

2025-2026 **TRAVELING GRAND ROUNDS**

SPEAKER BUREAU | SPEAKER BUREAU LECTURES





Gyula Acsadi, MD, PhD, FAAN

Head, Division of Neurology, Connecticut Children's, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Neurology, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Neuromuscular Diseases



Michael Archambault, MD

Medical Director, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Assistant Director, Anesthesiology, Residency Site Director, Connecticut Children's, Director, Simulation, UConn Anesthesiology Residency

Topic(s):

- Anesthesia Introduction
- Preoperative Testing for Anesthesia
- Anesthesia after respiratory tract infections



Corey Baker, MD

Director, Center for Neurogastroenterology and Motility Disorders, Division of Digestive Diseases, Hepatology & Nutrition, Connecticut Children's, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Dysphagia
- Functional abdominal pain syndromes
- Gastroparesis
- Esophageal Achalasia
- Constipation
- Disorders of the Gut-Brain Interaction (DGBIs)



Natalie Bezler, MD

Attending, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Leukemia
- Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Quality Improvement



Kevin Borrup, DrPH, JD, MPA

Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine; Adjunct Professor, UConn School of Social Work

Topic(s):

- Preventing childhood and adolescent injury and violence
- Intimate Partner Violence and its Impact on Children
- Reducing Firearm Violence: Epidemiology, Community Programs, and Policy
- Youth Suicide: Current Knowledge and Preventio
- Promoting Teen Driver Safety: Your Role as a Pediatric Provider



John Brancato, MD, FAAP, FACEP

Head, Division of Emergency Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Concussion



Donna Boruchov, MD

Medical Director, Pediatric Sickle Cell Program & Hemophilia Treatment Center, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Curative Therapies for Sickle Cell Disease



Melanie Sue Collins, MD

Medical Director, Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine, Director, Cardiomyopathy Diagnostic Services, Program Director, Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship, Co-Director, Asthma Center, Associate Director, Central Connecticut Cystic Fibrosis Center, Connecticut Children's; Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis
- Review History of Newborn Screening (NBS)
- Immunoreactive Trypsinogen (IRT)
- DNA testing
- Current Methodology of NBS in CT
- Sweat Testing
- Abnormal/Normal Values
- Indications/Contraindications
- Cystic Fibrosis Screen Positive Inconclusive Diagnosis
- Formerly known as CRMS
- Symptomatic Diagnosis
- Quality Improvement



Hassan El Chebib, MD, FAAP

Attending, Division of Infectious Disease and Immunology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Program Director, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Lyme Disease and Other Tick Borne Illnesses
- Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV
- Approach to recurrent fever
- · Approach to fever of unknown origin



Cem Demirci, MD

Head, Division of Endocrinology & Diabetes, Clinical Director, Endocrinology and Diabetes, Connecticut Children's; Chase Family Chair in Juvenile Diabetes, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
- · Monogenic Forms of Diabetes Mellitus
- Hypoglycemia in Infants and Children
- Metabolic Syndrome



Richelle deMayo, MD, CM, FAAP, FAMIA

Head, Medical Information Officer, Attending Physician, Division of Pain and Palliative Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Chair, Division of Biomedical Informatics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

 Pediatric Headache Management (interdisciplinary approaches and novel therapies)



Francis J. DiMario Jr., MD

Director, Tuberous Sclerosis and Neurofibromatosis Clinics, Associate Chair, Academic Affairs, Department Pediatrics, Medical Director, Human Research Protection Program, Division Head Emeritus, Pediatric Neurology, Connecticut Children's; Professor, Pediatrics and Neurology, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Neurocutaneous Diseases



Barbara Edelheit, MD

Head, Division of Rheumatology, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor; Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
- Joint Pain in Children
- Rheumatic Disease in Children
- Rheumatology Lab Tests
- Childhood Lupus



Jennifer Haile, MD

Medical Director, Regional Lead Treatment Program, Attending, Primary Care, Connecticut Children's; Associate Program Director, UCONN Pediatric Residency program; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Lead Poisoning prevention and treatment



Melissa Held, MD, FAAP

Attending, Division of Infectious Disease, Connecticut Children's; Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Lyme Disease
- COVID in children
- Tuberculosis in children
- Zoonotic in infants and children
- Kawasaki Disease



Jessica Hollenbach, PhD

Co-Director Asthma Center, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Implementing the 2020 Asthma Guidelines: Easy Breathing 2.0
- · School-Based Asthma Management
- Adherence to Therapy among Youth with Asthma: The Role of Electronic Remote Monitoring



Michael Isakoff, MD

Head, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Director, Sarcoma Program, Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Program, Medical Director, Clinical Trials Unit, Connecticut Children's; Hartford Whalers' Endowed Chair in Children's Cancer, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Hemangiomas
- Bone Tumors (Osteosarcoma or Ewing Sarcoma)
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas
- Leukemia
- Sickle Cell Disease



Robert Keder, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Core Faculty Leader/Rotation Director, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- ADHD
- Addressing issues of bias and discrimination with patients
- Autism
- Using humanities to both teach and promote in healthcare education
- Working with schools for children with special needs
- Behavior management strategies for primary care
- Bullying
- Navigating media use with children
- · Navigating learning disabilities and special education
- · Supporting parents of children with special needs
- · Understanding trauma and promoting resilience



Isabella Knox, MD, EdM, FAAP, FABM

Attending Physician, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Tongue Tie
- · Breastfeeding & Use of Donor Human Milk
- Milk Banking Update



Shabnam Lainwala, MBBS, PhD

Director, Neonatal Neurodevelopmental Follow-up Program, Director Neonatal Transitional Medical Care Clinic, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Newborn nutrition and growth
- Newborn language nutrition
- · Long-term outcomes of preterm infants



Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH

Research Education & Development Liaison NE, Co-Director, Advanced Practice Providers, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Public Health, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

 Love and happiness: Building and sustaining a career at a pediatric academic medical center.



W. Blaine Lapin, MD, FAAP

Attending Physician, Division of Rheumatology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
- Juvenile Dermatomyositis
- Pediatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
- Pediatric Vasculitis
- Periodic Fever Syndromes/ Auto-inflammatory diseases
- Non-inflammatory musculoskeletal pain



Ray Lorenzoni, MD

Attending Physician, Pediatric Cardiology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Pediatric and Fetal Cardiology
- Advanced Cardiac Imaging
- 3D Visualization
- Preventative Cardiology
- Kawasaki Disease
- Innovation and Technology
- · Caregiver of Child with Cancer



Jessica MacCormac, DO, MS

Attending Physician, Division of Adolescent Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Clerkship Director, Ambulatory Pediatrics; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Evaluation and Management of Heavy Menstrual Bleeding in Adolescents
- The Transition from Pediatric to Adult Medical Care for Youth with Special Healthcare Needs



Allyson McDermott, MD, MAcM, FAAP

Director, Hospital Medicine Education Series, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Assistant Clerkship Director of Inpatient Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Navigating Difficult Conversations in the Clinical and Learning Environment
- Writing Effective Evaluations for Learners



Elliot Melendez, MD

Head, Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Sepsis/Septic Shock
- Critical Asthma
- Sepsis Quality Improvement
- Quality Improvement



Andrea Orsey, MD, MSCE, MS-HPEd

Associate Chair of Education, Director, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program, Director, Cancer Supportive Care Program, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Medical Education
- Supportive Care
- Neuroblastoma



Alaina Pyle, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- · Complex end-of-life decision making
- Life-limiting neonatal conditions & palliative care
- Bioethics



Juliann Reardon, MD, MHS

Attending Physician, Division of Nephrology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Hypertension
- Proteinuria, Hematuria
- · Chronic Kidney Disease, Acute Kidney Injury
- Mental Health in Children with Chronic Medical Conditions



Steven C. Rogers, MD, MS

Attending Physician, Division of Emergency Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine; UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Youth Suicide Identification and Prevention



Melanie Rudnick, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Frank H. Netter School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University

Topic(s):

 Creating a positive learning environment using the WISSE framework (welcoming, -inclusive, safe, stimulating, equitable)



Melissa Santos, PhD

Head, Division of Pediatric Psychology, Director of the Scientific Center for Child Health Excellence in Research and Innovative Outcomes, Connecticut Children's Research Institute, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Chair for Accountability, Belonging and Culture, UConn School of Medicine

- Mental Health
- Pediatric Obesity
- Gender Health



Mark Schomer, MD

Pediatric Epileptologist and Neurologist, Neurology Department, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Epilepsy and Intellectual Disability
- Overview of Pediatric Epilepsy



Adam Silverman, MD

Director, Center for Global Health, Attending Physician, Divisions of Pediatric Critical Care and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Associate Professor, Department of Traumatology and Emergency Medicine, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Global Health



Sara Sanders, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Critical Care, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Medical Education:
 - Setting the stage and building psychological safety for learners
 - Effective Clinical Teaching; managing multiple levels of learners in a clinical setting, giving effective feedback and managing implicit bias in evaluations of learners
- Pediatric Critical Care:
 - Asthma
 - DKA
 - Shock
 - Airway management



Heather O. Tory, MD, MPH, CPPS

Associate Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer, Attending Physician, Division of Rheumatology, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- · Juvenile idiopathic arthritis
- Juvenile Dermatomyositis
- Vasculitis in Childhood



Jennifer Twachtman-Bassett, MS, CCC-SLP, CCRP

Autism Clinical Specialist and Research Coordinator, Speech-Language Pathologist, Connecticut Children's

Topic(s):

- · Features of autism spectrum disorder
- Screening and diagnosis (of autism spectrum disorder)
- Communication and language development in ASD
- Communication and language intervention
- Collaborating with families for home carry-over
- Ways to support patients with ASD in medical settings
- Behavior-Communication Connection
- The impact of stress on communication (broader topic that includes other developmental disabilities and behavioral health/trauma)
- Autism and neurodiversity
- Concept of assent in research



Shailendra Upadhyay, MD, CEPS, FHRS

Head, Division of Pediatric Cardiology, Co-Director, Cardiovascular Institute, Connecticut Children's; Program Director Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

 Intervention Management of Arrhythmia in Children & adults with Congenital Heart Disease



Annette Vannilam, MD, FAAP

Attending Physician, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Connecticut Children's, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome (CVS)



Leonela Villegas, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

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- · Chronic Kidney Disease
- · Childhood Hypertension



Haviva Veler, MD, FAASM

Head, Division of Pulmonary Medicine & Sleep Center, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Pediatric sleep: Normal sleep in children
- Sleep Apnea



Emily Wakefield, PsyD

Pediatric Psychologist, Division of Pain and Palliative Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Multidisciplinary approaches to pediatric chronic pain management
- The challenges of pain assessment in children and adolescents with chronic pain
- "Please Believe I have Pain": How the invisibility of pain symptoms leads to stigma in adolescents with chronic pain
- The impact of racial bias and stigma on health outcomes for adolescents and young adults with sickle cell disease



Jessica Winters, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Critical Care Medicine, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Quality Improvement and Patient Safety relating to central lines, team communication, and situational awareness
- Common PICU diseases (Critical asthma, respiratory failure, DKA, status epilepticus, shock)



Keri Wallace, MD

Attending Physician, Primary Care, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School Medicine

Topic(s):

• Pediatric Dermatology Therapeutic Update for the Pediatrician



Lila Worden, MD, MPH

Director, Ketogenic Diet Program, Attending Physician, Division of Pediatric Neurology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Epilepsy
- Epilepsy mimics
- Neonatal Seizures
- Ketogenic Diet
- General Pediatric Neurology



Richard Young, MD, MPH

Attending Physician, Division of Neurology, Connecticut Children's; Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Neurology, UConn School of Medicine; Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics (Neurology), Yale School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Seizures and seizure-like activity: how to distinguish
- · How to help the child with a chronic headache
- Help! I'm dizzy



Edwin Zalneraitis, MD

Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics and Neurology, UConn School of Medicine

- Medical Education
- Pediatric Neurology



Markus Bookland, MD, FAANS

Associate Director of Academic Affairs; Department of Surgery, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor, Department of Surgery and Pediatrics. UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Brain Tumors
- Hydrocephalus
- Craniosynostosis
- Traumatic Brain Injury Acute Management
- Surgical Epilepsy



Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH, FACS

Clinical Director of Pediatric Surgery, Director of Trauma, Pediatric Surgical Quality and Safety Officer, Donald Hight Endowed Chair in General Surgery, Connecticut Children's; Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

- Pediatric Trauma, Burns, and Injury Prevention
- An Overview of Quality and Performance Improvement
- History of the Hartford Circus Fire (1944)
- Animal Bites (Bites & Stings Can Be Interesting Things)
- Firearm Injury and Prevention: From Primary Prevention to Public Policy
- Common Pediatric Surgical Conditions for the General Pediatrician



Sonia Chaudhry, MD, FAAOS

Attending Physician, Division of Orthopedics, Center for Motion Analysis, Hand and Microvascular Surgery, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Pediatric Hand conditions/injuries
- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
- Brachial Plexus Injuries
- Congenital Hand Differences
- Nerve injuries
- Sustainable Surgery



Timothy Crombleholme, MD, FACS, FAAP

Director, Fetal Care Center; Division of Pediatric Surgery, Connecticut Children's; Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Surgery, & Obstetrics/Gynecology, UConn School of Medicine

- Status of Fetal Surgery: Past Present and Future
- EXIT Procedures
- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
- Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome
- Sacrococcygeal Teratoma
- Management of Fetal Renal Failure
- Placental Gene Therapy for Severe Fetal Growth Restriction
- Congenital Pulmonary Airway Malformations



Christine Finck, MD, FACS

Peter Decker's Endowed Chair of Pediatric Surgery, Surgeon-in-Chief, Executive Vice President, Connecticut Children's; Professor of Surgery, Pediatrics and Cell Biology, Vice Chair of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Neonatal Lung Disease and Congenital Anomalies
- Esophageal Disorders in Children and Innovative Approaches
- · Weight Management and Surgery in Children



Christopher Grindle, MD, FAAP

Head, Division of Otolaryngology, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Pediatric ENT topics



Nancy Grover, MD

Attending Physician, Division of Otolaryngology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

- Snoring
- Sleep Apnea
- Tonsils
- Adenoids



James Healy, MD, MHS

Pediatric Surgeon, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



J. Leslie Knod, MD

Pediatric Surgeon, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Vito R. La Rocca, MD, MPH

Head, Division of Opthalmalogy, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Mark Lee, MD

Head, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Site Director, Resident Education, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

- Scoliosis
- Fracture Care
- · Pediatric Hip Pathology



Nicole Murray, MD

President, Medical Staff Office, Director, Aerodigestive Medicine, Assistant Director, Pediatric Otolaryngology, Connecticut Children's; Professor of Otolaryngology, Department of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Kristan Pierz, MD

Medical Director, Center for Motion Analysis, Site Director, Resident Education, Attending Physician, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Connecticut Children's, Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

- Toe Walking
- Limb Deformity
- Gait disorders



Christine Rader, MD, FACS

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Department of Surgery, Director, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Courtney Rowe, MD

Director, Reconstructive Urology Program, Co-Director, Connecticut Children's Continence Program, Attending Physician, Pediatric Urology, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

 Congenital and acquired differences in the kidneys, bladder, and genitals



Scott R. Schoem, MD, MBA, FAAP

Pediatric Otolaryngologist, Associate Director, Surgical Clinical Affairs, Connecticut Children's; Professor of Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

- Evaluation and management of tongue-tie
- Evaluation and management of the neck mass in children
- ENT Manifestations of Down Syndrome in Children
- Management of Chronic sinus disease in children
- The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Management of Chronic
- Ear Disease beyond Otitis Media
- Evaluation and Management of Hearing Loss in Children



Richard Weiss, MD, FACS

Medical Director, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Connecticut Children's; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Surgery, Traumatology and Emergency Medicine, UConn School of Medicine; Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, Quinnipiac University

Topic(s):

Reguest/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Jessica Williams, MD

Medical Director, Clinical Informatics, Pediatric Surgery, Obesity & Weight Management, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty



Janet Zahradnik, MD

Orthopedic Surgeon, Connecticut Children's; Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, UConn School of Medicine

Topic(s):

Request/inquire topic(s) of interest for the Specialty