

14th Annual Southeastern Pediatric Research Conference

Healthy Minds, Brighter Futures: Advancing Pediatric Research and Innovation



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

June 6, 2025
Georgia Aquarium

PRESENTED BY



EMORY
UNIVERSITY



14th Annual Southeastern Pediatric Research Conference

Welcome!

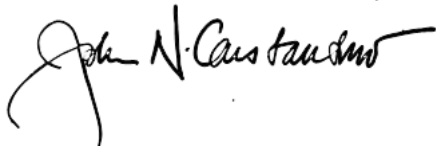
Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 14th Annual Southeastern Pediatric Research Conference, held on June 6, 2025. This year's theme, "**Healthy Minds, Brighter Futures: Advancing Pediatric Research and Innovation**," underscores the vital role of behavioral and mental health in shaping a healthier future for children everywhere.

Now more than ever, it is essential that we continue to advance and celebrate pediatric research. The challenges facing children and families today demand bold ideas, collaborative efforts, and a shared commitment to innovation. Together, through discovery and partnership, we have the power to create brighter futures and lasting change.

Thank you for being part of this inspiring community. We look forward to an exciting day of learning, connection, and momentum toward a healthier world for all children.

Sincerely,



John N. Constantino, MD

Liz and Frank Blake Chair for Children's Behavioral and Mental Health,
Chief, Center for Behavioral and Mental Health,
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Vice Chair, Department of Pediatrics,
Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics,
and Genetics, Emory University
Adjunct Clin. Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences, Morehouse University School of Medicine



Timothy R. Gershon, MD, PhD

Professor of Pediatrics and Human Genetics
Division of Child Neurology
Director, Children's Center for Neurosciences Research
Emory University School of Medicine



Munmun De Choudhury, PhD

Associate Professor, School of Interactive Computing
Director, Social Dynamics and Well-Being Laboratory
Co-Lead of Patient-Centered Care Delivery, Children's Healthcare
of Atlanta Pediatric Technology Center at Georgia Tech
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for People and Technology
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Data Engineering and Science
Affiliate Faculty, Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience



Jason Payne, MD, MSPH

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Morehouse School of Medicine
Sickle Cell Program at Hughes Spalding Clinical Director
Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

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Accreditation Statement

*The Emory University School of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Emory University School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of **5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)**[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.*



@AtlPedsResearch | #pedsresearch2025



CONFERENCE MAP

Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks:

Buffets are in the Indian and Antarctic rooms.

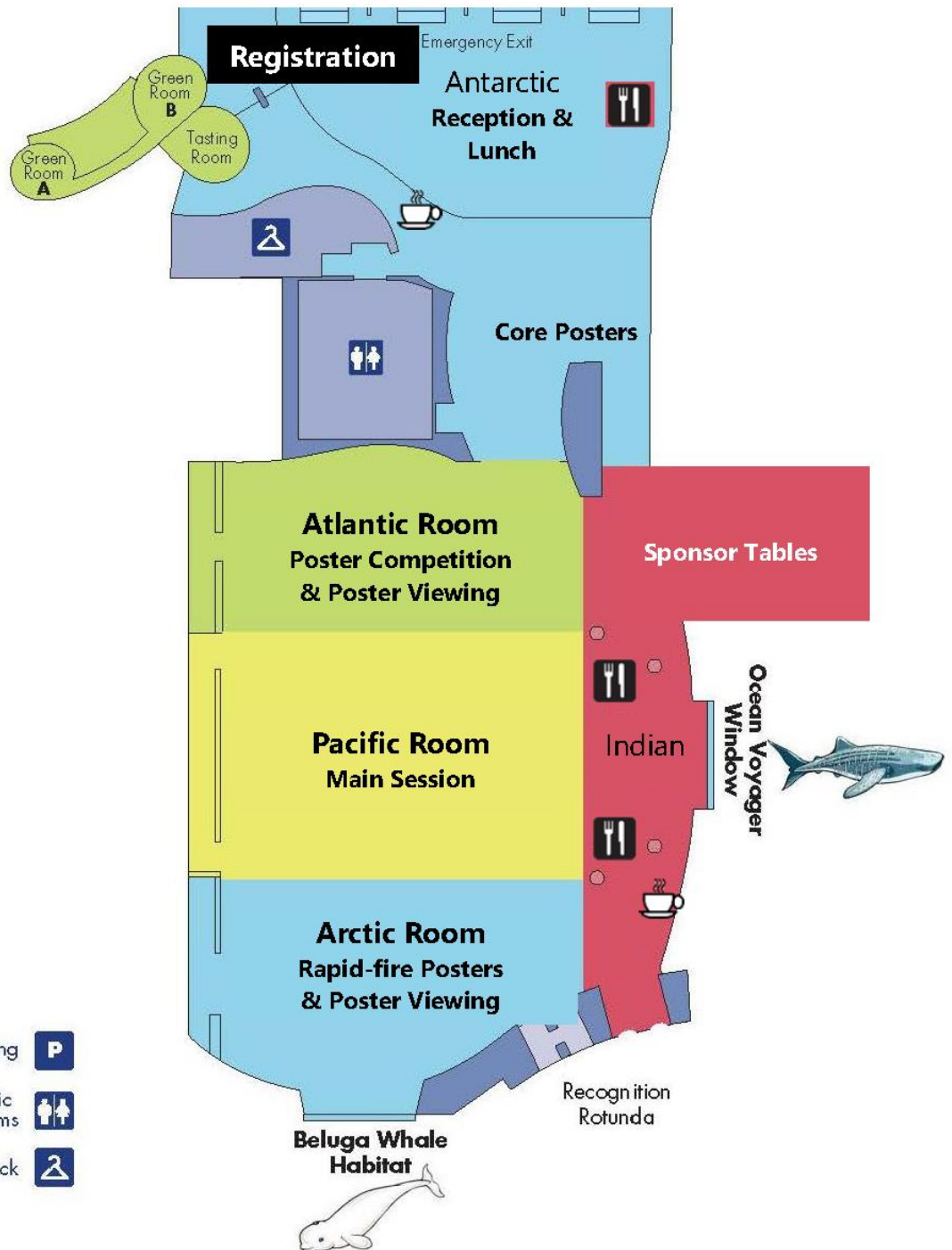
Beverage Stations: Available in the Indian and Antarctic rooms and by the core posters.

Door Prizes: Drawing will occur at 4:30 PM during the reception in the Antarctic room. Must be present to win.

Parking: Please get a validation sticker for your parking ticket at the registration desk. One sticker per vehicle will be provided and cannot be reused.

Aquarium: Complimentary entrance to the aquarium for *registered conference attendees only* opens at 5:00 PM. Once you enter the aquarium, you will not be able to re-enter the ballroom. Please make sure you get a parking validation sticker before you leave the ballroom.

Nursing Room: A private nursing room is available. Please ask for directions at the registration desk.



AGENDA

MORNING SESSION

7:00 – 8:00	Check-in and Continental Breakfast
8:00 – 8:10	Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs
	<p>John N. Constantino, MD Liz and Frank Blake Chair for Children's Behavioral and Mental Health, Chief, Center for Behavioral and Mental Health, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Vice Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Pediatrics, and Genetics, Emory University Adjunct Clin. Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Morehouse University School of Medicine</p> <p>Munmun De Choudhury, PhD Associate Professor, School of Interactive Computing Director, Social Dynamics and Well-Being Laboratory Co-Lead of Patient-Centered Care Delivery, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Pediatric Technology Center at Georgia Tech Affiliate Faculty, Institute for People and Technology Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Data Engineering and Science Affiliate Faculty, Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience</p> <p>Timothy R. Gershon, MD, PhD Professor of Pediatrics and Human Genetics Division of Child Neurology Director, Children's Center for Neurosciences Research Emory University School of Medicine</p> <p>Jason Payne, MD, MSPH Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Morehouse School of Medicine Sickle Cell Program at Hughes Spalding Clinical Director Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center Children's Healthcare of Atlanta</p>
8:10 – 8:25	Welcome from Leadership and Research Update
	<p>Kristy Murray, DVM, PhD Executive Vice Chair for Research and Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Emory University Chief Research Officer, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta</p>

AGENDA

8:25 – 9:10	Bringing Science to Practice in Pediatric Neurogenetics
	Annapurna Poduri, MD, MPH Deputy Director National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) National Institutes of Health (NIH)
9:10 – 9:40	The Future of Risk Prediction to Inform Precision Intervention: Optimizing Outcomes of Survivors of Pediatric Brain Tumors
	Tricia Z. King, PhD Clinical Neuropsychologist Professor, School of Nursing, Emory University
9:40 – 10:20	Rapid-Fire Presentations
10:20 – 11:05	Break & Poster Session 1 – ODD NUMBERED POSTERS
11:05 – 11:35	Cancers of the Young and Young Adults: Risk Factors Beyond and in our Control
	Biplab Dasgupta, PhD, MBA Professor of Pediatrics: Neuro-Oncology Killian Owen Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer Co-leader, Translational Cancer Metabolism Initiative Winship Cancer Institute Emory University School of Medicine
11:35– 12:20	Personalizing the Management of Children with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1): Rethinking the Barriers to Translation
	David H. Gutmann, MD, PhD Donald O. Schnuck Family Professor Department of Neurology Director, Neurofibromatosis Center Washington University School of Medicine
12:20 – 1:30	Lunch and Networking

AGENDA

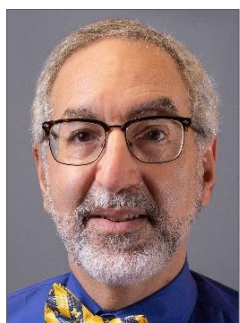
AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 – 1:35	Afternoon Welcome and Pediatric Technology Center Update
	Stanislav Emelianov, PhD Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar James A. Carlos Family Chair and Co-Director of Pediatric Technology Center Georgia Institute of Technology and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
1:35 – 2:35	Insights and Ideas: A Conversation with Leaders in Pediatric Brain Research
	Interactive Panel Discussion Moderated by John N. Constantino, MD Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biplab Dasgupta, PhD, MBA ❖ Munmun De Choudhury, PhD ❖ Timothy R. Gershon, MD, PhD ❖ David H. Gutmann, MD, PhD ❖ Tricia Z. King, PhD ❖ Jason Payne, MD, MSPH
2:35 – 3:15	Rapid-Fire Presentations
3:15 – 4:00	Break & Poster Session 2 – EVEN NUMBERED POSTERS
4:00 – 5:00	Reception in the Antarctic Room
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Presentation of Poster and Rapid-Fire Awards ❖ Closing Remarks ❖ Door Prize Drawing at 4:30 - Must be Present to Win

SPEAKERS



Dr. Annapurna (Ann) Poduri joined the NINDS in October 2024 as Deputy Director. Previously, she served as founder and director of the Epilepsy Genetics Program and Associate Chief for Academic Development in the Department of Neurology at Boston Children's Hospital and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. For many years, she has pursued the genetic causes of epilepsy from the clinic to the laboratory, with early work involving novel discovery of somatic mutation in pediatric brain disease. After her undergraduate studies at Harvard University and medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Poduri trained in pediatrics and child neurology at Boston Children's Hospital and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Following a clinical fellowship in epilepsy and post-doctoral training in neurogenetics at Boston Children's, she led a laboratory in the Department of Neurology's F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center. Dr. Poduri serves as an elected member of the Board of the American Epilepsy Society and has served as an invited member of the Genomics Commission of the International League Against Epilepsy, Chair of the American Epilepsy Society/NINDS Benchmarks Stewards Committee, member of the NINDS NST1 study section, and on scientific advisory boards for foundations devoted to developing precision medicine for patients with epilepsy. Her collaborative research and mentorship contributions have been recognized through numerous honors, including the American Neurological Association's Derek Denny-Brown Young Neurological Scholar Award, the American Academy of Neurology's Dreifuss-Penry Epilepsy Award, and the Harvard Club of Boston's Most Influential Women designation. In addition to her role as Deputy Director, Dr. Poduri will lead a laboratory focusing on epilepsy genetics at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.



Dr. David H. Gutmann received his undergraduate, graduate (PhD) and medical (MD) degrees from the University of Michigan, completed residency training in Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania, and obtained research fellowship training with Dr. Francis Collins. In 1993, Dr. Gutmann was recruited to Washington University, becoming a full professor in 2001 and the Donald O. Schnuck Family Professor in 2002. He established the St. Louis Children's Hospital Neurofibromatosis Clinical Program in 1994 and the Washington University Neurofibromatosis Center in 2004. Over the past 30 years, his laboratory has focused on understanding the genomic, molecular and cellular basis for nervous system problems affecting children and adults with NF1 using human induced pluripotent stem cells and novel genetically engineered mouse strains, revealing numerous insights into the basic neurobiology of human disease, including immune regulation of cancer growth, neurons as drivers of neoplasia and growth, the impact of germline genetics on phenotypic expression, and the role of sexual dimorphism in brain cell function and patient clinical outcome. Dr. Gutmann has published over 525 peer-reviewed manuscripts, and his research laboratory has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1993, including a National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke R35 Research Program (MERIT) Award. In addition, he has been recognized for his achievements with numerous awards, including the 2012 Children's Tumor Foundation Frederich von Recklinghausen Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2019 Society for Neuro-

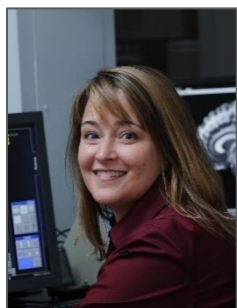
SPEAKERS

Oncology Abhijit Guha Award, the 2020 American Academy of Neurology Neuro-Oncology Scientific Award, and the 2020 American Association of Neurology triennial George W. Jacoby Award. He is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association, the Association of American Physicians, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Academy of Medicine.



Dr. Biplab Dasgupta is a professor and the Killian Owen Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cancer in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine. He is a faculty member of the Neuro-Oncology Program at the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and a member of the Cell and Molecular Biology Research Program at Winship Cancer Institute, where he also co-leads the Translational Cancer Metabolism Initiative. Dr. Dasgupta earned his PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology from the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology in Kolkata, India, and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He also holds an MBA from the University of

Cincinnati. His research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of cancer development and progression, particularly in high-grade brain tumors such as glioblastoma and DIPG. His laboratory integrates omics, informatics, animal models, and molecular studies to identify novel therapeutic targets for these lethal cancers. In addition, his team explores how external factors, including diet and lifestyle, influence cancer risk, reflecting the growing public awareness of their impact on human health.



Dr. Tricia King is Professor Emerita of Psychology and the Neurosciences Institute at Georgia State University and joined Emory University in October 2024. She is a professor at Emory University School of Nursing and leads their Oncology Research Hub. She is a clinical neuropsychologist who is a member of the Winship Cancer Institute and Children's Center for Neurosciences Research. Dr. King earned her PhD in clinical neuropsychology at University of Florida and completed her clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at Brown University. Her research focuses on the development and preservation of cognitive

skills essential for daily living and independence. Using a collaborative team science approach, she employs innovative technologies, methodologies, and analyses to advance precision medicine. Her work aims to improve long-term outcomes for survivors of pediatric brain tumors. Currently, Dr. King is leading a multisite research project investigating how clinical factors, genetics, and social determinants of health influence and predict cognitive outcomes. This study aims to deepen understanding of the complex interactions affecting cognitive health, with the goal of informing better prevention, intervention, and risk-adapted treatment strategies.

RAPID-FIRE PRESENTATIONS

Click [here](#) to view the full Abstract Book, including all oral presentation abstracts and poster abstracts.

SESSION 1 – 9:40 – 10:20

Presenter	Title
1. Samadhi Attanayaka Undergraduate Researcher Georgia Institute of Technology/Emory University	Rapid Microfluidic-Based Detection of ESBL-Producing Enterobacteriaceae to Improve Neonatal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Management
3. Kathleen Cao, MD Medical Fellow Emory University	Development, Validation, and Implementation of an Artificial Intelligence Predictive Model to Accelerate Antibiotic Therapy for Critically Ill Children with Sepsis in the Pediatric ED with Pediatric ICU Disposition
5. Nasab Ghazal, MS PhD Student Emory University	Targeting Mitochondrial Membrane Organization to Mitigate Energy Dysfunction
7. Karly Laprocina, BS, MS Medical Student Travel Award Recipient - Funded by Pediatric Residency Investigative Scholars at Emory (PRISE) Program University of Alabama Birmingham- School of Medicine	Viral Priming Offers a Novel Two-Hit Model of Murine Sepsis-Associated Acute Kidney Injury
9. Abhiram Manda, BS Medical Student Vanderbilt University School of Medicine	Visual Function and Intraocular Pressure Outcomes Following Surgical Intervention in Pediatric Patients with Inflammatory Glaucoma
11. Leon McSwain, PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow Emory University	Modulating the Medulloblastoma Immune Response Through Nanoparticle Drug Delivery
13. Erin Seibel, MMSc, LCGC Genetic Counselor, Adjunct Faculty Emory University/Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	Genetic Counseling in Cancer Survivorship Clinic
15. Jie Xu, PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow Emory University	Modeling Fragile X Syndrome in Human Hippocampal Organoids Reveals Altered Developmental Trajectories and FMRP Binding Dynamics
17. Jules Zielke, BA Post-Baccalaureate Fellow Emory University	Rates of Familial Autism Diagnostic Recurrence in Infants Followed Prospectively from Birth

RAPID-FIRE PRESENTATIONS

SESSION 2 – 2:35 – 3:15

Presenter	Title
2. Makda Mulugeta, BS Research Coordinator Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Presenting for Laura Blackwell, PhD)	An Age-Based Temporal Profiling of Blood-Based Biomarkers in Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury
4. Kartik Reddy, MD Assistant Professor Emory University (Presenting for Paul D'Cunha, MD)	Automated Radiomics-Based Risk Stratification in Pediatric High-Grade Gliomas
6. Carly Harris Undergraduate Student Emory University	Targeting Stat3 Vulnerability in Ptpn11-Mutated Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia
8. Deepali Luthra, PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow Emory University	Mechanisms of bacterial tolerance by host neutrophils and macrophages in cystic fibrosis
10. Asha Mathew, PhD Post-Doctoral Fellow Emory University	Screening and Evaluation of Antiviral Compounds Against Respiratory Syncytial virus
12. Austin Park, BS Research Specialist Emory University	Heterozygous Deletion of Two 22q11.2 Mitochondrial Genes Suppresses Congenital Heart Defects Associated with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome
14. Puneet Sharma, MD Assistant Professor Emory University	Development of a Novel Deep Learning Model for the Interpretation of Neonatal Radiographs
16. Xinyu (Jocelyn) Zhu, MPH PhD Student Emory University	Consumption of Low-Calorie Sweeteners among Children Aged 6 Months to 5 Years

Vote for your favorite rapid-fire presentation and poster in the competition [here](#).

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CENTERS

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Pediatric Research Centers

Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

Director: Douglas K. Graham, MD, PhD

As one of the leading pediatric oncology, hematology, and blood and marrow transplant programs in the country, the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University is committed to developing new techniques, treatments, and cures to advance research and medicine in pediatric hematology/oncology. Through collaborative relationships with Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, our more than 125 physicians and researchers study the following fields: Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT), brain tumors, cancer survivorship, cell and gene therapy, hemostasis and thrombosis, leukemia and lymphoma, psychology, sickle cell disease, solid tumor, and transfusion medicine.

Center for Childhood Infections and Vaccines (CCIV)

Director: Mehul Suthar, PhD

The Center for Childhood Infections and Vaccines (CCIV) stands as a powerful catalyst for progress in children's health. CCIV unites researchers, physicians, and clinicians at the forefront of innovation in vaccine development and testing, as well as in critical fields like microbiology, virology, immunology, artificial intelligence/machine learning, pre-clinical studies, and clinical trials. By synergizing the strengths of Emory University—including the Emory Vaccine Center and the Center for Excellence in Influenza Research and Response—with other leading institutions across Georgia, CCIV is accelerating significant breakthroughs in understanding and combating emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Our collaborative power directly fuels the creation and rigorous evaluation of next-generation vaccines and deepens our knowledge of immune responses in children, demonstrably shaping a healthier and more secure future for generations to come.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CENTERS

Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR)

Director: Claudia R. Morris, MD, FAAP

The Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR) is the virtual home for pediatric clinical and translational research. The Center supports innovative clinical research studies and the translation of basic science discoveries into improved child health. An important part of the CCTR mission is mentorship of early clinician scientists to support the career development of the next generation of clinical trialists. The Center integrates closely with the Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA), an NIH/NCRR-sponsored component of the CTSA network. The Center offers many services related to conducting clinical research, including protocol scientific consultation, assistance with research/data safety monitoring plans, FDA regulatory consultation, clinical research resources (i.e., research education), research administration operations, and assistance with clinical and translational research growth.

Center for Cystic Fibrosis and Airways Disease Research (CF-AIR)

Director: Nael McCarty, PhD

Co-Directors: Benjamin T. Kopp, MD, MPH, ATSF, and Arlene Stecenko, MD

The Center for Cystic Fibrosis and Airways Disease Research (CF-AIR), a component of the Emory+Children's CF Center of Excellence (CF@LANTA), is dedicated to establishing a comprehensive program that enhances quality of life and longevity for individuals affected by CF and other airway diseases. Our aim is to be the top CF program in the world, excelling in research, clinical care, and education. CF-AIR's research covers pulmonary and non-pulmonary aspects of CF, including immunometabolism, airway infections, nutrition and body composition, CF-related bone disease (CFBD), CF-related liver disease (CFLD), diabetes (CFRD), mental health, and gastrointestinal issues. This is achieved in part by providing our investigators with patient-derived samples and useful animal models, and through the data management services now coming to fruition through the Georgia CF Data Warehouse. Additionally, we investigate asthma, COPD, and non-CF bronchiectasis. CF-AIR embraces interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies to achieve precision medicine and long-term disease management for individuals living with CF and other airway diseases.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CENTERS

Center for Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, & Nutrition Innovation (GENI)

Director: Paul Dawson, PhD, FAASLD

The Center for Gastroenterology, Endocrinology, and Nutrition Innovation (GENI) aims to address the causes and consequences of the growing epidemic of childhood obesity and associated comorbidities, including cardiometabolic diseases, diabetes, and steatotic liver diseases, through research into contributions from genetic, environmental, nutritional, and lifestyle factors. A primary focus is on understanding how overweight beginning in childhood leads to the early development of cardiovascular disease, steatotic liver disease, and diabetes. GENI's overarching goal is to identify those overweight children at greatest risk for poor health outcomes, develop new approaches for prevention and treatment of obesity-associated metabolic disorders/diseases, and change the life trajectories of these children towards a healthier future.

Center for Immunity and Applied Genomics (CIAG)

Director: Subra Kugathasan, MD

The Children's Center for Immunity and Applied Genomics (CIAG) is a multi-faceted center that focuses on both rare and complex disorders and works closely with physicians and researchers from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Emory University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. In parallel with advances in genomics and other omics, which drives the increased application of precision medicine, CIAG is working to create personalized management plans to effectively manage, prevent complications, improve outcomes, and enhance the quality of life in both monogenetic and polygenetic forms of diseases, while developing precision therapeutics through pharmacogenomics and tailoring drug therapies to each patient's genetic and other omics makeup.

Center for ViroScience and Cure (CVC)

Directors: Baek Kim, PhD and Stefan Sarafianos, PhD

Associate Director: Mourad Zerfaoui, PhD

The mission of the Center for ViroScience and Cure (CVC) is to develop therapeutic and curative strategies that improve the lives of many who are battling acute, chronic, and difficult-to-treat virus infections and related complications. Our researchers have been highly successful in developing small molecules, from discovery to clinical use, for treating devastating human viral infections. These human viral infections include HIV/AIDS, HCV, HBV, SARS-CoV-2, Monkeypox, Ebola, Zika, Influenza, Norovirus, and others.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CENTERS

Children's Center for Neurosciences Research (CCNR)

Director: Timothy Gershon, MD, PhD; **Associate Director:** Jessica Raper, PhD

Children's Center for Neurosciences Research (CCNR) is an intentional community of basic scientists and clinical investigators studying neurologic disorders relevant to children. CCNR's research foci include epilepsy, neuro-inflammation, brain infections, brain tumors, neonatal and traumatic brain injury, neuro-cutaneous disorders, nerve and muscle disorders, and autism. CCNR provides education, mentoring, and opportunities for collaboration.

Children's Heart Research and Outcomes Center (HeRO)

Director: Mike Davis, PhD; **Associate Director:** Holly Bauser-Heaton, MD, PhD

The Heart Research and Outcomes Center (HeRO) seeks to reduce the morbidity of pediatric heart disease by leading the transformation of focused cardiac research into innovative therapies for young patients. Major areas of research include regenerative and nanomedicine technologies, cardiac development, cardiac outcomes, cardiac devices, and neurodevelopmental studies. HeRO's various research programs blend fundamental basic science with translational and clinical medicine to improve the quality of life of children with congenital heart disease.

Marcus Autism Center

Director: Ami Klin, PhD

The Marcus Autism Center is one of the largest autism centers in the country. The Center offers families access to the latest research, comprehensive testing, and evidence-based treatments. In collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Pediatrics, community groups and parents, we conduct research on the causes and sources of disability in children with autism. These research efforts contribute to best clinical practices. Areas of research include clinical trials on autism treatments, community implementation of effective treatments, early brain development, genetics, neuroimaging, and spoken communication. Our work translates research findings from the lab directly to the patient.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CENTERS

Marcus Center for Cellular Therapy

Director: H. Trent Spencer, PhD

The Marcus Center for Cellular Therapy provides the leadership and expertise necessary to facilitate the successful translation of the use of cellular therapies into treatments and cures for childhood diseases. The Center will provide an academic home for the entire spectrum of investigators working in cell therapy and will develop and maintain a broad portfolio of investigator-sponsored Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs). The overall goal of this center is to streamline the translation of scientific discoveries into early clinical trials.

Pediatric Technology Center (PTC)

Directors: Stanislav Emelianov, PhD and Wilbur Lam, MD, PhD

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Pediatric Technology Center at Georgia Tech (PTC) is a unique partnership that merges the expertise of clinical professionals from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the scientists and engineers of Georgia Tech. The Center is dedicated to addressing challenges in pediatric healthcare through the development of advanced technological solutions through interdisciplinary collaboration aiming to achieve breakthrough discoveries and expedite their translation from research to clinical application. By bringing new clinical processes and devices to market, the Center will improve the accessibility, efficiency, and quality of children's healthcare delivery in hospitals and communities that need it most.

Research and Epidemiology for Adolescent and Child Health (REACH) Center

Directors: Philip Lupo, PhD, MPH and Michael Scheurer, PhD, MPH, FACE

Associate Director: Shasha Bai, PhD

The Research and Epidemiology for Adolescent and Child Health (REACH) Center is dedicated to reducing the burden of disease among pediatric populations in Georgia and beyond. Through impactful population-based research, the REACH Center addresses the causes of diseases among children, as well as the outcomes these individuals face. The Center also prioritizes education by training clinicians and scientists in pediatric epidemiology and population-health research while disseminating findings to healthcare professionals and researchers worldwide.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Pediatric Research Cores
Visit the core posters during Poster Sessions

Pediatric Biostatistics Core

Interim Director: Scott Gillespie, MS, MSPH; scott.gillespie@emory.edu

Co-Leaders: Shasha Bai, PhD (REACH, Associate Director), shasha.bai@emory.edu; and Zhulin He, PhD (Biostats Core, Associate Director), zhulin.he@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

Established in 2009, the Pediatric Biostatistics Core (RRID: SCR_025834) provides high-quality statistical collaboration to pediatric researchers at Emory University, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and partner institutions including the Georgia Institute of Technology and Morehouse School of Medicine. The Core's mission is to enhance the rigor, impact, and reproducibility of child health research across diverse disciplines. The Pediatric Biostatistics Core offers a wide range of services, including study design consultation, grant proposal support, protocol development, data analysis, manuscript preparation, and statistical education. For investigators without funding for statistical support, the Core offers the Pediatric Biostatistics Award, which provides up to 30 fully subsidized hours of collaboration per project.

The Core is one of the most active pediatric biostatistics groups in the country, supporting over 300 projects at any given time. Its biostatisticians contribute to more than 60 grant submissions and co-author over 80 peer-reviewed manuscripts annually, playing a critical role in advancing pediatric research locally and nationally.

Pediatric Research Development Core

Core Director: Julie Hawk, PhD; jhawk4@emory.edu

Core Co-Director: Megan Vallowe, PhD; megan.vallowe@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Pediatric Research Development Core (PRDC) has three overlapping arms of service for the Department of Pediatrics: General Resources and Services, Education and Training, and Proposal Development. These three arms provide a support system to optimize a researcher's career.

- General Resources & Services includes sustaining collaborative relationships with Emory's Office of Research Development and Research Administrative Services.
- Education and Training offers one-on-one trainee writing assistance, as well as collaborations with PIs for training grants.
- Proposal Development focuses on complex, multi-project funding applications.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Children's Health Informatics Core

Director: Evan Orenstein, MD; evan.orenstein@choa.org

Co-Director: Naveen Muthu, MD; naveen.muthu@choa.org

Data Delivery Team Director: Jonathan Beus, MD, MS; jonathan.beus@choa.org

Program Manager: Christina Roberts, MPH, PMP, CCRP; christina.roberts@choa.org

Team Lead: Jonathan Park; Jonathan.park@choa.org

Location: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

The Emory + Children's Health Informatics Core (CHIC) provides state-of-the-art informatics expertise to investigators looking to leverage electronic health record (EHR) data and related technologies for research, multicenter collaboration, and interventions to promote health in children. The CHIC is divided into the three teams below.

- Data Delivery Team (DDT): aims to improve the efficiency of using EHR data for research.
- Innovation Team (IT): aims to collaborate with researchers and innovators to produce new technology-enabled care that demonstrably improves outcomes.
- Collaboration Team (CT): technical infrastructure to accelerate activities of both DDT and IT.

Animal Physiology Core

Scientific Director: David Archer, PhD; darcher@emory.edu

Technical Director: Rebecca Wood, MA, BS, LVT, RLATg; rhunte5@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Animal Physiology (AP) Core supports researchers by providing specialized services and equipment for the development and characterization of animal models relevant to pediatric disease research. We offer a range of technical services for small animals, including acute and survival surgeries, ultrasound imaging, metabolic data collection, and various procedural techniques. Our capabilities include surgical manipulation, device implantation, viral delivery, organ removal, vessel cannulation, transplantation, and more.

Our state-of-the-art VisualSonics Vevo 3100 High-Frequency Ultrasound system enables high-resolution, noninvasive imaging of small animal structures and functions. Available services include comprehensive cardiac assessments, image-guided nonsurgical injections, evaluation of liver and kidney blood flow, measurement of arterial stiffness, and tumor growth imaging. Additionally, we provide renal and respiratory metabolic housing and management for detailed collection of kidney and lung function data. The AP Core also offers protocol development support and technical training to ensure researchers can fully leverage these resources for their studies. The AP Core provides services to all researchers, but child health researchers have priority access and are eligible for a generous subsidy.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Pediatrics and Winship Flow Cytometry Core

Scientific Director: David Archer, PhD; darcher@emory.edu

Technical Director: Aaron Rae; ajrae@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Pediatrics/Winship Flow Cytometry Core is shared resource laboratory open to all researchers with locations in HSRBI and the Winship Cancer Institute buildings B & C. The Core provides education, training, experiment and panel design, cellular analysis on nine analyzers and, cell sorting up to BSL2+ level on two instruments. There are four Cytex Aurora spectral analyzers matched to a spectral cell sorter and three BD BioSciences Symphony analyzers matched to an Aria cell sorter. Imaging cytometry is provided on an Amnis ImageStreamX MkII with 10 channels and brightfield imaging. The Core supports clinical trial specimen processing, sample acquisition and data analysis and has recently been recognized by the International Society for the Advancement of Cytometry for excellence in operations, one of 14 SRLs worldwide to gain this recognition. Please contact Aaron Rae and the staff to discuss your future cytometry needs.

Integrated Cellular Imaging Core

Technical Director: April Reedy, PhD; april.reedy@emory.edu

Core Director: Laura Fox-Goharion; lfoxgoh@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Integrated Cellular Imaging Core (ICI) is Emory University's central microscopy facility, providing cutting-edge imaging support to investigators across campus. Equipped with more than 21 advanced microscopes, the ICI Core supports a broad spectrum of imaging applications—including high-throughput histology slide scanning, high-resolution confocal imaging, live-cell dynamics, whole-tissue clearing, fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM), and visualization of mRNA transcripts. The ICI Core has recently installed a fully automated, high-resolution slide scanner at HSRB2—an ideal solution for clinical researchers seeking fast, reliable, and precise digital pathology imaging. For researchers in the Department of Pediatrics, access is further enhanced by a generous 40% departmental subsidy, making advanced microscopy both accessible and affordable.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Pediatric Metabolomics and Biomarkers Core

Scientific Director: Joshua Chandler, PhD - joshua.chandler@emory.edu

Core Staff: Frank Harris - fharris@emory.edu; Genoah Collins - genoah.collins@emory.edu; James Lyles - jtlyles@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Pediatric Metabolomics and Biomarkers Core (PMBC) continues and expands upon the services of the Pediatric Biomarkers Core. PMBC provides innovative approaches to accomplish unbiased, highly sensitive, and biologically meaningful evaluation of metabolites and metabolic pathways in a wide range of sample types. Techniques offered include high-resolution untargeted and polytargeted metabolomics, isotope tracing and fluxomics, fully quantitative targeted analysis, and metabolomic imaging. Unique to Emory's facilities, the core supports hypothesis-driven research to investigate specific biomarkers of interest and corresponding pathways, thus supporting research in disease diagnostics, drug development, and personalized medicine.

Clinical and Translational Discovery Core

Scientific Director: Christopher Porter, MD; chris.porter@emory.edu

Technical Director: Uyen (Mimi) Le, PhD; uqle@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Clinical and Translational Discovery Core offers support to investigators conducting basic science, epidemiologic, translational, and clinical research. The CTDC provides clinical sample processing and storage services for their subsequent use in hypothesis-driven clinical research, access to a variety of human biological specimens from both healthy control participants and patients with a variety of diagnoses, and support and advice on the conduct of clinical trials from initial study design and planning through the implementation and interpretation of molecular assays of drug targets and genomic correlations of disease. Our mission is to support and complement the research efforts of qualified investigators by providing laboratory research services and access to biological samples that represent a variety of diagnoses and healthy volunteers.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Cystic Fibrosis Discovery Core

Director: Arlene Stecenko, MD; astecen@emory.edu

Co-Director: Lokesh Guglani, MD; lokesh.guglani@emory.edu

Technical Director: Chris Driggers; wdrigge@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The CF Discovery Core accelerates CF research by providing researchers access to patient clinical samples through the CF Biospecimen Repository (CF-BR), along with valuable clinical data. The Core ensures scientific rigor and high-quality research through a dedicated Research Oversight Committee consisting of biostatisticians, clinicians, and researchers.

By studying CF disease pathogenesis and addressing pulmonary and non-pulmonary conditions such as CF-related bone disease (CFBD), liver disease (CFLD), diabetes (CFRD), mental health concerns, and GI issues, the Core aims to enhance CF care, treatment, and co-morbidity prevention. This necessitates interdisciplinary approaches for precision medicine and long-term disease management. Ultimately, the Core strives to translate scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for people with CF.

Laboratory and Pathology Clinical Research Core

Team Lead Research Nurse, Pediatric Research Unit: Cheryl Stone, RN, MDiv, CCRP;
cheryllstone@choa.org

Team Lead Research Coordinator: Cali Hulsey; cali.hulsey@choa.org

Location: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Laboratory and Pathology Clinical Research Core provides clinical laboratory testing, specimen processing, research histology, phlebotomy and de-identified tumor bank specimens to investigators conducting research at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Arthur M. Blank Hospital, Scottish Rite and the Center for Advanced Pediatrics) and affiliated organizations. The lab currently provides services for over 100 actively enrolling studies. It has a tiered pricing schedule, which is based on individual study sponsors and the time required for processing and shipping. The processing staff are all IATA and CITI trained to ensure research samples are processed accurately and shipped to laboratories around the world following federal regulations.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Ian's Friends Foundation Brain Tumor Biorepository

IFF Biorepository Coordinator: Bethany Watson; bethany.watson@choa.org

Laboratory System Manager: Heather MacDonald; heather.macdonald@choa.org

Location: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Ian's Friends Foundation (IFF) Brain Tumor Biorepository at Children's Health Care of Atlanta (CHOA) has been established to collect, culture, and distribute pediatric brain tumor biospecimen for research studies with CHOA IRB approval and patient consent. The goal of IFF is to make these biospecimen available free of charge except for shipping to research investigators working on advancing the molecular understanding and treatment of pediatric brain tumors.

General Equipment Core

Core Director: Kira Moresco, MS; kira.moresco@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The General Equipment Core and Specimen Processing is located within Emory-Children's Center (ECC) and the Health Science Research Building (HSRB). It provides access to shared equipment to all Emory and Children's affiliated investigators. Shared equipment includes ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, gel documentation systems, TopCount system, developer, and specimen processing resources.

Medical Imaging

Pediatric Imaging Research Core (PIRC)

Core Director: Anna Trofimova, MD, PhD; anna.trofimova@emory.edu

Research Team Lead: India Taliaferro, MS, CCRP; india.taliaferro@choa.org

Location: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

The Pediatric Imaging Research Core (PIRC) is an interdisciplinary research program that recognizes the importance of medical imaging in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in children and young adults. PIRC provides investigators with modern imaging technology and collaboration with imaging experts to achieve research goals. Our team consults with investigators to enhance their research through access to state-of-the-art technology, pediatric radiologists, physicists, pediatric technologists, nurses and pediatric sedation providers. PIRC also enables the conduct of standard imaging associated with large clinical trials. Services include MRI, CT, PET, bone densitometry, fluoroscopy, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology, ultrasound, X-ray and pediatric sedation.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE CORES

Center for Systems Imaging Core

Director: John Oshinski, PhD; jnoshin@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Center for Systems Imaging Core (CSIC), one of the Emory Integrated Core Facilities (ICF), provides state-of-the art research and pre-clinical human and animal imaging to the Emory community. The CSIC supports the Center for Systems Imaging (CSI), which is the cross-disciplinary scientific, administrative, and educational home for imaging science at Emory University. The goals of this center are to: (1) support the advancement of scientific research focused on the development of imaging biomarkers, (2) promote the development and application of biomedical imaging technology particularly magnetic resonance imaging, (3) provide core services for human and animal imaging studies, and (4) to build cross-cutting educational and training programs

The major imaging equipment housed at CSIC includes: a State licensed radiochemistry lab, a 18 MeV GE PETTrace cyclotron, three 3T MRI (Siemens Prisma) scanners and one 7T MRI (Siemens Terra) scanner, a GE3T PET/MRI scanner, a Siemens Biograph PET/CT system, a XCT 2000 (qCT) scanner, an Inveon micro PET-CT system, and two Bruker small animal MRI scanners (9.4T and 11.7T).

Cardiovascular Imaging Research Core (CIRC)

Medical Director: Ritu Sachdeva, MD; sachdevar@kidsheart.com

Contact: Tara Edwards, MBA; tara.edwards@choa.org

Location: Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Cardiovascular Imaging Research Core (CIRC) provides non-invasive cardiovascular imaging support for investigators involved in clinical research involving infants, children and adolescents. The CIRC has dedicated space, equipment and experienced staff to provide high quality cardiovascular imaging services as well as post-processing of previously acquired images using specialized software. These services include performance of a routine complete or limited congenital or non-congenital two-dimensional echocardiography, color and spectral Doppler imaging; advanced echocardiographic imaging including three-dimensional echocardiography, tissue Doppler imaging, strain and strain rate imaging; stress echocardiography and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. CIRC has also launched a program for assessment of vascular health in pediatric patients that includes non-invasive assessment of endothelial function using brachial artery flow-mediated dilation, measurement of arterial stiffness using applanation tonometry and assessment of structural arterial changes using carotid imaging. In 2015, CIRC expanded our research administration offerings to include data coordinating center and core imaging site capabilities for multi-center studies.

OTHER CORES

Emory Integrated Core Facilities

Director: Adam Marcus, PhD; aimarcu@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Emory Integrated Core Facilities (EICF, www.cores.emory.edu) include 16 core facilities and the Division of Animal Resources that provide Emory investigators access to the latest cutting-edge platforms. These platforms support animal, big data, multi-omics, and imaging research tools used in a wide variety of research applications.

Emory Integrated Genomics Core

Director: Lyra Griffiths, PhD; lmbooke@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Emory Integrated Genomics Core (EIGC), one of the Emory Integrated Core Facilities (EICF), is supported by the Winship Cancer Institute, the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance, and the Emory University School of Medicine. We help investigators use the latest genomics technologies in their research.

Emory Integrated Lipidomics and Metabolomics Core

Director: Eric Ortlund, PhD; eortlund@emory.edu

Contact: Kristal Maner-Smith, PhD; kmaners@emory.edu

Location: Emory University

The Emory Integrated Lipidomics and Metabolomics Core (EILMC) facility provides quantitative lipidomics and small metabolites analyses on samples from a wide variety of biological matrices, e.g. blood, serum, plasma, solid tissues, cell extracts, etc., to support both clinical and basic research efforts on campus. These analyses will provide insight on signalling molecules whose abundance can be monitored as biomarkers to predict and follow progression of a wide range of diseases, such as metabolic disorders (e.g., obesity, Type II diabetes, and NAFLD), neurodegenerative diseases (e.g., Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease), and cancer (e.g., prostate cancer and breast cancer).

OTHER CORES

MSM/RCMI Research Core Facilities

Technical Director: Vincent C. Bond; vbond@msm.edu

Contact: Pamela Alexander; palexander@msm.edu

Location: Morehouse School of Medicine

Major support for the biomedical research infrastructure at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) is received through the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program, sponsored by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Grant number U54MD007602. With RCMI funding, state-of-the-art biomedical research technology cores, shared-use facilities, and other resources at MSM are available to our scientific investigators. RCMI support has fostered the development of areas of research focus at MSM (e.g., Cardiovascular Disease, HIV/AIDS, Neuroscience, Reproductive Biology, and Molecular Immunology). Morehouse School of Medicine's record of research development, and its research enterprise, is in large part due to the support received from the RCMI Program. Currently, there are five "umbrella" cores encompassing multiple labs that focus on similar technologies: Protein Profiling, Biomedical Technology Service Lab (BTSL), Biological Manipulation, Cells and Tissues Imaging and Gene Profiling.

Petit Institute Core Facilities

Director: Steve Woodard; steve.woodard@ibb.gatech.edu

Location: Georgia Institute of Technology

The Petit Institute's Core Facilities serve as a shared resource for the bioengineering and bioscience community. Consultation, training and technical support are available for a variety of research projects. Users have access to over 100 pieces of instrumentation and a host of specialized services.

Systems Mass Spectrometry Core

Technical Director: David Smalley; dsmalley@gatech.edu

Location: Georgia Institute of Technology

The System Mass Spectrometry (SyMS) Core provides state-of-the-art instrumentation, resources, and technical support in both proteomics and metabolomics to Georgia Tech and the surrounding research community. Standard proteomics services include protein identification of simple and complex mixtures, relative protein quantification, and protein characterization. Standard metabolomics services include both targeted assays for various analyte classes as well as untargeted assays to evaluate metabolome alterations in biofluids and tissues-generating new hypotheses. More specialized services, such as global phosphoproteome analysis (among others), are available to examine cellular pathway activation. Customized research needs will also be met through the incorporation of new technologies.

RESEARCH RESOURCES AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Pediatric Research Unit

The Pediatric Research Unit (PRU) was created to facilitate Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's vision for clinical excellence and to support the mission to make kids better today and healthier tomorrow. Inpatient and outpatient units offer core support facilities and resources including nursing, pharmacy, laboratory, and bio nutrition. The PRU supports studies of children with asthma and allergy, cardiac disease, hypertension, Crohn's disease, types 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus, kidney and hepatic disease, sickle cell, and cystic fibrosis among others. Research studies follow exacting standards for delivering the interventions and collecting the requisite data.

The PRU is located on the 5th floor of the Center for Advanced Pediatrics. The research-focused 4,327 square feet of space with six dedicated exam rooms, two observational rooms, a triage room and consult room, and 10 dedicated workspaces for coordinators and PIs. Investigational Drug Services are located inside the PRU as well as an adjacent Emory research lab. To learn more about how the PRU can support your research, please call the PRU at 404-785-0400, or email Michelle Popler, BSN, RN, CCRP, Team Lead Pediatric Research Unit, at michelle.popler@choa.org.

Coordinated Pediatric Pathway Planning Office

The Coordinated Pediatric Pathway Planning Office (C3PO) is dedicated to building a strong, skilled workforce for child health careers across Georgia. Through career development, mentorship, and hands-on experience, C3PO equips the next generation of pediatric professionals with the tools they need to make an impact in both research and clinical care. Led by the Emory Department of Pediatrics and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, with support from Emory University and other key partners, C3PO connects people to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed in child-focused academic careers. Programs include research opportunities, early career exposure, leadership development, and mentorship to guide individuals through their career paths in pediatric healthcare and research. C3PO is focused on closing gaps in pediatric medicine by training professionals who are ready to take on the challenges of child health. By investing in workforce development and increasing opportunities for all learners, C3PO identifies and applies for funding opportunities to support these initiatives. This ensures that the future of pediatric research and care remains innovative, well-supported, and driven by experts dedicated to improving child health. For questions, please contact Clovis Sarmiento, MD at csarmi3@emory.edu.

CME INFORMATION

TO CLAIM CME CREDIT: COMPLETE WITHIN 7 DAYS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS ACTIVITY

To Attendees:

To collect attendance for this meeting we will be using our TEXT CME Service. Please follow directions to set up your account for **TEXT ATTENDANCE** (if you have not already done so with a previous Emory course). This will allow you to Claim Credit at the end of the meeting.

PLEASE FOLLOW DIRECTIONS:

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To Claim credit by TEXT, follow these directions:

- Text **Certif 23588** to **(833) 705-1500**
- You will receive an evaluation link. Please complete the evaluation survey to move forward.
- Upon successful completion of your evaluation, you will be directed to the page to claim credit and download your certificate.

Or if you would rather claim credit ONLINE, follow these directions:

- **Sign into the Emory CME Portal using your email and password at <https://med.emory.edu/education/cme/>**
- **If you forgot your password, put in your email address first and then click "forgot password"**
- You will receive a message that sign in is successful.
- Select the tile **"Claim Credit"**.
- **Enter the Activity Code: 23588**
- Complete the activity evaluation survey.
- Upon successful completion of your evaluation, you will be directed to the page to claim credit and download your CE certificate.

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