
Pediatrics Monthly Newsletter

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April 2026

Last week, I had the opportunity to join leaders from across the region in Phoenix at the Leadership Matters Conference, where the primary focus was on TRUST in the workplace. That theme resonated deeply with me as I continue stepping into my new role, a new city, and a new community – prompting reflection on what it truly means to TRUST the process, both personally and professionally. Starting somewhere new naturally brings a desire to move quickly – to learn, to contribute, and to create positive momentum. But I've come to believe that the most meaningful progress happens when we allow ourselves to slow down to the speed of wisdom.

In leadership, that same principle holds true. During the leadership conference we learned how Stephen Covey described trust as the intersection of character and competence. While competence enables process, it is character – how we show up, how we listen, and how we follow through – that builds the trust necessary for lasting success. While at times, trust is not immediate; rather, developed over time, it's also necessary to exhibit and demonstrate trust to build a foundation that will continue to grow and flourish.

These early weeks have been an important period of learning for me. Through conversations, observation and partnership, I've been gaining a deeper understanding of the strengths that shape our department and the opportunities ahead. I am grateful for the openness, engagement and trust so many of you have already extended – it is through that exchange that trust will continue to take root and grow.

As we move forward, my commitment is to lead with intention – to balance pace with purpose and action with reflection. By trusting the process and taking the time to build strong foundations, we position ourselves to do work that is not only effective but enduring for the children and families we serve.

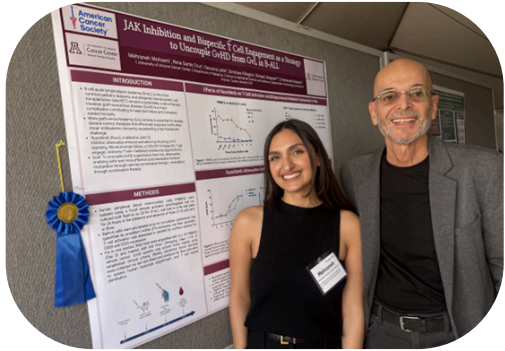
So, remember to slow down to the speed of wisdom and to step out in trust of one another. I want to sincerely thank you for the trust you have placed in me. It means a great deal, and I am committed to continuing to earn that trust every day as we move forward together.

Kristen Morrow, MHA
Senior Director, Pediatrics Department Administrator

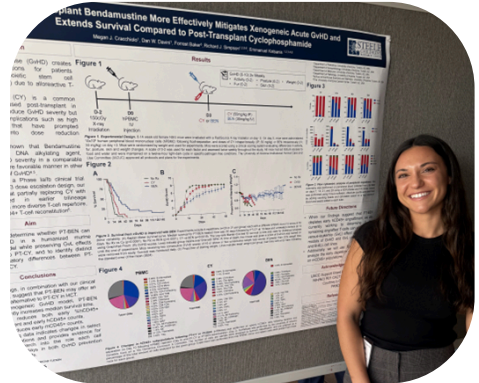


Congratulations on Research Day!

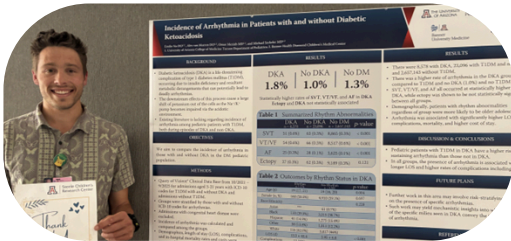
Kudos to those who presented at Research Day. An outstanding accomplishment & contribution to advancing our work.



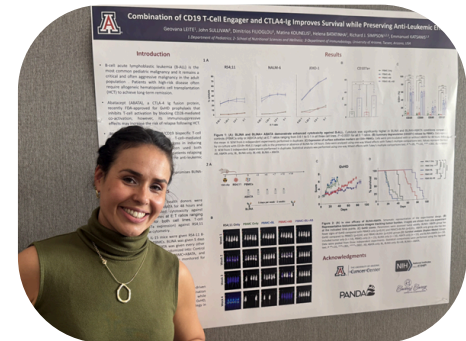
JAK inhibition and bispecific T cell engagement as a strategy to uncouple GvHD from GvL in B-ALL
 Mehraneh Mohseni Zadeh Harouzi
 Research Mentor: Emmanuel Katsanis, MD



Post-transplant bendamustine more effectively mitigates xenogeneic acute GVHD and extends survival compared to post-transplant cyclophosphamide
 Megan Cracchiolo
 Research Mentor: Emmanuel Katsanis, MD



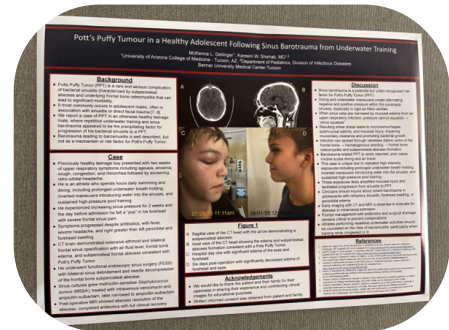
Incidence of arrhythmia in patients with and without diabetic ketoacidosis
 Emilie No, DO (stand-in)
 Research Mentor: Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc



CD19 T-cell engager combined with CTLA4-Ig improves survival while preserving anti-leukemic efficacy in a B-ALL pre-clinical model
 Geovana Leite, PhD
 Research Mentor: Emmanuel Katsanis, MD



Double coverage: Dual biologic therapy in a pediatric patient with complex atopy
 Daniella Pando
 Research Mentor: Heather Cassell, MD



Outcomes in hospitalized patients with congenital heart disease and other chronic diseases of childhood with comorbid mental health conditions
 Victoria Yatsenko
 Research Mentor: Michael Seckeler, MD, MSc

Pott's puffy tumor in a healthy adolescent following sinus barotrauma from intensive underwater training
 McKenna Dellinger
 Research Mentor: Kareem Shehab, MD

Pediatrics in the Desert

The Department hosted its annual Pediatrics in the Desert conference on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at the ENR2 Building. This one-day CME event brought together physicians, advanced practice providers, trainees, and allied health professionals for a full day of expert-led, evidence-based education.

The program featured multidisciplinary sessions across key areas of pediatric care, including genetics, orthopedics, pulmonology, psychology, nutrition, and food allergies, along with interactive spirometry workshops. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with faculty through Q&A discussions and hands-on learning.

The conference supports ongoing professional development and reinforces our commitment to advancing high-quality pediatric care through education, collaboration, and innovation.

Thank you to our GME team, planning committee, faculty speakers, and attendees for making this year's conference a success.



In the News

- [The PH Team relies on Dr. Seckeler](#)
- [Virtual Reality helps to improve pediatric experiences](#)
- [Dr. Katsanis from Naxos achieved a radical change in the treatment of leukemia](#)
- [Dr. Chamberlain takes lead of pediatrics](#)



Game day energy starts early ❤️❤️

[Arizona Men's Basketball](#) is headed to Indianapolis for the national semifinal matchup against the Michigan Wolverines—and some of our tiniest Wildcats are already ready to cheer them on.

In the Labor & Delivery Unit at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson, a few newborn fans are showing their Wildcat pride from day one.

As the official health care provider of Arizona Athletics, we're proud to cheer alongside our patients, families and community.

Bear Down!



At 8 years old, Tatumn wanted to help other kids facing cancer treatment. With her family, she helped create Tatumn's Treehouse, a playroom at Banner Children's at Desert Medical Center designed to give pediatric patients a place to play, smile and feel like kids again.

Now a high school senior, Tatumn recently returned to visit the space she helped inspire a decade ago. Her story is a reminder of the lasting impact one child's kindness can have on others.



A record-breaking day for Arizona kids.

The Banner Health Foundation raised \$1 million through the sold-out Banner Children's Open to support Child Life programs in Glendale, Mesa and Tucson.

Child life specialists help children and families cope with hospitalization through therapeutic play, education and emotional support during some of life's hardest moments. Because these services are not covered by insurance, community generosity helps make them possible.

Thank you to every sponsor, donor, volunteer and golfer who helped make a difference for kids and families across Arizona.



Upcoming Conferences

May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
ABP	ENDO	NDSC	ADCES	LEAD	NASPGHAN
DDW	SLEEP				ID Week
ATS	T21RS				
	PIRR				



Thanks a Bunch

PANDA's 26th Fashion Show was a success on 4/18

Arizona Elks

Yuma Lodge Clair Culver fundraising event
Jerry & Linda Grimes - Elks easter bunny gave a visit

Kids of Steele team up with UA football on 4/28

Sew it Forward sews creations for peds patients

Thanks for attending Walk with a Doc on 4/11



Ellie Killian

Banner Office Coordinator

Taking over for Rachael Cho
Will have divisions:

- Critical Care
- Gen Peds
- Hospital Med
- Neonatology



elida.killian2@bannerhealth.com

Get to know Ellie:

What's a rare talent/something you do well?
Bringing the whimsy!

What you enjoy doing most?
I enjoy giving food tours!

Are you originally from Tucson/what drew you to Banner?
I'm a Tucson original and had worked at Banner previously for a while then went on a small side quest just to return to the nest.

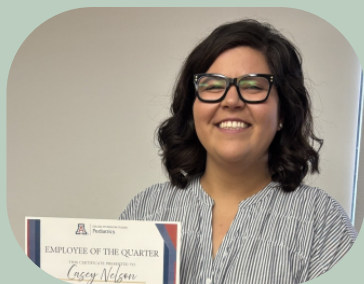
Anything else you may want to share?
I have a 7-year-old daughter name Ella and she's my whole world.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Rachael Cho on her well-deserved promotion to the Pediatrics Residency Program Administrator.

Your dedication & impact continue to elevate our team!



We're proud to recognize Casey Nelson as Employee of the Quarter for Q3.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions and commitment to excellence.



Dr. Catherine Riley

Don't forget / Upcoming action items:

- Don't forget to recognize employees (both faculty & staff) doing an excellent job!
 - You can recognize faculty, staff, residents, anyone in the Peds department!
 - Recognition can be sent to that person's direct supervisor.
 - Then the supervisor should email to Casey Nelson at caseycastle@arizona.edu.
- Creative Arts For Lowering Mental Stress (CALM) - hosted by the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health ([click here for more info!](#))
 - 5/7/2026 from 12:30-1:30pm: Sound Bath Meditation

Thank you for reading!

For suggestions contact:
Casey Nelson
caseycastle@arizona.edu
medicine.arizona.edu/pediatrics



Operational reminders:

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



Open positions in Pediatrics:

Banner:
[Click here!](#)

UA:
[Click here!](#)