

Pediatrics Monthly Newsletter

June - July 2026

As we begin a new academic year, I am reminded that one of the greatest strengths of our residency program is the community that surrounds our learners. While July is often associated with new beginnings for our residents, it is also an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary commitment of the faculty, staff, fellows, nurses, and interprofessional team members who make those beginnings possible.

Each new class arrives with tremendous potential, eager to learn and ready to grow. And this year's new residents are no exception. They hail from as far away as the Middle East and as near as down the block. But wherever they come from, it is your mentorship, patience, and willingness to teach during bedside rounds, in the clinic or in the middle of a busy overnight shift, that transform their potential into confidence and competence. The lessons our residents carry forward are shaped as much by your compassion, professionalism, and modeling as they are by the medicine you teach.

As our returning residents assume new leadership roles and our interns begin their journey, thank you for welcoming them into our community and supporting their growth. Every interaction is an opportunity to inspire curiosity, foster resilience, and reinforce the core values that define our profession. Please remember to give residents feedback, both face-to-face and written (through New Innovations or SIMPL) so that they have a context from which to grow and flourish.

I am deeply grateful for all that you do to support our residents. Your dedication to education is an investment not only in today's learners but also in the future of pediatric care in Tucson and beyond. I look forward to another year of working alongside you as we celebrate successes, navigate challenges, and help shape the next generation of compassionate, skilled pediatricians.

Thank you for all you do, and welcome to another wonderful academic year.

Rachel Cramton, MD, FAAP (she/her)
Program Director, Pediatric Residency
Clinical Professor, Pediatrics
Pediatric Hospital Medicine and Palliative Care
Gold Humanism Honor Society



Welcome to the Pediatrics Family, PGY-1s!

We are excited to welcome our newest resident physicians to the Department of Pediatrics. We look forward to watching them learn, grow, and make a lasting impact throughout their residency journey.

Dr. Martinez is back at it!

Congratulations to Dr. Fernando Martinez and his research team on their latest publication! Their new study identified proteins in umbilical cord blood that may help explain why babies born smaller than expected face a greater risk of chronic heart, lung, and metabolic diseases later in life. The findings could open the door to new approaches for preventing disease before it begins. Read more [here](#)!

Want to learn more about the scientist behind the discovery?

Watch Meet Dr. Fernando Martinez on YouTube



Pediatrics' Dr. Rickie Simpson is going global

Named a 2026–2027 Fulbright Scholar, he'll collaborate with researchers in Rome to investigate how exercise can boost the immune system's ability to fight blood cancers. Read more about this exciting recognition!



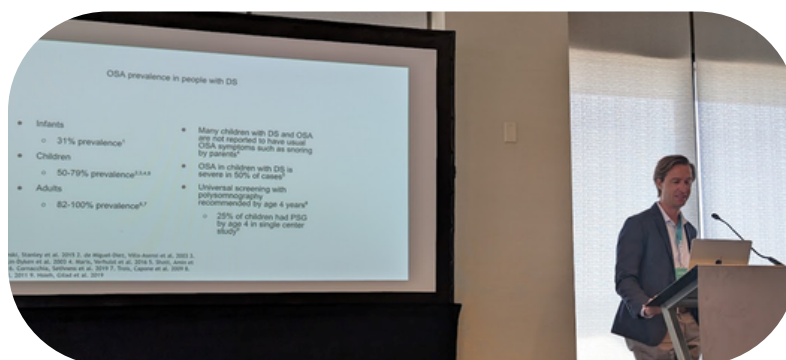
Seven U of A educators named 2026-2027 Fulbright Scholars

Seven University of Arizona faculty members will soon travel the world to conduct vital research and strengthen global relationships as Fulbright Scholars.

University of Arizona News

From the podium to the national stage, Dr. Dan Combs is constantly speaking

Dr. Combs recently shared his expertise on pharmacotherapy for obstructive sleep apnea in children with Down syndrome at two major conferences—the SLEEP 2026 Conference and the T21RS Conference. His commitment to advancing care and education continues this summer as he heads to Orlando to speak at the National Down Syndrome Congress.



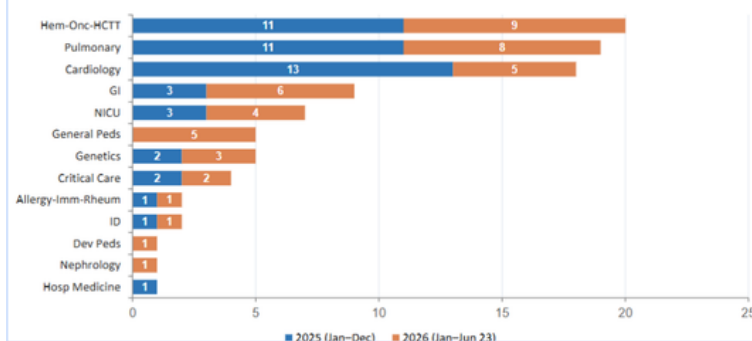
Pediatrics Scholarship Report

Reporting period: January 1, 2025 - June 29, 2026

93 publications / 317.4 cumulative impact factor / \$15.53M in active funding for 2026

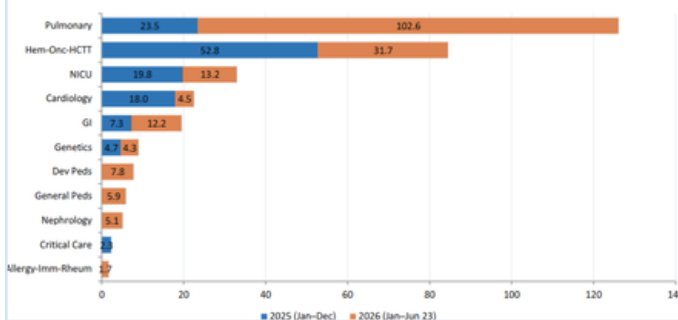
Peer-Reviewed Publications by Division

93 publications across 13 divisions

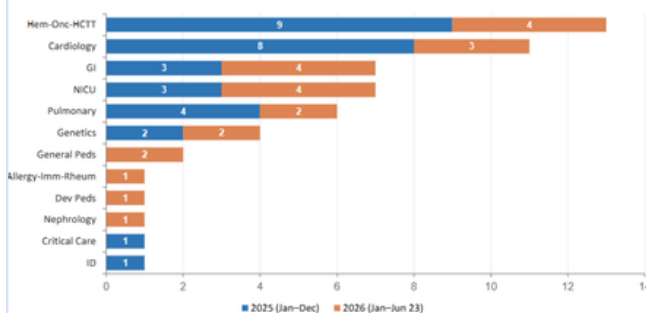


Cumulative Journal Impact Factor by Division

1st/senior-author papers; IF split when authors span divisions. Total = 317.4



First- or Senior-Author Publications by Division



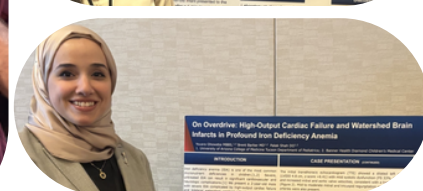
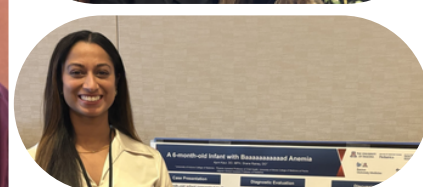
Learning, Networking & Growing Together

Many of our faculty and residents attended this year's Pediatrics in the Red Rocks (PIRR) conference in Sedona. From engaging educational sessions to meaningful networking, the conference continues to be a premier opportunity for Arizona's pediatric community to learn, collaborate, and advance pediatric care.

Our department was especially well represented, with six posters presented by faculty and trainees.

Dr. Nathan Price was a featured faculty speaker and quickly became one of the standout presenters of the conference, delivering multiple well-received talks on pediatric infectious disease topics.

PIRR attendees also benefited from inspiring keynote presentations by Dr. Susan Kressly, immediate past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Meet Dr. Macaraeg: Juvenile Arthritis Awareness

Dr. Macaraeg discovered pediatric rheumatology during residency while exploring her interest in the immune system. The combination of complex medicine, lifelong patient relationships, and team-based care made it the perfect fit. At the University of Arizona, her greatest reward is helping children return to active, healthy lives.

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Juvenile arthritis is just adult arthritis in children.

Fact: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a unique autoimmune disease requiring specialized care. It can also affect the eyes, making early diagnosis and treatment essential.

Hope for the Future

Advances in treatment are helping more children with JIA and other autoimmune diseases live active, healthy lives with excellent quality of life.

A Day in the Life

Each day brings something new at Steele Children's Research Center and Pediatrics—from patient care and research to teaching and mentoring. Dr. Macaraeg enjoys collaborating with colleagues and training the next generation of physicians. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors, cooking, reading, and hand embroidery.



Did You Know...

Dr. Macaraeg recently hosted a Pediatrics tea party on July 7, bringing colleagues together for an opportunity to connect, relax, and build community outside of the clinical setting. Thank you to everyone who joined!

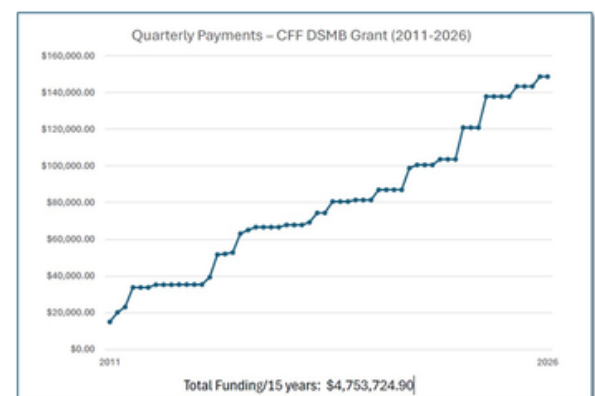
Be on the lookout for future wellness events and opportunities to connect across the department.

15 Years of Advancing Cystic Fibrosis Research

The University of Arizona's Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) has reached an exciting milestone—15 years of support from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). Over that time, the program has grown significantly, helping ensure the safety and quality of clinical trials that advance new therapies for people living with CF.

Dr. Wayne Morgan credits the dedication of everyone involved in this important effort, as well as the continued commitment of the CFF to advancing high-quality clinical research. Together with the University of Michigan DSMB team, the UA team plays a vital role in monitoring CF clinical trials across the United States and internationally, helping move the field closer to new treatments and cures.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this impactful work!



Pediatrics in the news



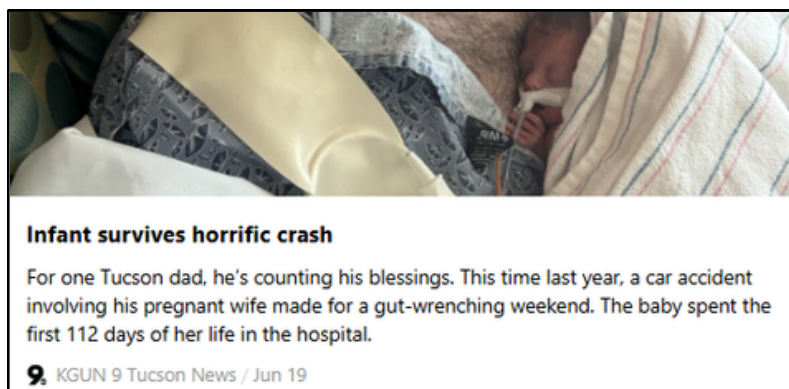
Three years ago, Rupa Low, MD, and her husband, Jason Low, MD, experienced every expectant parent's fear when a medical emergency threatened both mother and baby.

Today, their story has come full circle with a \$50,000 gift to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix, a heartfelt thank you for the exceptional care that quite possibly saved their son Henry's life.

It started as an ordinary work day for Rupa, a family medicine physician. However, when abdominal pain struck and her blood pressure medication couldn't bring down dangerously high readings, she knew something was seriously wrong.

At 34 weeks pregnant and suspecting preeclampsia, Rupa woke her husband Jason, an interventional radiologist, in the middle of the night with two simple words: "Let's go."

Read their full story of gratitude and hope: <https://tinyurl.com/4jvf2mu>



Keeping Our Health on Track

Bright and early at 5:00 a.m., Drs Katsanis, Shehab, Hoyer, Worrell (Division Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery) and PNP Lucy Pelayo-Katsanis, lace up their running shoes to beat the Tucson heat, stay active, and start the day together.

Here's to keeping our health, and each other, on track!

Interested in joining? Reach out, all are welcome!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. AbuMaziad on the publication of his manuscript, "*Mechanism of Mutation in G Protein-Gated Inwardly Rectifying K⁺ Channel in Familial Hyperaldosteronism-Type III: Residue Fluctuations and Conformational Instability*," in *Molecules*.



This work advances understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying a rare form of familial hyperaldosteronism and highlights the continued research contributions of our faculty.



Congratulations Shabana Shaik, PhD on your promotion to Assistant Research professor **AND** being awarded the 2026-2027 SWIMMS Fellowship for Brain health across the Lifespan: Pediatric Origins of Women's Outcomes in Memory and Health (BLOOM)



Congratulations Lisa Grisham, PhD, DNP, NNP-BC on your promotion to Assistant Clinical Professor **AND** your role in keeping our NICU a level 4 center, by leading the program Eat, Sleep, Console for withdrawing newborns.



Thank you, Nancy Gates, RN for leading the Peapod program in our NICU, and playing a crucial role in keeping our NICU a level 4 center. The Peapod is used to evaluate the neonatal body composition.



Congratulations to Dr. Scott Olson on his selection as Clinical Reasoning Course Facilitator, joining Dr. Chan Lowe



Congratulations,
Dr. Susan P. Goode
on being awarded
2026-27 SWIMMS fellowship for Lifestyle and
Nutrition Program :“1,2,3 and the Power of Me”
AND
for being elected to the UACOM Women and
Medicine in Science (WIMS) Committee



Congratulations to
Dr. Courtney Karol for being accepted
into the Harvard Macy Institute Program
& selected to be a Societies mentor!
She'll be joining Dr. Pariury,
Dr. King, and Dr. Gaspers



Happy Milestone Work Anniversary

35 Years

Lisa Rascon 07/1991

20 Years

Dr. Chan Lowe 07/2006

10 Years

Dr. Drew Johnson 06/2016
Dr. Rachael Charles 06/2016
Dr. Lauren Benton 06/2016
NP Sarah Gibson 07/2016
NP Tori Carlson 07/2016

5 Years

Dr. Elizabeth Dobbin 06/2021
Dr. Austin Pomerantz 06/2021
Dr. Jensen Kracht 06/2021



Celebrating Lori Stratton

As part of the University of Arizona Foundation's organizational restructuring to enhance philanthropic support across the University, Lori Stratton's role will transition to supporting fundraising efforts across the College of Medicine – Tucson. While Lori's work will expand beyond Pediatrics, we want to take a moment to celebrate and thank her for the incredible impact she has made on the Department of Pediatrics and Steele Children's Research Center.

Lori's dedication, collaboration, and commitment to advancing support for children and families have strengthened our mission in countless ways. We invite colleagues to share their favorite memories, words of appreciation, or reflections on Lori's impact as we celebrate this next chapter with her.

Thanks a Bunch



Arizona Elks Major Projects:

Thank you to our Arizona Elks partners and the PANDA Core team for welcoming Gianna and providing an opportunity to inspire the next generation of healthcare leaders through hands-on research experiences.

Thank you for supporting the PEA POD, a specialized infant body composition tool that is helping Dr. Harijith and the Neonatology team better understand growth and nutrition while advancing care for our tiniest patients.



Volunteering in Action:

Thank you to Lori Castro, Claudia Bacelis, and Katie James who volunteered at United Way of Southern AZ to stuff bags for Sunnyside USD.



Volunteer Spotlight: Mike Feder

We are grateful to Mike Feder for his longstanding commitment to the Father's Day Council (now called T1D Champions) and his dedication to supporting children and families affected by Type 1 diabetes. Thank you, Mike, for your leadership, generosity, and continued partnership with the Department of Pediatrics and Steele Children's Research Center.

Make Way for Books

Thank you, Marc and the entire team for sharing the work and impact Make Way for Books makes every day and for the tour with Lori Castro & Dr. Chamberlain.





July New Faculty Orientation

The Faculty Affairs Office will host New Faculty Orientation for faculty who joined the University of Arizona between July 1, 2025, and May 31, 2026.

Thursday July 23rd: 9–10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.



Faculty Retreat

September 25th and 26th at Starr Pass

Join the committee [here](#) or scan the QR code:



RSVP [here](#) or scan the QR code:



Fit & Fun Run 5k

2026 Banner Health Fit & Fun Run 5K dates have been officially set!
Tucson: October 10, 2026 Brandi Fenton

Phoenix: October 11, 2026 Freestone Park, Gilbert



Teddy Bear Clinic at Reid Park Zoo

on Saturday, 11/7/26 from 9am-12pm.

We need staff, residents & physicians to volunteer !

Please contact Lori Castro

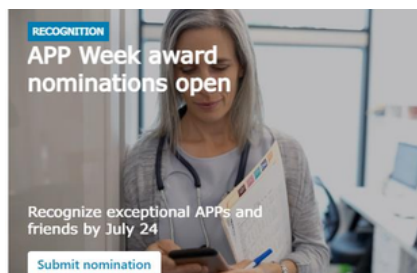


Kids of Steele FamFest at Funtasticks!

Sunday, 11/8/26 from 4:30-7:30pm

We need staff, residents & physicians to volunteer !

Please contact Lori Castro



APP Week award nominations

Nominations are open, recognize exceptional APPs and friends by July 24, 2026 through Banner.



CYSTIC FIBROSIS EDUCATION DAY

655 N. Alvernon

September 12th, 2026
9:00am-12:00pm

Enjoy:
Breakfast
Vendors
Connecting with others



Talks on:
Mechanics of CF and Modulators
Insurance
Mental Health

Cystic Fibrosis Education Day

September 12th, 9am - 12pm

For those with CF and those that cannot attend in person; please join on Zoom by scanning the QR code at the time of the event.

RSVP or questions? Contact Kerri Dominguez at 520-329-1431



CF Friends & Fam Hangout

August 10th, 6pm - 8pm

Scan the QR code to register for this free hangout & sign the performance waiver. Text questions to Kerri at 520-329-1431



Ready to go up for promotion?

Please meet with Dr. Wayne Morgan to discuss requirements, and confirm eligibility. To go up for promotion this current cycle, please meet and discuss with Dr. Morgan by Friday, July 31 as we must submit our list the following week.

Artificial Nail Policy Reminder

To help protect our patients and support infection prevention, please remember that artificial nails are not permitted for staff who work in patient care areas with direct patient contact or who prepare or deliver products for patients, in accordance with Policy 638.

Artificial nails include acrylics, gel overlays, nail tips, wraps, tapes, and other nail enhancements. As a general rule, if a nail product cannot be easily removed with acetone nail polish remover, it is not permitted. Thank you for your commitment to maintaining a safe environment for our patients and colleagues.



Don't forget / Upcoming action items:

Traveling on University or CME Funds?

If you are planning to travel using University or CME funds, please notify **both** your UA Administrator and Banner OC as early as possible (45-60 days prior) to ensure appropriate approvals and arrangements are completed.

- When traveling, please note there are distinct differences based on funding source. Check with Banner OC or UA Admin to ensure compliance.

What's Up, Doc?

To help streamline communication, department updates will follow a consistent monthly schedule:

- 1st Tuesday: Rotating Faculty / All Department Meeting
- 2nd Tuesday: "What's Up, Doc?" email update
- 3rd Tuesday: Department Newsletter
- 4th Tuesday: "What's Up, Doc?" email update

Please continue reviewing department communications so you don't miss important updates and opportunities.

Recognize a Colleague

Has a faculty member, staff member, resident, fellow, or colleague gone above and beyond?

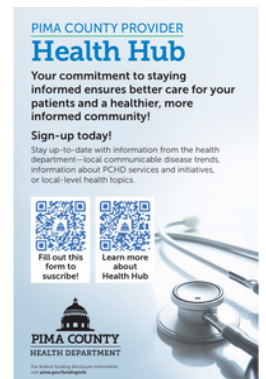
- We encourage you to recognize outstanding work and contributions. Submit your recognition to the individual's direct supervisor, who can then forward it to Casey Nelson at caseycastle@arizona.edu for department-wide recognition.



Open positions
in Pediatrics:

Banner:
[Click here!](#)

UA:
[Click here!](#)



PIMA COUNTY PROVIDER
Health Hub

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Stay up-to-date with information from the health department—local communicable disease trends, information about PCHD services and initiatives, or local-level health topics.

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PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Upcoming Conferences

Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
<u>ADCES</u> <u>PHM</u>	<u>LEAD</u> <u>Midwest Society for Pediatric Research</u> <u>Pediatric Potpourri</u> <u>Fetal & Neonatal Cardiac Symposium</u>	<u>AAP National Conf.</u> <u>NASPGHAN</u> <u>ID Week</u>	<u>American Heart Assoc.</u>

Thank you for reading!

For suggestions or additional recipients that should receive this newsletter, please contact:
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medicine.arizona.edu/pediatrics