

## Many Activities Held to Observe September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Branko Cuglievan Wins 2018 Hyundai Hope on Wheels Young Investigator Award

Our Children's Cancer Hospital held a special celebration on Tuesday, Sept. 25 with the [Hyundai Hope On Wheels](#) program. Some of our youngest patients had the chance to make handprints on a Hyundai car and paint message in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. **Branko Cuglievan, MD**, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship graduate and future assistant professor in Pediatrics, accepted a Young Investigator Award of \$200,000 for his research project, "Pre-clinical high-throughput drug testing using implantable micro-devices in Ewing sarcoma patient-derived xenografts." A patient-derived xenograft is tumor tissue that has been taken from a patient and implanted into mice for research purposes. Cancer drugs and other types of treatment may be tested on xenografts to see how well they work before they are given to a patient.



In collaboration with bioengineers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University, the former chief fellow's research seeks to assess tumor response in 24 hours by using a micro-device that is about the size of a grain of rice! These technologies have been recognized by the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Moonshot Program as one of several cutting-edge innovations that will pave the way for precision-based therapies.

## Kendra Scott Joins Party and Special Color Bar for Childhood Cancer Awareness Event



Kendra Scott herself joined a Color Bar Party held at the Pedidome on Sept. 19, and the jeweler had a blast meeting patients and their families. Party-goers were invited to select gems from Kendra's store so her designers could custom make earrings, bracelets, and necklaces right in front of them! It's a monthly event that is part of the Kendra Cares program, which allows patients a fun mental escape from dealing with the health challenges they face. Scott has donated thousands of gems and employee hours to this effort and talked about her new charms collection that launched a week later, including a Texas-shaped charm, which will benefit MD Anderson. Scott also generously donated more than \$140,000 to support Children's Cancer Hospital programs.

## Gorlick and Research Team Awarded \$5 million from CPRIT for Core Facility Support



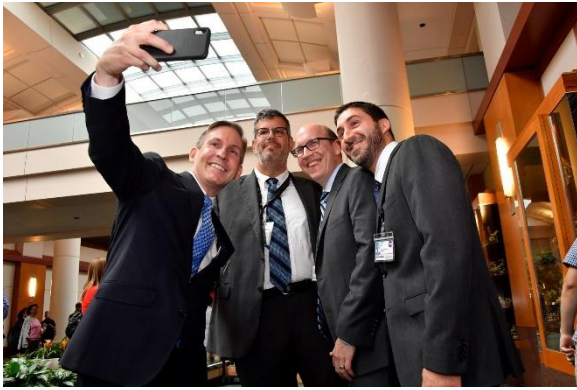
**Richard Gorlick, MD**, head of MD Anderson's Children's Cancer Hospital, and a dynamic team of Pediatrics-Research faculty, were awarded a \$5 million grant from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The funds give our investigators—**Drs. Vidya Gopalakrishnan, Nancy Gordon, and Amer Najjar**—the continued support they need to keep adding to the Pediatric Solid Tumors Comprehensive Data Resource Core, which is a database of tissue specimens used to evaluate treatment options in a laboratory setting.



This is the only core grant Pediatrics has ever received from CPRIT. If treatment options derived from the grant are successful, they will be introduced as new therapies to patients in clinical trials. Says Dr. Gorlick: "We are particularly proud of this grant because it bridges the activities of multiple Pediatric laboratories and validates the team approach. The laboratories are supported by a strong research administrative team and, indeed the whole institution, with Drs. Sharon Dent, Andy Futreal, Patrick Hwu, Jack Lee, and Ignacio Wistuba, as major institutional contributors."



## Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program Launched in June



[left] President Peter WT Pisters, M.D., (left) with Drs. Richard Gorlick, Andy Livingston, and Mike Roth celebrate AYA Oncology Program launch. Other photo: Drs. Livingston and Roth with members of the Young Adult Advisory Council who gave significant input to form the AYA Oncology Program.

It's official: MD Anderson's Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Oncology Program is up and running. An exciting launch event was held June 21 at The Park to celebrate the program which offers psychosocial and supportive services for patients between the ages of 15 and 29. Services include educational and vocational assessments, counseling to help with self-esteem, body image, emotions, health behaviors, and other issues. Other program components include social work assistance, help with identifying financial support, and peer support referrals. During the launch event, MD Anderson President Peter WT Pisters, MD, spoke personally with members of our Young Adult Advisory Council, who shared their early experiences of diagnosis and treatment and life beyond cancer. To learn more about our AYA Oncology program, please go to [www.mdanderson.org/aya](http://www.mdanderson.org/aya).

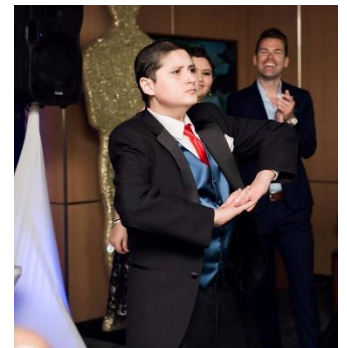


The Pediatric College Scholarship Program is awarding 31 scholarships to current and former patients treated at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Award notifications were sent out in the second week of October. Each applicant submitted transcripts and a personal statement to be considered. The scholarships will support the costs of college—technical or vocational school—as full-time students. Volunteer Endowment for Patient Support (VEPS) previously managed this program. Effective Sept. 1, it is being managed by our AYA Oncology Program.

## Third Annual Prom Party Palooza: Bigger and More Beautiful Than Ever



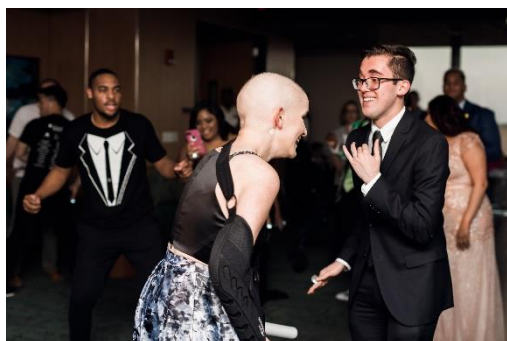
From prep time, to games, to delicious dinner and beverage selections, to the very last dance, the Children's Cancer Hospital's Third Annual Prom Party Palooza was all the fun we knew it would be. The big night was April 28<sup>th</sup> and offered three separate parties. The main event was for teens and their guests on MD Anderson's observation deck. The view from the 24<sup>th</sup> floor of the Main Building allowed teens and guests to look out at the city skyline while enjoying music presented by Houston-area DJs, including J-Mac of 97.9 The Boxx Radio, who served as audience-participation hype man! The teens danced the night away along with Houston Texans Defensive End Christian Covington and his teammate Nick Martin, who plays Center position. Also on the dance floor, Miss Texas USA Logan Lester, with her crown holding perfectly in place! There was a photo booth as well as treats, refreshments and gifts. A second party for younger patients and their siblings offered arts and crafts, face painting, board games, and music. —continued next page





## PROM--continued

Parents and other caregivers had grown-up time with a casino-style party and their own DJ. The event, which was covered by local news outlets and on social media, was generously sponsored by Peli Peli Restaurants, the National Association for Catering and Events (NACE), and the Sunshine Kids Foundation. This year, Men's Wearhouse donated beautiful tuxedos for the young men to wear. About 50 families participated in the event whose theme was inspired by the Academy Award nominated film, "La La Land," a romantic musical comedy.



"Enjoying normal activities is not always an option for patients undergoing cancer care. We are grateful to our sponsors for making prom such a special event for our patients and families. The event itself, and the anticipation of it, helps take their minds off treatment—if only for a little while," said **Tomika Gamble, BS**, program manager of camps and special events. The young ladies were able to select from among hundreds of new dresses donated by area stores and gently used ball gowns that came from community residents. Thomas Nguyen, co-owner of Peli Peli Restaurants, helped launch the Prom Party Palooza a few years ago. "I look forward to the event every year. I like to see the families relax and have fun," he said. In 2017, Jill Vidal, an immediate past president of NACE, joined in the fun. "We love transforming the hospital into a place where kids can dream," she said. Vidal owns EB Inc., which provides specialty linens, chairs, and décor for special events.



## Li Wins R01 for CTC Research



Congratulations to **Shulin Li, PhD**, professor in Pediatrics-Research, on being awarded a R01 to support his research of circulating tumor cells and how they may be detected and captured to prevent metastases. The \$1.44 million grant will be funded over four years. Li has earned other support for this research, including a \$150,000 grant in the past fiscal year from the Pediatrics Cancer Research Foundation. “Detecting tumor relapse and metastasis is primarily through regular image analysis. My team and scientists from other labs have been developing markers for detecting tumors from blood samples even before they can be seen in imaging studies,” explained Li. “This R01 is supporting my lab’s aim to develop and test a chip for automated tumor cell capture from blood tissues across different types of tumors. We are collaborating with Abnova.”

## Texas 4000 for Cancer Donates Funds to Support Li’s Circulating Tumor Cells Research

Additionally, our patients and faculty had a great time talking to riders of the [Texas 4000 for Cancer](#)—Ozarks Team during their June visit. The group of University of Texas students presented a check to Dr. Li to support his circulating tumor cell research. [Texas 4000 for Cancer](#) has donated more than \$1.5 million dollars since the ride began 15 years ago.



## Li to Serve as DoD Study Section Chair

**Shulin Li, PhD**, professor in Pediatrics-Research, accepted a short-term role to serve as Study Section Chair for the Department of Defense’s Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults—Solid Tumors (CCAYA-ST) peer review panel. His responsibilities will include reviewing research applications to determine their scientific merit and moderating teleconference panel discussions. Research topics will include cervical, chordoma, liver, renal, retinoblastoma, skin, testicular, and thyroid cancers.

## Gopalakrishnan Awarded Grant for NK Cell Immunotherapy Research Using Non-Radioactive Isotope

**Vidya Gopalakrishnan, PhD**, associate professor in Pediatrics-Research, was awarded a \$75,000 Institutional Research Grant (IRG) from the University Cancer Foundation. The ultimate goal of the project is to develop optimized labeling solutions for immunotherapeutic NK cells, wrote the investigator in her abstract. The research application, “MRI Imaging of Adoptive Natural Killer (NK) Cell Immunotherapy,” aims to test the use of a perfluorocarbon tracer and a non-radioactive isotope under MRI to track immune cells in medulloblastoma cancer patients treated with cellular therapies. “Response to therapy is primarily measured by changes in tumor size and confirmation of the presence of immune cells is only available through resection or tumor biopsies that are impractical. Imaging strategies that provide a non-invasive means for longitudinally assessing the distribution and migration of NK cells could provide tremendous new insights about their biological activity,” Gopalakrishnan wrote in her abstract with two other researchers. Drs. Jim Bankson and Konstantin Sokolov, both professors in Imaging Physics-Research, are co-leaders on this research project.

## Chandra Awarded CHEF Grant to Share Healthy Recipes with Families

Congrats to **Joya Chandra, PhD**, associate professor in Pediatrics-Research, for being awarded an 18-month grant to support teaching recipes from her team’s e-cookbook to survivors and their families in a series of classes. The project also allows Chandra to measure patient families’ anxiety and stress through a scoring system, observe adherence to diet recommendations, and examine inflammatory markers and ROS in her lab. The grant, whose proposed title is “Measuring the Clinical and Psychosocial Impact of the CHEF teaching Kitchen in Pediatric Cancer Survivors,” is for \$117, 000.



## Raber Publishes Research about Healthy Cooking Practices and Colorectal Cancer Prevention



Congrats to **Margaret Raber, DrPH**, graduate research assistant in Pediatrics-Research, on her recent first-author publication, "Development and feasibility of a community-based, culturally flexible colorectal cancer prevention program" in the *Journal of Community Health*. This paper, which includes **Joya Chandra, PhD**, as senior author, describes an innovative partnership between Pediatrics-Research, Community Relations and Education, and several community organizations in the Houston area. "Together, these partners implemented cancer prevention workshops to educate high-risk adults about colorectal cancer screening, physical activity, and healthy cooking practices. Workshops were conducted in and around the greater Houston area and were available in Spanish, English, and Vietnamese," said

Raber. The success of this endeavor can guide future projects to promote cancer prevention efforts across Houston and beyond. Raber recently earned her doctorate in public health with a specialization in Community Health Practice and Epidemiology from The University of Texas School of Public Health.

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**Several Pediatrics faculty, affiliated faculty, and fellows published manuscripts as *first or last* authors in journals since February, were invited to review articles, or gave presentations and lectures. They are:**

### Publications:

#### **Joya Chandra, PhD**

- Margaret Raber, To Nhu Huynh, Karla Crawford, Stephanie Kim, Joya Chandra. "Development and feasibility of a community-based, culturally flexible colorectal cancer prevention program." [J Community Health](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-018-0497-x). 2018 Oct;43(5):882-885. DOI: [10.1007/s10900-018-0497-x](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-018-0497-x)

#### **Soumen Khatua, MD**

- Book chapter. "Chemotherapeutic Strategies in Brain Tumors." The textbook is titled "Radiation Oncology for Pediatric CNS Tumors," 1st Edition, 2018, ISBN 978-3-55428-0, pages 89-107. Editors: Arnold Paulino and Anita Mahajan.
- Invited review. "Neurofibromatosis type 1 and optic pathway glioma: Molecular interplay and therapeutic insights," for *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2018 Mar;65(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.26838>.
- Soumen Khatua, Anne Song, Divyaswathi Citla Sridhar, Stephen C. Mack. Childhood Medulloblastoma: Current Therapies, Emerging Molecular Landscape and Newer Therapeutic Insights. [Curr Neuropharmacol](https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.26838). 2017 Nov 28.

#### **Shulin Li, PhD**

- Noh H, Zhao Q, Yan J, Kong L-Y, Gabrusiewicz K, Hong, S, Xia X, Heimberger A, Li S. "Cell surface vimentin-targeted monoclonal antibody 86C increases sensitivity to temozolomide in glioma stem cells." [Cancer Lett](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.canlet.2018.07.008). 2018 Oct 1;433:176-185. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.canlet.2018.07.008> Epub 2018 Jul 6.

#### **Kevin Madden, MD**

- **Kevin Madden**, Eduardo Bruera. "Very-Low-Dose Methadone to Treat Refractory Neuropathic Pain in Children with Cancer," in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, Vol 20 Issue 11: November 1, 2017, <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/jpm.2017.0098>.
- **Kevin Madden**, Minjeong Park, Diane Liu, Eduardo Bruera. "The frequency of QTc prolongation among pediatric and young adult patients receiving methadone for cancer pain," in *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*, Nov. 2017.

Faculty Publications/Presentations continued next page---



**Presentations/Lectures:**

**Soumen Khatua, MD**

- Invited Lecture: “Molecular Heterogeneity of Medulloblastoma and Insights into Personalized Therapeutics,” at the Second International Conference on Genomic Medicine in February 2018, in Houston.
- “Invited Lecture: Management of Recurrent Medulloblastoma and Ependymoma,” at the Third Pediatric Latin American Neuro-Oncology Symposium in August 2018, in Lima, Peru.
- “Phase I study of intraventricular infusions of autologous ex vivo expanded NK cells in children with recurrent and refractory malignant posterior fossa tumors,” at the International Society of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Meeting in July 2018, in Denver, CO.

**Eugenie Kleinerman, MD**

- “Osteosarcoma: The Past, The Present and the Future,” at the 20<sup>th</sup> Turkish Pediatric Oncology Group Society Annual Meeting in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2018.



Kleinerman with Rejin Kebudi, MD, professor in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at the Istanbul University, and Emel Unal, MD, president of the TPOG Society.

- “Osteosarcoma: State of the Art and Potential New Approaches,” at Istanbul University Oncology Institute in May 2018.

**Shulin Li, PhD**

- “Effective immune therapy for overcoming heterogeneity and T cell penetration in solid tumors,” at the Microbiology/Immunology Seminar at Dartmouth College, Sept. 2018.
- “Multiple immune therapy approaches for treating tumors in mice and dogs,” at the Microbiology/Immunology Seminar at Dartmouth College, Sept. 2018

**Tamara Laskowski, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, presented at the International Society of Cell Therapy in Montreal, in June 2018.

**Fei Wang, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, presented at Annual Meeting of the American Association of Cancer Researchers in June 2018.

**Nursing: Sharing Knowledge and Recognitions**

**Pediatrics Nurses Represented at APHON Conference in September**

Several of our pediatric nurses represented MD Anderson at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON) National Conference in September in Savannah, Georgia. **Janet Smith**, Pediatric and Adolescent Center nurse manager, was awarded a \$2,500 evidence-based practice grant from APHON for her proposal entitled “Implementation of an Evidence-Based Algorithm to Guide the Assessment and rapid antibiotic administration in pediatric patients.”

**Kathleen Faltus**, G9 clinical nurse, and **Sarah Featherston**, pediatric stem cell coordinator, presented “Putting the Horse Before the CAR-T.” **Joan O’Hanlon Curry**, administrative director of Pediatric Clinical Services, was a co-speaker for a pre-conference workshop and a co-presenter for a general session entitled “Social Media and Nursing...Where are we Now?”



**Nurses Week Observed at Children’s Cancer Hospital in May**

Several of our nurses were featured on our Facebook and Twitter pages during Nurses week in April. With challenging responsibilities to help provide care to a delicate pediatric patient population, our nursing colleagues carry themselves professionally and are remarkably dedicated to the mission. Our patients and their families adore our nurses... and we do too!



## Lundberg Accepts DAISY Award

Congratulations to **Lauren Lundberg, BSN, RN, OCN**, clinical nurse, on being named a DAISY Award recipient. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases of the AutoImmune System. The DAISY Foundation was created by a patient's family because they wanted to acknowledge the type of professionalism and compassion among nurses that their loved one received. The award is presented at hospitals throughout the country. Lundberg was recognized for taking the time to help a colleague successfully manage the pain of a post-operative patient even though she had patients of her own. During a reception held in August, Lundberg received a bouquet of daisies and "The Healer's Touch" statue, which symbolizes the relationship between nurses, patients, and families.



## Camp for All 2U

Dolly Llama was a big favorite during Camp for All 2U in March. The Spring Break camp offered opportunities to experience archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, board games, a daily pie-in-the face in which volunteers and employees got smooshed with a 'shaving cream' pie, and a petting zoo that allowed the kids to interact with a llama who loved to kiss, a horse who didn't mind letting the kids give him a coat of paint, a sheep, and a goat!



## PGA Tour Wives Association Hosts Spring Fling—A Bunny Good Time!

Our patients and their families had so much fun at our Spring Fling! The [PGA TOUR Wives Association](#) hosted the event at our Pedidome on March 28.



The Easter bunny visited with everyone as the families enjoyed a fantastic lunch, music and dancing, arts and crafts, and miniature golf! The ladies, who were in town to support family in the [Houston Open](#), donated funds to make it possible for our [MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital](#) inpatients to see specially selected movies currently playing in theaters.





### Pediatrics Faculty Honored 'Dr. Seuss' on Read Across America Day

Our medical oncologists threw themselves into having a little fun to honor Dr. Seuss, author of many popular children's books. To fully participate in "Read Across America" on March 1<sup>st</sup>, they read from some of their favorite Dr. Seuss books. **Cesar Nunez, MD**, (in hat), selected "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?" He even threw in some sound effects. **Cindy Herzog, MD**, read "Green Eggs and Ham" to kids and their families.

### Patients Enjoyed Meeting Real Rodeo Superstars in February



Children's Cancer Hospital patients and their families enjoyed some one-on-one time with stars from [RODEOHOUSTON](#) in February. The visit by real cowboys and cowgirls to our Pedidome happens every year during rodeo season.

The photo shows Caitlin Quinlan and Trey Benton spending time with patients. The professional riders and Rodeo Committee members always bring autograph cards, cowboy hats, handkerchiefs, and other trinkets from the rodeo.

### Child Life Month Ends with Big Fun in Reverse Medical Play Day at Pedidome

Reverse Medical Play Day at our Pedidome was a huge hit March 29. It gave our patients the opportunity to simulate experiences they encounter as part of their treatment: exams with stethoscopes, blood pressure readings, shots, blood draw sticks, visits with pharmacists, having a port inserted, and spending time on a hospital bed. Child life specialists recruited administrative staff, HR leaders, real scientists, doctors, and nurses to serve as pretend patients. Plus, moms and dads participated as their kids' nursing assistants.



### Texas Board of Regents Recognizes Wiedemann for Performance as Child Life Specialist

**Laura Wiedemann, MS, CCLS**, child life specialist at the Proton Therapy Center, was named a University of Texas Board of Regents Outstanding Employee Award recipient in April. The award recognizes her outstanding performance, innovation, enthusiasm, and dedication. Wiedemann also received a personal note of congratulations from MD Anderson Cancer Center President Peter WT Pisters, MD. She is one of a small group of employees across all 14 campuses of the UT System to be recognized in this way. Laura accepted a Chancellor's challenge coin, a certificate, and a monetary award at a special ceremony in Austin.





## First Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Program

The Division of Pediatrics held its First Annual Outstanding Employee Awards Program held in May, in conjunction with MD Anderson's Employee Appreciation Month.



More than 30 people were nominated and each one received an engraved star trophy and words of appreciation from Division Head **Richard Gorlick, MD**. Nominees came from a variety of categories: patient care, clinical or laboratory research, administration, finance, and information systems. Eight of those nominated also received additional awards for stellar performance in specific areas. They are:

- **Danielle Buzanga, MSW, CCLS**, child life specialist: Support Programs category
- **Quang Doan, MS**, senior systems analyst, Pediatrics-Administration: Administrative Support—Patient Care category
- **Sarah Faltus, RN, BSN**, clinical nurse: Inpatient Care category
- **Sarah Featherston, RN, CPN**, coordinator, Nurse Transplantation: Outpatient Care category
- **Kris Frost, MED**, coordinator, Pediatrics School: Support Programs category
- **Nerissa Maldonado**, program coordinator, Pediatrics-Patient Care: Administrative Support—Patient Care category
- **Hang Vu, BS**, grant program manager, Pediatrics-Research: Administrative Support—Research category
- **Kimberly Young-Jenkins**, operations manager, Pediatrics-Patient Care: Administrative Support—Patient Care category

## New Administrative Managers Joined the Division



The division has welcomed several new administrative leaders this year. **Sherry Melton, BBA**, supervisor, Clinical Studies in Pediatrics-Patient Care, joined the division in February after 13 years in the Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology in various regulatory positions. She now supervises our clinical

regulatory team as they write new protocol submissions and amendments, and respond to inquiries from MD Anderson's Institutional Review Board (IRB), pharmaceutical sponsors, and various sections of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**Luis "Tony" Choy, MBA**, became our new associate department administrator in July. The 19-year MD Anderson veteran employee transferred from the

Division of Internal Medicine, where he served as Manager, Business Services, a role that gave him oversight over business operations of two centers—Internal Medicine and Endocrine.

In this role, he works with division administration to support clinical, research, and academic program planning and provide oversight of the daily operation of the clinical pediatrics department, to include fiscal, [continued next page](#)



#### New Administrative managers continued

budgetary, and human resources administration.

**Altrivice Revis, MBA**, became project director in August. She has held various positions with MD Anderson since 2000, most recently as off-shift administrator for the Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President and Chief, Clinical Operations. In her new role, Altrivice is independently analyzing multiple processes throughout

Pediatrics and working with managers and staff to implement improvements where needed. Her work involves mining workflows and staffing models, seeking out ways to improve business modeling, and enhancing management of research funding.



#### Education and Training

##### Robert Earns New Psychology Credential

Congratulations to **Rhonda Robert, PhD**, professor in Pediatrics-Patient Care, on earning a specialty board certification in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. The certification is valid through the year 2026.



##### Stavinoha to Be Named Fellow

Congratulations to **Pete Stavinoha, PhD**, professor in Pediatrics-Patient Care, on his upcoming designation as a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology. The designation will be bestowed upon him at the Annual Conference of the National Academy of Neuropsychology in New Orleans. Fellows—which is the highest honor the academy confers upon its members—are professionals who have demonstrated evidence of advancing the science and profession of clinical neuropsychology.



##### Fellowship Graduation Marks New Beginnings



Congratulations to the 2018 Class of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship graduates! These four physicians completed three years of specialty training and are now ready for the next phase of their careers. A ceremony was held in their honor on June 7. What's next for each of them? After some time off, **Dr. Branko Cuglievan** will return to our hospital to provide care for lymphoma patients. **Dr. Natalie Slone** (in red) is now working in Ohio at Nationwide Children's Hospital. **Dr. Miriam Morrell** (in solid black) will spend the next year with us doing research projects and clinical work. **Dr. April DePombo** has started with the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida caring for pediatric hematology and oncology patients.

##### Trainee Research Day: Morrell Presents Research on Exercise and Chemotherapy Delivery

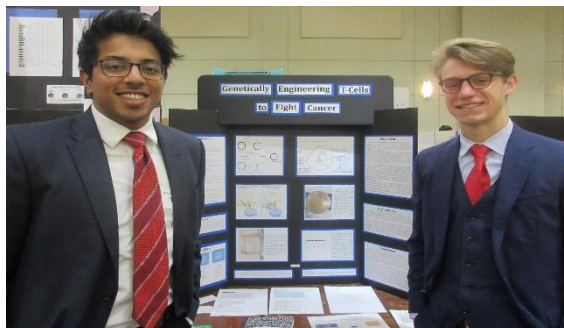
**Miriam Morrell, MD**, who is spending additional time in the division following fellowship graduation, received the Bayer Award in Translational Medicine for her oral presentation at the Trainee Research Day, held June 8 at Institutional Grand Rounds. The annual event is sponsored by the Department of Faculty and Academic Development, the Department of Clinical Education and the MD Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association. Morrell was selected from— **continued next page**



### Trainee Research Day continued

From a competitive group of clinical fellows based on her work in the lab demonstrating the use of exercise to improve chemotherapy delivery to Ewing sarcoma tumors in mice.

### A “Thank You” from Kumar’s Students



**Nicholas Bracci and Sreshta Margan** (left) recently graduated from The Academy of Science and Technology at The Woodlands College Park High School after working in the lab of **Pappanaicken Kumar, PhD**, instructor in Pediatrics-Research. They were examining the cytolytic properties of mesothelin-specific T-cells that target pancreatic cancer. The students presented a part of their work at the local Science & Technology Fair and placed second in the category of Team Life Sciences. Both of these students have learned how to conduct scientific research and are looking forward to advancing cancer therapeutics. They intend to pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering at their respective universities and said

they were thankful to the Pediatrics-Research team for affording them this exciting opportunity and great learning environment.

### Pro Fit Shows Our Patients How Fun Fitness Can Be



What a great way to spend part of the day--with physical activity that doesn't seem like mandatory fitness! And who better to help with "fun fitness" than these [Rice University](#) basketball players--men and women!

It was all part of our ProFit Program on Aug. 31 that invites pro and college-level athletes to work up a sweat with our patients. The effort began in the summer and will continue through the fall. Our next visitors--from the [University of Houston](#) basketball team--will be here in October.

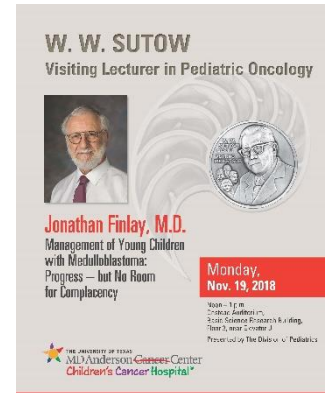
### Celebration of the Arts Held Sept. 26

Our Arts in Medicine program alongside the [MD Anderson Childrens Art Project](#) showcased the amazing opportunities our patients have to express themselves at our 1st Annual Celebration of the Arts on Sept. 26 during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We are thankful for all our community partners, [Writers in the Schools \(WITS\)](#), [Young Audiences of Houston](#), Fly Dance Company and others helping our patients express themselves and tell their story through performing and visual arts.



## Sutow Visiting Lecture To Be Held Nov. 19

**Jonathan Finlay, MD**, program director of Neuro-Oncology at Nationwide Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics at The Ohio State University School of Medicine, will be the **W.W. Sutow Visiting Lecturer** on Monday, Nov. 19. Please plan to attend this annual event. Our guest is an internationally recognized expert in pediatric brain tumors and has authored or co-authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications in leading medical journals and written over 80 review articles and book chapters.



### Editorial Team

**Richard Gorlick, MD**, Division Head and Department Chair

**Lisa Hafemeister, MHA, FACHE, PT**, Division Administrator

**Michelle Gatliff, BS**, Assoc Dir, Pediatrics Finance

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**Tajuanna Thibodeaux, MBA**, Dept Administrator, Pediatrics-Research

**Theda Williams**, Program Manager

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