

Pediatrics Monthly Newsletter

October 2025 ✦

Dear Colleagues,

Sometimes attributed to a Chinese proverb, the curse “may you live in interesting times” most likely originates with British politicians of the late 19th century, but it feels that it applies to us now more than ever before in our lifetimes. We are bombarded daily with anxiety-inducing national and international news, learn about changes in federal priorities that will likely affect healthcare, medical education, and biomedical research funding. On top of it, our tiny pediatric microcosmos is also changing, with incoming new academic and administrative leadership. We have every reason to be anxious; change is never easy, and we get comfortable in the roles we have carved out for ourselves over the years. But change is inevitable. “Change is the only constant” is a timeless insight. So, we adapt. That is what made us successful as a species, and it is what will make us successful as a community in pediatrics. In 1966, Robert F. Kennedy said: “Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.” So, we do need to adapt, but not just to survive, but to thrive and grow. To provide even better care for our patients, educate more students, grow our research program, and to support each other in the process.

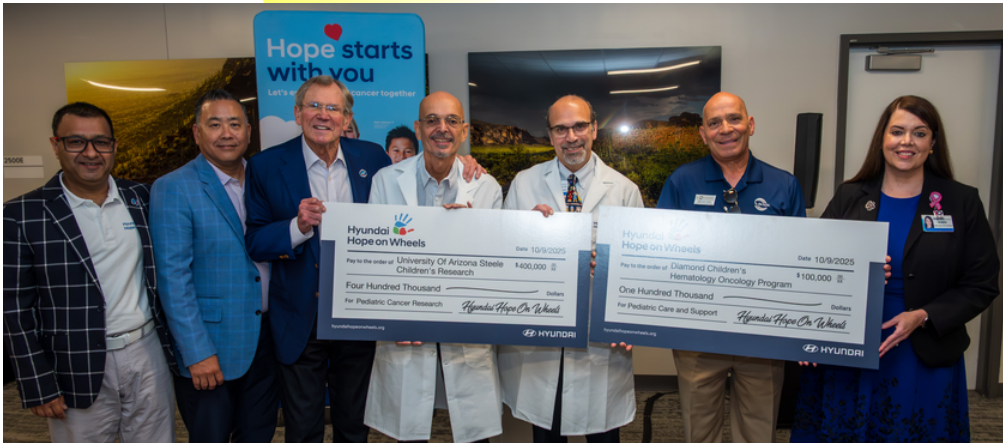
In the research labs of the Steele Center, things are not slowing down. Between federal, state, and philanthropic financial support, we continue making new discoveries. Standing still is not an option. In the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, we continue to dig deeper into the inner workings of the immune system, epithelial barrier dysfunction, and breakdown of immune tolerance to commensal bacteria in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. As a part of the newly formed Daniel Cracchiolo Institute for Pediatric Autoimmune Disease and the Children’s Postinfectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy (CPAE) Center of Excellence, our team continues to bring better understanding to the role of changing gut microbiota in patients with PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) in the gut barrier function, systemic inflammation, breakdown of the blood-barrier, and activation of microglia to promote neuroinflammatory responses. We strive to implement and utilize state-of-the-art tools, such as germ-free mice humanized with patients’ gut microbiota, in vitro models derived from human pluripotent stem cells, modern genetic tools for mouse genome engineering, and genomic tools offered by our own PANDA Core for Genomics and Microbiome Research. We collaborate across division, departments, and universities because the complexity of today’s research exceeds the capacity of any one lab. And of course, we continue to apply for grants, even though it feels like trying to buy a winning Powerball lottery ticket. We do it because it is who we are. People driven by passion, curiosity, and hope to create something that will make a difference in other people’s lives. Just like everyone else in our department.

So, let’s keep on going, keep on giving, and keep on making all those tiny and big differences. We are good at it.

With Respect and Gratitude,
Pawel Kiela, DVM, Ph.D.
Professor of Pediatrics and Immunobiology
PANDA Endowed Professor in Autoimmune Disease Research
Associate Director for Basic Science Research, Steele Children's Research Center



DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Hyundai Hope on Wheels event 10/09/2025



Elks convention in Phoenix 10/17 - 10/19



PANDA bus tour at the Wilmot clinic on 10/20/2025



Foothills Club of Tucson and Long Realty Cares awarded Kids of Steele grants to support their "Adopt- a Family and Stocking Stuffer programs" this holiday season.



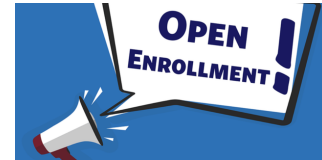
Hike in Phoenix on 10/25/2025





Don't forget / Upcoming action items:

- Accounting team new group email: peds-finance@list.arizona.edu
 - Goes to Leisa, Carlene, Crystal & Donna
- UA Open Enrollment: October 20th - November 7th, 2025
- Banner Open Enrollment: November 3rd - November 14, 2025
- The deadline to receive the flu vaccine or have an approved medical or religious exemption is NOVEMBER 12, 2025.
- We are currently engaged in the Promotion & Tenure (P&T) process, with nine faculty members going up for promotion.
- Faculty portfolio (UA Vitae annual reviews) will be starting soon!
- UA Life & Work Connections: Resources for childcare & parenting, adult & older adult care, physical health, mental health, and home resources.
- Don't forget to recognize employees (both faculty & staff) doing an excellent job! This is part of our new Employee Recognition Program. Email your leader and they will forward to Casey Nelson for tracking.



Faculty Portfolio



HUMAN RESOURCES
Life & Work
Connections

Happy Milestone
Work Anniversary



Dr. Andrew Hoyer

Welcome!

Dr. Ronaldo Camacho is no longer per diem, and started in Neonatology in August

Dr. Kritika Patel started in Hem/Onc in October

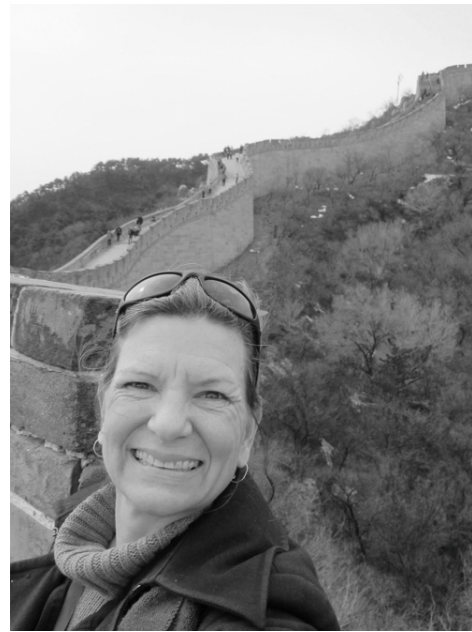
Dr. Bianca Kao started in Hospital Med in October

Dr. Karen Carr will start in Cardio in November

Andra Doherty started in the Steele CRC labs, as an expert in Animal Care, as an Animal Technologist II.



- My Name Is:
Andra Doherty
- My job title is:
Animal Technologist II
- What brought me to Pediatrics:
The gnotobiotic mouse colony used for research brought me to the Kiela Lab.
- Best way to contact me:
andradoherty@arizona.edu
- My rare talent/something I do very well:
A life devoted to animal welfare working with a wide variety of species.
- What I enjoy most:
These days? Sleeping.



Pediatrics in the news

- Dr. Sydney Rice - [New UA research develops machine learning to address needs of children with autism](#)
- Dr. Emmanuel Katsanis - [Diamond Children's receives major donation from Hyundai Hope on Wheels](#)
- COM-Phoenix - [U of A Works to Build a Pediatric Powerhouse with Institute](#)
- Dr. Sally Radovick - [U of A and UNM win joint \\$43.6M NIH award to help turn clinical research into practical medicine](#)
- Pediatric Surgery - [Fetal Surgery team hosts 2nd Annual Fetal Reunion](#)



Walk with a Doc

Beginning January 2026, we'd like to invite our Pediatric doctors to volunteer to be the doctor the community can walk with. It's an informal setting, that encourages everyone to be active. Physicians are asked to make a short presentation on their area of expertise or interest, and walkers hike along a 2.4 mile path to continue the conversation and ask questions.

Walks are on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8 a.m. at the Rillito River Park ramada east of Swan Road on the south bank just north of Camp Lowell

Learn more about walking with a doc [here](#).

Interested in being the doc of the month?
Email Lori Castro at loricastro@arizona.edu



Upcoming Community Events & Volunteer Opportunities:

Community Events:

- Kids of Steele
 - Famfest
 - Sunday November 9th, 2025
 - 4:30pm - 7:30pm
 - Funtastiks
- Hockey Fights Cancer
 - Roadrunners hockey game
 - Sunday November 23rd, 2025
 - More to come soon!



Thank you for reading!

For suggestions contact:

Casey Nelson

caseycastle@arizona.edu

medicine.arizona.edu/pediatrics



Open positions
in Pediatrics:

Banner:

[Click here!](#)

UA:

[Click here!](#)



Operational
reminders:

- Planning to travel? Don't forget to notify your Banner Coordinators and UA Admins.