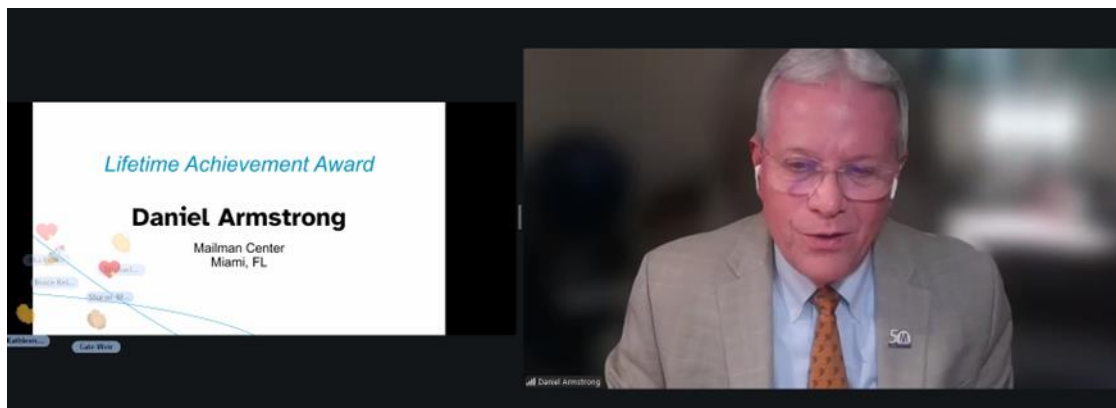


DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS *GOOD NEWS BULLETIN*

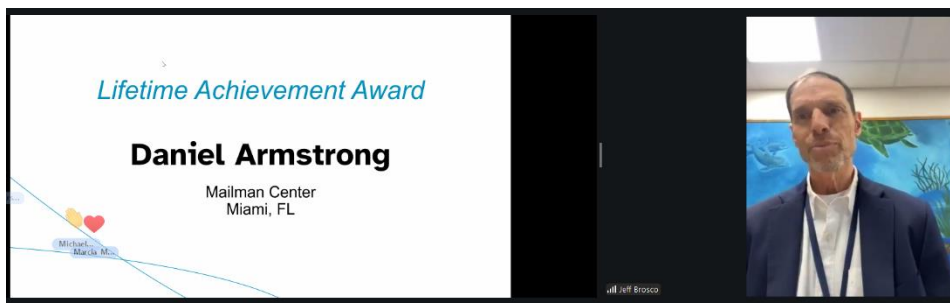
Volume 5, Issue 11
November 2025

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



The Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) bestowed its Lifetime Achievement Award upon **Dr. Danny Armstrong**. The Lifetime Achievement Award places Dr. Armstrong in an elite group of past recipients; it is AUCD's most prestigious national award. The first photo is of Dr. Armstrong delivering remarks after receiving the award.



The second photo depicts our own Dr. Brosco providing the AUCD introductory remarks for Dr. Armstrong prior to receiving the award.

MSOM released a great story on Danny's tremendous accomplishment: <https://news.med.miami.edu/miller-school-of-medicines-dr-daniel-armstrong-receives-lifetime-achievement-award/> Kudos, Dr. Armstrong!

Seven UM Department of Pediatric Faculty Members Elected American Pediatric Society (APS) Members!

Seven(!) of our faculty were elected as members of the American Pediatric Society (APS), the oldest and most prestigious academic society in pediatrics. Of note, this means that **9%** of the new 2025 APS members hail from our Department, and **over 20% (30 in total)** of our Department's faculty are APS members. Congratulations to our seven new APS members!



Nelson Clauré, MSc, PhD



Teresa Del Moral, MD



Dainelys Garcia, PhD



Gwynn DO, MBA, MSPH, FAAP



Jennifer Muñoz Pareja, MD



Elizabeth Pulgarón, PhD



Miguel Saps, MD



Adriana Hoffman, MD, UM Neonatology Fellow, was selected as a prestigious 2026 Pediatric Scientist Development Program (PSDP) Scholar. She is the first ever PSDP awardee from UM. PSDP provides a training environment in which talented young pediatricians address central problems in child health with the most current scientific tools. Ultimately, these pediatric scientists, dedicated to continuing careers in basic, translational, and clinical research, will translate research advances to improvements in clinical care for children. The PSDP also provides career-development support for pediatricians committed to careers in academic medicine. Congratulations, Adriana!

WELCOME, NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!



Taylor Rosenblat, PsyD, joined us as Clinical Psychologist in the Division of Pediatric Psychology. Dr. Rosenblat received her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Nova Southeastern University. She then completed her clinical internship at the Marcus Autism Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta/Emory University, where she specialized in assessment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and early intervention for toddlers experiencing social communication delays. Following internship, Dr. Rosenblat completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the Autism Spectrum Assessment Clinic in the University of Miami's Department of Psychology, where she continued her specialized training in assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with or suspected of ASD. She has experience using evidence-based ASD diagnostic measures (e.g., ADOS-2 and CARS2), as well as training in novel eye-tracking technology to reveal how children engage with their surroundings and enhance access to early intervention. Her clinical and research interests include the early assessment and diagnosis of ASD, and development and implementation of early interventions to improve behavior and parent-child interactions. Outside of the clinic, you can find her trying group fitness classes around South Florida, spending time with her family, listening to Taylor Swift, and running around with her Goldendoodle.



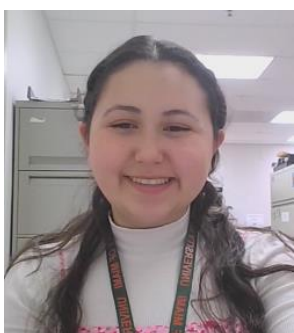
Daniella "Dani" Cadet, RADT, joined us as a Peer Support Specialist for Perinatal Care. Dani is an aspiring art therapist dedicated to helping others heal through compassion and creativity. Originally from Miami and raised in Costa Rica, she holds degrees in Media Arts & Design and Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, along with a Certificate in Substance Use Disorder Counseling. During her eight years in San Diego, Dani worked with the re-entry population and developed an acclaimed art-therapy program at an outpatient SUD treatment center, earning the SUD STAR Award for her innovative work. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in psychology at the University of Miami with the goal of becoming a licensed art therapist. Outside her professional life, she enjoys painting, yoga, nature, and spending time with her family and dogs, all of which inspire her vision of creating a healing space that unites art, mindfulness, and recovery.



Sabrina Torres, BS, joined us as an Administrative Assistant in the Division of Neonatology. She grew up in Santa Ana, El Salvador, and recently moved to Miami. She holds a BS in Public Relations and Administration. Currently, she is interested in studying a related minor at the University of Miami. In 2019, she funded a business called JOEL Gifts, focused on providing gift services in bulk order to companies in El Salvador; among its clients were developing companies and the state-owned bank. She has three adopted cats and, in her long-term goal is to establish animal shelters in both the US and El Salvador. She plans to travel to Japan one day, and is learning Japanese. Sabrina enjoys cooking for her fiancé and working out, and her favorite book is *War and Peace*. She enjoys Sudoku, and prefers the mountains over the beach!



Danay Urquiola, BA, joined us as a Patient Navigator for Patient Experience and Services. She has been part of the Early Discovery team at the University of Miami for over two years. She supports pediatric development programs by working directly with families, helping them navigate the process of accessing services and guiding them through their therapy journeys. She is pursuing a Master's in Foundations in Behavior Analysis at the University of Cincinnati, and holds a BA in International Business and Marketing from FIU. She is passionate about pediatric development and behavior analysis, and hopes to one day conduct research on how combining ABA services with mental-health interventions as a comprehensive treatment plan can impact the long-term quality of life for children with ASD. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, especially her son, Derek.



Ashley Mendelson, BIS, joined us as a Case Worker for the Early Steps Program. She earned her BS at FIU. Ashley has been immersed in the field of education since turning 15 years old. She has been a preschool teacher, teacher assistant, and high-school substitute. She values helping children, especially those who need it most. She has always prided herself on providing students with a safe space that is free of judgement for those needing it. Ashley was born and raised in Miami, but her family roots are based in Colombia and New York. She can be most commonly found reading magical stories or baking sweet treats for her friends and family.

Micah Batchelor Awards Recipients
November 4, 2025

We are delighted to announce the four recipients of the prestigious and competitive 21st annual Micah Batchelor Awards for Excellence in Children's Health. These awards were established through a generous gift from George E. Batchelor in memory of his late grandson, Micah, to honor and support physician-researchers at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics. In our November 4th ceremony, presided over by MSOM Dean Henri Ford, UM Provost Joel Samuels, and your Chair, Dr. Flores, the following awards were bestowed:



Excellence Award

Merline Benny, MD, MS

Project: Targeting Gasdermin-D in neonatal hyperoxia-induced systemic vascular dysfunction.



Fellow Award

Klaus Erich Schmitz-Abe, PhD

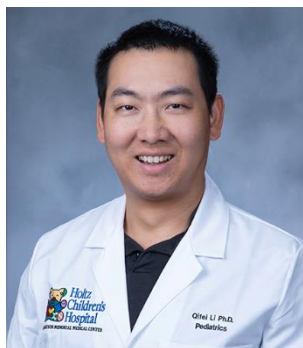
Project: AI-Variant Assistant for Genetic Diagnosis in Rare Diseases and Multi-omics



Scholar Award

Agustin J. Cabrera Goncalves, MD

Project: Improving Pediatric Respiratory Monitoring: A Comparative Study of End-Tidal and Transcutaneous CO₂ Measurements During Hypercapnic Ventilatory Response Testing



Scholar Award

Qifei Li, PhD

Project: Novel therapies to target a genetic disease with myopathy and cardiomyopathy

KUDOS



Janine Sanchez, MD, volunteered for a three-day initiative to provide free endocrinology care for pediatric diabetes patients, educate local healthcare providers, and raise community awareness in Turks and Caicos during October 15-17th. There are no pediatric endocrinologist on the island. In addition to seeing patients, she presented a diabetes workshop and CME lecture for local physicians.

EVENTS

University of Miami Hemophilia Treatment Center's Von Willebrand Academy for Latin American Physicians



For the sixth consecutive year, UM's Hemophilia Treatment Center's Von Willebrand Academy for Latin American Physicians, led by Fernando F. Corrales-Medina, MD, FAAP, and supported by an educational grant from Octapharma Inc., welcomed 16 physicians from Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. The program focused on advancing knowledge in clinical management, laboratory diagnosis, and women's health challenges related to von Willebrand disease (VWD).

Invited speakers included world-renowned experts from Harvard University, Washington University, and the University of Texas Southwestern, as well as distinguished faculty from the UM Departments of Pediatrics, Pathology, and OB/GYN.

Weston Town Center Halloween Community Event



The Weston Pediatric Specialty Clinic clinical nursing team held a Halloween community event at the Weston Town Center on October 31, 2025.

Weston Pediatric Specialty Clinic Craft Show



The Weston Pediatric Specialty Clinic clinical nursing team, Monica Altamiranda and Yessica Aguilar Escobar, held a community-engagement event to raise awareness of the pediatric specialty clinic. The event was held at the Weston Town Center Holiday Craft Show on November 16, 2025.

CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS



Ghislaine Archer, MPH, Project Manager, celebrated her baby shower with her UMteam. Looking forward to meeting baby Mia!



NOVEMBER RESIDENT AND ATTENDING AWARDS

Intern of the month goes to ...

VALERIYA SHAPOROVA

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Medical School: Nova Southeastern University
Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Valeriya is a stellar intern. She is hard working, cares about her patients, and has a great attitude. It's been a pleasure getting to work with her! Her presentations and documentation skills are strong.

Valeriya has been an amazing co-resident since the very beginning! She is caring, reliable, thoughtful and kind. Her patients are so lucky to have her and I am extremely grateful I get to work with her for the next 3 years!



Fellow of the month goes to ...

DR. GREGORY EDE

Greg loves to teach, organized, and always around to answer questions and support the residents!

Greg has truly set the bar for what it means to be an outstanding fellow. No matter how hectic the unit gets, he always takes the time to teach and makes sure residents not only do things, but actually understand why we're doing them. He is proactive, jumps in to help however he can, and creates one of the safest learning environments I've ever experienced. Without a doubt, he's the best fellow I've worked with yet — and we're lucky to learn from him.



Resident of the month goes to ...

DR. CAMILA SANKOVICH

Hometown: Bogota,
Colombia

Medical School:
Universidad CES Escuela
de Medicina

I love working with Cami! She is always so helpful and a great team player. She is great with patients and their families and everyone loves her. She truly cares for her patients and her team mates!

Cami is the best!! She's so thoughtful and cares so much about the patients. I felt so comfortable knowing my patients would be in her hands during the night!



Attending of the month goes to ...

DR. ROBIN HARRISON

Dr. Harrison was a wonderful attending on Red team. She created an environment where I felt supported and her way of teaching made it easy to learn from our patients. I am so grateful to have had the chance to work with her for 2 weeks! We are so lucky to have her at Holtz.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Fifi AC, **Gardner C**, Palorath A. Nutritional adequacy of commercially available blenderized tube feeds in pediatric patients. *Clinical Pediatrics*. October 1, 2025. PMID: 41159503 DOI: [10.1177/00099228251346040](https://doi.org/10.1177/00099228251346040)
2. **Ali SS, Li Q**, Turk EA, Im K, Bibbo C, **Schmitz-Abe K, Ramesh M**, Grant PE, and **Agrawal PB**. Relationship between placental oxygen transport, fetal birth weight, and umbilical cord transcriptome in monochorionic twins. *Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine*. October 15, 2025. DOI: [10.1177/19345798251387335](https://doi.org/10.1177/19345798251387335)
3. **Schladant M, Garilli A**, Balzano G, Elbaum B. Job-embedded peer coaching professional development to support preschool assistive technology use: Teachers' and peer coaches' perceptions. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. November 6, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-025-02048-w>

MEDIA APPEARANCES

The Holtz NICU and UM Division of Neonatology were featured in the *Miami Herald*: [Miami hospital's neo-natal unit for infants is state's biggest | Miami Herald](#)



Dr. Pankaj Agrawal, Marcella McCarthy and Dr. Karen Young at the bedside of McCarthy's baby girl at the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at Holtz Children's Hospital in Miami. The baby was born prematurely, weighing less than 1 pound and is now more than 6 pounds. PHOTO BY AL DIAZ adiaz@miamiherald.com

PRESENTATIONS



Karen Young, MD, MS, FAAP, gave an invited oral presentation entitled "*Effects of Adverse Perinatal Exposures on Kidney Aging*" in the Prenatal and Postnatal Effects on the Kidneys: Mechanisms and Innovative Therapies Session at the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney Week Meeting in Houston, TX, from November 6-8, 2025.



Marissa DeFreitas, MD, MS, presented at ASN Kidney Week a poster entitled "*Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and 2-Year Kidney Outcomes in Extremely Premature Neonates*," that was part of a collaboration with the Neonatal Kidney Collaborative, consisting of Russell Griffin, Keia Sanderson, **Karen Young**, Jaya Isaac, Kimberly Reidy, Arwa Nada, Jennifer Charlton, Jennifer G Jetton, Alison L Kent, Ronnie Guillet, David Askenazi, **Carolyn L Abitbol**.

LECTURES



Miguel Saps, MD, facilitated a lecture at the Postgraduate Course at NASPGHAN's annual meeting in Chicago on November 6, 2025. The course was entitled, "Dual Diagnosis-Chronic Luminal Disease with a DGBI Overlap."



Pankaj Agrawal, MD, chaired a session on “Genomic sequencing in the NICU” in the First international Global Newborn Society Meeting in Uppsala, Stockholm, Sweden, Nov 2-4, 2025.



Aditi Dhir, MD, was a guest speaker at the Pap Corps "Breakfast with a Doctor" Meeting in Boca Raton on October 9, and their end-of-year giving campaign which was featured in the *Boca Raton Tribune* on October 28.

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