

DECEMBER 2025



Priya Bui, DO, Chair of Pediatrics and Women's Health

I am delighted to connect with you all today through our Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health Newsletter. I hope you see many of our accomplishments as of late in this newsletter, but more importantly a department of wonderful people coming together to accomplish shared goals and a shared mission of serving students, our patients and our broader community.

We celebrated our Pediatrics and OBGYN bound students this year, with a very dedicated group who are now well into their intern year as TCOM Alumnae. ***** I want to put the exact numbers here again but have to look this up. ***** Students dedicated to the care of Women and Children continue to prove to be knowledgeable, hardworking and resilient advocates for the wellness of Women and Children. The department is proud of all students throughout the colleges as they continue their professional journeys.

In our clinic, we are in the beginning of a busy winter infection season lasting thru the spring with cold and flu season upon us. Clinically, we have worked hard to keep access to care the best we can for patients. We have completed a clinical renovation to update our space and now look forward to adding some fun to our walls for our patients to fit the energy of pediatrics and children. Clinically, we continue to build our services of integrating behavioral health into the practice. The babies and children we see keep us inspired.

We have continued to further our community roots, through work with school districts, the pediatric mobile unit, Asthma initiatives, School Based Clinic Psychiatry clinic and Catch-1. In this edition, you will read more of some of these services. We are fortunate to have passionate students contributing to these missions. This coming year we are very excited to keep our services rolling with a brand new Pediatric Mobile Unit serving children where they are with full scope care and vaccinations.

I wish you each a lovely, restful and joyful Holiday Season. On behalf of the Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health, I send wishes of a reenergizing and positive New Year!

Priya

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

PEDIATRIC AND OB/GYN RESIDENCY MATCH CELEBRATION STUDENT AWARDS

Awards Announcement Match Celebration 2025

Quincey Quinn, DO

The Ralph J. Anderson, MD TCOM Obstetrics & Gynecology Endowed Scholarship was established in 2018 by UNTHSC in memory of former faculty member, Dr. Ralph Anderson for his service to Women's Health. This scholarship supports a Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) student specializing in women's health. Dr. Steele Matched in Ob/Gyn, JPS Health Network, Fort Worth, TX

Zoe Hatzenbiler, DO

The Alan and Marianne Rose Levine TCOM Pediatric Endowed Scholarship was established in 2013 in memory of retired faculty member, Dr. Alan Levine by his wife, Dr. Rose Levine. This scholarship supports Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) student pursuing an osteopathic medicine degree in pediatric health care. Dr. Fairchild Matched in Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Brad Boccaccio, DO

Faculty Teacher of the Year
Awarded for Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology Medical Student Education

Miriam Alexander, MD

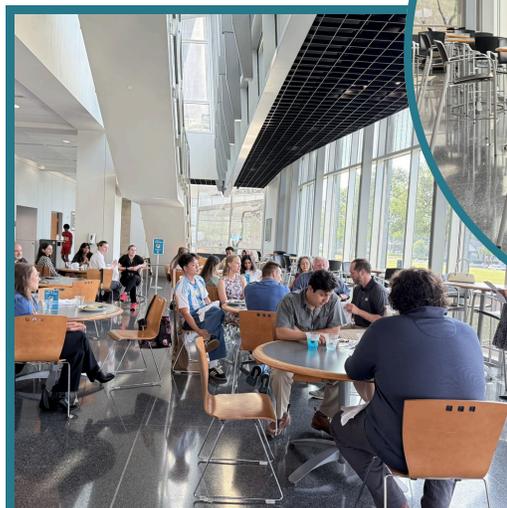
Faculty Teacher of the Year
Awarded for Excellence in Pediatric Medical Student Education

Derek Friese

Chair Award - Excellence in Pediatrics

Kavita Patel

Chair Award - Obstetrics and Gynecology Excellence in Women's Health



RESEARCH AND GRANT SPOTLIGHT

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH PROGRAM 2025

In 2025, the Pediatric Research Program (PRP) offered a remarkable opportunity for second-year TCOM students to engage in four weeks of intensive summer research. This year, we saw a tremendous response, with 118 enthusiastic applicants vying for a place in the program. After pairing with available mentors, 69 students were chosen to participate. The PRP has a rich history of assisting TCOM students in cultivating their research interests. For more information about the PRP, please visit [unthsc.edu/prp](<http://unthsc.edu/prp>) or contact Riyaz Basha at Riyaz.Basha@unthsc.edu or Leah Zimmerman at Leah.Zimmerman@unthsc.edu.

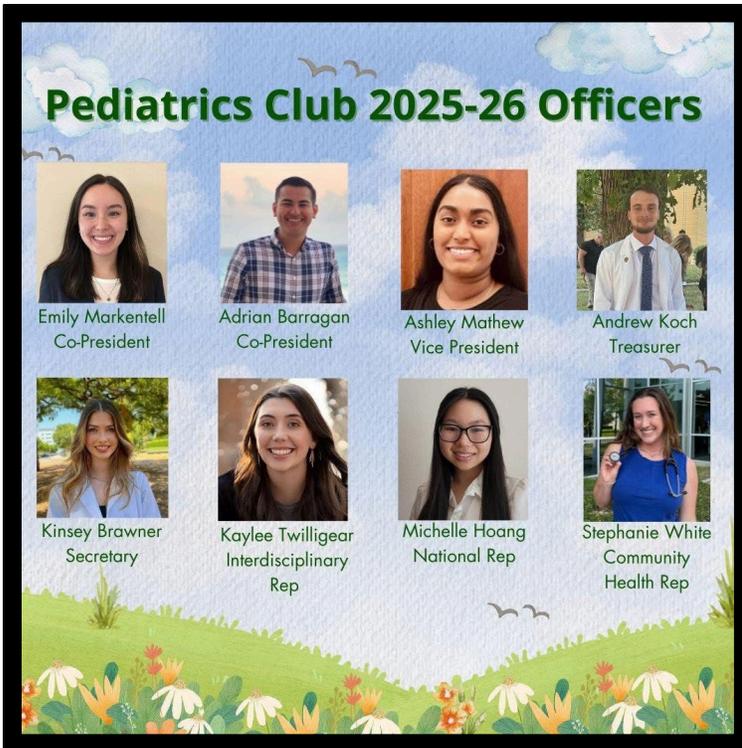


TCOM STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

TCOM STUDENT LEADERS FOR PEDIATRICS AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

TCOM Student Leaders for 2025-2026

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the dedication, commitment, and accomplishments of our student leaders. As an Executive Board Officer, it's evident that you are destined to become influential leaders in any path you decide to follow.



The second Session of Sister Speaks took place on April 15, 2025

We are proud of our enthusiastic student leaders in women health for providing teen centered reproductive education with a partnership with the department and Boys and Girls Club! Thank you PA Amanda Brosnan for your enthusiastic mentorship and students for your vision and passion.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

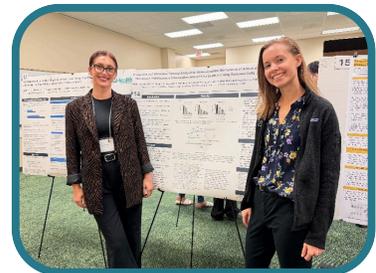
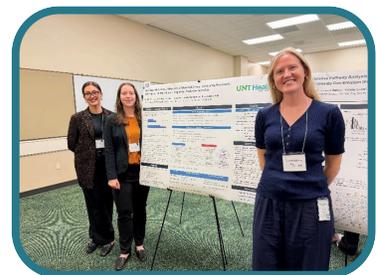
Celebrating Research Achievements of TCOM Student

TCOM Student Natali Borrego and research mentor, Dr. Paul Thornton, a Pediatric Endocrinologist, share some recent research awards. Recognized by Pediatric Endocrine Society of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas (PESTOLA) as one of the top six abstracts. Chosen by the Pediatric Endocrine Society (PES) for a “Presidential Poster Presentation” at the 2025 annual meeting in National Harbor, MD. This is regarded as one of the highest honors for a poster. Selected by PES to join their PedsEndo Discovery Program.



AI for Biology and Medicine, University of North Texas, Denton, TX

Center for Computational Life Sciences at UNT, Denton organized its inaugural Research Symposium, AI for Biology & Medicine (AI4BM) on October 30th, 2025. This one-day event explored how AI is revolutionizing biological research, precision medicine, and healthcare technology. Keynote speaker was Dr. Iman Hajirasouliha from Weill Cornell Medicine. This symposium brought together regional community interested in AI and other technology for applications in translational and clinical research. 46 Posters presented at the symposium. Four TCOM students Natalie Gierat, Amber Hoskins, Elizabeth Miller, and Elin Stone presented posters at this symposium. These four students participated in the Department of Pediatrics and Women’s Health, Pediatric Research Program (PRP).



EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating Research Achievements of TCOM Student

TCOM Students Present Research at TxSCO 2025 Annual Conference

The Texas Society of Clinical Oncology (TxSCO) held its 2025 Annual Conference on September 19–20 in Houston, TX, bringing together oncologists, medical residents, fellows, researchers, and students from across the state to share advances in cancer research and patient care. This conference serves as a critical platform for sharing clinical innovation, and collaborative efforts in cancer care in the state of Texas.

Among the participants in TxSCO2025, we are proud to present five second-year students from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM).

TCOM students presented their work with confidence and professionalism, making their impact at an early stage in their medical program.

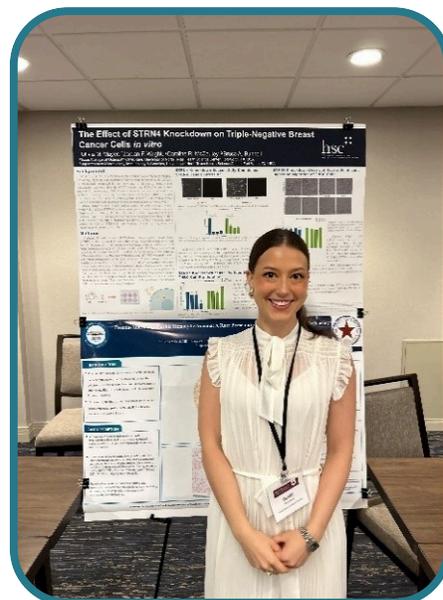
Poster Presentations: Destny Agubuzo, Olivia Mayer, Shruti Sankar, and Hetali Trivedi each presented a research posters under the category 'Awarded Posters Displayed'. Olivia Mayer conducted research on triple negative breast cancer in the laboratory of Dr. Bruce Bunnell, Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Genetics, College of Biomedical and Translational Sciences (CBTS). Destny Agubuzo, Shruti Sankar, and Hetali Trivedi conducted outcomes research at JPS on endometrial cancers, cervical cancers and cholangiocarcinoma respectively. These students were part of the Pediatric Research Program offered by the Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health supported by TCOM and their projects included significant proportion of Adolescents and Young Adults. They worked under the mentorship of Dr. Kalyani Narra and Dr. Swetha Paluru at JPS Health Network. Ms. Kari Teigen and Ms. Rajnandini Aswani of JPS Office of Clinical Research provided statistical support.

Oral Presentation: Ivan Marrufo was the only medical student among the four trainees, the other three being residents, chosen to deliver an oral presentation on "An Attempt at Maximizing High Risk Pulmonary Nodule Referrals to Expedite Cancer Diagnosis Using Artificial Intelligence". Along with Dr Narra, Ivan worked closely with Mr. Raymond Johnson of JPS Radiology and Dr. Paras Patel of JPS Pulmonary. He captured audience attention with a scintillating talk.

Participation in meetings like TxSCO reflects the strong collaboration between TCOM and JPS Health Network and underscores their shared commitment to supporting the next generation of physicians and leaders in clinical care and research.



(From Left to right) Dr. David Gerber (UT Southwestern), Ivan Marrufo, Shruti Sankar, Hetali Trivedi, Destny Agubuzo, Dr. Kalyani Narra (JPS) and Olivia Mayer at TxSCO 2025



EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

JPS Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship UNTHealth Pediatric Clinic Rotation

Psychiatry Fifth-Year Fellows



Alexandra Granado
Sanchez, DO



Jacqueline Lim, DO

The Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health is pleased to welcome Dr. Sanchez and Dr. Lim to the UNTHealth Pediatric Clinic for a formal rotation as part of the JPS Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. The program aims to train individuals in specializing and building a solid foundation in child development and management of pediatric patients facing various psychiatric disorders within a community health system environment.



Please Mark Your Calendars

Research Appreciation Day, happening on Friday, April 17, 2026!

RAD the annual celebration of the remarkable research, innovation, and collaboration taking place across the UNTHealth campus.

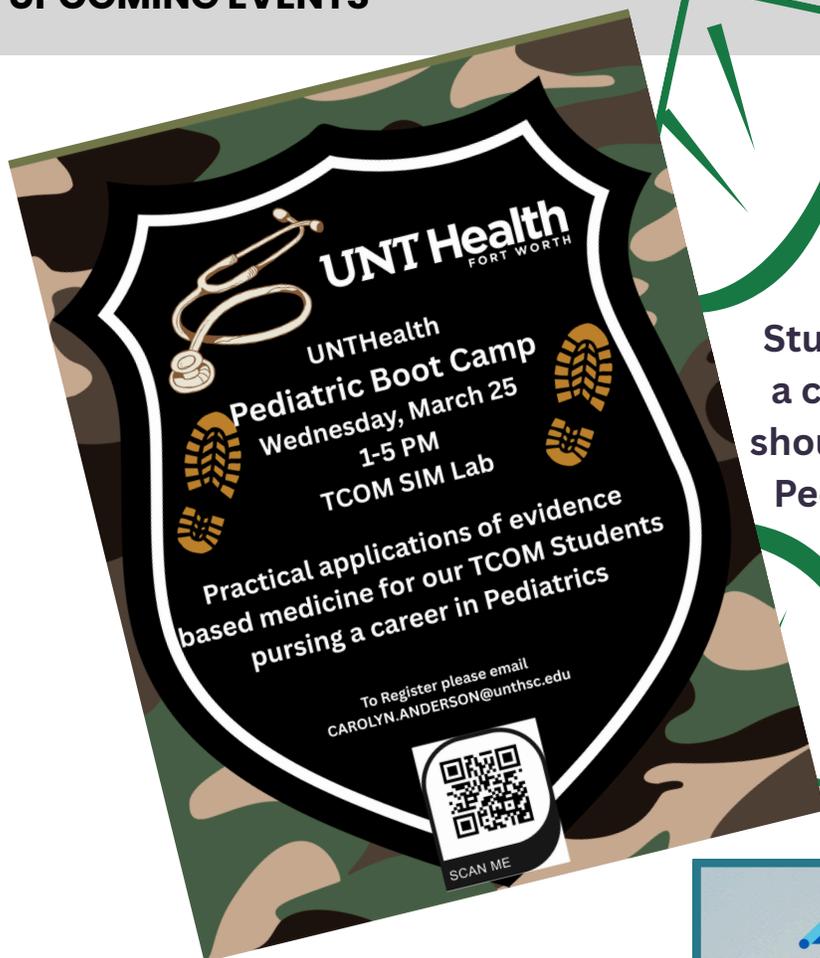
Abstract submissions will be open from **January 1 through February 1, 2026**. More details about submission requirements and presentation opportunities will be shared soon.

A new RAD 2026 website, which will house all event details, submission guidelines, schedules, and participation opportunities once it goes live.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to DRI@UNTHealth.edu.

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS



Students interested in a career in Pediatrics should Register for the Pediatric Boot Camp

July 23-25, 2026

Cook Children's presents the 2026 Leukemia Symposium, co-hosted with UNT Health and Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. This year we're bringing together a multidisciplinary team of pediatric oncologists, hematologists, pharmacists, behavioral health specialists, researchers, nurses, health care trainees and allied professionals. Together, they'll explore groundbreaking approaches to innovative care for children and adolescents with leukemia. This year's symposium emphasizes precision medicine, pharmacogenomics, special populations, holistic care and original research presentations. Through collaboration across disciplines, this event aims to advance patient-centered care.

CookChildren's. **UNT Health FORT WORTH**

SAVE THE DATE

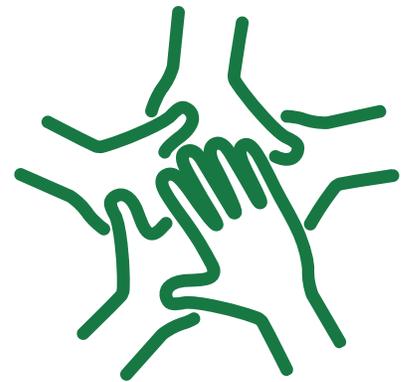
2026 Leukemia Symposium
July 23 -24-25, 2026
Registration will open January 2026
Details regarding the event coming soon

Presented by
The Lois and W. Paul Bowman, M.D., Leukemia Program Endowment

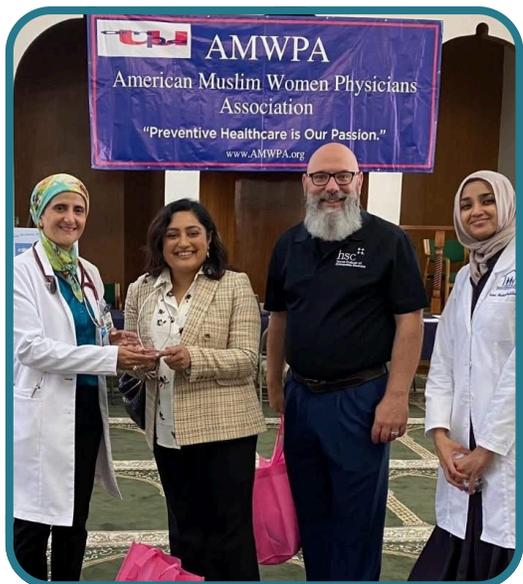
EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT FALL MEETING NOVEMBER 2025

The Department convened an end-of-year meeting to review our mission and objectives with all faculty and staff members.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Bui had the chance to work with the American Muslim Women's Physicians Associate and support the important work done at a local health fair. We appreciate the community connection.



**Amanda Mendez, FNP
Instructor
Department of Pediatrics
and Women's Health**

Congratulations! NP Amanda Mendez for taking on the role of section director for overseeing the Preceptor Program for TCOM as Section Director for Experiential Clinic Learning and for receiving a grant award by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.



**Amy Raines-Milenkov, DrPH
Associate Professor - Research
Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health**

Dr. Raines-Milenkov has recently been appointed to serve on the workgroup of The Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies within the Community Health Committee. This Committee is dedicated to enhancing the health of mothers and babies in Texas through initiatives focused on awareness, education, and community-level services.



**Leslie Allsopp, PhD, MSN, MPH, AE-C
Assistant Professor - Research
Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health**

Dr. Allsopp was honored with the Outstanding Community Partner Award in recognition of her commitment to enhancing the health of children in North Texas. The award was officially presented during the Thriving Communities Collaborative meeting on January 9, 2025, at the Grapevine Convention Center.

DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION

The Department hosted a TCOM student event on campus on April 15, 2025, designed to offer students valuable insights into pursuing a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Among the distinguished guest speakers were program directors from the DFW area.



OBGYN INFORMATIONAL

Three DFW OBGYN Program Directors collaborate with residents to discuss pursuing a career in OBGYN



Dr. Jacqueline Garda, DO
OBGYN Program Director for Baylor All Saints



Dr. Christine Hoang, MD
OBGYN Program Director for JPS



Dr. Brad Boccaccio, DO
OBGYN Program Director
Medical City Arlington

A remarkable group of Cook Children's Physician TCOM and Research staff came together for the TCOM Alumni Social hosted by the Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health. We deeply appreciate the outstanding partnership and collaboration between Cook Children's and UNTHHealth-TCOM!

DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION

HSC Department of Pediatrics and Women's Health "Catch One" Program

The Catch One Program: A Pathway to Growth

The Catch One program is poised for expansion, led by NP Mandy Mendez and the HSC Pediatric Mobile Clinic.

Currently, this initiative partners with Morningside Elementary School to provide thorough health screenings, including dental and vision services, with parental consent.

This program is crucial for offering health assessments to underserved elementary students, particularly at Morningside Elementary. It focuses on early detection of health issues and connecting children to necessary care, engaging nursing and osteopathic students in the process.

Key Features Include:

- **Mobile Clinic:** A cutting-edge unit that brings healthcare directly to schools.
- **Screenings:** A variety of health checks and immunizations provided.
- **Student Training:** Practical experience for medical and nursing students in collaboration with the TWU dental hygiene program, TCU speech and hearing program, TCU nursing, UNT nursing, TCOM students, and PA students.
- **Community Focus:** Partnerships with local organizations to address social needs.
- **Early Intervention:** Emphasizing the early identification of health concerns to foster a lasting impact.

The program plays a significant role in enhancing community health in Fort Worth by meeting children's health needs through mobile clinics and proactive student involvement.



NEW DEPARTMENT TEAM MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest **TEAM** members



Social Worker
Erin Miranda



NP
Chelsea Mahan



Neuro Psychologist
Dr. Samantha Saldana



Front Desk
Alexis Medina

Medical Assistants



Eduardo Perez



Leoncia "Leah" Vasquez



Barbara Sagastume

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Let's give a warm welcome to the lovely Sora Rose! She made her grand debut on December 28th, weighing in at a petite and perfect 2 pounds, 3.9 ounces. Huge congrats to PA Shadia Osakwe and her husband, Brenden, on their adorable bundle of joy, Baby Sora!



Congratulations to Dr. David Farbo, Research Scientist in Research Data Science & Analytics at Cook Children's Health Care System and PRP Manager, on the joyful addition to his family!

WELCOME, BROOKS FARBO!



Celebrating Jaclyn Howell's recent accomplishment of earning her RN degree from Weatherford College.