we highlight several impressive faculty and trainee achievements, additions of new faculty and staff members to our UM/HCH family, publications, and platform and poster presentations at major meetings. Kudos to all!

AWARDS AND HONORS

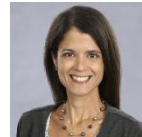
Congratulations to our 11 stellar faculty members on their well-deserved promotions! Your dedication to excellence and service continues to strengthen our community and inspire those around you. We are grateful for your contributions and look forward to your continued success!

PROMOTION TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Warren Alperstein



Eileen M. Davis



Aditi Dhir



Brent Pfeiffer



PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

Fernando Corrales-Medina



Ivan A. Gonzalez



Jason Jent



Chryso Katsoufis



Jennifer Muñoz-Pareja



Elizabeth Pulgarón



Wacharee Seeherunvong



**UHealth Provider Recognition Program
Overall Star Rating Provider Recognition | Pediatrics**

Four health providers are recognized for achieving an outstanding overall star rating, highlighting their commitment to exceptional care and a superior patient experience. Their efforts make a meaningful difference every day. Congratulations!



Timeframe: Jan 1 st , 2026 - Mar 31 st , 2026	
Provider Name	Times Recognized
Andrea M. Assantes, MD	2 nd time
Cecilia V. Morales, MD	2 nd time
Patricia Gomez, MD	2 nd time
Yong Bao, MD	1 st time

WELCOME, NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Katarzyna Dabrowska, MD, joined the Division of Neonatology as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics. She obtained her MD in Poland, completed her pediatric residency training in the Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center/New York University School of Medicine, and her fellowship training in neonatal-perinatal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital. She was a faculty member of the Division of Neonatology of Polish Mother’s Memorial Hospital Research Institute in Lodz and Deputy Chief of the Division of Neonatology of the Central Teaching Hospital of the Medical University of Lodz. Dr. Dabrowska’s research interests include infant cardiovascular physiology, point-of-care cardiac echocardiography, and invasive and non-invasive ventilatory support of the neonates.



Nicole Fernandez, BA, joined the Early Steps Program as a Case Worker. Nicole earned her AA in Biology from Miami Dade College before continuing to Florida Gulf Coast University, where she completed her BA in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience and Cognition, and a minor in Biology. Her curiosity about people, science, and the brain has led her to research opportunities at St. Thomas University, Nova Southeastern University, Florida Gulf Coast University, and a biotechnology startup company. From pharmacy counters to research laboratories, she has gained a diverse range of experiences, skills, and perspectives along the way. She values building meaningful connections, maintaining a positive outlook, and approaching each opportunity with curiosity and enthusiasm.



Jessica Magazine, MSW, joined the Pediatrics Perinatal Care group as a Case Manager. Jessica is a licensed clinical social worker. She was born and raised in Miami. She earned her MSW from Barry University and currently serves the University of Miami Department of Pediatrics, supporting the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Substance Exposed Newborn and Coordinated Intake and Referral programs. Her role focuses on care coordination, family support, interdisciplinary collaboration, and program operations. Her professional experience includes community mental health, substance-use treatment, maternal-child health, and healthcare case management, with an emphasis on serving high-risk populations. Jessica is passionate about improving systems of care, strengthening communication and organizational efficiency within interdisciplinary teams, and helping families access meaningful support and resources. Outside of work, she enjoys wellness-focused learning, music, concerts, playing poker, attending sporting events, and spending quality time with family.



N. Mabel Marín, PsyD, joined the Pediatrics Perinatal Care group as a Case Manager. Mabel earned her PsyD from Pontifical Javeriana University and specialized in conflict mediation at University of San Buenaventura. She has provided psychological counseling and emotional support to individuals experiencing anxiety, stress, and a variety of other personal challenges through virtual counseling services. Through her clinical practice and community outreach initiatives, Mabel developed strong communication and interpersonal skills, while successfully helping clients strengthen coping strategies, build confidence, and improve emotional well-being. She has also participated in mental-health awareness initiatives, including seminars, congresses, and workshops focused on promoting psychological wellness. Outside of her professional work, Mabel enjoys reading about human development and behavior, practicing mindfulness, and exploring creative hobbies, such as journaling and photography. She is also passionate about music, and enjoys discovering relaxing playlists that help her recharge after a busy day.



Katherine Gomez, BA, joined the Pediatric Perinatal group as a Case Worker. She earned her BA in Psychology from Florida International University. From an early age, she developed a deep interest in understanding human behavior and supporting the well-being of children and families. Her academic background and professional experiences have strengthened her passion for research, patient-centered care, and advancing pediatric healthcare. Throughout her career, she has remained committed to fostering compassionate care and supporting clinical and research initiatives aimed at improving patient outcomes. She values empathy, collaboration, cultural understanding, and continuous learning, and strives to build meaningful connections with patients, families, and colleagues. Outside of work, Katherine enjoys running and practicing Pilates.

KUDOS

Antonia Rovira, MD, PGY-6 Pediatric GI Fellow, earned First Place for her QI project, “Improving Bowel Preparation for Pediatric Outpatient Colonoscopies,” and **Tara Gavcovich, MD, Assistant Professor**, earned Second Place for her QI project, “Improving Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor Use in Children with Chronic Kidney Disease,” during the Invited Oral Presentations session at the UM 2026 Quality and Safety Showcase, sponsored by the Office of Graduate Medical Education on May 13, 2026. Congratulations to both presenters on this well-deserved recognition of their impactful scholarly work.





PEDIATRICS

Faculty and Staff Long Service Awards

Honoring UM employees who have served the organization for 25 years and beyond. This list includes employees who have reached a milestone of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, or 60 years of service at the U! Hearty congratulations to our amazing 17 Department of Pediatrics Faculty and Staff for their many years of dedicated service!!

- Isabel Vilaboy, Office Manager 45**
- Marie Gaston, Manager, Research Support 45**
- Dora Fernandez, Assistant Professor, Neonatology 40**
- Daniel F. Armstrong, Director, Mailman Center for Child Development 40**
- Gwendolyn Phillips Samuels, Supervisor of Case Workers 40**
- Lawrence Friedman, Division Chief of Adolescent Medicine 40**
- Maria Peinado, Assistant Professor of Neonatology 40**
- Carmen Blanco, Manager of Sponsored Programs 35**
- Nelson Clauré, Professor, Neonatology 35**
- Benjamin Quiles, Database Analyst 30**
- Cecilia Morales, Assistant Professor, General Pediatrics 25**
- Maritza Iglesias, Sr. Classroom Assistant 25**
- Ofelia Alvarez, Professor, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology 25**
- Reinaldo Rodriguez, Clinical Program Manager 25**
- Rochelle Baer, Clinical Program Manager 25**
- Ruby Natale, Professor, Pediatric Psychology 25**
- Teresa Del-Moral, Professor, Neonatology 25**



EVENTS
Celebrating Nurses' Week
May 6-12

The American Nurses Association designated the 2026 official theme as "The Power of Nurses." This highlights the irreplaceable value nurses bring to healing and patient advocacy.



Thanks, amazing ACC 5
Clinic Nurses!



PUBLICATIONS

1. O'Connor M, Chiel L, Lewis J, Winn AS, Poitevien P, Dwyer A, Nuncio Lujano B, Koenig C, Adair J, Batra M, Brooks L, Chiel Z, DeBlasio D, Fishman MD, Lockett Gardner F, Hairfield A, Kuo A, Mack P, Mitre V, Ndjatou T, Omoruyi E, Rouse L, Shaw J, Simms-Mackey P, Stewart DA, Tatem A, **Tolentino J**, Barone MA, Turner DA. Defining the practice of the general pediatrician: Entrustable professional activities update. *Pediatrics*. May 1, 2026. 157 (5): e2025073647. PMID: 41956489 DOI: [10.1542/peds.2025-073647](https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2025-073647)
2. **Alladin A**, Goodman KW, Johnson E, Ladd HJ, Machado J, Ford R, **Brosco JP**. Toward a community standard for clinical ethics: The South Florida Pediatric Bioethics Consortium. *Hospital Pediatrics*. May 1, 2026. PMID: 41951225 DOI: [10.1542/hpeds.2025-008643](https://doi.org/10.1542/hpeds.2025-008643)
3. Hills S, Werner M, Douglas J, D'Gama AM, Wojcik MH, Young V; VIGOR Network; Yu TW, **Agrawal PB**, Parker MG. Understanding perspectives of safety-net NICU neonatologists disclosing genomic sequencing results: a mixed methods approach. *Journal of Perinatology*. May 5, 2026. PMID: 42086727 DOI: [10.1038/s41372-026-02655-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41372-026-02655-4)
4. **Ali SS**, **Li Q**, Turk EA, Im K, Bibbo C, **Schmitz-Abe K**, Ramesh M, Grant PE, **Agrawal PB**. Relationship between placental oxygen transport, fetal birth weight, and umbilical cord transcriptome in monozygotic twins. *Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine*. May 2026. PMID: 42067997 DOI: [10.1177/19345798251387335](https://doi.org/10.1177/19345798251387335)
5. **Zegelbone P**, **Young K**, Hughes F, **Wu S**, Kumaraswamy A, Williams K. Structural and functional abnormalities in the preterm heart: From development to adulthood. *Journal of the American Heart Association*. May 14, 2026. PMID: 42132206 DOI: [10.1161/JAHA.125.047539](https://doi.org/10.1161/JAHA.125.047539)
6. Gatewood AK, Morgen M, Eickhoff J, **Brosco JP**, Houtrow AJ, Chung PJ, Ghandour RM, Payne S, Collier RJ. Mapping meaningful populations of children with special health care needs. *JAMA Health Forum*. May 1, 2026. PMID: 42138956 PMID: [PMCID: PMC13179550](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42138956/) DOI: [10.1001/jamahealthforum.2026.1199](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamahealthforum.2026.1199)

MEDIA APPEARANCES



Glenn Flores, MD, FAAP, was featured on NPR: [rural hospital Colorado medical translators : NPR](#)

PRESENTATIONS

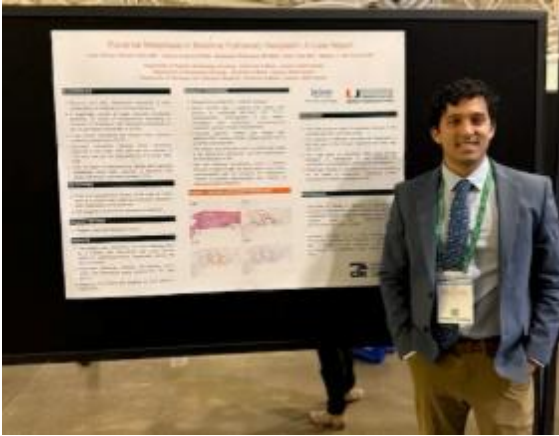


Miguel Saps, MD, was a group leader for The Rome V Pediatric Committee at the Psychogastroenterology Symposium held May 2 in Chicago. Rome V provides updated criteria for pediatric disorders of gut-brain interaction, replacing age-based subdivisions. The Psychogastroenterology Symposium is a new, in-person educational conference designed specifically for GI psychologists and other GI-specialized mental-health professionals. This event provided state-of-the-art education on two emerging practice areas in gastropsychology through the lens of expert gastroenterologists and GI psychologists: inflammatory bowel disease and chronic pancreatitis. In addition, international experts presented a new psychobiological model of disorders of gut-brain interaction, including its implications for clinical practice. This event included a panel of leaders in gastropsych practices, sharing their expertise for developing and maintaining successful integrated practices, and a panel of research experts who discussed the latest topics in gastropsych research.



Ofelia Alvarez, MD, was invited by the Agrupación Mexicana para el Estudio de la Hematología to deliver a talk on May 6, 2026. The title of the presentation was “Diagnóstico de la anemia drepanocítica: confirmación, estudios complementarios y evaluación integral del paciente.” There were 573 attendees from 15 countries. The Agrupación Mexicana para el Estudio de la Hematologia is a medical organization that brings together healthcare professionals interested in the research on the physiology of the hematopoietic system and related diseases. This organization represents many hematological interests in the country, and includes hematologists, clinical pathologists, internists, chemists, and other professionals in this field.

Poster Presentation



Omar Alfonso Heredia Nieto, MD, PGY4 Fellow in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship, presented a poster entitled "Placental Metastasis in Maternal Pulmonary Neoplasm: A Case Report," at The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology's (ASPHO) 2026 Conference in Minneapolis.

Oral Presentations



Fernando Corrales-Medina, MD, FAAP, chaired the international course "Addressing Unmet Needs in Hemophilia A and VWD Across Asia," held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, prior to the 2026 World Federation of Hemophilia Congress. During the meeting, Dr. Corrales-Medina delivered several oral presentations focused on emerging and trending topics in Hemophilia A and von Willebrand disease to more than 50 hematologists from across Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand. He shared his clinical experience in the management of patients with congenital bleeding disorders and discussed recent advances in the diagnosis and treatment of these coagulopathies.



Fernando Corrales-Medina, MD, FAAP, gave an oral presentation during the 2026 World Federation of Hemophilia Congress, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he showcased the interim findings on the global utilization metrics of the VWDtest.com initiative. VWDtest.com is an innovative, patient-centered digital platform designed to enhance awareness and facilitate earlier recognition of von Willebrand disease among both patients and non-hematology healthcare providers. The platform has reached over 20 regionally adapted versions in more than 14 languages, and continues to expand its global footprint.



Fernando Corrales-Medina, MD, FAAP, presented "Cost Comparison of Prophylactic vs. On-Demand Use of a 1:1 ratio pdVWF/FVIII Concentrate in type 3 von Willebrand Disease with Severe Bleeding Phenotype in the United States: A Payer and Societal Perspective as an oral presentation during The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology's (ASPHO) 2026 Conference in Minneapolis.



Fernando Corrales-Medina, MD, FAAP, was invited by the "Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile" to participate as an international guest speaker during the 10th International Course on Advances in Hemostasis and Thrombosis, held in Santiago Chile from May 7th-8th, 2026. Dr. Corrales-Medina gave two lectures entitled "100 years of Von Willebrand Disease," and "Prophylaxis in Von Willebrand Disease."

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