

Congratulations to our Children's Hospital of Philadelphia-based Perelman School of Medicine faculty with research programs who have been formally promoted at the University of Pennsylvania as of July 1, 2021.

Faculty members promoted to the rank of associate professor:



Fran Balamuth, MD, PhD

Associate Director of Research,
Division of Emergency Medicine, CHOP
Co-Director of the Pediatric Sepsis Program, CHOP
Attending Physician, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Balamuth is an institutional leader in pediatric sepsis and a rising national leader in pediatric sepsis recognition and care. She has played a key role in developing and implementing a clinical practice guideline to care for patients with suspected sepsis at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Balamuth also has worked collaboratively with sepsis leaders throughout the institution to create a comprehensive prospective registry for patients with suspected sepsis, which allows us to track sepsis epidemiology and outcomes at CHOP.



Jeffrey Berman, PhD

Researcher, CHOP
Research Associate Professor of Radiology,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Berman's research focuses on the coupling between brain structure and function and how abnormal development of the structure-function relationships contribute to the clinical symptoms of disorders such as autism spectrum disorder. He conducts multimodal neuroimaging studies using magnetic resonance imaging and magnetoencephalography.



Heather Burris, MD, MPH

Attending Physician, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Burris is a neonatologist and a core faculty member at the Center for Pediatric Clinical Effectiveness. As a perinatal researcher, she's motivated by unequal birth outcomes across populations in the United States. Dr. Burris uses molecular epidemiologic approaches to study the intersection of social and environmental factors and how they contribute to birth outcome disparities.



Laura Conlin, PhD, FACMG

Director, Division of Genomic Diagnostics, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Conlin is a director in the Division of Genomic Diagnostics, which provides a wide spectrum of testing for genetic conditions, cancer diagnosis and treatment, and histocompatibility and immunogenetics. Along with Surabhi Mulchandani, and Elizabeth Bhoj, MD, PhD, Dr. Conlin co-led a multicenter effort that resulted in identifying a genetic disease in 2015 known as Mulchandani-Bhoj-Conlin syndrome (MBCS). MBCS is characterized by failure to thrive, severe short stature, and profound feeding difficulties, caused by an abnormality of chromosome 20.



Allison Curry, PhD, MPH

Director of Epidemiology and Biostatistics,
Center for Injury Research and Prevention, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

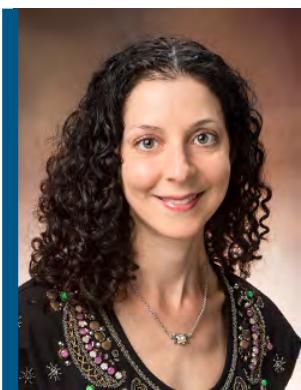
Dr. Curry's research focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of motor vehicle crashes in children and adolescents. She leads the development of the New Jersey Safety and Health Outcomes Data Warehouse, a tool being used to advance safety and health research and associated epidemiologic methods through novel linkages of state-level administrative data sources — including driver licensing, motor vehicle crashes, traffic citations, medical records, healthcare utilization, and vital statistics data.



John Herrington, PhD

Child Psychiatrist, CHOP
Associate Professor of Psychiatry,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

In the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at CHOP, Dr. Herrington directs the Emotion and Developmental Laboratory, which focuses on emotion regulation difficulties in childhood, and in particular, among children with autism. For example, Dr. Herrington's research has shed new light on how the size of an individual's amygdala – the region of our brains that processes emotions – might relate to autism.



Judith Kelsen, MD

Co-Leader, Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease Frontier Program, CHOP
Director, Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program, CHOP
Director, Joint Gastroenterology/Immunology VEO-IBD Clinic, CHOP
Attending Physician, CHOP,
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Kelsen's research focus is on the genetic, immunologic, and microbiomic causes of very early onset inflammatory bowel disease. Through a multidisciplinary team approach, Dr. Kelsen and her colleagues perform genetic sequencing to identify causative genetic variants in children with VEO-IBD, study the function of these variants, and use this information to improve the clinical outcomes for these children.



Sudha Kessler, MD, MSCE

Pediatric Neurologist, CHOP
Program Director, Child Neurology Residency, CHOP
Program Director, Pediatric Epilepsy Fellowship, CHOP
Catherine D. Brown Endowed Chair in Pediatric Epilepsy, CHOP
Associate Professor of Neurology,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Kessler is interested in the epileptic mechanisms of the human brain, specifically in children, and the effect that transcranial magnetic stimulation has on those neural processes. She is a core faculty member of the Epilepsy NeuroGenetics Initiative (ENGIN) Frontier Program, which seeks to diagnose, treat, and cure epilepsy by expanding genetic testing to all children with epilepsy.



Benjamin Laskin, MD, MS

Pediatric Nephrologist, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Laskin's research focuses on the conduct of clinical investigations and translational studies designed to target mechanisms to prevent, treat, or slow the progression of chronic kidney disease in immunosuppressed patients, including children receiving a bone marrow or kidney transplant. He has conducted several clinical research projects on disease in immunosuppressed children resulting in publications on the study of infections after kidney transplant and hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) and the study of thrombotic microangiopathy after HCT.



Kimberly Lin, MD

Attending Cardiologist, Cardiac Center, CHOP
Medical Director, Cardiomyopathy, CHOP
Co-Director, Penn-CHOP Joint Familial Cardiomyopathy Program
Program Director, Cardiomyopathy and Heart Transplantation Advanced
Fellowship, CHOP, Cardiac Director, Penn-CHOP Friedreich Ataxia Center of
Excellence, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Lin has expertise in heart and heart/lung transplantation, and she leads the Familial Cardiomyopathy Program at CHOP, which provides screening, evaluation, and coordinated care from a multidisciplinary team of cardiomyopathy and heart failure experts.



William Peranteau, MD

Attending Surgeon, Division of Pediatric General,
Thoracic and Fetal Surgery, CHOP
Associate Professor of Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. William Peranteau's research interest is in fetal development as it relates to the potential understanding of and fetal intervention for congenital anomalies. As a recipient of the highly competitive NIH Director's New Innovator Awards, Dr. Peranteau is focused on ways to advance gene-editing research that could one day allow physicians to correct monogenic diseases before babies are born, in utero, diminishing the devastating effects of the disorders or curing them.



Allan Simpao, MD, MBI

Co-director, Biomedical Informatics Program, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, CHOP

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Simpao, a pediatric anesthesiologist and clinical informatician, has a strong track record of innovation and research. He's led projects that use visual analytics and machine learning models to derive insights and predict outcomes using large healthcare data sets. Dr. Simpao's research focus is on using informatics and analytics to understand and improve patient care and perioperative outcomes.



Arun Srinivasan, MD, MRCS

Attending Pediatric Urologist, CHOP

Associate Professor of Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Srinivasan's research focuses on robotic and laparoscopic surgery, as well as pediatric stone disease. His interests include techniques in minimally invasive surgery, tools in management of voiding dysfunction and neurogenic bladder, and design/development of diagnostic and therapeutic devices in urology.



Vijay Srinivasan, MD, MBBS

Attending Physician, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Progressive Care Unit,
Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, CHOP

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Srinivasan works in research and quality improvement programs dealing with critical illness endocrinopathies and nutrition to improve outcomes in critically ill children. His research focuses on stress hyperglycemia with tight glycemic control and nutrition therapy.



Sarah Tasian, MD

Chief of the Hematologic Malignancies Program, CHOP
Pediatric Oncologist, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Sarah Tasian's research centers on the bench-to-bedside investigation of precision medicine therapies for high-risk childhood leukemias. To accomplish this, her research program focuses on the characterization of intracellular signal transduction networks and preclinical testing of kinase inhibitors in genetic subtypes of acute lymphoblastic leukemia and acute myeloid leukemia.



Jennifer Walter, MD, PhD, MS

Attending Physician, Justin Michael Ingerman Center for Palliative Care, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Ethics, and Health Policy,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Walter's research in the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit includes the customization of an interprofessional team and family-based intervention to improve communication about goals of care, and teamwork and evaluation of the intervention. Knowledge gained from this research will guide future interventions to improve outcomes for pediatric patients with advanced heart disease and their families.



Nadir Yehya, MD

Attending Physician, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatric Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Nadir Yehya is interested in all aspects of mechanical ventilation and respiratory failure in children, including pre-clinical models, ventilator-induced lung injury, and acute respiratory distress syndrome. His research focuses on circulating protein and mRNA biomarkers in pediatric acute respiratory distress syndrome for identification of disease subtypes and elucidation of pathologic pathways.



Katherine Yun, MD MHS

Attending Physician, Division of General Pediatrics and the Refugee Health Program, CHOP
Faculty Member, PolicyLab, CHOP
Director, Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship, CHOP
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Katherine Yun's research focuses on access and equity in refugee and immigrant health, specifically the well-being of children in immigrant families in the United States. Her work has focused on the prevalence of chronic, non-communicable conditions and insurance coverage among refugees in the U.S., differences in primary and dental care utilization by children in different types of immigrant families, and evaluation of health care navigation and related programs for refugee communities.

Faculty members promoted to the rank of professor:



Ricardo Eiraldi, PhD

Assistant Program Director, Center for Management of ADHD
Program Director, Behavioral Health in Urban Schools Program
Professor of Clinical Psychology in Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Professor of Clinical Psychology in Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Eiraldi's research interests are in the implementation of evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of externalizing and internalizing mental health disorders in school children. His research centers on the study of barriers to and facilitators of service utilization for ethnically diverse children and families and the development of strategies to address disparities in inner-city public schools. During the past 10 years, he has worked to develop and implement school-wide programs to prevent and treat externalizing (disruptive behavior, aggression, conduct problems) and internalizing mental disorders (anxiety, depression) in children.



Alexander Fiks, MD, MSCE

Director, Center for Pediatric Clinical Effectiveness, CHOP
Medical Director, Pediatric Research Consortium, CHOP
Director, The Possibilities Project, CHOP
Founding Member, Department of Biomedical and Health Informatics, CHOP
Attending Physician, CHOP
Professor of Pediatrics, Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Fiks' research is aimed at improving outcomes for ambulatory pediatric patients through primary care, practice-based scholarship with a focus on improving health and healthcare decision-making through health information technology. To achieve these goals, much of Dr. Fiks' research has focused on fostering shared decision-making between clinicians and families, often in the setting of behavioral health conditions. He is also especially interested in how electronic health record data may best be used to improve primary care, medication use, and child health more broadly.



Hao Huang, PhD

Primary Investigator, CHOP
Research Professor of Radiology,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Huang's research focuses on brain connectivity as well as micro-structural quantifications and brain atlases using cutting-edge neuroimaging acquisition techniques and big-data analysis. The goal is to address neuroscientific questions and identify diagnostic or therapeutic biomarkers.



Ian Jacobs, MD

Medical Director, Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders, CHOP
Attending Otolaryngologist, CHOP
Professor of Otorhinolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Jacobs's current research focuses on several areas, including the biochemical, microbiological, and genetic cause of scarring or stenosis of the laryngotracheal airway, and the development of tissue-engineered cartilage and other novel biomaterials for laryngotracheal reconstruction. Dr. Jacobs is also investigating the mitigation of button battery injuries in infants and children.



Peter Mattei, MD, FACS, FAAP

Attending Pediatric Surgeon, Division of General, Thoracic and Fetal Surgery, CHOP

Professor of Surgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Peter Mattei's research interests are in oncology and irritable bowel disease. As vice-chair for Quality, Safety, and Outcomes for the Department of Surgery and Director of the Surgical Quality Improvement Program, he is active in designing, overseeing, and conducting quality improvement projects at CHOP.



Wynne Morrison, MD, MBE

Director of the Justin Michael Ingerman Center for Palliative Care, Division of Critical Care, CHOP

Associate Chief for Faculty Affairs, Division of Critical Care, CHOP
Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care and Professor of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Morrison's research focuses on ethics, end-of-life care, and patient/family/physician communication. Studies conducted from the Justin Michael Ingerman Center for Palliative Care, of which she is the director, focus on how hospitals can better support families facing difficult decisions about a child's care, and how regional systems of care could be better organized to provide palliative support care services to children and their families.



Wudbhav Sankar, MD

Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon, CHOP

Director, Young Adult Hip Preservation Program

Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

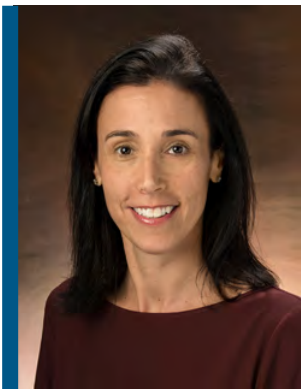
Dr. Sankar's research focuses on hip conditions in children, adolescents, and young adults, as well as scoliosis and other spinal disorders. His active areas of research include public health improvements in hip dysplasia, novel ultrasound techniques for infantile developmental dysplasia of the hip, the optimal management of slipped epiphysis, and hip instability in trisomy 21.



Steven Sobol, MD, MSc, FRCS(C), FAAP

Attending Surgeon, Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders, CHOP
Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship Program,
Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders, CHOP
Professor of Otorhinolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Steven Sobol's research interests focus on pediatric airway disorders. A recent study he conducted on tracheocutaneous fistula (TCF), a complication of tracheotomy, after pediatric open airway reconstruction suggested that surgeons should counsel families on the frequency of TCF and the potential for additional procedures needed for closure.



Jami Young, PhD

Clinical Psychologist and Director of Psychosocial Research,
Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences,
CHOP
Director/PI, Adolescent Depression Prevention and Treatment Lab, CHOP
Professor of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Young's research focuses on the identification, prevention, and treatment of adolescent depression. Her scholarship is driven by the need to understand what factors predispose youth to depression and the desire to develop, study, and disseminate interventions to help address the unmet needs of youth with mental health problems.



Karen Zur, MD

Division Chief, Division of Otolaryngology, CHOP
Director, Pediatric Voice Program, CHOP
Associate Director, Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders, CHOP
Professor of Otorhinolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery,
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Zur's research interests include pediatric laryngotracheal pathology, surgical reconstruction and voicing issues, and recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. She created and leads the nationally and internationally recognized Multidisciplinary Pediatric Voice Program, and currently has the largest pediatric recurrent laryngeal nerve reinnervation experience in the world.