Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Columbia University Department of Pediatrics

NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital
Overview
Mission Statement and Goals of Training
The Hospital
Clinical Programs
Weekly Conferences
Program Structure
Research
Faculty
Current Fellows
Graduates
Fellow Awards and Publications
Division Highlights
Additional Information
Overview

The fellowship program in Pediatric Gastroenterology is a 3-year, ACGME-accredited program committed to training the next generation of academic pediatric gastroenterologists. The program provides a balanced experience in outpatient and inpatient medicine, excellent procedural training, in-depth didactics and an outstanding environment for research. Fellows consult on a broad range of clinical gastroenterological problems including inflammatory bowel disease, cystic fibrosis, celiac disease, liver disorders, pancreatic disorders, intestinal failure and rehabilitation, and feeding and nutritional disorders.

Trainees benefit from the diverse clinical population seen at a major referral center, with consultations ranging from outpatient referrals to quaternary level inpatient care. Numerous clinical and research conferences provide the strong didactics that are necessary for up-to-date clinical care and research training. In addition to gaining proficiency in outpatient and inpatient pediatric gastroenterology, extensive training is also offered in basic and advanced procedures.

Scholarly work is an emphasized component of the training experience, and Columbia University Irving Medical Center offers a wealth of opportunities. Fellows are expected to participate in and take ownership of basic, clinical, or translational investigative projects and to produce high quality scholarship under the close supervision of an established faculty mentor. Regular committee meetings are organized to monitor and aid in the progress of fellows’ scholarly endeavors.

Mission Statement

We strive to guide our fellows as they develop into independent practitioners and scholars who will shape the field of pediatric gastroenterology. We individualize training with each fellow to identify and cultivate strengths and career goals, and develop clinical, procedural and scholarly skills necessary to succeed in a career as an academic gastroenterologist.

Goals of the Program

- Acquire subspecialty-specific knowledge and experience required to become an exemplary academic leader
- Promote progressive independence and confidence for lifelong learning
- Foster compassion, caring and professionalism
- Cultivate strengths and career goals

A Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Pediatric Diversity and Inclusion Council (PDIC) was founded in 2013 to provide a supportive environment for underrepresented-in-medicine residents. Since then, the PDIC has undergone tremendous growth. We have broadened the department’s focus from recruiting a diverse housestaff to providing structured diversity and inclusion programming as core elements of our pediatrics training experience. We are committed to recruitment and retention of residents, fellows and faculty who reflect the diverse population that we serve.
The Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, affectionately referred to as CHONY, began in 1887 as an eight-room rented house in midtown Manhattan called Babies Hospital. It became affiliated with the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University in 1911 and moved to an 11-story building at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in 1930. In 1972, a new hospital was built on Broadway at 168th Street, just south of the old hospital, in northern Manhattan. CHONY is now part of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, a network consisting of more than 35 hospitals. It is located at the Columbia University campus, which includes the Milstein Hospital, Neurological Institute, New York Orthopaedic Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Sloane Hospital for Women, Institute of Human Nutrition, and Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion. In November 2003, the new Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital Tower was opened, making the hospital the largest family-centered children’s hospital in New York.

Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital has a long and distinguished history. Our record of accomplishments is a rich one and includes the following milestones:

- Development of the Apgar score for the assessment of the newborn
- First use of the sulfonamides to treat children
- Definition of cystic fibrosis and development of the diagnostic sweat test
- First description of child abuse as the “battered child syndrome”
- Establishment of standards for the resuscitation of the newborn in the delivery room
- First intrauterine surgery to perform an exchange transfusion
- Initial use of intravenous alimentation in premature infants and development of standards for this form of nutrition
- First successful heart transplant in a child
- Development of varicella vaccine

Seidenberg Center for Children’s Digestive Health

The Phyllis and Ivan Seidenberg Center for Children’s Digestive Health, located in the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital, opened in 2016 and was made possible by a $15 million donation from Phyllis and Ivan Seidenberg. It features a multidisciplinary team of specialists who care for children with both simple and complex illnesses. The new center has led to dramatic improvements for patients and physicians, as it includes 15 expansive exam rooms; a workspace for nurse practitioners and dietitians so they are easily accessible to patients; and space for patient education. The center can accommodate patients and staff in ways that serve their needs while maintaining a COVID-safe environment.

Inpatient Care

- 24/7 consultation to the hospital which contains a total of 214 pediatric beds including 41 PICU beds, 70 NICU beds as well as an ED with 50,000 Pediatric visits per year.
- Highest case mix index in the Northeast, second highest in the USA.
- Phone consultation for local hospitals
- Initiate and manage parenteral nutrition on all patients in the hospital outside of the NICU
- Teaching medical students and residents
Clinical Programs

We strive to provide the highest level of compassionate care to the children and families who come to our hospital and outpatient facilities. Our patient population comes from Washington Heights, the greater New York City area, and beyond.

Gastrointestinal Motility Center

- **Director:** Julie Khlevner, MD
- State-of-the-art care for children with motility and functional disorders
- **Procedures:** pH / impedance, Bravo, esophageal, antroduodenal, colonic and anorectal manometry, biofeedback, BoTox injections
- **Multi-disciplinary programs:** Aerodigestive, Esophageal Atresia, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
- Educational and Scholarly Projects

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program

- **Director:** Neal Leleiko, MD PhD
- **Associate Director:** Joseph Picoraro, MD
- **Multidisciplinary Team:** NP, Nutrition, Social Work
- **Collaborators:** adult gastroenterology, rheumatology, infectious disease, genetics
- **Educational Conferences**
- **Specific interests:**
  - Genetics of IBD and intestinal disorders
  - Very early onset IBD
  - Quality improvement

Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation Center

- **Director:** Sivan Kinberg, MD
- **Associate Director:** Elizabeth Berg, MD
- **Nutrition, NP, Social work, liaisons in other divisions /ancillary services**
- **Approximately 110 Patients**
- **50% on home parenteral nutrition**
- **Inpatient and Outpatient Care**
- **Dedicated weekly clinic**
- **Research and Quality Improvement**
Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation

- **Director:** Steven Lobritto, MD
- Program has 4 CAQ Transplant Hepatologists
- Center performs approximately 25 pediatric liver transplants per year, as well as intestinal and multivisceral transplants.
- Intestinal Transplant program directed by Mercedes Martinez, MD.
- Run by a multidisciplinary team of surgeons, hepatologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nutritionists and social workers
- Specializes in innovations such as laparoscopic living donation, auxiliary partial liver transplantation, and auto transplantation after *ex vivo* tumor resection.
- Fellows care for patients with liver disease on the inpatient service, attend hepatology clinics during their first year, and assist with procedures that are unique to this patient population.

Institute of Human Nutrition

- #1 Ranked PhD Nutrition Program in the World
- Mission: to provide outstanding academic, professional education, and training programs in human nutrition and conduct basic science and translational research on the role of nutrition in human health
- Scope includes projects, symposia and other initiatives for health practitioners, scientists, policy-makers, educators, and individuals that advance understanding of the importance of nutrition for individuals and populations worldwide.
- Faculty are within our division and regularly participate in didactic sessions as well as mentoring fellows in their scholarly work

Celiac Disease Center

- **Director:** Jacqueline Jossen, MD
- World-renowned celiac disease program for the expert management of adults and children with celiac disease and other gluten-related disorders
- **Patient Care and Advocacy**
- **Education**
  - Patient, family, and provider education
  - Partnerships with schools
- **Research**
  - Registry
  - Translational research

Nutrition Support

- Management of TPN-Inpatient & Outpatient
- Malnutrition Screening-Inpatients
- Bariatric Services- Outpatient
- Education
  - Fellows, residents, nutritionists
- Pre and Post Transplant Evaluations

Outpatient Clinic Coverage

- GI/Nutrition
- Liver
- Weight Management
- Children’s Cardiovascular Health
- Celiac Disease
- Renal
- Intestinal Rehabilitation Clinic
Laura Rothenberg Pediatric Endoscopy and Bronchoscopy Suite

- Dedicated facility
- 2 procedure rooms, 3 preoperative examination rooms and 5 recovery bays
- Full-time coverage by pediatric anesthesiologists and trained endoscopy nurses and technicians, 5 days per week.
- Provides the latest generation Olympus endoscopes and equipment

Endoscopic Procedures (>1500 per year)

- Upper endoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Ileoscopy
- ERCP
- Liver biopsy
- Polypectomy
- PEG placement
- Endoscopic gastrostomy button change
- G to GJ tube conversion
- Dilatation
- Band ligation
- Sclerotherapy
- Injection and cautery
- Clipping
- Photocoagulation
- Capsule endoscopy
- Paracentesis
- Foreign body removal
- pH / impedance
- Manometry

Conferences

- Pediatric GI Grand Rounds - monthly
- Pediatric GI Fellows’ Conference – weekly
- Clinical Case Conference – weekly
- Radiology rounds - ad hoc
- Pathology rounds – twice a month
- Nutrition Lecture - monthly
- Joint Adult/Pediatric GI Conference – quarterly
- Department of Pediatrics Chief of Service and Grand Rounds – weekly

Collaborations

- Cystic Fibrosis Center
- Food Allergy
- Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Adult GI Disorders
- Complex Care Program
- Urology and Orthopedics
- Bariatric Surgery
- Obesity
- Psychiatry
**Program Structure: Year 1**

- Management of the consult and Inpatient service
- 5.5 months of inpatient gastroenterology
- 2.5 months of liver / transplant
- 3 months of elective and scholarly work
- Procedures with attending supervision
- Weekly continuity clinic
- Identify scholarly project and mentor
- Attend and prepare multiple weekly didactic, clinical and research conferences

**Program Structure: Year 2**

- 2 weeks inpatient service
- Dedicated/Protected scholarly time for performing projects
- Basic science, translational or clinical research
- Dedicated single mentors at interface of our discipline
- Additional graduate training in Epidemiology, etc...
- Attend national research conferences
- Weekly continuity clinic
- Further develop clinical and procedural skills through weekend and outpatient calls

**Program Structure: Year 3**

- 2 weeks inpatient service
- Dedicated/Protected scholarly time for completing projects
- Present at national conferences
- Prepare manuscripts
- Prepare grants
- Weekly continuity clinic
- Increased independence with clinical and procedural skills

**Fellows’ Continuity Clinic**

- Care for patients with a wide range of conditions.
- In-person and telehealth experience
- Three dedicated and experienced faculty preceptors
- Fellows are seen as patients’ primary physicians
- Evidence based practice learning and management
- Progressive autonomy in patient care
- Cultural sensitivity, compassion and ethical behavior

Evianna Cruz-Herrera (fellow) and Jacqueline Jossen (clinic preceptor)
During their orientation, the new pediatric fellows went on a guided walking tour of Washington Heights to learn about the community organizations that provide services to families in the neighborhood. Here, they are meeting with leaders from the Highbridge Recreation Center.
Goals of Research Time

- Learn to conduct hypothesis-driven science
  - Basic
  - Translational
  - Clinical/Epidemiologic

- Academic development as a physician-scientist
  - Present your work (conferences)
  - Write grants (funding)

- Scholarly work product

Structure of Research Time

- Year 1:
  - Identify potential research mentors
  - Attend lab or research group meetings
  - Observe a project/lab in action
  - Read primary literature
  - Two page abstract with specific aims
  - Establish SOC with your mentor (Mentor and 2-3 other leaders)

- Years 2-3
  - 90% protected time for research
  - SOC meetings semi-annually (Progress, troubleshooting, assistance)
  - Apply for grant funding beyond fellowship
  - Research conferences
  - Work product for ABP

An Abundance of Research Opportunities

- Division
  - Basic: Microbiome, gut immunology, enteric nervous system
  - Clinical: Fatty liver disease, transplant hepatology, celiac disease, IBD, motility
  - Population: obesity, nutrition

- Department of Pediatrics
  - Allergy/Immunology
  - Infectious Disease
  - Critical Care
  - Genetics
  - Endocrinology

- CUIMC
  - NIH U54 Clinical and Translational Research Center
  - Immunology and Microbiology
  - Genetics and Development
  - Pathology and Cell Biology
  - Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
  - Institute of Human Nutrition
  - School of Engineering
  - Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
  - Mailman School of Public Health
  - NY State Psychiatric Institute
  - Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Kimberly Law, 2020 graduate, preparing for her oral research presentation at NASPGHAN 2019 in Chicago
Scholarly Work in our Division

Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (understanding pathogenesis, biomarkers, non-invasive diagnostic testing, therapies): Ali Mencin, Jennifer Woo Baidal, Wei Shen, Dana Goldner, Elizabeth Berg

Liver Transplantation: Dana Goldner, Steven Lobritto, Mercedes Martinez, Pooja Reddy

Viral Hepatitis: Steven Lobritto

Gut Immunology (role of microbiome in immune development, intestinal transplantation and immunosuppression): Mercedes Martinez

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (genetics, quality improvement): Joseph Picoraro, Neil LeLeiko, Hillary Moore

Intestinal Rehabilitation (nutrition, quality and best practices, prevention of liver disease): Sivan Kinberg, Mercedes Martinez, Elizabeth Berg

Transition of Care: Joseph Picoraro, Sivan Kinberg, Elizabeth Berg

Obesity (body composition, early life interventions to eliminate socioeconomic disparities): Jennifer Woo Baidal, Wei Shen

Celiac Disease (epidemiology, quality of life, natural history): Amy DeFelice, Jacqueline Jossen

Cystic Fibrosis (nutrition, pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy): Sarah Lusman

Motility Disorders (diagnosis and treatment): Julie Khlevner

Eosinophilic GI Disorders: Dominique Bailey

Intestinal Stem Cells: Jonathan Miller

Many faculty members are supported by NIH grants including R01, U01, K08, and K23. In addition, we have been fortunate to receive research support from many other sources such as CEGIR, NASPGHAN, AGA, AASLD, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Doris Duke Foundation, the Seidenberg Family and Pharma grants.
Faculty

Ali Andre Mencin, MD
Chief, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Pediatric Endoscopy

Chuchun Liz Chang, PhD
Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Institute of Human Nutrition

Dominique Bailey, MD, MSEd
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC

Elizabeth Berg, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC

Richard Deckelbaum, MD, CM, FRCPC
Robert R. Williams Professor of Nutrition
Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology

Amy R. DeFelice, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Nutrition

Dana Goldner, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Center for Liver Diseases

Kim Hekimian, PhD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Nutrition at CUMC

R. Ariel Igal, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Nutrition at CUMC

Jacqueline Jossen, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Celiac Disease Center
Faculty

Philip Kazlow, MD
Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC

Julie Khlevner, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Pediatric Gastrointestinal Motility Center

Sivan Kinberg, MD, MS, MA
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Intestinal Rehabilitation

Neal S. LeLeiko, MD, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics
Dir., IBD

Steven Lobritto, MD
Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at CUMC
Medical Dir., Pediatric Liver Transplantation

Sarah Shrager Lusman, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Dir., Fellowship Training

Moneek Madra, PhD
Assistant Professor of Nutrition at CUMC

Mercedes Martinez, MD
Professor of Pediatrics (in Surgery) at CUMC
Medical Dir., Intestinal Transplant Program
Center for Liver Diseases

Jonathan Miller, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC
Faculty

Hillary Moore, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC  
Dir., Celiac Disease Center

Joseph Picoraro, MD  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC  
Associate Dir., IBD  
Dir., Inpatient Service

Pooja Reddy, MD MS  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (in Surgery) at CUMC  
Center for Liver Diseases

Norelle Rizkalla Reilly, MD  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CUMC

Wei Shen, MD, MPH, MS  
Assistant Professor of Nutritional Pediatrics at CUMC

Jennifer Woo Baidal, MD MPH  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Dir., Pediatric Obesity Program
Current Fellows

Swetha Kotamraju, MD  
1st Year Fellow

Medical school: University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
Residency: Cohen Children’s Hospital  
Mentor: Arnold Han, MD PhD

Jared Gelbs, MD  
3rd Year Fellow

Medical school: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
Residency: NYP Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital / Columbia  
Mentors: Elizabeth Verna, MD and Mercedes Martinez, MD

Elise Kang, MD  
2nd Year Fellow

Medical school: University of Texas Southwestern  
Residency: University of Texas Southwestern

Padmini Nallapaneni, MD  
3rd Year Fellow

Medical school: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson  
Residency: Cohen Children’s Hospital  
Mentor: Ivaylo Ivanov, PhD

Padmini Nallapaneni, MD  
3rd Year Fellow

Medical school: University of Texas Southwestern  
Residency: University of Texas Southwestern

Delia O’Shea, MD  
1st Year Fellow

Medical school: Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Residency: Boston Children’s Hospital

Evianna Cruz Herrera, MD MPH  
2nd Year Fellow
Recent Graduates

Academic Clinician—Educators (Gastroenterology)
- Baylor College of Medicine (1)
- Boston Children’s Hospital (1)
- Children’s Hospital at Montefiore / Albert Einstein (1)
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (1)
- Columbia University Medical Center (4)
- Weill Cornell Medical College (3)
- New York Medical College (1)
- Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine (1)
- St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children/Drexel (1)

Academic Clinician—Educators (Hepatology and Transplant)
- Columbia University Medical Center (2)

Physician Scientists
- Columbia University Medical Center
  (Gastroenterology) (2)

Rachel Borlack, MD presenting at NASPGHAN in Orlando.

Elizabeth Berg, MD presenting at NASPGHAN in Las Vegas.
Recent Fellow Awards and Honors

**Evianna Cruz Herrera**: Diversity Supplement to Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, NIH T32 Training Grant

**Elise Kang**: Merit Scholarship, Master of Science program in Patient Oriented Research 2022

**Pooja Reddy**: Rustin McIntosh Fellowship Award 2022

**Amanda Cantor**: Gerard Odell Prize for Excellence in Liver Research, NASPGHAN Annual Meeting 2020, Winner, Resident Teaching Award 2020

**Elizabeth Berg**: Best Clinical Science Abstract, Pediatric Fellows Poster Day 2019

**Amir Jazayeri**: NYP Silverman Fellowship for Hospital Innovation 2018-2019

**Laurence Feinstein**: Oberfield Prize in Basic Science 2018, Distinguished Abstract, Digestive Disease Week 2018

**Dominique Bailey**: NASPGHAN Foundation/George Ferry Young Investigator Development Award (2019), Consortium of Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disease Researchers (CEGIR) Training Grant

**Arunjot Singh**: Research Poster of Distinction, World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition 2016, Oberfield Prize in Translational Science, Pediatric Fellows Poster Day 2017

**Sarah Fleet**: Winner, Resident Teaching Award 2015, Winner, Oberfield Prize in Basic Science, Pediatric Fellows Poster Day 2017

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*2021-2022 fellows at graduation (pictured left to right): Pooja Reddy, Amanda Cantor, Evianna Cruz-Herrera, Elise Kang, Jared Gelbs*


Select Recent Fellow Presentations

**Pooja Reddy:**


**Amanda Cantor:**

**Rachel Borlack:**

**Kimberly Law:**


**Amir Jazayeri:**
Switching to Rapid Infusions of Infliximab reduces hours missed from school and improves Pediatric Infusion Suite Scheduling. Presented as a poster at the NASPGHAN Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 2018, Hollywood, Florida.


**Elizabeth Berg:**
Highlights and Accomplishments of our Division

- Faculty and fellows have chaired and served on almost all NASPGHAN committees including Council
- Faculty have been featured in Atlantic Monthly, Science, Nature Biotechnology, New York Times, Nature Outlook
- Our Institute of Human Nutrition is the #1 Ranked PhD Nutrition Program in the world
- We have a NIDDK Training Grant for Pediatric and Adult GI (T32) that is funded through 2024
- Dominique Bailey, MD, MS Ed has been named a recipient of the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Award and received the George Ferry Award from NASPGHAN.
- Sarah Shrager Lusman, MD received the 2021 Teri Li Young Educators Award from NASPGHAN
- Amy DeFelice, MD was elected to the executive council of the Society for the Study of Celiac Disease
- Eunie Park, NP was accepted to the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Preceptor Program
- Jennifer Woo Baidal, MD, MPH was named the Assistant Director of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center for Health Equity Research in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and received a Florence and Herbert Irving Clinical Research Career Award
- Joseph Picoraro, MD serves on the Greater New York Chapter Medical Advisory and Government and Industry Affairs Committees of the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation
- Neal LeLeiko, MD PhD received the 2019 NASPGHAN Distinguished Service Award
2022-2023 Graduate Staff Salaries

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Housing Information

For information regarding housing please visit the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Real Estate Department’s website [https://www.nyp.org/realestate/west-campus-housing](https://www.nyp.org/realestate/west-campus-housing). All contact information is listed on the website. In addition, housing information with floor plans and rental rate ranges will be sent via email directly from the Real Estate Department.

Transportation

Directions to Columbia University Medical Center:
The Center is located at West 168th Street and Broadway, immediately southeast of the George Washington Bridge, in the Heights/Inwood section of northern Manhattan.

By Public Transportation
Subway - Take the 1, A, C, trains to the 168th Street station. From midtown Manhattan, the A train provides express service.
Bus - A number of city buses serve the medical center: M-2, 3, 4, 5, and 100. For additional bus and subway information, call the Transit Authority at 718-330-1234.