



Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Executive Office: 6728 Old McLean Village Drive • McLean, VA 22101-3906
Phone (703) 556-9222 • Fax (703) 556-8729 • www.amspdc.org • info@amspdc.org

Pediatric Leadership Development Program (PLDP)

Cohort 7 (Incoming Scholars) – Biographies



Mara Becker, MD, MSCE is a Professor of Pediatrics at UMKC School of Medicine and Children's Mercy, Kansas City where she has been employed since 2006. She is the current Division Director of Rheumatology and has been appointed as an Associate Chair for the Department of Pediatrics, serving specifically Neurology, Genetics, Rehabilitation and Developmental and Behavioral Sciences. She earned her Medical Doctorate at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA in 1999 and completed pediatric residency, chief residency and pediatric rheumatology fellowship at the Al duPont Hospital for Children/Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. During her fellowship, she also completed a Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007. While at Children's Mercy, she pursued an additional fellowship in Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology completed in 2012.

Dr. Becker's research interest is to identify factors that enhance response and minimize toxicity to drugs used for the treatment of rheumatic diseases in children, focusing on an individualized therapeutic strategy. Her current translational research focuses on methotrexate and its effect upon the folate pathway, utilizing cellular biomarkers and genetic differences that may improve drug efficacy and minimize toxicity in pediatric patients. Throughout the years, her work has been funded by the Kansas City Areas Life Sciences Institute, the PhRMA Foundation, the Rheumatology Research Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

In addition to her administrative work locally, Dr. Becker is currently actively involved in several national committees including the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee, the American College of Rheumatology Committee on Education where she now serves as Chair of the Educational meetings subcommittee, the Society for Pediatric Research Council representing Allergy/Immunology/Rheumatology, and the CARRA Elections Committee.



Ron Keren, MD, MPH is the Chief Quality Officer and Vice President of Quality at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He founded and leads the Office of Clinical Quality Improvement, which supports the hospital's strategy to improve value through promoting efficient and effective patient care. Prior to serving in this current role, in 2007, he founded the Center for Pediatric Clinical Effectiveness (CPCE), a CHOP research center that rose to national prominence through ground breaking federally funded research. Today the CPCE includes 44 core physician faculty, 7 pediatric fellows, and 45 support staff.

Dr. Keren has authored more than 140 peer reviewed publications and has been the Principal Investigator on a total of \$20.2M of external grants. He has lectured nationally and internationally on his research topics of interest, which include newborn jaundice, influenza, urinary tract infections, and bone infections. As a strong sup-

porter of training the next generation of investigators, he has served as Director of both the Academic General Pediatrics Research Fellowship (2003-2010) and the Pediatric Hospital Epidemiology and Outcomes Research Training Program (2010-2014). In 2012, he received the Excellence in Research Award from the Society for Hospital Medicine. Dr. Keren is the Deputy Editor of JAMA Pediatrics and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Pediatric Research in Inpatient Settings (PRIS) research network.



Jean Raphael, MD, MPH is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Vice Chair for Community Health in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. He is a nationally recognized health services researcher with a focus on improving systems of care for underserved and minority children with chronic conditions. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Raphael's research is complemented by policy efforts toward improving the care of vulnerable populations. He is founding Director of the Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy at Texas Children's Hospital. Nationally, Dr. Raphael serves as Chair of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee of the Academic Pediatric Association. He is a past appointee of the Lieutenant Governor to the Texas Health Disparities Task Force. Dr. Raphael's awards have included the Research Mentorship Award from the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, Health

Advocacy Award from Doctors for Change, and Meritorious Service Award from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Dr. Raphael received his B.A. from Williams College, M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health. He also completed the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy. Dr. Raphael is a practicing primary care pediatrician, serving underserved children throughout Houston.



Manu Sood, MD is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He received his M.B., B.S. from IG Medical College, Shimla, India and did his pediatric and pediatric gastroenterology training in the U.K. Over the last twenty years he has acquired a broad and diverse experience in healthcare in three different countries India, UK and USA. After completing his GI fellowship, he was selected for a one-year post fellowship training in Neurogastroenterology and Motility at Children's Hospital of Orange County. Dr. Sood joined Central Manchester University Hospitals, UK in 2001 and established a pediatric motility center to serve children in the North of England. This was the only center of its kind outside of London. His experience in the UK has provided him a unique prospective of a single payer socialized healthcare system which emphasizes health care resource allocation based on community needs and stringent health outcome measures.

Dr. Sood was appointed Division Chief and Medical Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition in 2011 The GI Division is one of the largest in the country and was ranked #16 by US News and World report this year. He is the chair-elect of Children's Specialty Group Finance Committee and currently serving as the co-chair. As a member of the finance committee, he has acquired a deep understanding of institutional finances and challenges facing the healthcare industry and academic institutions. He is especially interested in developing cost effective health care models and improving primary and tertiary health care integration in southeast Wisconsin.