

June 16, 2026



LSU Pediatrics Tuesday Tidbits

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

[Visit our website](#)

LSU Pediatrics Announcements

Congratulations, Graduates!

Congratulations to our Department Residency and Fellowship graduates who took home their diplomas throughout several ceremonies last week.

The graduation ceremony for our Pediatrics, Medicine/Pediatrics, and Pediatric/Emergency Medicine residency graduating classes was held this past Saturday at the Audubon Tea Room.



Pediatric Residents:

Dr. William Arnold
Dr. Aaliyah Saafir
Dr. Ushma Bhandary
Dr. Danielle Sketchler Cannon
Dr. Chandler Cissel
Dr. Leah Smith
Dr. Alexandra Glaser
Dr. Sarah Stobbs
Dr. Meredith Kovach
Dr. Courtney Stokes
Dr. Casey Landreneau Baggett
Dr. Darrius Williams
Dr. Caroline Moreau
Dr. Zaria Williams

Certified Pediatric Neurology Graduate:

Dr. Jasmine Grossman

Pediatric Chief Graduates:

Dr. Madeleine Robert Stansberry
Dr. Nicholas Tadros

Pediatric/Emergency Medicine Graduates:

Dr. Jodi Hardy

Medicine/Pediatric Graduates:

Dr. McKenzie Castanon
Dr. Nali Gillespie
Dr. Samuel Maltby
Dr. Tejal Naik
Dr. Carter Pesson
Dr. Chloe Spears

Medicine/Pediatric Chief Graduates:

Dr. McKenzie Castanon
Dr. Chloe Spears



The graduation ceremony for our Pediatric Subspecialty Fellowship programs was held on Friday at the Audubon Tea Room. Graduates included:

Dr. Meaghan Bank

Dr. David Van

Allergy Immunology

Dr. Mike Charles

Dr. Cyndee Jocson

Cardiology

Dr. Brantlee McConaughey

Endocrinology

Dr. Kyle Glisson

Gastroenterology

Dr. Casey Treuting

Hematology/Oncology

Dr. Jantzen Collette

Dr. Joseph Sansone

Hospital Medicine

Dr. Michael Evers

Neonatal-Perinatal

Dr. Nicole Vegh

Nephrology

On Friday, the department joined the graduating residency class for an awards ceremony in Worley Hall hosted by Program Director Dr. Chelsey Sandlin. Congratulations to all award winners:

Sarah Stobbs, MD

Penny Scurto, MD Outstanding Pediatric Resident Award

Jodi Hardy, MD; Sam Maltby, MD
Outstanding Combined Resident Award

Nihal Godiwala, MD

Nicholas Gagliano, MD Outstanding Faculty Award
Given annually by the LSU Pediatrics Residents for excellence in teaching, and for sharing, through knowledge and example, the facts and feelings that prepare us for a lifetime of service to children

Julie Gallois, MD

Suskind Outstanding Pediatric Faculty Award
Presented annually to the faculty member who has made an outstanding academic contribution to the education, research, clinical service and advocacy missions of the LSU Department of Pediatrics

Leah Smith, DO

Gretchen Life, MD Award
Awarded to the graduating resident who embodies Gretchen's zeal for life and love for patients

Ariel Hall, MD

Outstanding Cardiology Resident
Selected by Cardiology Faculty to recognize a resident with outstanding clinical and professional performance on the rotation

Shannon Glennon, MD

Outstanding Hematology/Oncology Resident
Selected by Hematology/Oncology Faculty to recognize a resident with outstanding clinical and professional performance on the rotation

Darrius Williams, MD

Outstanding Teaching Resident Award
Awarded annually by third year medical students
for excellence in teaching during their Pediatrics clerkship

Andree Judd, DO

Bonnie Deselle, MD PICU Resident of the Year Award

Scarlett Flaz, MD

Outstanding Fellowship Teaching Award
Awarded annually by the residents in recognition of outstanding teaching and mentoring skills

Nali Gillespie, MD; Caroline Gueniot, MD; Ariel Hall, MD;

Meghan McCord, MD

Alfonso Vargas, MD Research Award
For the Residents Who Have Demonstrated Outstanding Performance in Pediatric Research

Henry Smith T, MD

Intern of the Year Award
Given annually by Pediatrics PGY 1, 2 and 3 acknowledging an intern who exemplifies the values of our residency: dedication to the care of patients, advocacy for their patients, professionalism, interdisciplinary collaboration, and collegiality among residents

Aysha Gibson, MD

Pediatric Alumni Award

For the senior medical student who has demonstrated outstanding interest and performance in Pediatrics

Congratulations to our stellar class of graduates! We will miss you all!

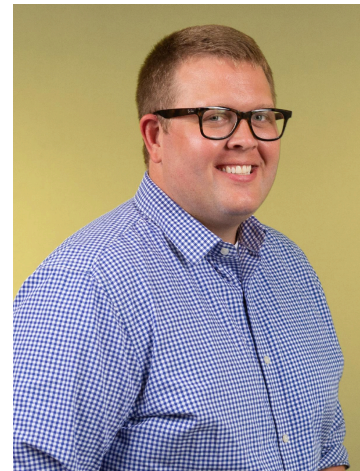
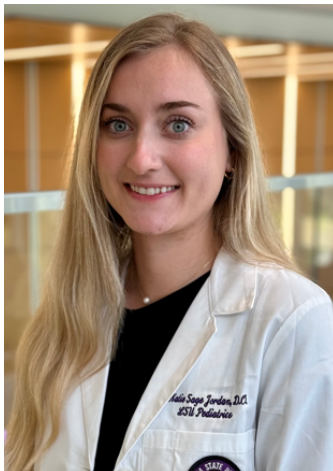
Special thanks to our Residency and Fellowship Program Directors, Associate Program Directors, Chief Residents, and Program Administrators as we wrap up another academic year and the concluding ceremonies that go along with it.

Michele Hallinan Selected to Serve on GME's Coordinator Advisory Group



Congratulations to Pediatric Residency and Fellowship Program Administrator **Michele Hallinan** for being chosen to serve on GME's Coordinator Advisory Group (CAG) for the 2026 – 2027 academic year. She was peer-nominated and chosen by the GME staff and outgoing CAG members. Michele will serve a one-year membership with the group which was created to improve communication with the central GME staff, advocate for the program coordinators and programs, and improve GME processes. CAG is a voice for their peers and provides valuable information to the LSU institution regarding program functionality. Michele will be joined by 6 other LSU GME Program Administrators. Congratulations to Michele!

Recent Scholarly Activity



Congratulations to residents **Drs. Meghan McCord** and **Sage Jordan**, along with faculty mentor **Dr. Zachary Daniels**, on having their abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition in San Diego.

Their presentation, titled "Severe Pediatric MOG Antibody-Associated Disease with Diffuse Cerebral Edema, Elevated Intracranial Pressure, and Evolving Contrast-Enhancing Lesions," highlights an important and complex pediatric neurologic case and showcases the outstanding scholarly work being

conducted within LSU Pediatrics. We are proud of their accomplishment and look forward to their presentation this fall.



Neonatology faculty member [Dr. Julie Gallois](#) recently published an article in the journal *Pediatrics* titled "A National Quality Improvement Collaborative to Reduce Subthreshold Phototherapy for Jaundice." Neonatology's [Dr. Michelle Knecht](#) and Ambulatory's [Dr. Nathalie Medeiros](#) served as a Physician Leads at Touro Infirmary for this project.

This publication highlights important efforts to improve the quality of care for newborns with jaundice and reflects the impactful scholarly work being conducted within LSU Pediatrics.

You can view the article [here](#).

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

New video monthly

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

June Video: "What is Difficult about Feedback?"

Feedback is crucial for our learners. This video (6 minutes) from the University of Michigan directly addresses challenges to Giving Feedback - time, feeling it's subjective, worries about rapport, negative reviews from learners - and provides some concrete ways to overcome these barriers.

<https://www.coursera.org/lecture/clinical-skills/01-03-what-is-difficult-about-feedback-Q32ML>

Manning Family Children's Announcements

Grand Rounds

Hybrid Pediatric Grand Rounds



Tulane University Department of Pediatrics presents the
Ralph V. Platou Memorial Grand Rounds

Program Building, What I've Learned Along the Way

Wednesday, June 17, 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.affinitycd.com/>

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



Dr. Jake Kleinmahon

Dr. Jake A. Kleinmahon is a board-certified pediatric cardiologist and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. He serves as Medical Director of Pediatric Heart Failure, Heart Transplant, and Pulmonary Hypertension, as well as Fellowship Director for Pediatric Cardiology at Cohen Children's Medical Center. Dr. Kleinmahon completed his pediatric residency at Tulane University and Ochsner Hospital for Children, followed by fellowships in Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Heart Failure/Transplantation at Children's Hospital Colorado. He is recognized for his expertise in advanced heart failure therapies, heart transplantation, and health equity in pediatric care, and has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications in the field.

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

- Differentiate different leadership approaches to establish new programs or build current ones.
- Formulate methods to create a psychologically safe team culture that prioritizes open communication, authentic optimism, and shared learning.
- Identify critical early partnerships to secure institutional commitment and establish effective feedback loops.

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, place 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.

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](#))

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
 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:

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

Regina Zambrano, 14 years
Shubho Sarkar, 9 years
Rebecca Calix, 4 years
Kimiyo Williams, 3 years
Michele Hallinan, 2 years
Plato Alexander, 1 year

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

Looking for old newsletters?

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

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