

Department of Paediatrics 2025 Creative Professional Activity Grant Awardees

The Creative Professional Activity (CPA) Grant Competition, launched in 2005, has been a cornerstone initiative supporting clinical academic scholarship within the Department of Paediatrics at The Hospital for Sick Children. Designed to encourage innovative approaches to patient care, the competition is open to all clinical faculty, with a particular emphasis on supporting junior faculty whose roles involve significant clinical responsibilities. Many thanks to the grant review committee: Drs. Adrienne Davis, Alene Toulany, Ari Bitnun, Dan Rosenfield, Indra Narang, Mahendra Moharir, Olivia Ostrow and Reshma Amin.

Over the past decade, CPA-funded projects have led to meaningful improvements in paediatric care. Many have been published in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals, presented at national and international conferences, and have secured external funding for further research. Most importantly, these initiatives have driven innovation in care models and clinical practice, directly benefiting children and families at SickKids and beyond.



Dr. Sanjay Mahant
Associate Chair, Strategy and
Clinical Analytics (Interim)



Dr. Meredith Irwin
Chair, Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto
Paediatrician-in-Chief, The Hospital for Sick Children
Chief Executive Officer, Paediatric Consultants Partnership

Congratulations to the 2025 CPA Grant Awardees!

Quality Improvement



Dr. Zia Bismilla,
Paediatric Medicine
Improving lumbar puncture safety and success: A simulation-based quality improvement initiative

Co-Investigators: Shawna Silver, Sophia Sweatman, Louise Ing, Sarah Mauti, Jennifer Allegro



Dr. Jessie Hulst,
Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition
Expanding implementation of the Pediatric Integrated Nutrition Pathway for acute care (P-INPAC), sustaining implemented practices, and using EPIC real-time monitoring

Co-Investigators: Adelina Morra, Beth Gamulka, Beth Haliburton, Bonnie Fleming-Carroll, Daina Kalnins, Joann Herridge, Louise Bannister, Sanjay Mahant, Sarah Mauti, Sara McEwan, Zujaja Tul-Noor on behalf of Malnutrition Initiatives Task Force of Nutrition Advisory Committee.

General CPA Award



Dr. Frances Yeung,
Paediatric Medicine
Fracture characteristics and clinical features in children with osteogenesis imperfecta in the first two years of life

Co-Investigators: Julia Sorbara, Roberto Mendoza, Andrew Howard, Amanda Lord, Brittany Anne Howson-Jan, Ashley Buffone, Marlene Thibault

Health Equity and Inclusion



Dr. Sasha Litwin,
Emergency Medicine
The Dyad Chair Project: Co-designing a Child-Caregiver seating solution for children with Neurodiversity in the Paediatric Emergency Medicine Department

Co-Investigators: Kate Sellen, Miriam Maarse, Caleb Tait, Jovian Collins



Dr. Suvasini Sharma,
Neurology
Embracing cultural diversity in Ketogenic Diet Therapy utilization in children with drug-resistant epilepsy - challenges and solutions

Co-Investigators: Jeff Kobayashi, Elizabeth Donner, Helen Lowe, Jolynn Dickson, Karen Owusu, Jenna Christiansen, Dinah Finkelstein



Dr. Koyelle Papneja,
Cardiology
Regional disparities in the prenatal diagnosis of critical congenital heart disease

Co-Investigators: Lindsay Freud, Cedric Manlhiot

This award is co-funded by the Department of Paediatrics and the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Children

Informatics and Health Equity Inclusion



Dr. Connie Yang,
Respiratory Medicine
CONNECTing asthma oUtcomes and social determinants of health at an individual and neighbourhood level (CONNECT-US)

Co-Investigators: Jacob McCoy, Susan Balkovec, Mollie Lavigne, Colleen Gauer

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