

# PEDIATRICS & Women's Health

Newsletter Issue 2, 2020



## From the Desk of Professor & Chair

We in the TCOM Dept. of Pediatrics and Women's Health (PWH) are excited that 2020 is nearing its conclusion and that Winter Break and a New Year are approaching. This 50th anniversary of TCOM has been far different than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has been steadily intensifying in recent weeks. Recent hopeful news has been the prospect for effective vaccines to become available in 2021. In the meantime, we must be ever vigilant to ensure the safety of our families, team members, and each other. Among other things, our plans to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting a TCOM Pediatric Reunion had to be shelved. Fortunately, we were able to honor our twenty-five 2020 future pediatrician graduates with a virtual event on Thursday, June 4, at which Dr. Priya Bui was recognized as the TCOM Pediatric Teacher of the Year. The past few months have posed new and unexpected challenges, beginning with closure of the clinics and on campus activities in mid-March, and the accompanying restrictions to students' access, causing learning activities to become entirely remote and then with some gradual re-entry into clinical sites by late summer. Despite the disruption and stress on all of us that the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed, there have been some notable bright spots which deserve mention and for which we should feel proud and encouraged. Listed below are a few that spring to my mind, in no particular order. Perhaps you have a bright spot that you would like to share? If so, send me an email ([paul.bowman@unthsc.edu](mailto:paul.bowman@unthsc.edu)) which we will distribute to try to brighten other peoples' days.



**W. Paul Bowman, MD**

### COVID-19 Bright Spots for Pediatrics and Women's Health Teams During COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Clinical Team---develops telemedicine capabilities to meet patient needs; innovates drive up vaccine clinics in collaboration with Pediatric Mobile Clinic; looks out for those at risk by supervising student calls to check on status of patients and families.
2. Academic Team---launches innovative on-line and virtual interactive curriculum for core clerkship rotations; creates menu of Pediatric Directed Studies Electives for TCOM students whose in-person rotations canceled by COVID; continues to nurture interest in pediatrics through mentorship and student support.
3. Research Team---finds ways to remain productive and optimistic while working remotely; energetic collaboration, data analysis, grant and manuscript writing; supervision of graduate trainees and medical students; adapting Pediatric Research Program to a mentored virtual format; welcoming and support to new Faculty member, Leslie Allsopp PhD, who leads Asthma 411 Coalition.
4. Engagement Team---strives to keep PWH and its components connected; emphasis on communication, service to others, and ideas to celebrate our teamwork and collaboration.
5. TCOM and PA Students---adapting to the upheaval in their educational circumstances; making the most of learning opportunities including on-line programs and precious clinical encounters; volunteering in service to patients, fellow students, and community.

We remain very grateful to our partners in clinical education, near and far, for their continued commitment to our students' learning opportunities, even when interruptions due to the pandemic become necessary. Fortunately, interest in pediatric and women's health careers remain strong and we await with anticipation the results for TCOM 2021 students in the Residency Match that will be known to us on March 19. With a New Year coming soon, I anticipate that 2021 will be a year of hope and progress in our Dept. of PWH's continued mission to create solutions for a healthier community of children and families.

Two of our esteemed long-term pediatric professors, John Fling MD and John Podgore DO, will be retiring on December 31, 2020. It will also be a year of exciting transition for me, in retiring as Professor and Chair on March 31 after over 12 years in the position, and for Priya Bui DO in assuming the role of Interim Chair. She will provide inspired leadership for the future of TCOM PWH. We plan to have more timely updates to share with you in early 2021!

## **Congratulations**

**Umesh Sankpal, PhD** change in rank to Assistant Professor

**Sarah Matches, DO, FAAP** promotion to Associate Professor



**Avery Mae Bartels, born 8/24/2020**  
**Congratulations to the Bartels Family**

## **POPTALK! PODCAST**

**Shane Fernando, PhD and Amy Raines-Milenkov, Dr.PH**

The idea for the PopTalk! Podcast came from my thought that a public version of grand rounds could be very important and helpful to our community, and a way for us to share health information in a straightforward and easy to understand way. We decided to shift the idea from a live in-person grand rounds, to a more accessible format. In late 2019, I, along with Dr. Raines-Milenkov and two third year students, Prachi Thapar and Sukanya Roy began the very first recording of “PopTalk!”, with our technical and media expert Steve Bartolotta guiding us through the process. The podcast experienced a few hiccups when we started, including some awkward recording mishaps, but since then our audience has grown exponentially. Each episode examines a different health issue, from COVID-19 to Food insecurity, all diving into the health ramifications of each. To improve our content and to make sure our audience received the best information possible, each episode has brought in a guest speaker. When the BLM movement began, we put together a diverse panel of scientists and experts to dive into the effect of racism on health head-on. Our first live episode reached an audience of over 1700 people! With a vast variety of different issues affecting our community today, we have barely started to dive in. The PopTalk! Podcast can be streamed through any major streaming platform, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts. In addition, our episodes are also available on our Facebook page, [@poptalkunthsc](https://www.facebook.com/poptalkunthsc). We hope you enjoy our episodes, and if you have questions you’d like answered, send us a message on any of our social media sites!

## Team (non-faculty) Members in Spotlight

**Kori Wilson, Senior Administrative Coordinator**

### ***Education/Training/Experience:***

1990-2010: Served in the U.S. Navy as a Yeoman; retired in May 2010.  
2008: Completed United Services Military Apprenticeship Program, certifying as a journeyman in the civilian trade: Office Manager/ Administrative Services.  
2009: Associate of Arts (plus 12 hours toward BA completed in 2015).  
2017: Completed UNTHSC Inspire Leadership Development Program.

### ***Professional Interests:***

I perform an array of tasks; I enjoy being helpful to others and learning. I appreciate the goals of the organization and my role supporting faculty and staff who work hard to teach students, provide excellent healthcare, conduct meaningful research, provide support and resources for the community. I hope with my efforts I relieve them to some of the tedious administrative details so they may stay focused on assisting and improving humanity.

### ***Hobbies:***

I am on a journey of lifelong learning. I enjoy reading. I like all things Star Wars, Harry Potter, and The Walking Dead. I appreciate nature and would like to garden full time. I like to cook (and eat!) I enjoy spending time with my family and pets. I am a Reiki Master and certified in Advanced Energy Therapy Techniques.

### ***Family/Other:***

I am originally from Evansville, Indiana. I met my husband of 27 years (Terry) while stationed in California. We have two children in college (Lexi, 23, TCU and Parker, 19, Weatherford College). We also have two cats, two dogs, and a grand dog who is with us three evenings each week. We have lived in the DFW area for about 17 years (2000-2005 and 2007-current). Terry retired from the Navy in 2017 and now works at Lockheed-Martin. We are looking forward to the not so distant future when we both retire again.



## Team (faculty) Member in Spotlight

**Raheela Hafeez, MD, Assistant Professor**

### ***What is your job in 25 words or less?***

I am an Assistant Professor in the department of Pediatrics and Women's Health. I am a part time faculty member. I provide medical care to pediatric patients at HSC. I am a clinical preceptor, mentor, and teacher for TCOM students, osteopathic residents, and IPE students.

### ***What is something that makes you unique, that only a few people know about you?***

After completing medical school, I started my professional career as an obstetrician and gynecologist in Pakistan. On several occasions I had to manage neonatal medical problems by myself, pediatricians not being available. Pediatric medicine intrigued me so much that I switched gears and decided to pursue a career in pediatrics. A few years later, I completed my pediatric residency training in Chicago and eventually moved to Fort Worth, Texas. To this day, I am very passionate about children, and very happy with my decision.

### ***What is one professional accomplishment that you are most proud of? Why?***

The greatest accomplishment of my life is the mission for medical relief of earthquake victims in 2005, where I volunteered as a pediatrician. I am proud of being able to provide care to the people of the northern areas of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, who were hit by an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude which injured 75,000 people and



86,000 human beings lost their lives. It was a life changing experience to see devastation, disaster, human tragedy and suffering so up close and personal, and felt blessed to be able to help.

***Why did you first choose to work for UNTHSC and why do you stay?***

Dr. Fling offered me a faculty position at the department of Pediatrics in 2008. At that time, I was one of the very few MDs in a DO school and was nervous to get into osteopathic culture. I have been here for the past 12 years. The holistic practice of medicine, and the assimilative culture at the department of pediatrics has made HSC my second home. I love to be a part of the pediatric department, where providers and staff sincerely care for each other. We have a culture of cohesiveness, support, and friendship which I have never seen at any other work place.

***What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?***

I love both aspects of my job, clinical as well as teaching. I love to see my pediatric patients growing up and becoming parents themselves. I feel honored and trusted when they bring their own children back to their pediatrician's office. As a teacher, it's an absolute pleasure to see my students mature into successful young professionals and practicing doctors. It truly is worth all the time and effort, to find out how appreciative they are for their education and training at the department of pediatrics.

***If you take a vacation anywhere, where would you go?***

I love to travel. I want to travel all around the world, if I can. I have been to Egypt as a young girl, but I would like to revisit Pharaohs and Pyramids. I also have Spain, Switzerland, and Yosemite National Park on my travel bucket list.

## **Welcome to the Department!!**



**Melanie Lagomichos, DO Obstetrics/Gynecology**

*Education:* UT Austin undergrad, UNTHSC med school, Saint Barnabas Medical Ctr residency

*Hobbies:* Running, painting, cooking, running after my 2-year-old

*Family Life:* Married to my husband Tommy and have a 2-year-old named Sophia.

*What is something that makes you unique?* I speak German fluently and play the piano.

**Hollis Bartels, MD Obstetrics/Gynecology**

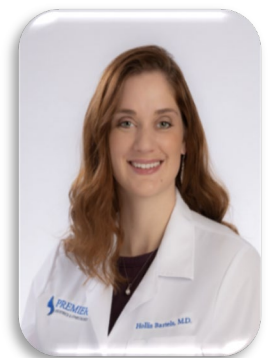
*Education:* Undergraduate-TCU, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet/medical school- Texas A&M College of Medicine/ residency- John Peter Smith Hospital

*Hobbies:* Ballet and modern dance (more as a spectator now), traveling, hiking, fishing, spending time my family

*Family Life:* Met my husband, Brad Bartels, in medical school. He is now a family medicine doctor in rural Texas. We have 2 children: a 2-year-old boy Bennett and brand new 1-week old baby girl

*What is something that makes you unique?*

I was a professional ballet dancer before pursuing a career in medicine.



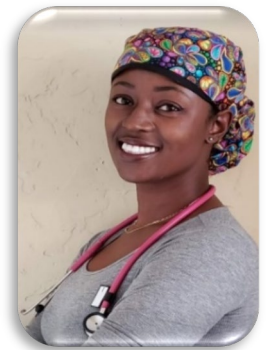
**Alison Pasciucco, MD Obstetrics/Gynecology**

*Education:* Medicine: St. George's University School of Medicine.

*Residency:* St Barnabas Medical Center

### **Shayna Lowe, RN Staff Nurse**

I graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's of science in Nursing in 2002. I am currently halfway through a Master's degree. I enjoy reading, writing, and spending time with my friends and family.



### **Leslie Allsopp, PhD, MSN, MPH Assistant Professor**

*Education:* undergrad-College of Williams and Mary/ MPH-Columbia University/ MSN-Yale University/PhD Public Health-UNTHSC

*Hobbies:* Spending time with family, being active, and getting outdoors.

*Family life:* My husband and I have two daughters and a son. Our eldest daughter and son completed their undergraduate work in May. Our youngest is now 17, just graduated from high school, and begins college (remotely) this fall.

*What is something that makes you unique?* I learned to speak Samoan while I was a Peace Corps Volunteer with the Western Samoa Red Cross. Soifua maloloina ma le fiafia! (A wish for good health and happiness.)

### **Joe Wascomb, Administrative Associate**

*Education:* B.S. in education The University of Alabama. Licensed Paramedic in the state of Texas.

*Hobbies:* I love spending time with my wife Michele and working in my woodworking shop making unique projects. I have made some furniture but enjoy creating projects that include electronics or secret boxes or drawers. We enjoy Geocaching, being outside when the weather permits and shopping for great bargains.

*Family Life:* Michele and I have one son, Alex who is married to a beautiful woman, Emily. We also have a furry Tibetan spaniel named Reagan who demands to be walked at least 30 minutes each day no matter what the weather is like. We are very involved with our church family where I work with youth.

*What is something that makes you unique?* I have worked on mobile clinics for over 20 years and have given well over 50,000 shots. I also serve my church family as an Elder.

### **Tania Lopez, MSN, CNM Advanced Practice Professional**

*Education:* I have graduated with an Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degree all in Nursing - and I became a Certified Nurse Midwife through Parkland Hospital in 2000.

*Hobbies:* travel, movies, reading

*Family life:* We have a daughter who JUST started college at Texas Tech (wreck 'em!) with an undecided major and we are adapting to life without her around - it is harder than I expected! We have a son who is a sophomore in HS - about to get his license and plays tennis / basketball / soccer. All his stuff keeps me busy. My husband is a firefighter / paramedic / RN.

*What is something that makes you unique?* Every year on my birthday, I try to do something I've never done before - Nothing epic but I just try something new - plant a terrarium, visit a place I've never been, take a class in a new language - just something.



## Research Update

Reporting period: September, 2019 to August, 2020

Research funding:

- Texas Department of Health and Human Services: \$435,000 (PI: Dr. Raines-Milenkov; Evaluator: Dr. Felini); Project period: 9/2019 – 8/2020.
- Crump Foundation: \$130,000 (Co-PIs: Drs. Albritton, Basha and Bowman); Project period: 11/2020-10/2022.
- TCHD (NIMHD-U54) Pilot project: \$38,000 (PI:Dr. Robinson); Project period: 11/2019-12/2020.
- TCOM Pilot project: \$20,000 (PI: Dr. Sankpal).

Publications by faculty and PRP participants: 21 (including book chapters, research, and review articles).

Presentations/abstracts accepted or presented by faculty and PRP participants: 70 (RAD, JPS Research Day, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, Southern Pediatric Neurology etc.,)

## Congratulations

**Priya Bui, DO** has been selected for oral presentation on “Pediatric Innovations During a Pandemic” at the 2021 World Conference on Quality and Improvement to be held in May, 2021.

**Shane Fernando, PhD**, presented (virtually) on the Association of negative behavior and body image among boys aged 10-14 in North Texas” at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, October 2020

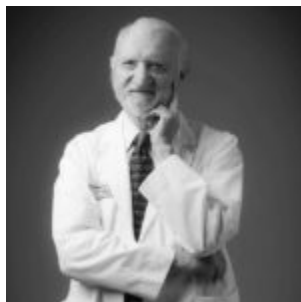
**Martha Felini, PhD** presented on ‘Healthcare Providers Role in Identification of Sex Trafficking Victims’ Texas Osteopathic Medical Association 64<sup>th</sup> MidWinter Conference, Arlington, TX. January, 2020.

## PWH Faculty Recognized as HSC 50 Heroes

<https://www.unthsc.edu/newsroom/category/50-heroes/>



**John Podgore, MD**



**Andras Lacko, PhD**  
(Adjunct Faculty)



**W. Paul Bowman, MD**