

Pediatric Health Equity Collaborative (PHEC) Participant Bios



Courtney M. Brown, MD, MSc

*Assistant Chief Health Equity Officer
Nationwide Children's Hospital*

Dr. Brown is the Assistant Chief Health Equity Officer at Nationwide Children's Hospital. In this role, she leads the development and implementation of a strategy to support clinical leaders who seek to reduce disparities in their clinical settings. Dr. Brown is a primary care pediatrician with eighteen years of experience providing clinical care to diverse patient populations. In addition, she is the Medical Director for the Women and Infants Service line at Partners for Kids (Nationwide Children's Hospitals' accountable care organization for patients with Medicaid). She is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. She has advanced training in both improvement science and clinical and translational research. She has studied barriers to pediatric care among families living in poverty and has led initiatives to improve access and service delivery in primary care. She has worked on multiple population health and community health initiatives and has also published articles on measurement frameworks for clinical outcomes.



Lia Gore, MD

*Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Oncology, and Hematology
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant
The Ergen Family Endowed Chair in Pediatric Oncology
Children's Hospital Colorado, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders*

Lia Gore is a Professor with Tenure in the Departments of Pediatrics, Medical Oncology, and Hematology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine where she also serves Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT-Cellular Therapeutics. At Children's Hospital Colorado, Dr. Gore also holds the Ergen Family Chair in Pediatric Oncology and supports efforts to promote health equity across all of her activities.

Additionally, Dr. Gore is Co-Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center and is the current the Group Vice Chair in the National Cancer institute-sponsored Children's Oncology Group. Dr. Gore's primary interests are in drug development for refractory cancers and treatment of leukemias. She has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and numerous foundation awards. Dr. Gore has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, has lectured broadly

both in the United States and internationally. She advises the US FDA and European Medicines Agency on topics related to pediatric oncology drug development.

Dr. Gore received her medical degree at the George Washington University School of Medicine, spent her internship in Pediatrics at Children's National Medical in Washington, DC, and residency in Pediatrics at Children's Colorado. She then had a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, Bone Marrow Transplant, and was a postdoctoral research fellow in Immunology and Hematopoiesis at National Jewish Medical and Research Center and in Leukemia Biology at Children's Colorado and the University of Colorado.



Amanda Grice, RDMS, MS

*Program Director, Office of Health Equity and Inclusion
Boston Children's Hospital*

Amanda Grice, RDMS, MS received her BS in Psychology and MS in Counseling Psychology from Northeastern University. She also received a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography from Bunker Hill Community College and is a registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer. In her current role as the Program Director for the Office of Health Equity and Inclusion, Amanda works collaboratively with departments and divisions within Boston Children's Hospital, and with external institutions to support innovative programs and research aimed at decreasing pediatric health disparities, increasing diversity amongst hospital staff, and advancing culturally effective pediatric care. A long-standing Boston Children's Hospital staff member, Amanda is able to combine her many years of clinical and administrative leadership experiences, and her expertise in equity, diversity, and inclusivity to this enterprise-wide current role.



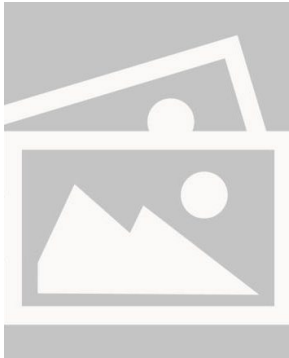
Rita Guevara, MD FAAP

*Assistant Dean of Inclusive Excellence, Drexel University College of Medicine
Director of Health Equity, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Attending Physician, Section of General Pediatrics, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine
St. Christopher's Pediatric Associates*

Dr. Rita Guevara is an associate professor of clinical pediatric in the Department of Pediatrics and sees patients in the Center for the Urban Child outpatient clinic at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. She serves as the Director of Health

Equity and most recently as the Medical Staff President. She is also a certified, proficient bilingual physician in Spanish and has advocated for certification of fellow providers in the clinic to ensure they all provide the highest quality of patient care in families' preferred languages. She works to ensure quality care for culturally and linguistically diverse families and provides education on language access and culturally effective care for medical trainees and faculty. She has given lectures and workshops at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Drexel University College of Medicine, and the greater Tower Health network on topics of interpreter utilization, effective communication with diverse patient populations, cultural humility, and culturally effective pediatric care.

Dr. Guevara is also the Assistant Dean of Inclusive Excellence under the Office of Community Health and Inclusive Excellence at Drexel University College of Medicine. There she focuses on specific projects involving the pipeline mentorship program, educational grant preparation and quality improvement of programming. She completed her undergraduate education at The Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and Master of Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her medical education at Drexel University College of Medicine, followed by her pediatric residency and chief resident year at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.



Jessi Johnson

Health Equity Specialist, Children's Mercy



Hans B. Kersten, MD

*Professor of Pediatrics
Drexel University College of Medicine
Attending and Physician
St. Christopher's Hospital for Children*

Hans Kersten graduated from Temple University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children (SCHC). He is an attending and hospitalist physician at SCHC, the medical director of the multidisciplinary Grow Clinic, and a professor of pediatrics at Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Kersten founded the Reach Out and Read programs at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children over 10 years ago and is a member of the Reach Out and Read Greater Philadelphia Advisory Committee. He has led recent efforts for St. Christopher's to become "hunger-free" by developing initiatives to screen for FI throughout the hospital, providing resources for families, organizing food drives, improving fresh food access by starting the F2F and FreshRX programs at the hospital and the Philly Food Cart in the lobby. He has completed over 20 invited lectureships on failure to thrive and FI, and presented an American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) webinar on FI. He is a member of the APAs Task Force on Childhood Poverty, received the Vincent Zarro, MD, PhD Community Outreach Award from Drexel University College of Medicine (DUCOM) for his advocacy and scholarly efforts and has recently been elected to DUCOMs Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society.



Lenny López, MD, MDiv, MPH

*Senior Faculty, The Disparities Solutions Center
Chief of Hospital Medicine, San Francisco VA Medical Center
Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco
Co-Editor-In-Chief of The Journal of General Internal Medicine, Society of
General Internal Medicine*

Dr. Lenny López is Senior Faculty at the Disparities Solutions Center, Chief of Hospital Medicine, and Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. López is an internist trained at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), who completed the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health and a Hospital Medicine fellowship at BWH. Dr. López joined the Mongan Institute for Health Policy (MIHP) in 2008 after his research fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School until 2015. With an ultimate goal of reducing healthcare disparities in cardiovascular disease and diabetes, his current research addresses issues relating to patient safety and language barriers, optimizing primary care clinical services for Latinos with cultural and linguistic barriers, and using health information technology to decrease disparities. The second line of research investigates the epidemiology of acculturation among Latinos in the US and its impact on the prevalence and development of

cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes. This research will help inform how to better design clinical interventions for improving chronic disease management among Latinos. Finally, Dr. López also teaches medical students and residents with lectures and preceptorships. Dr. López received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2001 and completed his residency at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, in 2004. At Harvard University, he received a Master of Divinity in 1999 and a Master of Public Health in 2005.



Heather Paradis, MD, MPH

Children's Wisconsin

I am an academically trained general pediatrician at Children's Wisconsin in Milwaukee where I practice primary care and work on population health/health equity initiatives. I spent 4 years (2020-2024) as the medical director for the City of Milwaukee Health Department, practicing public health during the pandemic. Currently I am the Medical Director for the Integrated Lead Program at Children's Wisconsin and provider champion for health navigation, a program aimed at improving health outcomes for marginalized populations.



Jonathan R. Swanson, MD, MSc, MBA

Charles I. Fuller Jr. Professor of Neonatology

Professor of Pediatrics

Director, Division of Neonatology

University of Virginia

Chief Quality Officer for Children's Services

University of Virginia Children's Hospital

Jonathan Swanson, MD, MSc, MBA, is Professor of Pediatrics and the Chief Quality Officer for Children's Services and the Division Director for the Division of Neonatology at the University of Virginia Children's Hospital in Charlottesville, VA. Dr. Swanson completed medical school at the University of Rochester and subsequently completed both his pediatric residency and neonatal-perinatal medicine fellowship at the University of Virginia. After completing his fellowship, he worked in northern New Jersey until returning to UVA in 2011. He obtained his master's degree in healthcare quality and safety in 2013 from Thomas Jefferson University and his master of business administration from the University of Arizona in 2023. His passion and research focuses on necrotizing enterocolitis, neonatal nutrition and the use of human milk in high risk infants, neonatal acute kidney injury as well as quality improvement methodology and cost-effective care.

Jon and his wife Michelle Rindos (Associate Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologist) have lived in Keswick since returning to Virginia in 2011. They have 4 kids (ages 9-17) and enjoy traveling, hiking and going to their kids' sporting events. Jon has coached one of his kids' soccer or basketball teams for the past decade.

Aswita Tan-McGrory, MBA, MSPH

Director, The Disparities Solutions Center, Mass General Hospital



In her role as Director at the Disparities Solutions Center, Ms. Tan-McGrory leads the Center's mission to address gaps in health care quality and works with health care leaders across the nation and internationally through the Health Equity Leadership Program.

Ms. Tan-McGrory is also a subject matter expert and public speaker and travels across the country to speak to organizations about how race, ethnicity, and language impact the quality of care. She participates in several local and national committees, such as the Leapfrog Advisory Group on Equity, EOHHS Quality Measurement Taskforce, CMS Health Equity Quality Measurement Technical Expert Panel, and the National Academy of Medicine Discussion Group on Collecting Data to Ensure Equity in Payment Policy. She is also a Stakeholder Reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

Ms. Tan-McGrory's interests are in providing equitable care to under-resourced populations, and she has over 20 years of professional experience in the areas of health equity, maternal/child health, elder homelessness, and HIV testing and counseling. She received her Master of Business Administration from Babson College and her Master of Science in Public Health, with a concentration in tropical medicine and parasitology, from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Ms. Tan-McGrory is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer where she spent 2 years in rural Nigeria, West Africa, on water sanitation and Guinea Worm Eradication projects.

She received a YMCA Achievers award in 2017 for community service and professional achievement, and in 2016 was selected as a Pioneer as part of a groundbreaking initiative Children's Wellbeing initiative by [Ashoka Changemakers](#) and the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).



Valerie L. Ward, MD, MPH

*Senior Vice President and Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer
Boston Children's Hospital
Assistant Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School*

Valerie L. Ward, M.D., M.P.H. received her A.B. in chemistry from Harvard University, M.D. from Yale University School of Medicine, and M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is a pediatric radiologist on the faculty of the Department of Radiology at Boston Children's Hospital. A prior leadership role that she held in the Department of Radiology was the Physician Director for Quality Improvement from 2012-2017. In 2012, she was awarded Harvard Medical School's prestigious Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Award for collaborative research that she led in the development of a patient "navigation" tool to improve the inpatient hospital experience for diverse pediatric patients and their families.

In 2017, Dr. Ward was appointed as the founding Medical Director of Boston Children's Office of Health Equity and Inclusion. In 2020, Dr. Ward became Boston Children's first Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer and was promoted in 2021 to a Senior Vice President. In this capacity, Dr. Ward leads the essential work to make Boston Children's a leader in health equity and inclusion for all patients, faculty, staff and trainees across the entire enterprise. She continues to lead the Office of Health Equity and Inclusion and co-chair the hospital's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Also, Dr. Ward leads a new major initiative that was created in 2021 at Boston Children's, that is the Sandra L. Fenwick Institute for Pediatric Health Equity and Inclusion focused on health equity research, inclusion and public policy. The Fenwick Institute is named in honor of Boston Children's retired CEO, Sandra L. Fenwick, MPH. Sandra L. Fenwick and her husband Geoffrey made a generous donation to Boston Children's Hospital for the establishment of the Sandra Labas Fenwick Family Endowed Chair in Equity and Inclusion, to be held by Dr. Ward.



Jordee M. Wells, MD, MPH, FAAP

*Principal Investigator, Center for Child Health Equity Outcomes and Research,
The Abigail Wexner Research Institute
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Emergency Medicine, Department
of Pediatrics, The Ohio State University College of Medicine*

Dr. Wells holds a faculty appointment as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Emergency Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine. She serves as the Director of Diversity, Health Equity, and Inclusion for the Division of Emergency Medicine. As a clinician scientist and Principal Investigator in the Center for Health Equity and Outcomes Research at The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, her research interests include leveraging

health policy, social determinants of health, and reducing health disparities in pediatric emergency care. She has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and other intramural resources to support her work and is a member of the steering committee of the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN).



Jeffrey Yaeger, MD, MPH

*Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences
Division of Pediatric Hospital Medicine
University of Rochester Medical Center*

Dr. Yaeger is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He attended medical school at the University at Buffalo's School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and trained in Pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Following a chief residency, Dr. Yaeger completed a Primary Care Research Fellowship and Master's in Public Health; also at the University of Wisconsin. His experiences growing up in and working in low-resourced settings have shaped his research, focused on the intersection of child health equity and clinical decision-making. He uses population data, community-based participatory research principles, and mixed methods approaches to identify and understand child health disparities. By doing so, Dr. Yaeger and his team can develop, test, refine, and implement targeted interventions to reduce these disparities.