

May 12, 2026



# LSU Pediatrics Tuesday Tidbits

Welcome to the Department of Pediatrics' weekly email blast designed to deliver important department information straight to your inbox.

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## LSU Pediatrics Announcements

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**Pediatrics Research Day:  
This Friday, May 15!**

# Pediatrics Research Day

Friday, May 15, 2026  
Worley Hall  
Manning Family Children's

## Order of Events:

Graduating Fellow Presentations	8:15 – 9:45 am
Moderator: Colleen LeBlanc, MD, Assistant Professor, LSU Pediatrics	
Features of Science (Hospital Atrium)	10:00 – 10:30 am
Moderator: Brian Barkemeyer, MD, Vice Chair, LSU Pediatrics	
Faculty Publications	10:45 – 11:45 am
Moderator: Bonnie Desselle, MD, Vice Chair, LSU Pediatrics	
Lunch/Networking	11:45 am – 12:30 pm
Welcome	12:30 pm - 12:35pm
Opening Remarks	12:35 – 12:45 pm
Stephen Hales, MD Retired Pediatrician, Hales Pediatrics Manning Family Children's Board of Trustees Member Emeritus	
Keynote Speaker	12:45 – 1:30 pm



*Childhood Obesity as a Pediatric Vital Sign: Opportunities and Challenges*  
Ihuoma Eneli, MD, MS  
Head, Section of Nutrition, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Oral Presentations	1:30 – 2:30 pm
Moderator: Kelly Gajewski, MD, Associate Professor, LSU Pediatrics	
1:30pm	<i>Assessing Growth Faltering Status After Implementation of a Standardized Advancement of Home Feeding Regimens of Infants with Gastrostomy Tubes: A Quality Improvement Initiative</i> Mike Evers, MD, Fellow, LSU Neonatology
1:45pm	<i>Dysregulated Cytotoxic T-Cell and Immune Checkpoint Activity in Ebola Survivors</i> Anna Sanford, MD, Resident, Tulane Pediatrics
2:00pm	<i>Clinical Utility of Donor Derived Cell-Free DNA in an Established Donor-Specific Antibody Monitoring Protocol for Detection of Acute Rejection in Pediatric Kidney Transplant Recipients</i> Nicole Vegh, MD, Fellow, LSU Pediatric Nephrology
2:30pm	<i>Analysis of Utilization and Factors Associated with Clinical Utility of Plasma Next Generation Sequencing for Microbial Cell Free DNA at a Children's Hospital Over Four Years</i> Kathleen Condon, MD, Fellow, Tulane Infectious Diseases
Poster Session Group 1	2:45pm – 3:30pm
Poster Session Group 2	3:30pm – 4:15 pm
Award Ceremony	4:30pm



## Extra Research Day Details:

### Digital Abstract Booklet:

The digital abstract booklet is now available via this QR code. Please refer to the digital booklet for specific times of all individual Graduating Fellow presentations, Features of Science, and Faculty Publication presentations.



### Zoom Information:

All are encouraged to attend Research Day events in person. If you are unable due to clinical obligations, a Zoom link will be available for the **Graduating Fellows'** and **Faculty Publications presentations ONLY** (8:15am - 11:45am).

[Click here for Zoom link.](#)

Meeting ID: 953 5674 6472

Password: Isutigers

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## Remembering Dr. Raynorda F. Brown



It is with deep sadness that we recognize the passing of Raynorda F. Brown, MD, a dedicated physician, educator, beloved mentor, and leader whose career left a lasting impact on the Department of Pediatrics and Manning Family Children's. We reflect back on Dr. Brown's 33+ years of dedication to

the department and to the care of children with gastrointestinal and nutritional disorders.

After earning her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Brown completed Pediatric Residency at Cleveland Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. She went on to complete fellowship training in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition with LSU and joined the faculty in 1986. Throughout her career, she cared for patients at Children's Hospital New Orleans, providing compassionate and expert care to generations of children and families. She retired after a robust career in June 2020.

Dr. Brown was deeply committed to medical education and mentorship. She received numerous honors for her service, mentorship, and commitment to advancing opportunities for minority students and physicians. She taught students, residents, and fellows. She supervised and mentored numerous pediatric gastroenterology fellows who went on to careers in academic medicine and clinical practice. Her former trainee Dr. Amanda Glinky said, "Dr. Brown showed an unmatched dedication to the gastroenterology service, often spending extended time rounding and educating her learners and families."

Her contributions extended beyond clinical care and teaching into research and leadership. Dr. Brown participated in important clinical and translational research related to pediatric obesity, Crohn's disease, gastrointestinal disorders, and nutrition. She authored and co-authored numerous publications and presented nationally at meetings of the National Medical Association and the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Above all, Dr. Brown will be remembered for her kindness, professionalism, dedication to her patients, and unwavering commitment to education and community service. She left an indelible mark on our department through her steadfast support of fellows, residents and patients, and her legacy lives on through the many trainees she mentored, colleagues she inspired, and children whose lives she touched throughout her distinguished career. She will be greatly missed by the LSU Pediatrics family. Her impact on the lives of patients and learners leaves an enduring legacy in our region and beyond.

Funeral Arrangements:

<https://www.robertsfuneral.com/obituaries/raynorda-brown>



## Recent Scholarly Activity

Hematology/Oncology's **Dr. Maria Velez** was invited to present at the meeting of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) along with Dr. Vivien Chen of LSUHSC School of Public Health. They presented "*Patient Care and Cancer Registration among Displaced Populations: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina*" at the conference back in April.

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Forum



The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Forum

Friday, May 29, 2026  
Lions Eye Center, 1st Floor  
12pm–5pm

*“Joint Commission and National Quality Forum Key Initiatives”*

*presented by*



**Elizabeth Drye, MD, SM**

*Chief Scientific Officer  
National Quality Forum  
Joint Commission*

*A call for abstract submissions will be sent February 23*

Link: [https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/medical\\_education/graduate/EQuIP/qi\\_forum.aspx](https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/medical_education/graduate/EQuIP/qi_forum.aspx)

## FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

*New video monthly*

For questions or comments regarding Faculty Development,  
please contact [Amy Creel](#).

### May Video: Clinical Teaching "Simplified"

As we continue our mission of providing excellent medical education, check out this video. It provides a simple, efficient, and effective method of teaching medical students and residents in a variety of clinical settings. It addresses major concerns (TIME!) and provides practical tips, and there are great references for those who would like to learn more.

<https://vimeo.com/89625533>

# Manning Family Children's Announcements

## Grand Rounds

Please note that we have a new Zoom link:

<https://lsuhsc.zoom.us/j/97010003211>. You must have a Zoom login to enter the meeting; you will no longer be able to join using only the meeting ID.

## Hybrid Pediatric Grand Rounds



Manning Family  
Children's  
LCMC Health

### "A Preventable Crisis: Pediatric Lead Exposure in Louisiana and Insights from the Field"

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Hospital Large Conference Rooms, Noon

You may join Pediatric Grand Rounds from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

Zoom link: <https://lsuhsc.zoom.us/j/97010003211>

Meeting ID: 970 1000 3211:

Register for this session by visiting <https://manningchildrens.cds.affinityced.com/>

You will login to the same site to claim your CE at the conclusion of the activity.



**Madison Puzdrakiewicz, MPH**, is a public health professional specializing in health communications, stakeholder engagement, and childhood lead exposure prevention. She currently serves as a Health Communications Specialist with the Louisiana Department of Health, where she develops statewide trainings, educational materials, and outreach initiatives focused on pediatric lead poisoning prevention. Madison has delivered presentations to healthcare providers, community organizations, and public health audiences across Louisiana. She earned her Master of Public Health from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

**Michelle G. Puzdrakiewicz, MD, MPH, FAAP**, is a board-certified pediatric hospitalist with more than 25 years of experience in pediatric inpatient care, medical education, and quality improvement. She currently serves at Ochsner Hospital for Children and holds academic appointments with the University of Queensland, Tulane University School of Medicine, and Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. Dr. Puzdrakiewicz is actively involved in pediatric research, curriculum development, and mentoring medical students and residents. Her professional interests include pediatric hospital medicine, asthma education, patient safety, and improving healthcare outcomes for children and families.

**Jonathan Whipple, MPH** is a public health professional and Program Monitor/Primary Investigator with the Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. He has extensive experience in lead-safe housing initiatives, community outreach, and public health education focused on reducing childhood lead exposure. Jonathan previously served as Program Manager for the Jefferson Lead-Safe Housing Program, where he oversaw federally funded housing and healthy homes initiatives. He holds an MPH from Louisiana State University and is a trained Lead Abatement Supervisor, Lead Inspector, and Lead Risk Assessor.

**Objectives:** At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Discuss the importance of blood lead testing.
- Identify patients who should have a blood lead test.
- Apply the CDC's recommended guidelines for follow-up testing.
- Identify ways to report blood lead test results to Louisiana Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LCLPPP).

**Intended audience:** This activity is specifically directed towards the pediatric provider, but it is open to all interested physicians, residents, medical students, nursing, and allied health professionals.

**Accreditation** Manning Family Children's is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Designation** Manning Family Children's designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**CNE statement:** LCMC Health Nursing Education Committee is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by Louisiana State Nurses Association - Approver, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. LSNA Provider No. 4002636

**ADA Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special accommodations are needed, please notify Catherine Mooney at 504-896-9431.



## We have a new management system for CE Credits

Registration is required for Pediatric Grand Rounds. You may register for Grand Rounds up until 5pm of the day of the activity – this is to allow you time to register and evaluate after the session if participating virtually. Use [this link](#)

to access the [CE Center](#) and bookmark it for easy access. The link is also available on the flyer.

At the end of the session, you will have to login to the CE Center to claim your credit. A QR code/link will be provided at the end of each Grand Rounds to help with this.

For the instruction guide click [here](#). This will help walk you through creating an account and registering for a session.

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## Travel/Reimbursement Corner

### Foundation Reimbursement - 60 Day Deadline

The Foundation has adopted an accountable plan that meets IRS regulations. In that any reimbursement request submitted 60 days after the date of expense will be treated as taxable to the employee. The best way to ensure this doesn't happen is to submit receipts soon after the event/travel takes place. You have the option to receive reimbursement via check or direct deposit. If you choose direct deposit and we don't receive the direct deposit form back from you in time to make the 60-day deadline we will go ahead and submit a request for check reimbursement to avoid taxable income

## Department Wellness

CHNOLA's childcare center open for children of providers/staff working at Children's Hospital ([flyer](#))

LSU Pediatrics Wellness Resources ([information](#))

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## Other Announcements

***Latest Edition of The Pulse*** ([link](#))

### ***Resident Education***

- Resident Participation in Research ([information](#)) - complete a shared spreadsheet with a brief description of the project you are looking for collaboration or assistance with.

### ***Department Biostatistician***

- Department Biostatistician, Dr. Zhide Fang, is available to provide biostatistical support to faculty, fellows, and residents. Please see below for revised scheduling procedures:
  1. Email Zhide Fang at [zfang@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:zfang@lsuhsc.edu)
  2. Provide brief explanation of the service you need and, if applicable, times you are able to meet
  3. Dr. Fang may request additional information depending on the nature of your request
  4. Asking simple, direct questions through email is welcome at any time, but appointments are preferred

### ***Administrative Reminders***

- Importance of Time Certification ([information](#)) - learn more about why we certify time each month!
- Use of Non-LSUHSC Email ([information](#))

- Download the Department Composites for the 2025-2026 academic year! ([Resident](#), [Fellow](#), [Faculty](#), and [Admin Staff](#)).
- The Tulane Resident Composite for the 2025-2026 school year is available [here](#).
- LSU travel policy and procedures ([information](#))

### **Department Poster Printing**

At least 3 business days before a poster is needed in hand, send the following to Ashley Pate, [apat30@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:apat30@lsuhsc.edu):

1. PowerPoint file
2. Size you would like the poster to be printed
3. Day you need the poster printed by
4. Is a travel tube needed?

The poster author will be copied on all correspondence with the LSU Printing and Graphics Dept. Once Ashley sends the PowerPoint file to the printer, the office will respond (usually quickly) and ask for the author's approval of the PDF proof. Please be on the lookout for an email; the author must approve before the Graphics Dept can print. Ashley will send you an email once the poster has been delivered to her office.

### **Additional Resources**

- Download the new Clinical [Handbook](#) and Pediatric Clerkship [Objectives](#) for Faculty, Residents, and Fellows.
- Grant Support is available through an LSU/Hanover [collaboration](#) - more information is available [here](#).
- [LSUHSC Library Research Resources](#)
- [EQUIP project proposal form](#)

## Department Anniversaries

Mary Pendleton, 26 years

Richelle Monier, 10 years

Ashley Pate, 1 year

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### Share Your News!

The department wants to highlight your success! Please send any news to include in *Tuesday Tidbits* to [Ashley Pate](#).



Submit information to the next Tuesday Tidbits

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Looking for old newsletters?

View the *Tuesday Tidbits* archive on the department's website. ([link](#))

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