

# CHEAR CENTER HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH SEMINAR

Thursdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.  
300 N. Ingalls St. 6D15

Child Health Evaluation  
and Research Center



University of Michigan

## APRIL

### **4/27 The Impact of Quality Improvement Initiatives in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Rebecca Vartanian, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases  
University of Michigan

Rebecca J. Vartanian, MD is a Clinical Assistant Professor within the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. She received her bachelor's degree from Hillsdale College prior to attending Wayne State School of Medicine for her medical degree. After she completed her Pediatrics residency and Neonatal-Perinatal fellowship at the University of Michigan, she joined the faculty in 2010.

Dr. Vartanian leads and oversees quality improvement efforts within the Brandon Newborn Intensive Care Unit. Such projects have included optimizing neonatal nutrition, reducing severe retinopathy of prematurity, and improving outcomes for infants born extremely premature. In addition to serving on institutional quality and safety committees, she has been faculty for international quality improvement initiatives with the Vermont Oxford Network, including topics on alarm management and antibiotic stewardship. Her clinical interests include the care and outcome of extremely low birth weight infants and teaching medical trainees. She has been recognized as a top teacher by the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases for her teaching efforts annually since 2012.

*Dr. Rebecca Vartanian has no commercial relationships relevant to this presentation.*

MAY

**5/11 “Fuzzy math: Addressing misperception in parent predictions of children’s long-term health”**

**Davene Wright, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics  
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacy  
Seattle Children’s Hospital

Dr. Wright is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and an Investigator in the Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development at the Seattle Children's Research Institute. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy and an affiliate of the University of Washington Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Methodology (PHENOM). She has received grant support through the UW Institute of Translational Health Sciences, the UW Nutrition Obesity Research Center, the American Heart Association, and NIH.

Dr. Wright is a decision scientist whose research agenda aims to promote the adoption of interventions, programs, and strategies to treat and prevent childhood obesity. Her current research focuses on developing novel techniques to communicate the risks of childhood obesity to parents and understanding parent preferences for the treatment of childhood obesity.

*Dr. Davene Wright has no commercial relationships relevant to this presentation.*

**5/25 “HSR in the Niche of Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care”**

**Michael Gaies, MD, MPH, MSc**

Assistant Professor, University of Michigan  
Executive Director, Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Consortium (PC<sup>4</sup>)  
University of Michigan Congenital Heart Center

Dr. Gaies is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases. He received his Bachelor of Arts from The Johns Hopkins University in 1997, MD and Masters of Public Health from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health in 2002, and MS in Healthcare Research from the University of Michigan. He completed pediatrics residency at Boston Children’s Hospital in 2005 and served as Chief Resident in 2005-2006, and was as a clinical fellow in Pediatric Cardiology and cardiac intensive care at the University of Michigan until 2010, at which time he joined the Michigan faculty.

Dr. Gaies is the founder and Executive Director of Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Consortium (PC<sup>4</sup>), an international quality improvement effort. His current research interests center on defining and understanding variation in clinical outcomes and health-care resource utilization between cardiac surgery centers, and identifying the cardiac intensive care structure and process variables that drive observed variation. Dr. Gaies collaborates with researchers studying similar questions in adult surgical populations, and with those who direct regional and national quality improvement

collaboratives.

*Disclosures:*

Michael G. Gaies receives support from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (K08HL116639, PI: Gaies).

Dr. Justin B. Dimick is primary mentor to Dr. Gaies on K08HL116639. Dr. Dimick is Co-Founder and an equity owner at Arbormetrix, Inc. (Ann Arbor, MI); **PC<sup>4</sup>** hospitals subcontract to ArborMetrix which provides software and IT services to measure quality and cost-efficiency.