From the Desk of the Chair

I am delighted to connect with you all today through our Department of Pediatrics and Women’s Health Quarterly Newsletter. As we dive into Fall, we are hopeful for continued cooler weather and continued progress in the world of children’s health and women’s health.

In the last quarter, we have had challenges in our clinical practice that have been met with opportunity and renewed energy thru our many new staff highlighted in this letter. They bring new ideas, enthusiasm, and a commitment to caring for our patients. We have also had a busy season, with the typical known viruses showing up again at our door as well as back-to-school physicals and happy routine newborn visits. We now have a clear direction of focus in furthering our community roots, through work with school districts, the pediatric mobile unit, the Healthy Steps team, CDC community grant work, Asthma 411, and a special interdisciplinary program called Catch-1 for our medical students to examine children in schools. Members of our department have been a voice of education on vaccinations and the prevention of disease.

It was an honor to recently host the Ralph Anderson Conference alongside JPS, bringing together multiple institutions to discuss the needs of Women and the education of the next generation of best caring women. Myself, Dr. Amy Raines-Milenkov and Dr. Felini presented from the department covering Adolescent Health, Healthy Start Updates around maternal health, and Human Trafficking prevention training and updates. It was a special day paying respect to Dr. Ralph Anderson. The Texas Pediatric Society, also attended by our faculty, featured TCOM grads and students seeking the opportunity to become leaders themselves. Myself, Dr. Amy-Raines and Dr. Felini presented from the department covering Adolescent Health, Healthy Start Updates around maternal health, and Human Trafficking prevention training and updates. It was a special day paying respect to Dr. Ralph Anderson.

The Department has enjoyed the return of many in-person student-related programs and activities in the last year, with a record number of 70 students successfully completing the Pediatric Research Program. We look forward to witnessing the fruits of their work through, posters, presentations, and publications. As our TCOM students start their journey to apply and join residencies, I have met with over 30 seeking pediatric residencies. This is a testament to all of the hardworking faculty and staff committed to their education.

We are excited to have a sense of direction in expanding mental health and behavioral health services as we think of how we want to impact our community and the training we wish for our students to have. I look forward to sharing more about this with you all as we develop and implement our plans to best serve our patients, students, and our community. There is much more work to do and we look forward to sharing again next quarter.
Summer Highlights

2022 Pediatric Research Program (PRP)

TCOM Sponsored Texas Pediatric Society Conference 2022

Lunch and Learn
Progress in Healthcare’s Response to Human Trafficking
Martha Felini, PhD

TCOM Pediatric Sunday Brunch 2022
Celebrating Alumni
Welcome!!

Alyssa Apodaca LVN

*Education:* I received my LVN certificate at Concorde Career College in Garden Grove, California.

*Hobbies:* I enjoy cooking and working out specifically outdoors.

*Family life:* For now, it is just me and my husband. We have been best friends since high school.

*Something only a few people know about me:* I absolutely love rescuing animals. If I could have it my way, I would have a farm full of rescued animals.

Deysi Castruita Medical Assistant

*Education:* CHCP graduated MA program 2022

*Hobbies:* Gardening

*Family life:* Three kids, a husband, two dogs and a turtle

*Something only a few people know about me:* I used to be a photographer

Emily Velasco Medical Assistant

*Education:* Graduated from CHCP (MA school) in 2019 right before COVID hit.

*Hobbies:* My hobbies are spending time with my friends or with my boyfriend.

*Family life:* I do not have kids at the moment. Just my cat named “Gato” which I am allergic to.

Something only a few people know about me is that I don’t like to be touched. Not even a hug or hand hold. I will get an anxiety attack if caught off guard.

Yolanda Aguilar Medical Assistant

Xitlally De La Cruz Medical Assistant

Guadalupe Ventura Martinez Medical Assistant

Blanca Villagomez Medical Assistant
Congratulations!

Umesh Sankpal, PhD
Assistant Professor
Awarded $20,000 by the Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust
To evaluate novel markers of breast cancer disparity

Daniel Park, MD
Assistant Professor
New Role as Clerkship Director

Christina Robinson, MD
Associate Professor and PMC Medical Director
Awarded $25,000 Healthy Kids, Healthy Families grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX)

How Fort Worth area schools caused 911 calls for asthma attacks to plummet (msn.com)
Leslie Allsopp, PhD, MSN, MPH

Newlyweds

Tien and Justin

Alyssa and Ryan

Thank you!!

We give a special thanks to the Department of Family Medicine Nurses, Christy Brantley, Candice Davis, Katie Suber and Stacey Carvalho in helping our pediatric patients these past few months.
5th Annual
Ralph J. Anderson, M.D.
Women’s Health Symposium