

## **In the News**

**[BOE Hears Progress On Mental Health Initiative](#)** -- The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities -- *MyVeronaNJ*

**[Coronavirus is deadly, but flu and pneumonia have killed over 1,000 in NJ this season](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *North Jersey*

## **Medical School Receives National Designation**

The CARES Foundation has designated Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Child Health Institute of New Jersey, a Level 2 comprehensive care center for Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH).

This is the first center of clinical excellence for CAH in the state of New Jersey and the fifth nationwide.

"It is an exciting and timely designation that is expected to increase our referral base for this disorder, which is tested for by the newborn screen," said **Ahmed Khattab, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics, division of pediatric endocrinology.

With the selection, the medical school will receive \$10,000 that will assist in advancing quality health care through support, advocacy, education and research with the goal of improving the lives of those diagnosed with this rare inherited autosomal recessive disorder.

Congratulations to all who helped make this possible!



**[Dispelling Popular Myths and Misconceptions Regarding COVID-19](#)** -- Amisha Malhotra, MD -- *Deep Dive on FOX Nation*

**[Coronavirus vs flu: What's the same? What's different?](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *The Courier-News*

**[Flu, pneumonia killed 1,000 in NJ this year](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *Burlington County Times, Asbury Park Press*

**[Detecting Neurocognitive Change in Pediatric Cancer Patients](#)** -- Peter D. Cole, MD -- *aau.edu*

**[Taking a close look at who is the most at risk for the coronavirus](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *Sunday Star Ledger*

**[Piscataway: Congressman Pallone to Address Fed's Response to Coronavirus](#)** -- Brian Strom, MD, MPH; Amisha Malhotra, MD -- *mycentraljersey.com*

**[Coronavirus vs. the flu: What's the Same and What's Different](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *Beach Haven Times*

**[Taking a close look at who is the most at risk for the coronavirus](#)** -- Andrew Evens, DO, and Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *Gloucester County Times*

**[Respiratory diseases hammer NJ](#)** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *theheraldnews.com*

[What coronavirus symptoms do kids experience? Doctors share new information](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD, FAAP -- *The Today Show*

[Coronavirus treatment: Wisconsin genetic sequence research offers hope](#) -- Arnold Rabson, MD -- *milwaukeejournal-sentinel.com*

## Pediatric Transport Service Helps Children with COVID-19 Receive the Best Care

The Pediatric Transport Program at The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (BMSCH) at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, run by Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's **Department of Pediatrics**, is helping children suspected of having COVID-19 receive the best care from experts.

Community hospitals throughout Central Jersey are using the transport service to move children brought to their emergency departments to BMSCH, ensuring these patients will be seen by Rutgers Health specialists who are the most knowledgeable about how this disease affects children, and who have the resources to treat them.



Averaging 1,500 transfers a year, the program facilitates the transfer of children from hospitals that do not have pediatric specialists or care units, providing access to one of the largest children's units in the state. **Sally Radovick, MD**, chair of the Department of Pediatrics, shares the importance of the transport program, "Our transport service includes highly-specialized team members trained in protocols specific to children and 24/7 in-house board certified Pediatric ICU doctors acting as medical control. Research shows that pediatric specialty teams have the highest success rate in transporting pediatric patients. We are all committed to delivering the highest quality care that is compassionate, professional and family-centered."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, this transport program is especially integral. **Steve Horwitz, MD**, medical director of Pediatric Transport and assistant professor of pediatrics, shares, "The influx of patients with the coronavirus has created a strain for many hospitals, who have decided to close or limit their pediatric units and transform them to adult areas. This means that pediatric resources are temporarily unavailable."

Many pediatric patients are being transferred because of a suspicion or diagnosis of COVID-19. "While this is a primarily an adult disease with children experiencing mild symptoms, children are still affected. Because the disease presentation is so varied, it's important to have patients treated at a facility with expertise and infectious disease specialists, as well as one that has seen more patients with coronavirus and has experience treating it," says Dr. Horwitz.

Read more about how the Pediatric Transport Program is serving the community's pediatric population [here](#).

**Dr. Michael Lewis, University Distinguished Professor and Director, Institute for the Study of Child Development**, was awarded a 2 year, \$400,000 grant from the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism for a proposal entitled Sensory and Social Gaze Behaviors in Infant Siblings of Children with ASD.

The project will examine whether difficulties in integrating the sensory modalities of sight and sound, as well as deficits in reciprocal mother-infant communication and gaze behaviors, could be used to identify infants under 12 months who will be subsequently diagnosed with ASDs.

At-risk infants that are younger siblings of children with ASDs will be recruited and seen for 2 different lab visits. At the first visit at 9-12 months of age, these infants will be assessed for both their capacity for audiovisual integration and their engagement in reciprocal infant-mother communication and mutual gaze. At the 2nd lab visit, those same children at 24 months of age will be evaluated with ADOS testing to identify those at-risk infants that have ASDs.

Ultimately, by examining the differences in the measurable aspects of the social and perceptual abilities of at-risk infants and their subsequent development, we hope to continue to shed light on the emerging characteristics of ASDs in infants under a year of age.

[Childcare Policymakers Advised to Take Extra Precautions Against COVID-19](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- *Rutgers Today* and [Futurity](#)

[Is It Coronavirus? What We Know About Common and Atypical COVID-19 Symptoms](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *nbcnewyork.com*, *nbcdfw.com* and other NBC affiliates

[#COVID-19 and Routine Vaccinations: What Parents Need To Know](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *nfid.org*

[Scientists, more than ever, we need for you to find your voice](#) -- Barbara Ostfeld, PhD -- *nj.com*, *The Times of Trenton*, among others

## Dr. Whitley-Williams and Dr. Owensby Discuss Pediatric Inflammatory Disease Linked to Coronavirus



The **Department of Pediatrics** is treating children with a rare and potentially deadly inflammatory syndrome being investigated for its link to coronavirus at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital (BMSCH). At least five children have arrived at BMSCH since late April with symptoms mirroring Kawasaki disease, an illness that causes inflammation in blood vessels. All five tested positive for COVID-19.

**Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics, and **Jennifer Owensby, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics, share more with [NJ.com](#).

"We've known about Kawasaki's disease for a long time in pediatrics. It's not common, but it's not exceptionally rare. I think what's new now is that we are seeing an association with COVID-19, similar to what they're seeing in New York and Europe," says Dr. Owensby.

Unlike adults who test positive for COVID-19 and experience respiratory issues, these five children, two of whom were discharged while three are still in intensive care, suffer from heart issues. Dr. Whitley-Williams explains, "Their hearts are inflamed. When the heart goes to pump, the muscle cannot pump efficiently. If you don't pump blood out to the rest of your body, your blood pressure goes down. These patients come in in shock with low blood pressure."

Read more about the connection between this inflammation disease and coronavirus from Dr. Whitley-Williams and Dr. Owensby at [NJ.com](https://www.nj.com).

## Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD

Department of Pediatrics, Rutgers RWJMS  
Professor Vice Chair for Academic Development  
Chief, Division of Population Health, Quality,  
and Implementation Science (PopQuIS)

Will be on



Today at 5 and  
6pm EST



## Children Suffer Severe Complications from COVID-19

The first coronavirus study focusing on pediatric patients found that children and young adults are at greater risk for severe complications from COVID-19 than previously thought and, like adults, those with underlying conditions are at even greater risk.

The study, co-authored by **Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH**, professor and vice chair, Academic Development Division Director for Pediatric Population Health, Quality and Implementation, was published earlier this week in [JAMA](https://www.jama.com).



"While children are more likely to get very sick if they have other chronic conditions, including obesity, it is important to note that children without chronic illness are also at risk. Parents need to continue to take the virus seriously," said Dr. Kleinman.

The study followed 48 individuals, from newborn to 21 years old, who were admitted to pediatric intensive care units in the U.S. and Canada for COVID-19 in March and April. The overwhelming majority had presented chronic underlying conditions, but nearly 1 in 5 were reported to have no underlying conditions when they were struck by the respiratory illness.

Of the 48 patients, more than 20% experienced failure of two or more organ systems due to coronavirus, and nearly 40% required a breathing tube and ventilator. Two of the children admitted during the three-week study period died, researchers said.

Dr. Kleinman noted, "Although our data collection for this study has ended, we continue to develop collaborations with colleagues in our region and across the country to try to understand these more severe complications."

Read more [here](#).

[Number Of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome Cases Grows To 93 In New York State](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- *CBS New York*

[Latest study of COVID-19 and NJ children shows cause for concern](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- *nj101.5.com*

[Around 40% of all children hospitalized for coronavirus have to be placed on ventilators](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- *dailymail.co.uk*

[COVID-19 absolutely affects children, pediatricians warn](#) -- Mark Douglass Baker, MD; Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH; and Sally Radovick, MD -- *nj.com*

[PMIS: The COVID-19-Linked Syndrome Affecting Children](#) -- Steven Horwitz, MD -- *healthline.com*, and others

[The girl who died twice](#) -- Jennifer Owensby, MD -- *washingtonpost.com*, and others

[Even Early On, Some Kids Did Not Fare Well From COVID-19](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, and Hariprem Rajasekhar, MD -- *idse.net*

[What's the difference between a 2nd wave and 2nd peak of COVID-19?](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH



-- *Yahoo News*

"The COVID-19 pandemic, like any public health disaster, has uncovered and highlighted health disparities. While social determinants of health play a role, systemic racism, discrimination, and social injustices contribute to health disparities. The ongoing subhuman treatment and murder of black and brown men by vigilantes, law enforcement, and even private citizens such as Central Park Amy has to stop. Social media and cell phone videos have documented what communities of color have known for a long time. We as health educators and health care providers can no longer turn a blind eye to racism and social injustices. We have to acknowledge that racism is very much a

fabric of this country and must be confronted out in the open."

Read Dr. Whitley-Williams' complete message [here](#) .

[What the family of an 8-year-old COVID-19 victim wants you to know](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH - *mother.ly*

[Tsunami or ripple? Forecasting the 2nd wave of coronavirus](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH - *abcnews.go.com*

[Crisis of Racism Must Be Addressed Through Prevention, Education, Treatment | Editorial](#) - Shilpa Pai, MD -- *towntopics.com*

[N.J. daycares are reopening, but parents wonder whether it's safe to send kids back](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- *nj.com* and *USA Today* affiliates

[The day care dilemma | Editorial](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- *nj.com*

[Black Mothers, Princeton Police Pray For Racial Equality](#) -- Shilpa Pai, MD -- *patch.com*

[How Can I Avoid Catching Coronavirus at the Office?](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *thehealthy*

[New data shows young people need to take social distancing seriously](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- ABC News

## Drs. Amato and Kleinman Testify Before the State General Assembly

**Indira Amato, MD**, associate professor of pediatrics, and **Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP**, professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Population Health, Quality, and Implementation Science (PopQuIS), testified before the New Jersey General Assembly Committee on Women and Children this week. They reminded lawmakers that COVID-19 still poses a threat to one of our most vulnerable populations -- children.



Both doctors offered testimony and presented detailed suggestions on how best to re-open childcare facilities this summer, including pro-active ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and the importance of educating teachers and parents on warning signs and early symptoms.

Dr. Amato suggested strategies that schools should consider:

- Stagger use of communal spaces
- Tape physical guides on the floor demonstrating 6ft. social distancing requirements
- Clean and disinfect classrooms and school buses routinely
- Maintain adequate supplies
- Limit shared objects
- Stay home when appropriate

"COVID 19 has not been eliminated by any means and reopening plans must include plans for testing and contact tracing. Additionally, parameters should be set for levels at which remote learning should be reintroduced even if partially. Any reopening plans should include the CDC recommendations for reduced risk of spread," said Dr. Amato.

To assist in this regard, the CDC has stratified the risk from low; where students and teachers would **only** engage in virtual classes, events and activities to high; where full in-person classes and activities are held, sharing supplies and participating in activities without regard to social distancing.



According to Dr. Kleinman, "The overarching principle I suggest is that there should be active surveillance and systematic evaluation so that we can predict and shape the learning that comes from our experience. It is not sufficient to fail to identify new infections among child care attendees unless that is after a systematic effort to find them. I believe it is critical to be pro-active and not reactive."

"The public health response of testing and contact tracing should be integrated and complementary to what I have outlined. Aggressive testing as a part of systematic evaluation may provide critical information...there is much that is out of our control regarding this pandemic. These things that I suggest allow us to take control where we can," stated Dr. Kleinman.

[Young adults and COVID-19: a troubling infection trend](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- *Gwinnett Daily Post/WebMD*

[Residency programs shift gears to address families' concerns about COVID-19](#) -- Shilpa Pai, MD, FAAP -- *AAP News & Journals Gateway*

[How can I avoid catching coronavirus at the office?](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *Reader's Digest*

## **Pediatrics Faculty Co-lead Study on MIS-C Published in *New England Journal of Medicine***

Parents and clinicians need to be aware in looking for symptoms of multiple inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children who have been diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19, according to **Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP**, professor and chief, Division of Population Health, Quality, and Implementation Science (PopQulS), and **Steven Horwitz, MD**, assistant professor of pediatric critical care, who were among the leaders of the first nationwide study of the disease, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). MIS-C is defined as an inflammation impacting two or more organ systems within the body, and it appears to be a late complication following an infection or exposure to COVID-19.

Funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the study presents 186 cases of pediatric MIS-C from around the country and an additional 27 from New York State, from March 16 to May 20. The article describes clinical characteristics, treatments and outcomes of MIS-C.

Researchers found symptoms of the disease typically appear two to four weeks after the onset of COVID-19 or after exposure to the SARS-CoV2 virus that causes COVID-19. Among the children confirmed to have had COVID-19, the median time in which inflammatory symptoms appeared was 25 days. More than two-thirds of the children and adolescents were healthy before their experience with SARS-CoV2, and nearly four in five hospitalized with MIS-C required ICU care. More than two-thirds of the children in the study were over the age of 5. As of May 20, 70 percent had been discharged, 28 percent were still hospitalized and 2 percent had died.

With its frequent involvement of the heart and heart vessels, MIS-C initially came to attention as an illness similar to Kawasaki disease. The *NEJM* study illustrates that these are distinct syndromes, with MIS-C having more frequent and severe involvement of the heart and more typically occurring in an older population. MIS-C most frequently involves the digestive system.

Due to the wide range of symptoms with the disease, including fever, fatigue, rash, shortness of breath, and [abdominal pain](#), parents should seek medical care for children and adolescents who were exposed to COVID-19 and develop these symptoms.

Read the detailed article on the study [here](#).

## Dr. Whitley-Williams Is New President of NFID

Congratulations to **Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics and associate dean for inclusion and diversity, who was named president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) on July 1. She has served on the board of the NFID for the past two years as president-elect and will serve as president until June 30, 2023.

"In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, NFID's mission to educate the public and healthcare professionals about the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases has never been more important," says Dr. Whitley-Williams. "The COVID-19 pandemic has shed new light on longstanding disparities in health outcomes among African-Americans and other minority populations, and it has underscored the importance of addressing myths and misconceptions about vaccine safety and efficacy. The challenges we face are substantial, but working together, we can meet them head on."

A native of Boston, Dr. Whitley-Williams received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Simmons College in Boston and medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati and fellowship training in pediatric infectious diseases at Boston City Hospital/Boston University School of Medicine.

Dr. Whitley-Williams is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases and is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She serves as the National Medical Association liaison to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is immediate past chair of the US Medical Licensure Examination Management Committee, as well as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners Governance Review Task Force and Nominating Committee. Her research interests include HIV/AIDS in women and children, as well as childhood and adolescent immunizations.

[Safety precautions for children returning to day care centers](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- *pix11.com*

[Coronavirus question: Is a mask effective when you wear it just below your nose?](#) -- Amisha Malhotra, MD -- *nj.com*

[52 Things You Need to Know About Viruses](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *msn.com*

[Rare Coronavirus-linked Syndrome Has Affected Hundreds of U.S. Children](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH, and Steven Horwitz, MD -- *newsweek.com*

[Parents: Beware of this COVID-linked syndrome in kids](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- *futurity.com*

[Rutgers co-leads first nationwide study of COVID-19 related multiple inflammatory syndrome](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH, and Steven Horwitz, MD -- *medicalexpress.com, sciencemag.com*

[COVID Surges Among Young Adults](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- *medscape.com*

[Caring for Children With Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome](#) -- Usha Ramachandran, MD -- *nytimes.com*

[Coronavirus question: I have hot flashes. Can I be refused entry if a business thinks I have a fever?](#) -- Amisha Malhotra, MD -- *nj.com*

[As Cases Surge, No Clear Answers on School Reopening](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD -- *webmd*

## Dr. Carlson Receives American Academy of Pediatrics Appointment

Congratulations, **Joann Carlson, MD**, program director of the pediatrics residency program, associate professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension, for being appointed to the Pediatrics Review and Education Program (PREP) Nephrology Editorial Board of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As a member of the board, Dr. Carlson will play an important role in the development and success of all nephrology materials.



Dr. Carlson's appointment begins immediately and runs through July 2023.

## Reflecting on the Lives of Two Icons for Civil Rights, Justice and Equity



Congressman John Lewis and Reverend C.T. Vivian were considered titans of the civil rights movement. Both men worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, both suffered physical and emotional scars while peacefully fighting for racial equality, and both men died just hours apart on the same day last Friday.

In addition, both leaders left their mark in education and through health care initiatives.

As a champion of health equity, Congressman Lewis' leadership resulted in some of the country's first health policies addressing minority health care.

Rev. Vivian was an advocate for education, mobilizing scholarships for students, and laid the foundation for what would become the nation's transformational program *Upward Bound*.

***"They were true patriots and citizens, freedom fighters, drum majors for justice, nonviolent warriors who never gave up on their country and fellow Americans...role models for us all to follow."***

**Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics, chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Disease and associate dean for inclusion and diversity.

## Dr. Radovick Studies Connection between Abnormal Onset of Puberty and Fertility Concerns

The abnormal onset of puberty could have long-term health effects including infertility in adulthood, according to **Sally Radovick, MD**, Henry Rutgers Term Chair of Pediatrics and senior associate dean for clinical and translational research, who has been studying what triggers puberty for more than 30 years.

Dr. Radovick, who is investigating the role the brain's hypothalamus plays in controlling puberty and the reproductive system, has received a five-year ROI grant renewal to study early or delayed puberty onset in children and health effects later in life.

Her research has shown that there are long-term consequences for abnormal starts to puberty. When children experience puberty late, along with emotional strife that comes from being physically behind, there could be abnormal bone growth that prohibits children from reaching normal adult height. Girls who begin puberty early commonly experience problems with regular menstruation; early puberty also could cause infertility for both genders.

The study has identified kisspeptin, a hormone made in the brain's hypothalamus, as the master controller of the onset of puberty. When kisspeptin is turned on, puberty follows shortly after, and when its release is stopped, puberty is delayed or nonexistent. The study has shown that when obesity is a factor, kisspeptin and menstrual cycles are disrupted, which can cause polycystic ovarian syndrome and barriers to fertility.

Read more about Dr. Radovick's research [here](#).

[Philly scrapped school reopening plan for remote learning. Should N.J. consider it?](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- *nj.com*

## COVID-19 Does Not Spare Children: Dr. Lawrence Kleinman Writes Op-Ed for *NJ.com*

**Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP**, professor and chief, Division of Population Health, Quality and Implementation, has spoken to many media outlets about the risks of children returning to school. He recently wrote an opinion piece for [NJ.com](#) discussing his reaction to a White House press briefing citing his research as a scientific basis for a return to schools. He writes:

"COVID-19 policies, especially on the reopening of in-person schooling, must be informed by the best available science and evidence, integrated with thoughtful judgment. As a pediatrician and public health researcher well aware of the uncertainties surrounding the management of this pandemic, I feel for the policymakers responsible for these decisions and hope my research can serve them.

For this reason, a July 16 White House press briefing -- in which a study that I co-wrote was cited as justification for a call to universally reopen schools -- caught my eye. I must point out, unequivocally, that this citation does not accurately reflect the meaning of my and my colleagues' research. And the citation failed to take into account all that we have learned since the May 11 publication of our article in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Nothing in our findings speaks specifically to children's role in the spread of the virus, a central issue underlying the question of how and when to open schools for in-person classes. Our research did find

that all children are at risk for very serious illness from COVID-19, especially if they are obese or have chronic conditions.

New information continues to move us away from the myth that COVID-19 spares children. It does not. New research confirms that children can spread this illness, and suggests that in-person schooling may be dangerous."

Read the entire article [here](#).

[Children and Coronavirus: So Much Still Unknown as Schools Head for Reopening](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- [njspotlight.com](#)

[Professional Perspectives: The Pros and Cons of Schooling During COVID](#) -- Shilpa Pai, MD - [princetonperspectives.com](#)

[Minority Kids, Like Adults, Hit Hardest by COVID-19](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP - [orlandoadvocate.com](#), [drugs.com](#), [webmd.com](#)

[I'm an Infectious Disease Doctor and Have This Warning for Fall](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- [msn.com](#)

[COVID-19 and kids: What can happen when children get the coronavirus](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- [cnet.com](#)

[How to Tackle Pandemic Safety, Even After Your Child Goes Back to School](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- [Parade](#)

[Understanding 'Chemo Brain' in Children: Researchers Secure \\$4.6 Million NIH Grant to Identify Those at Risk](#) -- Peter Cole, MD -- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

## Dr. Jimenez Helps Parents Navigate Remote Learning

Back to school this year looks different than ever before. Most K-12 students in New Jersey and across the country will spend at least some of each week learning remotely and some districts are starting off the school year offering online-only classes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Manuel Jimenez, MD, MS, FAAP**, assistant professor of pediatrics, and family medicine and community health, who also serves as director of developmental and behavioral pediatrics education at the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, offers some advice on setting realistic expectations for the state of the school year.



The Q&A featured on [Rutgers Today](#) discusses how parents can prepare, how to enhance remote learning for children with special needs and how to manage screen time. Dr. Jimenez also stresses the importance of maintaining communication with your child's teachers and school.

## Dr. Whitley-Williams Moderates Session on Immunizations at Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

**Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics and associate dean for inclusion and diversity, moderated a session at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF)'s Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) on Sept. 2. The session was part of the National Medical Association (NMA)'s Professional Development Series and focused on the accessibility and availability of vaccines, and how health disparities impact distribution of vaccines within communities of color.

The event is the leading policy conference on issues impacting African Americans and the global Black community. During the ALC more than 10,000 thought leaders, legislators, health care professionals, and other attendees address issues such as economic development, civil and social justice, education, and public health via its more than 100 policy forums.

**'Warp Speed' COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts Aim for Diverse Volunteers and Long-Lasting Protection** -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD -- *scientificamerican.com*

## **Oral Steroids May Lead to Complications in Some Children**

In a recent study published in the [American Journal of Epidemiology](#), researchers determined that children who take oral steroids to treat asthma or autoimmune diseases have an increased risk of high blood pressure, diabetes and blood clots.

The study examined the records of more than 900,000 children in the United States from ages 1 to 18 with or without autoimmune diseases, such as psoriasis, juvenile arthritis, or inflammatory bowel disease.

The study is authored by **Daniel Horton, MD, MSCE**, assistant professor of pediatrics and epidemiology, and co-authored by Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Chancellor **Brian Strom, MD, MPH**.

According to Dr. Horton, this was the first study of its kind that allowed researchers to measure the association between oral steroids and rare, but potentially serious, complications in children.

Read more in [Rutgers Today](#).

## **Dr. Ostfeld Honored by the New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics**



Congratulations, **Barbara Ostfeld, PhD**, professor of pediatrics, and program director of the SIDS Center of New Jersey, who was honored virtually this week at the 10th annual New Jersey Children's Ball, sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Ostfeld, along with New Jersey First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy, received the *Champion for Children* award. Dr. Ostfeld was recognized for her research on Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, which contributed to the safe infant sleep policies of the

American Academy of Pediatrics and led to a greater understanding of the increased risk of these deaths in a preterm infant.

The virtual program was emceed by **Alan Weller, MD, MPH, FAAP**, assistant professor of pediatrics. Dr. Weller also introduced Ms. Murphy and presented the first lady with her award in recognition of her policy initiatives, which focus on infant and maternal health, climate change education and fostering women-owned businesses throughout the state.

Stephen G. Rice, MD, PhD, MPH, FACS, FAMSSM, FAAP, received the honor of Pediatrician of the Year. Dr. Rice was previously professor of pediatrics for the medical school.

## Dr. Pai Among Notable Women Recognized for Shaping New Brunswick



In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the New Jersey Historical Commission's NJ Women Vote 2020 Initiative, in conjunction with Discover NJ History, is honoring women locally who have made an impact in education, politics and health care.

Congratulations to **Shilpa Pai, MD, FAAP**, associate professor of pediatrics, who made the list for her commitment to improve and develop the pediatric residency curriculum, in advocacy and community health, and for her work as founder and director of the resident education in advocacy and child health program.

Dr. Pai also serves on multiple advisory boards, including New Brunswick Tomorrow Health Task Force, NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking, and New Brunswick Domestic Violence Awareness Coalition. On the state level, she is a special state officer for WIC Advisory Council and co-director of the Immigrant Health Committee of the NJ American Academy of Pediatrics, and founder/co-director of the NJ Pediatric Resident Advocacy Collaborative.

For the complete list of women recognized from 1912 to the present, click [here](#).

## Dr. Arnold Rabson Receives NIH Grant

The National Institutes of Health awarded a grant to principal investigators **Arnold Rabson, MD**, the Laura Gallagher Endowed Chair of Developmental Biology and director of the Child Health Institute, and Ronald Hart, PhD, professor of cell biology and neuroscience at the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences.

The project, titled, “Modeling HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders and encephalopathy in human iPSC brain organoids containing microglia,” is a two-year grant for \$430,500.

Congratulations, Dr. Rabson!

[Pediatric Asthma Treatment Could Increase Risk of Diabetes, Other Conditions](#) -- Daniel Horton, MD -  
- *Endocrinology Network*

## Dr. Whitley-Williams, Dr. Fauci Lead Panel Discussion on the Importance of Flu Vaccination

In her role as president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), **Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology & Infectious Disease, led a panel of the nation's leading experts as they presented final influenza vaccine data from the 2019-2020 season and discussed the importance of vaccination in order to prevent flu and pneumococcal disease, during the NFID's virtual news conference this week.

NFID also shared data from a new national survey of U.S. adults to better understand attitudes and behaviors about COVID-19, influenza, and pneumococcal disease.

Results showed that only 59 percent of U.S. adults said they planned to get vaccinated against influenza (flu) during the 2020-2021 flu season. This number is concerning to public health officials, who are bracing for the potential impact from a dual outbreak of flu and COVID-19 this winter.

“This year in particular, we need to continue to focus on increasing vaccination rates among children and those who are at higher risk of severe complications from flu and COVID-19, including Black and Hispanic populations,” said Dr. Whitley-Williams.



[Watch](#) the 2020 NFID Influenza/Pneumococcal Disease News Conference in its entirety.

Congratulations to the following recipients of the inaugural **RBHS Chancellor Awards**. The RBHS Chancellor Awards were established to acknowledge the extraordinary work of our faculty and staff. In addition to the high recognition, the awardees will be honored in a video to be shared in early November 2020.

Chancellor Clinical or Health Sciences Investigator Award

- **Nancy Reichman, PhD**, professor of pediatrics: For her studies of the effect of socioeconomic status on infant and child health.

Chancellor Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award

- **Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics, chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases and associate dean for inclusion and diversity: For her passion and achievements in promoting diversity and inclusion in academic medicine and the communities she serves.

Chancellor Staff Support Award

- **Donna Weeks**, Department of Pediatrics, program support and HR management: For her many years of dedicated service to the clinical mission of RBHS.

## **SIDS Center Initiatives Contribute to New Jersey's Low Rate of SUID**

New Jersey's rate of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is the third-lowest in the United States, according to information issued this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The state's rate has been consistently one of the lowest for well over a decade due to the statewide programs of the **SIDS Center of New Jersey** that educate parents, caregivers and health professionals and many other providers on how to reduce the risk of sudden unexpected death in infants.

As part of SIDS Awareness Month in October, the SIDS Center of New Jersey is reminding parents and caregivers of steps they can follow to reduce the risk of SUID. SUID comprises a grouping made up of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), accidental suffocation and strangulation, and ill-defined and unknown causes.

**Barbara Ostfeld, PhD**, program director of the SIDS Center and professor of pediatrics, along with **Thomas Hegyi, MD**, medical director of the SIDS Center and also professor of pediatrics, emphasize the importance of following the established guidelines. During the first year of life, babies should be put to sleep on their backs on a firm mattress. The mattress should be the type designed for the baby's particular crib and covered only with a tight-fitted sheet. The sleep area should be free of pillows, blankets, a bumper, stuffed animals, or any other soft, loose bedding. One-piece infant sleepwear can be used in place of blankets if warmth is needed. Bed-sharing is not recommended, but room sharing with baby is. A smoke-free environment is critically important, and breastfeeding also contributes to reducing the risk of SUID.

The SIDS Center offers reminders of these guidelines in multiple mobile apps and educational materials that can be downloaded in several languages. [Read more](#) about the SIDS Center's initiatives and the important steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of SUID and SIDS.

[Rutgers pediatrician discusses how to keep children safe at school](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP - *mirage.com*

[Don't Expect a COVID Vaccine before the Election](#) -- Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD – *scientificamerican*

[How Safe Are Health Care Facilities](#) -- M. Douglas Baker, MD -- *Rutgers Today* and [Mirage Health](#)

## Dr. Cole Elected to the American Pediatric Society

Congratulations, **Peter Cole, MD**, professor of pediatrics and chief in the division of pediatric hematology/oncology for being elected to the American Pediatric Society (APS). APS is the first and most prestigious academic pediatric organization in North America.



**Sally Radovick, MD**, professor and Henry Rutgers Term chair, Department of Pediatrics, nominated Dr. Cole, and shared this.

"Dr. Cole is a highly valued member of our department and the broader Rutgers community, advancing the care of children with cancer and establishing broad-based research collaborations. I am privileged to work with him as a colleague and a member of the Department's Division Directors Executive Committee, where he always provides insightful comments and takes the lead in department initiatives."

"Dr. Cole continues to bring honor and distinction to himself and to the Pediatric Oncology Program as well as to **Robert Wood Johnson Medical School** and the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey," said **Steven Libutti, MD, FACS**, professor of surgery and director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute.

Members of APS are recognized as academic leaders in pediatrics, and continue to contribute to the overall progress of child health while inspiring the next generation of child health professionals.

Congratulations again, Dr. Cole, on receiving this well-deserved honor!

## Drs. Blaser and Whitley-Williams Discuss the Pandemic on Horizon Health Works

**Martin J. Blaser, MD**, professor of medicine, and biochemistry and molecular biology, and **Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD**, professor of pediatrics and chief of the division of allergy, immunology and infectious disease, were recently featured on Horizon Health Works, discussing the current state of the pandemic and the growing number of those disproportionately affected.

"My prediction is that the second wave will not be as bad as the first wave because behavior has changed substantially...and that's really the key to controlling COVID," stated Dr. Blaser.

Dr. Whitley-Williams shared information from a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publication, which explained why people of color seem to be hit the hardest.

"We cannot ignore the disproportionate number of Black and brown people with underlying medical conditions like heart disease, obesity, chronic lung disease, kidney disease, which are all risk factors for higher morbidity and mortality in relationship to COVID-19 infections."

However, both doctors stressed that the virus does not discriminate and advised the public to continue obeying health officials' advisories, if not for yourself, for the health and safety of others.

Click here to [watch](#) this episode in its entirety.

## Findings of RWJUH COVID-19 Cohort Study Released

Support staff and Black and Latinx hospital employees with and without patient care responsibilities are at highest risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection in health care settings, a Rutgers study found.

After screening 3,904 employees and clinicians at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital between late April and late June for the SARS-CoV-2 virus and for IgG-antibodies to the virus, whose presence suggests past recent infection, [the study](#), published in the journal *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, found that these employees are at higher risk than previously thought.

In the hospital-based study, researchers found that 13 participants tested positive for the virus and 374 tested positive for the antibody, which suggests recent past infection — nearly 10 percent of those studied — and that Black and Latinx workers had two times the odds of receiving a positive test for the virus or antibody compared to white workers.

Phlebotomists had the highest proportionate rate of positive tests—nearly one in four tested—followed by those employed in maintenance/housekeeping, dining/food services and interpersonal/support roles. By comparison, positivity rates were lower among doctors (7 percent) and nurses (9 percent).

**Daniel B. Horton, MD**, assistant professor of pediatrics, was co-lead author on the study along with Emily S. Barrett, PhD, an associate professor at Rutgers School of Public Health. Additional authors were, from Rutgers: Jason Roy, PhD; Weiyi Xia, PhD; Patricia Greenberg, MS; Tracy Andrews, MS; Maria Laura Gennaro, MD; Veenat Parmar, MPH; William D. Russell, RPFT, AE-C; Nancy Reilly, RN, MS; Priyanka Uprety, PhD; Stanley Z. Trooskin, MD; Martin J. Blaser, MD; Jeffrey L. Carson, MD; and Reynold A. Panettieri Jr., MD; and from RWJUH: John J. Gantner and Lydia Stockman, RN, MHA, FACHE.

Read more about the study [here](#).



## Dr. Kleinman Presents Keynote at National Meeting

**Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP**, professor and vice chair for Academic Development and chief, Division of Population Health, Quality, and Implementation Science (PopQuIS) in the **Department of Pediatrics**, gave the keynote address at the National Improvement Partnership Network Annual Meeting last week. In his presentation, *LINKing Needs with Action: Thoughts about Measuring Social Determinants of Health*, Dr. Kleinman addressed the Local Inventory of Needs and Knowledge (LINK) survey of social determinants, stress, and COVID-related stressors. He led the development of LINK in a previous position.

Dr. Kleinman also spoke of the opportunity and importance of using disparity-adjusted performance measurement when looking at quality; the hazard of veiled injustice, which describes how risk adjusting when measuring outcomes can inadvertently obscure the presence of disparities; the phenomenon of systematic underinvestment, where the failure to risk adjust for the actual needs of the population can lead to safety net and other providers of care to minority populations not receiving fair or sufficient reimbursement when considering rates and reimbursement; and how all of these are critical for thinking about what we do and how we m

[Cold, flu or coronavirus? How to tell the difference, and when to get tested](#) -- Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP -- [nj.com](#)

[Coronavirus infection odds twice as high among Black, Latinx hospital workers](#) -- Daniel Horton, MD - [sciencemag.com](#), [medicalexpert.com](#), [beckershospitalreview.com](#), among others

[Retiring Principal Dr. Joanne Pollara Establishes Caring Community at Kelly Elementary School](#) -- The Boggs Center -- [tapinto.net](#)

## Dr. Deborah Spitalnik Awarded Family Resource Network's Leadership Impact Award



**Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD**, professor of pediatrics and family medicine and community health, founding executive director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, and director of New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment and Related Disabilities Program, was awarded the Family Resource Network's (FRN) Leadership Impact Award at its [2020 Impact Award Virtual Event](#) on Nov. 12.

The FRN Impact Awards honor the meritorious impact that its partners, supporters and stakeholders have had in advancing its mission to offer individuals and their families with continuing needs the greatest opportunities, resources and services to support a full and happy life. Dr. Spitalnik was awarded for her leadership at The Boggs Center and impact on the lives of people with disabilities in New Jersey and across the country.

Congratulations, Dr. Spitalnik, on this honor!

[COVID-19: Hospital support staff hit harder than doctors and nurses](#) -- Daniel B. Horton , MD -- *Medical News Today*

[Middlesex NJ Schools Set to Resume Classroom Learning Amid COVID Spike](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH -- [mycentraljersey.com](#)

## Colleen McLaughlin, MEd, Appointed to Association of University Centers on Disabilities' Board of Directors

**Colleen McLaughlin, MEd**, associate director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, was appointed to serve as an at-large member on the Board of Directors for the [Association of University Centers on Disabilities](#) (AUCD). AUCD's Board of Directors addresses emerging trends and issues, and facilitates communication across and beyond the national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs it promotes and supports, including University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs. Ms. McLaughlin has been connected to the AUCD network for nearly two decades, beginning as a UCEDD student trainee, and has grown professionally through a number of positions at two AUCD Network Member Centers with increasing responsibilities during that time. As an at-large member of the board, Ms. McLaughlin looks forward to partnering with colleagues from across the country to increase collaborative opportunities and expand the reach of UCEDDs and LENDs.



[The American Pediatric Society announces its new members for 2021](#) -- Peter Cole, MD -- *eurekaalert.org*

[Senate President Steve Sweeney, Legislative Leaders and Advocates from the Disability Community Join Together to Launch Historic Bipartisan Disability Caucus in New Jersey Legislature](#) -- The Boggs Center of Developmental Disabilities -- *insidernj.com*

[Simulation as a Platform for Development of Entrustable Professional Activities: A Modular, Longitudinal Approach](#) -- Colleen Donovan, MD; Elizabeth Goodman, MD; Archana Pradhan, MD, MPH; and Sarang Kim, MD -- *cureus.com*

[Risk of Heart Failure Death May Decrease Following Flu, Pneumonia Vaccination - AJMC.com Managed Markets Network](#) -- Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD -- *fever-treatment.blogspot*

[COVID Vaccine is 'Beginning Step' Toward Normal in NJ Schools](#) -- Lawrence Kleinman, MD, MPH - *mycentraljersey.com, courierpostonline.com, thedailyrecord.com, northjersey.com* and more.