

## Pediatric Research Day 2026 Agenda

Tuesday, May 12, 2026  
Griffis Faculty Club & Belfer Research Building 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

8:00 – 8:20 am	Registration	Belfer
8:20-8:30 am	Welcome Address: Chani Traube	Belfer
8:30 – 9:30 am	<p>Oral Presentations – Clinical Research</p> <p>Bryce Demopoulos: Elevated Blood Lead Levels in Children with Sickle Cell Disease</p> <p>Rie Uni: Growth hormone therapy and quality of life in children with chronic kidney disease and short stature</p> <p>Martha Liu: Defining challenges in obtaining research consent in a level IV NICU</p> <p>Nadia Nikroo: Understanding How Race, Ethnicity, and Potential Barriers to Swim Education and Experience Relate to Swim Competency for Children and Adolescents Living in the New York Metropolitan Area</p> <p>Moderator: Erika Abramson</p>	Belfer
9:30 – 9:40 pm	Break	
9:40 – 10:40 am	<p>Oral Presentations – Featuring Burroughs Wellcome and StARR scholars</p> <p>Herman van Besien: Sensitizing EBV Lymphomas to Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte Therapy</p> <p>Vikram Jakkamsetti: Superior motor performance associated behavioral, physiological and biochemical changes in mice with a Rif1I107T/I107T mutation</p> <p>Michael Greenberg: Determining Optimal Brain State for Closed-Loop Stimulation: Alpha Oscillations and Cortical Excitability in a TMS-EEG Paradigm</p> <p>Elizabeth Ha: Exploring the role of inflammation and interferon signaling in obesity-induced atrial fibrillation in mice</p> <p>Moderator: David Lyden</p>	Belfer
10:50 – 12:00 pm	Poster Session 1	Griffis
12:00 – 12:45 pm	Lunch & Networking Professional Development Workshop	Griffis

12:50 – 1:00 pm	Welcome Address from Drs. Virginia Pascual and Sallie Permar	Belfer
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Keynote Address Deborah Estrin Title: Leveraging data, digital health, and AI to accelerate translation of research into meaningful clinical impact for children	Belfer
1:45 – 2:00 pm	Break	
2:00 – 3:10 pm	Poster Session 2	Griffis
3:15 – 4:15pm	Oral presentations - Translational Research Andrea Heras: Sphingolipid Profile as an Early Predictor of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Nicole Soo: Overweight and obesity were associated with higher magnitudes of respiratory virus-specific IgG antibodies in a pediatric cohort Chantalle Campbell: Myeloid Ferritin Heavy Chain Regulates Systemic Iron Mobilization and Drives Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease Krithika Karthigeyan: Fortification of breast milk with anti-CMV antibodies to prevent postnatal cytomegalovirus acquisition in preterm infants Moderator: Chani Traube	Belfer
4:15 – 4:25 pm	Break	Belfer
4:25 – 5:25 pm	Oral presentations - Basic/Translational Anita Bargaje: In Vivo <sup>15</sup> N-Thymidine Labeling Defines Window of Cardiomyocyte Proliferation in Infants with Congenital Heart Disease Olusola Omonije: Presence of unique pre-existing HIV envelope mutations in SHIV-Infected pediatric rhesus macaques who developed autologous virus-neutralizing antibodies Erica Garcia: Assessment of antigen-specific T cell responses and memory T cell subsets associated with protection from congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) transmission Florina Grigore: Modelling gliomas using genetically engineered stem cells Moderator: Bernhard Kuhn	Belfer
5:25 – 6:00 pm	Awards announced at 5:30	Belfer

**10:50 am – 12:00 pm**

**Poster Session 1**

***“Reference values for post-induction heart rate in pediatric patients undergoing general anesthesia for non-cardiac surgery”***

Michael Alfonzo, MD, MS – Faculty - Quality

***“Preclinical Validation of DLL3-Directed CAR T Cells in Neuroblastoma”***

Salvatore Aspromonte, MD – Fellow – Translational

***“Congenital CMV Screening in Preterm Infants: A NICU Experience”***

Anoush Calikyan, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Spatial QRS–T Angle as a Longitudinal Marker of Disease Severity in Pediatric Group 1 Pulmonary”***

Daniel Critchfield, MD – Fellow – Clinical

***“Optimization of Post-Intubation Sedation in the Pediatric Emergency Department: A Quality Improvement Project”***

Andres Castillo, DO – Resident - Quality

***“The Clinical Relevance of Transient Versus Persistent Antiphospholipid Antibody Profiles in Children”***

Marissa Dale, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Reference values for post-induction heart rate in pediatric patients undergoing general anesthesia for non-cardiac surgery”***

Jurgen deGraaf, MD, PhD – Faculty - Clinical

***“Staying in the Target Zone: A Quality Improvement Initiative to Achieve Oxygen Goal Saturations in Preterm Infants”***

Sandra Diez, MD – Resident – Quality

***“Plasma IgG binding response to human cytomegalovirus glycoproteins in vertically transmitting and non-transmitting pregnancies”***

Maya Fabozzi – Research Technician - Basic

***“Antigen specificity of antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP) responses against cytomegalovirus”***

Maura Farrell – Research Technician - Translational

***“Reducing Iron Delivery to the Kidney Attenuates Kidney Fibrosis and Disease Progression in Mouse Models of Chronic Kidney Disease”***

Avery Freund – Volunteer – Translational

***“Characterizing unanticipated NICU admissions in a transitional care nursery model”***

Divya Ganugapati, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Evaluating Risk Factors to Create a Risk Assessment Tool to Reduce Unplanned Extubations in a Level IV NICU”***

Alexandra Golden, MD – Resident - Quality

***“Characterizing the Lower Airway Microbiome in Infants with Bronchiolitis-Associated Respiratory Failure”***

Brittany Groh, MD, MPH – Fellow - Translational

***“Impact of Enteral Docosahexaenoic Acid and Arachidonic Acid Supplementation on Fecal Biomarkers of Gut Inflammation and Defense in Preterm Infants”***

Omar Hayatt – Graduate Student - Translational

***“Are We Ready for AI? Pediatric Emergency Providers and Discharge Innovation”***

Leslie Kaufmann, MD – Fellow – Quality

***“Investigating Morbidity and Mortality Patterns in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Retrospective Study”***

Rebecca Kow, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Does Pulmonary Valve Replacement Improve Exercise Capacity in Pediatric Patients with Repaired Tetralogy of Fallot?”***

Adrienne Lightbourne, MD - Fellow - Clinical

***“Cardiomyocytes change calcium signaling for cell division”***

Honghai Liu, PhD – Faculty - Basic

***“QRS-T Angle is Associated with Adverse Outcomes in Pediatric Dilated Cardiomyopathy”***

Christopher Lutrario, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Assessment of Antibody Binding to Mutated SARS-CoV-2 Receptor Binding Domains in Pediatric Immune Responses”***

Vanhuong Ly – Volunteer – Translational

***“Implementing RRT Debrief Process to Improve Team Comfort with Escalating Care on a Pediatric Floor and Intermediate Care Unit”***

Elizabeth Makris, MD – Resident - Quality

***“Ideal Measurement of the Corrected QT Interval During Sinus Arrhythmia in Children and Adolescents”***

Daniel McGraw, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Proteo-genomic profiling of chemotherapy persistence in Osteosarcoma PDX models”***

Surabhi Menon, MD – Fellow - Translational

***“Prognostic Significance of Circulating Cytokines/Cytokine Receptors in Pediatric ALK+ Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma”***

Alex Nanchanatt, MD – Fellow - Translational

***“Cytomegalovirus vaccines containing viral Fc receptor combinations including gp34 induce stronger antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis response than gB only reference vaccine”***

Claire Otero, PhD – Postdoc - Translational

***“Modeling a Physiological Relevant in vitro System for Nutritional Studies in the Preterm Infant”***

Liliette Quintana – Research Technician – Basic

***“Transcriptomic changes in the fetal progenitor state in metastatic colorectal cancer”***

Sonika Reddy, MD – Fellow - Basic

***“Mapping the Immune Architecture of Pediatric Lupus Nephritis Across Histological Classes”***

Juan Rodriguez-Alcazar, PhD – Postdoc - Translational

***“Accommodation for Religious or Moral Objection in Pediatric Brain Death: A Scoping Review”***

Mikayla Satchell, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Mammary CMV Reactivation and Its Impact on Human Milk Composition and Preterm Infant Growth”***

Liana Senaldi, MD – Faculty - Translational

***“Representational Enrollment: No Association Between Informed Consent and Childhood Opportunity Index”***

Mia Ashley Spad, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Improving Pediatric Resident Confidence and Knowledge in Managing Illness in Patients with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus”***

Hanna Swerdin, MD – Resident - Education

***“Anemia Severity and Management in NICU Patients with Early Chronic Kidney Disease”***

Rie Uni, MD, PhD – Research Fellow - Clinical

***“Exploring Immune Signaling in Pulmonary Vein Stenosis”***

Heidi Van, MD – Fellow – Translational

***“Healthcare utilization and communication patterns among survivors of adolescent and young adult cancer: Results from the Health Information National Trends survey”***

Han-Wei Wu, MD – Fellow – Health Services

***“Impact of maternal diet on neurodevelopment via the microbe-gut-brain immune axis”***

Shui Yu, PhD – Postdoc - Basic

***“Using SARS-CoV-2 as a model to characterize IgE-mediated pathway in Asthmatic Children”***

Sofia Zamora – Research Technician - Translational

**2:00 – 3:10 pm**

Poster Session 2

***“Social Determinants of Health and Adherence to Outpatient Endoscopic Procedures in the Pediatric Population”***

Kobi Axelrod, MD – Resident- Health Services

***“Core Body Temperature to Measure Circadian Disruption in Idiopathic Hypersomnia”***

Tamanna Chandak, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Hormonal Contraceptives and Achilles Tendon Injury Management: A Preliminary Retrospective Study”***

Nicole Crofton, MD - Resident - Clinical

***“HCMV glycoprotein-specific antibody responses are associated with congenital transmission odds in primary, acute HCMV infection during pregnancy”***

Chelsea Crooks, PhD – Postdoc - Translational

***“Association of Niacin Intake, Obesity and Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease in Pediatric Patients: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey”***

Kaela Ellis, DO – Fellow - Clinical

***“Scoping Review: Evaluating Parental Mental Health in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Relation to Neurodevelopmental Outcomes in Children Born Preterm”***

Fargol Yeganeh Fathi – Research Technician - Translational

***“Trends in Patent Ductus Arteriosus Management in Preterm Infants: A Pediatric Health Information System (PHIS) Study”***

Emily Fine, MD, MPH – Resident - Clinical

***“Maternal and Social Determinants of the Breast Milk Lipidome on Preterm Infant Outcomes”***

Melanie Gao, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Impaired Sphingolipid Synthesis Reduces Rhinovirus Entry in Airway Epithelial Cells”***

Nuran Golbasi – Medical Student - Translational

***“Impaired Sphingolipid Synthesis Reduces Rhinovirus Entry in Airway Epithelial Cells”***

Rika Gomi, PhD – Research Associate - Basic

***“Modelling gliomas using genetically engineered stem cells”***

Florina Grigore, MD – Resident – Basic

***Age-specific differences in neutralization breadth following SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination***

Lulu Guo, PhD – Postdoc - Translational

***The Role of the Epichaperome in T Cell Dysfunction in Acute Myeloid Leukemia***

Lauren Herschbein, MD – Fellow - Translational

***Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in Steroid-Treated Pediatric Chronic Illness: A Systematic Review***

Grady Hoffman – Medical Student – Quality

***“Recombinant Expression of the Human Cytomegalovirus Viral Fc Receptor”***

Fariah Islam – Volunteer - Basic

***“Variation and Disparities in the Management of Brief Resolved Unexplained Events”***

Taylor Jackvony, MD – Fellow – Health Services

***“Escape of Extrachromosomal DNA to Extracellular Vesicles and Particles”***

Di-Ao Liu – Postdoc– Basic

***“Educating Trainees About Long-Term Feeding Tubes in Caring for Children with Medical Complexity”***

Kahmun Lo, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Targeting RAS Dependence in Pediatric and AYA Sarcomas Using the Pan-RAS(ON) Inhibitor Daraxonrasib (RMC-6236)”***

Christine Lu, MD – Fellow - Translational

***“The effect of simulation-based educational initiatives on pediatric trainee educational outcomes in pediatric critical care units: a systematic review.”***

Paul Mandaro, MD – Fellow - Education

***“Detecting the presence and waning of maternal and passively administered antibodies in infants immunized with CD4 specific bnAbs using BAMA”***

Saad Memon – Research Technician - Translational

***“Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha is Independently Associated with Anemia in Pediatric Chronic Kidney Disease”***

Ana Munera, MD, MSc – Visiting Research Fellow – Clinical

***“Assessment of Autologous and Heterologous HIV-1 Env Binding Breadth to Native-Like Trimers in Rhesus Macaques immunized with BG505 SOSIP vaccines.”***

Ioanna Pahountis – Research Technician – Basic

***“Standardizing Gastrostomy Tube (GT) Teaching for Pediatric Patients and Their Caregivers”***

Gabriella Peluso, MD – Resident – Quality

***“Gut bacteria-derived GABA regulates immune response in the neonatal gut”***

Purnima Ravisankar – Graduate Student - Basic

***“Management of newborns born to parents with positive prenatal carrier screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia.”***

Sara Velasquez Restrepo, MD – Fellow - Clinical

***“Spatiotemporal Distribution of Inflammatory and Stromal Cell Populations Following Neonatal Cardiac Cryoinjury”***

Firoj Kumar Sahoo, PhD – Postdoc – Basic

***“Patient-reported satisfaction with once vs twice daily application of topical agents”***

Ting Shao, MD – Resident - Clinical

***“Increased S. epidermidis in the airway-gut microbiome of infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia”***

Zenna Solomon, MD - Faculty - Translational

***“Extracellular vesicles are biomarkers and effectors of cerebral malaria complications”***

Loic Steiner, PhD – Postdoc – Translational

***“Natural History of Trivial or Mild Fetal Tricuspid Regurgitation in In Vitro Fertilization Pregnancies: A Case Series”***

Leizer L. Steppa, DO – Resident – Clinical

***“Impact of a Pediatric Reflex Urine Testing Algorithm Across a Multihospital Network”***

Kasia Stoj, MD – Fellow – Clinical

***“Staying in the Target Zone: A Quality Improvement Initiative to Achieve Oxygen Goal Saturations in Preterm Infants”***

Gabriela Ulloa, MD – Fellow - Quality

***“Differential Priming of CD4-binding-site antibodies across RNA-based vaccine platforms in infant rhesus macaques”***

Kenneth Vuong – Research Technician – Translational

***“Accurate documentation of gender identity and pronoun preferences in the electronic medical record (EMR)”***

William Warren – MD – Translational

***“DoP Program Management Team (PMT)”***

Carolyn Weinbaum – Program Manager – Clinical

***“Investigating natural IgG responses to RhCMV Fc gamma receptors (vFcγRs) in rhesus macaques”***

David Xing – Volunteer - Translational