

59th Annual
CLINICAL ADVANCES IN PEDIATRICS SYMPOSIUM

Sept. 16-18, 2026 | Adele Hall Campus, Kansas City, MO



Children's Mercy

2026 PROGRAM AGENDA*

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16

- 7:45 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Claire Hickey, MD, Darcy Weidemann, MD, MHS, Douglas Rivard, DO, Moderator: Michelle Arzubi-Hughes, DO, MBA
- 8:00 a.m. **Hot Topics in Pediatric Eye Care**
Jennifer Qayum, OD, Christina Twardowski, OD
- 8:30 a.m. **Prescribing Pearls for Pediatrics**
Ruben Celis, PharmD, Stephanie Duhlmeyer, PharmD
- 9:00 a.m. **Perfectionism, Identity, and Transition Stress in Youth**
Ram Chettiar, DO
- 9:30 a.m. **Human Trafficking in Pediatrics**
Danielle Horton MD, Rachel Whitfield, NP
- 10:00 a.m. **Question and Answer Panel**
- 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Workshop Session 1** (Select one)
- ▶ **Back Pain in Pediatrics**
Michael Benvenuti, MD, Cara Hoffart, DO, Armand Morel, MD, Thomas Munro, MD, Aaron Shaw, DO, Dustin Wallace, PhD
 - ▶ **Car Seat Safety**
Phyllis Agran, MD, Rohan Akhouri, MD, Melissa Smith, LCSW, LSCSW
 - ▶ **Caring for the Patient with Turner Syndrome: A Multidisciplinary Approach**
Haya Azouz, MBBS, Tazim Dowlut-McElroy, MD, Luisa Madroñero Waitman, MD
 - ▶ **Strengthening the Connection: New EMR Communication Tool to Enhance Care Coordination**
Joshua Herigon, MD, MPH, MBI
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Workshop Session 2** (Select one)
- ▶ **Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**
Aarti Pandya, MD, Jay Portnoy, MD
 - ▶ **Back Pain in Pediatrics**
Michael Benvenuti, MD, Cara Hoffart, DO, Armand Morel, MD, Thomas Munro, MD, Aaron Shaw, DO, Dustin Wallace, PhD
 - ▶ **Strengthening the Connection: New EMR Tool to Enhance Care Coordination**
Joshua Herigon, MD, MPH, MBI

- ▶ **Tap Water Irrigation and Laceration Repairs**
Rohan Akhouri, MD, Alison Fowler, MD
- 2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 p.m. **Workshop Session 3** (Select one)
- ▶ **Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**
Aarti Pandya, MD, Jay Portnoy, MD
 - ▶ **Back Pain in Pediatrics**
Michael Benvenuti, MD, Cara Hoffart, DO, Armand Morel, MD, Thomas Munro, MD, Aaron Shaw, DO, Dustin Wallace, PhD
 - ▶ **Car Seat Safety**
Phyllis Agran, MD, Rohan Akhouri, MD, Melissa Smith, LCSW, LSCSW
- Tap Water Irrigation and Laceration Repairs**
Rohan Akhouri, MD, Alison Fowler, MD
- 3:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

THURSDAY, SEPT. 17

- 7:45 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Brenda Rogers, MD
Moderator: Asdis Finnsdottir Wagner, DO
- 8:00 a.m. **Keynote: The Youth E-Bike Health and Safety Crisis: From Clinic to Community to Policy**
Phyllis Agran, MD
- 8:45 a.m. **Keynote: Integrative Medicine in Pediatrics**
Katie Senn, MD
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote: Child Drowning: Moving the Needle from Clinic to Community to Policy: A Systems Approach to Prevention**
Phyllis Agran, MD
- 10:15 a.m. **Question and Answer Panel**
- 10:25 a.m. **Break**
- 10:40 a.m. **Workshop Session 4** (Select one)
- ▶ **Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare**
Aarti Pandya, MD, Jay Portnoy, MD
 - ▶ **Car Seat Safety**
Phyllis Agran, MD, Rohan Akhouri, MD, Melissa Smith, LCSW, LSCSW
 - ▶ **Caring for the Patient with Turner Syndrome: A Multidisciplinary Approach**
Haya Azouz, MBBS, Tazim Dowlut-McElroy, MD, Luisa Madroñero Waitman, MD

- ▶ **Noninvasive Respiratory Support, Modalities, Interfaces, and More**
Hugo Escobar, MD, Tamika Cranford, MHPE, RRT, RRT-NPS, RPSGT, CCSH, and Brooke Smith, MHA, RRT-NPS

12:00 p.m. **Adjourn/Lunch**

BRADFORD SYMPOSIUM ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- 1:10 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Moderator: TBD
- 1:15 p.m. **Outpatient Antimicrobial Stewardship Duration Dilemmas: How Low Can You Go?**
Megan Hamner, MD
- 2:00 p.m. **Keynote: Advances in Prevention of Respiratory Viral Infections**
Jennifer Nayak, MD
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **Fever of Unknown Origin: Unmasking the Invisible**
Yorgo Zahlanie, MD
- 3:45 p.m. **Keynote: Emerging and Reemerging Infections**
Jennifer Nayak, MD
- 4:30 p.m. **Question and Answer Panel**
- 4:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

- 7:45 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Alejandro Quiroga, MD, MBA
Moderator: Denesh Ratnasingam, MD
- 8:00 a.m. **Clinical Care for the Pediatric Child: Supporting Immigrant Child Health in a Changing Landscape**
Anik Patel, MD, Erin McCann, MD
- 8:30 a.m. **Mitigating Moral Distress in Healthcare**
Kelstan Ellis, DO
- 9:10 a.m. **Ironing Out Iron Deficiency**
Lauren Amos, MD
- 9:40 a.m. **Internet Safety: How Pediatricians Can Support Patients and Families**
Elizabeth Milkovich, MD
- 10:10 a.m. **Question and Answer**
- 10:20 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Final Session Opening Remarks**
Moderator: Donna Claes, MD

- 10:30 a.m. **Keynote: Say What? Diagnosing and Treating Seven Types of Jargon**
Michael Pitt, MD
- 11:10 a.m. **POTS**
Lindsey Malloy-Walton, DO, MPH
- 11:40 a.m. **Keynote: Magic and Medicine: Learning to Think Like a Magician**
Michael Pitt, MD
- 12:25 p.m. **Question and Answer Panel**
- 12:35 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Agenda is current as of July 2026. Faculty and schedules are subject to change. Please visit childrensmercy.org/CAPS for current agenda.

“ I have really enjoyed this symposium. I will definitely sign up again next year. ”

—2025 CAPS attendee



CONTACT INFORMATION

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GUEST FACULTY



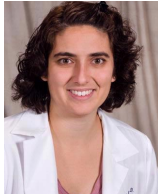
Phyllis Agran, MD, MPH

Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine; Founder, Child Injury Prevention Research Unit; Rady Children's Health; University of California - Irvine; School of Medicine, Orange, CA



Michael Pitt, MD

Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Chair, Strategic Planning; Program Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellowship; Associate Chair, Faculty Development; Associate Pediatric Residency Program Director; Q-rounds, Co-Founder and CEO; University of Minnesota Medical School; Twin Cities, MN



Jennifer Nayak, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases; Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology; University of Rochester Medicine, Rochester, NY



Katie Senn, MD

Pediatrician, Priority Care Pediatrics, Kansas City, MO

“ The symposium was absolutely amazing. I appreciate the work the Planning Committee did to provide such a wonderful education offering. Thank you!

”

—2025 CAPS attendee





“ The committee outdid itself.
The topics here are so
relevant to practice. ”

—2024 CAPS attendee

CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY FACULTY

Rohan Akhouri, MD
Emergency Medicine
Center for Childhood Safety

Lauren Amos, MD
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Haya Azouz, MBBS
Pediatric Endocrinology

Michael Benvenuti, MD
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

Ruben Celis, PharmD
Pharmacy

Ram Chettiar, DO
Pediatric Psychiatry

**Tamika Cranford, MHPE, RRT, RRT-NPS,
RPSGT, CCSH**
Sleep Center

Tazim Dowlut-McElroy, MD
Gynecology

Stephanie Duhlmeyer, PharmD
Pharmacy

Kelstan Ellis, DO
Palliative Care
Bioethics Center

Hugo Escobar, MD
Pediatric Pulmonology

Alison Fowler, MD
Pediatrics

Megan Hamner, MD
Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Joshua Herigon, MD, MPH, MBI
Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Health Informatics Technology & Security

Cara Hoffart, DO
Pediatric Rheumatology

Danielle Horton, MD
Post-Trauma Therapy and Support

Lindsey Malloy-Walton, DO, MPH
Pediatric Cardiology

Erin McCann, MD
Pediatrics

Elizabeth Milkovich, MD
Psychiatry

Armand Morel, MD
Anesthesiology

Thomas Munro, MD
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

Aarti Pandya, MD
Allergy and Immunology

Anik Patel, MD
Emergency Medicine

Jay Portnoy, MD
Allergy and Immunology

Jennifer Qayum, OD
Optometry

Aaron Shaw, DO
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

Brooke Smith, RT
Respiratory Therapy

Melissa Smith, LCSW, LSCSW
Center for Childhood Safety

Christina Twardowski, OD
Optometry

Luisa Madroñero Waitman, MD
Pediatric Cardiology

Dustin Wallace, PhD
Psychology

Rachel Whitfield, NP
Adolescent Medicine

Yorgo Zahlanie, MD
Pediatric Infectious Diseases

OVERVIEW

Clinical Advances in Pediatrics Symposium (CAPS) provides the latest advances in pediatric research and evidence-based practice to improve the quality of children's healthcare. This annual learning event emphasizes practical application of current concepts that those who care for children and adolescents can apply in their practice.

REGISTRATION

- **May 15 - July 31 - \$500**
- **August 1 - August 31 - \$545**
- **September 1 - September 19 - \$595**

Registration includes both:

In-Person Attendance at Children's Mercy Adele Hall Campus

- Participate in live sessions while networking with colleagues.
- Access to 4 dynamic workshop sessions for in-depth learning and collaboration.
- Engage with faculty and ask your questions during panel discussions.
- Breakfast and lunch Wednesday and Thursday; Breakfast on Friday.

Access to On-Demand Recordings

- Can't make a session in person? Watch the recording later on-demand.
- Recordings available by Oct. 2 through Nov. 15, 2026.

*Note: Workshop sessions will not be recorded or offered on-demand. Other presentations may not be offered on-demand due to speaker request.

Registration is available on our Children's Mercy CloudCME website or you can visit childrensmercy.org/CAPS.

Log in with your username and password or create a new account (be sure to use a unique and individual email address when creating an account). Future communications related to the conference will be sent to the email provided at registration.

You will receive e-mail confirmation of your successful registration. In the event you do not receive a confirmation, or prefer to register by phone, please contact caps@cmh.edu.

Registration fees are waived for dues-paying members of Children's Mercy Physician Business Partners and employees of Children's Mercy Hospital. If you are interested in Children's Mercy Physician Business Partners membership, please contact alchristensen@cmhpcn.org.



CANCELLATION

Cancellations must be emailed to caps@cmh.edu by Sept. 1, 2026, to receive a refund. A \$75 administrative fee will be deducted. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after this date or for non-attendance.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Successful Completion Requirements:

- Record attendance as directed
- Claim credit only for sessions attended
- Complete evaluation(s) by November 15, 2026
- ABP Diplomates must complete MOC requirements by November 15, 2026

Nurses: Participants who meet the requirements for successful completion will receive up to 17 nursing contact hours.

Children's Mercy Kansas City is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by VTL Center for Professional Development, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Physicians:

Children's Mercy Hospital is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Clinical Advances in Pediatric Symposium: Children's Mercy Hospital designates this other activity (live course and internet enduring material) for a maximum of **17 AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)**[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn up to **16.25 MOC points in the American Board of Pediatrics' (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program**. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit learner completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABP MOC credit.

EDUCATIONAL GRANT SUPPORT

We would like to thank the below organizations for their support of CAPS.

- Greater Kansas City Pediatric Society
- William L. and Lenora D. Bradford Lectureship

This list is current as of July 2026. Any additional support received will follow ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education and will be disclosed prior to the live presentations.

“Really great speakers - unique topics and lots of new knowledge.”

—2025 CAPS attendee





ABOUT CHILDREN'S MERCY KANSAS CITY

Children's Mercy Kansas City is ranked as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals" in all 11 specialties rated by U.S. News & World Report and has received Magnet™ recognition for excellence in nursing services six consecutive times. With 366 licensed beds and a medical staff of more than 750 pediatric subspecialists, we care for children from all 50 states and from around the world. In addition, our leadership in pediatric genomic medicine and individualized pediatric therapeutics is driving research and innovation across all pediatric subspecialties to transform outcomes for children. Children's Mercy is also a leader in providing outstanding pediatric medical education through our pediatric residency, fellowships, and allied health professional educational programs. Our love for children powers everything we do, inspiring our research, innovations and our everyday care. Because love has no limits. And with it, neither do we.

