SUSAN B. MEISTER
CHILD HEALTH EVALUATION
AND RESEARCH CENTER
MICHIGAN MEDICINE

CHEAR Impact Report: 2018-2025

Advancing the health and well-being of
all children, adolescents, and families
through research and education

ABOUT CHEAR

Founded in 1998, the **Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research Center (CHEAR)** is one of the oldest pediatric health services research centers in the U.S. Since its founding, CHEAR has been the home to faculty from a broad variety of backgrounds, including general pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists, economists, epidemiologists, and research scientists. CHEAR has a longstanding history of funding from federal agencies, foundations, state governments, and philanthropy, and has trained some of the leading pediatric health services researchers in the country.

Key accomplishments include:

- In 2000, CHEAR launched the first NIH-funded training program for pediatric health services research.
- Since 2006, CHEAR has organized the annual Meister Lecture in Child Health Policy, one of the most prominent events on the campus of the University of Michigan each year.
- Since 2007, CHEAR has organized the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health, which assesses parents' views on a variety of timely and important topics related to child health.
- Through a federal grant, CHEAR led the development of national pediatric quality measures centered on preventive care for children with sickle cell disease.
- CHEAR faculty have made key contributions to advancing child health in Michigan, including building the Michigan statewide immunization registry and lead registry, as well as developing a statewide surveillance system to improve care for children with sickle cell disease.

The CHEAR Center is located in the Department of Pediatrics in the University of Michigan Medical School.

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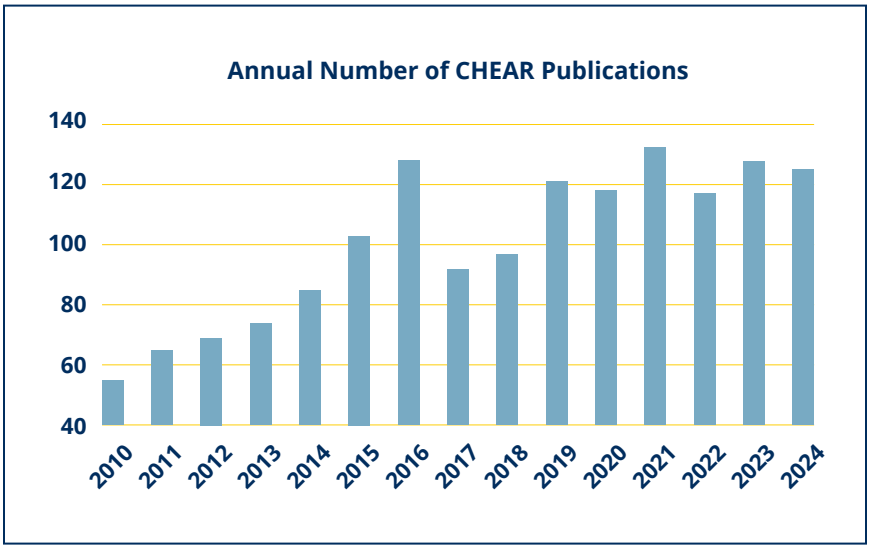
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HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

CHEAR conducts policy-relevant studies supported by government, foundation, and private philanthropic funding. Research themes include the costs of pediatric care, emerging trends in pediatric health and health care, the U.S. opioid epidemic, vaccinations, the care of pediatric patients with critical illnesses, and the care of pediatric patients with rare conditions. Here we highlight publications that exemplify the high-impact research for which CHEAR is renowned.



HOSPITALIZATION COSTS MAY PLACE BURDEN ON FAMILIES

Using insurance claims, **Erin F. Carlton, M.D., MSc**, and **Kao-Ping Chua, M.D., Ph.D.**, examined out-of-pocket costs for non-birth-related hospitalizations among privately insured families. The study found that the out-of-pocket cost for the average hospitalization was $1,300 and that one in seven hospitalizations had out-of-pocket costs exceeding $3,000. Out-of-pocket costs were highest for hospitalizations occurring early in the year, likely due to annual deductibles resetting each January, and for families enrolled in less generous health plans, such as high-deductible health plans. The findings of this study suggest pediatric hospitalizations can lead to substantial financial burden among privately insured families. Dr. Carlton is a clinical associate professor, a pediatric critical care physician, and a health services researcher at CHEAR.

Citation: **Out-of-pocket spending for non-birth-related hospitalizations of privately insured U.S. children, 2017 to 2019**, *JAMA Pediatrics*, Erin F. Carlton, Nora V. Becker, Michelle H. Moniz, John W. Scott, Hallie C. Prescott, Kao-Ping Chua, 5/1/2023.

More on the costs of pediatric care:

- **Out-of-pocket spending for deliveries and newborn hospitalizations among the Privately Insured**, *Pediatrics*, Kao-Ping Chua, A. Mark Fendrick, Rena M. Conti, Michelle H. Moniz, 7/1/2021.
- **TCD screening and spending among children with sickle cell anemia**, *The American Journal of Managed Care*, Sarah L. Reeves, Sophia Ng, Kevin J. Dombkowski, Jean L. Raphael, Kao-Ping Chua, 3/20/23.



STUDY IDENTIFIES WEIGHT GAIN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Using Kaiser Permanente Southern California electronic health record data, **Susan J. Woolford, M.D., M.P.H.**, compared the body mass index of 191,509 children aged 5 to 17 years in 2020 to their BMI during the same period in 2019, prior to the pandemic. This data showed that the proportion of children who were obese increased in 2020 by 2-6%, depending on age group. These results suggest there was a rise in pediatric obesity nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the need for interventions to address pandemic-related weight increases in children. Dr. Woolford is an assistant professor at CHEAR and the medical director of the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital Pediatric Comprehensive Weight Management Center.

Citation: **Changes in body mass index among children and adolescents during the COVID-19 pandemic**, *JAMA*, Susan J. Woolford, Margo Sidell, Xia Li, Veronica Else, Deborah R. Young, Ken Resnicow, and Corinna Koebnick, 10/12/2021.

More on emerging trends in pediatric health and health care:

- **Antidepressant dispensing to U.S. adolescents and young adults: 2016-2022**, *Pediatrics*, Kao-Ping Chua, Anna Volerman, Jason Zhang, Joanna Hua, Rena M. Conti, 2/26/2024.
- **Dispensing of glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists to adolescents and young adults, 2020-2023**, *JAMA*, Joyce M. Lee, Mona Sharifi, Lauren Oshman, Dina H. Griauzde, Kao-Ping Chua, 5/22/2024.

HIGH-RISK OPIOID PRESCRIBING PATTERNS TO CHILDREN ARE COMMON

Using a database that captures 92% of U.S. prescriptions, **Kao-Ping Chua**, conducted the first national study on the prevalence and safety of opioid prescriptions dispensed to pediatric patients aged 0-21 years. Dr. Chua found that about 3.5% of these patients filled a prescription for opioids in 2019. Of the 4 million opioid prescriptions filled by pediatric patients in 2019, 46% had high-risk prescribing patterns that increased the risk of opioid-related harm. The top 5% of prescribers accounted for over half of all pediatric opioid prescriptions and high-risk prescriptions. The study's findings suggest that quality improvement initiatives targeting these "high-volume" prescribers may be warranted.

Citation: **Opioid prescribing to U.S. children and young adults in 2019**, Pediatrics, Kao-Ping Chua, Chad M. Brummett, Rena M. Conti, Amy S. Bohnert, 9/1/2021.

More on the U.S. opioid epidemic:

- **Eliminating unnecessary opioid exposure after common children's surgeries**, *JAMA Surgery*, Calista M. Harbaugh, Gracia Vargas, Courtney Shepard Streur, G. Ying Li, Aaron L. Thatcher, Jennifer F. Waljee, Samir K. Gadepalli, 12/18/2019.
- **Association of opioid prescribing patterns with prescription opioid overdose in adolescents and young adults**, *JAMA Pediatrics*, Kao-Ping Chua, Chad M. Brummett, Rena M. Conti, Amy Bohnert, 2/3/2020.
- **Use of medications for treatment of opioid use disorder among U.S. Medicaid enrollees in 11 states, 2014-2018**, *JAMA*, Julie M. Donohue, Marian P. Jarlenski, Joo Yeon Kim, Lu Tang, Katherine Ahrens, Lindsay Allen, Anna Austin, Andrew J. Barnes, Marguerite Burns, Chung-Chou H. Chang, Sarah Clark, Evan Cole, Dushka Crane, Peter Cunningham, David Idala, Stefanie Junker, Paul Lanier, Rachel Mauk, Mary Joan McDuffie, Shamis Mohamoud, Nathan Pauly, Logan Sheets, Jeffery Talbert, Kara Zivin, Adam J. Gordon, Susan Kennedy, 7/13/2021.

CONVENIENCE KEY FOR COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS AND THEIR PARENTS

Lisa A. Prosser, Ph.D., conducted a survey of U.S. adults to compare preferences for COVID-19 vaccines for themselves versus their children. Using a discrete choice experiment to assess the importance of various vaccine attributes, she found that vaccine effectiveness, convenience, and the risk of rare but severe side effects were all important factors. Preferences for vaccine attributes were largely consistent for both adult and child vaccination, though participants placed slightly greater emphasis on minimizing severe side effects and ensuring full regulatory approval for children. A significant share of participants prioritized convenience very highly. "This study really highlighted the importance of ensuring convenience when implementing interventions to boost vaccine uptake for both adults and children," says Dr. Prosser.

Citation: **A discrete choice analysis comparing COVID-19 vaccination decisions for children and adults**, *JAMA Network Open*, Lisa A. Prosser, Abram L. Wagner, Eve Wittenberg, Brian J. Zikmund-Fisher, Angela M. Rose, Jamison Pike, 1/30/2023.

More on vaccine research:

- **HPV vaccination among young adults in the U.S.,** *JAMA*, Michelle M. Chen, Nicole Mott, Sarah J. Clark, Diane M. Harper, Andrew G. Shuman, Mark E.P. Prince, Lesly A. Dossett, 4/27/2021.
- **The cost-effectiveness of vaccination against COVID-19 illness during the initial year of vaccination**, *Vaccine*, Lisa A. Prosser, Janamarie Perroud, Grace S. Chung, Acham Gebremariam, Cara B. Janusz, Kerra Mercon, Angela M. Rose, Anton L.V. Avanceña, Ellen Kim DeLuca, David W. Hutton, 1/21/2025.



RESEARCHERS FIND POTENTIAL LINK BETWEEN SEPSIS AND NEW OR WORSENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition in which the body's response to an infection results in widespread inflammation. Using insurance claims data from 5,150 critically ill children, **Erin Carlton**; **Lisa Prosser**; and **Ryan Barbaro, M.D., M.S.**, assessed whether sepsis is associated with the development and progression of medical conditions. They found that 13% of children with sepsis developed a new medical condition, such as chronic respiratory failure, seizure disorder, or chronic kidney disease, within six months after being discharged from the hospital.

Additionally, 21% of children who already had a medical condition before their sepsis hospitalization experienced a worsening of their condition afterwards. These findings emphasize the need for structured monitoring after pediatric sepsis hospitalizations to address new or worsening medical conditions. Dr. Barbaro is a clinical associate professor and pediatric critical care physician.

Citation: **New and progressive medical conditions after pediatric sepsis hospitalization requiring critical care**, *JAMA Pediatrics*, Erin F. Carlton, Acham Gebremariam, Aline B. Maddux, Nancy McNamara, Ryan P. Barbaro, Timothy T. Cornell, Theodore J. Iwashyna, Lisa A. Prosser, Jerry Zimmerman, Scott Weiss, Hallie C. Prescott, 11/7/2022.

More on the care of pediatric patients with critical illnesses:

- **School and work absences after critical care hospitalization for pediatric acute respiratory failure**, *JAMA Network Open*, Erin F. Carlton, John P. Donnelly, Hallie C. Prescott, Lisa A. Asaro, Ryan P. Barbaro, R. Scott Watson, Martha A. Q. Curley, 12/23/2021.
- **Parent medical traumatic stress and associated family outcomes after pediatric critical illness: a systematic review**, *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine*, Lauren M. Yagiela, Erin F. Carlton, Kathleen L. Meert, Fola O. Odetola, Melissa K Cousino, 8/1/2019.

STEROID-SPARING THERAPY MAY REDUCE RISK OF SEVERE COMPLICATION IN CROHN'S DISEASE

Crohn's disease, a chronic condition that inflames the digestive tract, can result in a range of severe complications, including perianal fistulizing complications (PFCs). Steroid-sparing therapy (SST) is one treatment option that may reduce the risk of PFC development. To explore this possibility, **Jeremy Adler, M.D., MSc.**; **Samir K. Gadepalli, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.**; and **Kevin J. Dombkowski, Dr.P.H., M.S.**, analyzed insurance claims data from January 2001 to June 2016. Compared with children and young adults who did not initiate SST, those who initiated SST were 59% less likely to develop PFCs and were less likely to require an ostomy. These results highlight the importance of considering SST for all children and young adults with Crohn's disease. Dr. Adler is a clinical professor in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology and is a research faculty member at CHEAR. Dr. Gadepalli is the Daniel H. Teitelbaum M.D. Collegiate Professor and associate professor of surgery and of pediatrics. Dr. Dombkowski is a research professor of pediatrics.

Citation: **Association between steroid-sparing therapy and the risk of perianal fistulizing complications among young patients with Crohn's disease**, *JAMA Network Open*, Jeremy Adler, Chun Chieh Lin, Samir K Gadepalli, Kevin J Dombkowski, 6/9/2020.

More on the care of children with rare conditions:

- **Antibiotic prophylaxis for children with sickle cell anemia**, *Pediatrics*, Sarah L. Reeves, Alison C. Tribble, Brian Madden, Gary L. Freed, Kevin J. Dombkowski, 2018.
- **Risk of cardiovascular disease and mortality in young adults with end-stage renal disease**, *JAMA Cardiology*, Zubin J. Modi, Yee Lu, Nan Ji, Alissa Kapke, David T. Selewski, Xue Dietrich, Kevin Abbott, Brahmajee K. Nallamothu, Douglas E. Schaubel, Rajiv Saran, Debbie S. Gipson, 4/17/2019.
- **"If everyone else is having this talk with their doctor, why am I not having this talk with mine?": the experiences of sexuality and sexual health education of young women with spina bifida**, *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, Courtney S. Streur, Christine L. Schafer, Valerie P. Garcia, Elisabeth H. Quint, David E. Sandberg, Daniela A. Wittmann, 4/19/2019.

Clinical Impact

LEVERAGING THE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM TO REDUCE OPIOID DOSES AFTER SURGERY

CHEAR faculty have directly improved the care of children and young adults through research and quality improvement initiatives, translating breakthrough findings into real-world clinical practice. This work not only elevates the level of care at Michigan Medicine, but sets benchmarks for excellence in pediatric health care systems across the U.S.

Adolescents and young adults have high rates of prescription opioid misuse, often due to leftover opioids from prior prescriptions. Policy efforts to limit excessive opioid prescribing typically involve arbitrary restrictions, such as a seven-day supply limit, which can discount individual patient needs and reduce provider autonomy. In a study focused on adolescents and young adults undergoing tonsillectomy, **Kao-Ping Chua** and team used a different approach: lowering the default number of opioid doses prescribed in the electronic health record system to a level that matches the amount patients need. The University of Michigan's pediatric otolaryngology service used a tonsillectomy order set that automatically prepopulated a quantity of 30 doses of oxycodone after surgery. However, by collecting data on opioid consumption after surgery, Dr. Chua discovered that 12 doses would cover the needs of most patients. After his team changed the default dose in the system from 30 to 12 doses of oxycodone, opioid prescribing decreased but patient-reported pain control did not worsen. Given its low cost, changing the default dosing settings for opioid prescriptions written in electronic health record systems could be a scalable intervention to safely reduce excessive opioid prescribing to pediatric patients undergoing surgery.

> **"This very simple tweak to the order set prevented unnecessary exposure to opioids among young people without compromising pain control."**
>
> — Kao-Ping Chua, M.D., Ph.D.

Quality Improvement

INCREASING PREVENTIVE CARE FOR KIDS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE



Sarah L. Reeves, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that leads to serious health issues, including pain crises, stroke, infection, and reduced life expectancy. Over 90% of people with sickle cell disease in the U.S. are Black or Hispanic — groups who are often underserved in health care. The implementation of comprehensive preventive care, including screening for stroke risk, using antibiotics to prevent blood infections, and using hydroxyurea to prevent pain crises, can significantly improve health outcomes for children with sickle cell disease. However, many children with sickle cell disease do not receive this preventive care.

To address these urgent gaps in quality, CHEAR faculty member **Sarah L. Reeves, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of pediatrics and epidemiology, spearheaded the development of a set of quality measures assessing the receipt of recommended preventive care among children with sickle cell disease. These measures have since been implemented in multiple settings to increase accountability for receipt of preventive services among children with sickle cell disease.

For example, through the Pediatric Sickle Cell Improvement Program, Michigan Medicaid plans started to be rewarded for improvements in performance on the quality measures in 2023. Preliminary data indicate that since this policy change was implemented, the rate of children receiving an ultrasound to screen for stroke risk has almost doubled. The policy change could serve as a model for other states seeking to improve outcomes for children with sickle cell disease. The Pediatric Sickle Cell Improvement Program is run by **Gary L. Freed, M.D., M.P.H.**, the Percy J. Murphy, M.D., and Marcy C. Murphy, R.N., Professor of Pediatrics for Child Health Delivery, professor of health management and policy, and founding director of the CHEAR Center.

CREATING CLINICAL SOLUTIONS TO CLOSE EQUITY GAPS



Gary L. Freed, MD, MPH

Gary Freed has more than 30 years of experience in pediatric health services research and currently focuses on child health equity. In 2023, he launched the Program for Equity in Adolescent and Child Health (PEACH). PEACH exists to address unconscious biases of the health care system by implementing protocols and structural changes to achieve quality care for all children, focusing on systems rather than individuals. "We don't want to just find problems," says Dr. Freed. "We are looking to actually improve the areas that can be improved."

One strong example of measurable clinical improvement can be seen in the PEACH kangaroo care study. Kangaroo care, in which infants are held skin-to-skin by a caregiver, is vital to the cognitive, social, and behavioral outcomes for children born preterm or with very low birth weight. A recent study led by PEACH revealed that the use of kangaroo care in the Brandon NICU at University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in 2022 was significantly below World Health Organization guidelines. In addition, there were troubling inequities with non-White babies receiving kangaroo care far less frequently than White babies. By shifting the focus from blaming individuals to implementing systems-level solutions to close the equity gap, the PEACH team implemented standardized safety procedures, improved parent education about the benefits of kangaroo care, and created a dashboard to measure progress and ensure accountability. These interventions worked — preliminary data showed that by spring 2025, the rate of kangaroo care for White and Black babies is nearly identical now, with each group exceeding the recommended 60 minutes a day.

Highlighting its value, PEACH is supported by 13 clinical departments and divisions at Michigan Medicine, Mott Children's Hospital, and U-M Poverty Solutions. "The broad array of partners creates the opportunity and the imperative to make change and drive improvements for children across multiple domains of clinical care," says Dr. Freed.

PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE DRIVES IMPROVEMENTS

CHEAR has made important impacts on policy and public health through its strong partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. **Kevin Dombkowski** leads a team that provides analytic support for several projects that include:

- **Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR)**. Dr. Dombkowski led the development of MCIR, a statewide database that documents all immunizations given to individuals receiving care in Michigan. His team of analysts provide support for ongoing statewide efforts to evaluate the timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of data exchanges between electronic health record systems and MCIR.
- **Michigan Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)**. Timely and accurate blood lead testing is crucial to identify and treat children with lead poisoning. Dr. Dombkowski's team works closely with the CLPPP, Michigan's statewide lead poisoning prevention program, to summarize blood lead testing data and identify opportunities for improving blood lead testing in Michigan.
- **Flint Registry**. The Flint Registry collects data on the health and health needs of individuals affected by the Flint water crisis. Since 2017, Dr. Dombkowski has collaborated with Michigan State University to support the Flint Registry by collecting and analyzing data on registry participants. This work helps evaluate the effectiveness of resources and services and strengthens the Flint Registry's ongoing advocacy for programs that best serve the community's needs.

HELPING ADULTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE

The state's Children's Special Health Care Services program offers medical coverage and treatment assistance to children with chronic health conditions. Historically, the program did not cover adults with sickle cell disease. However, in 2021, Michigan expanded coverage to all people with sickle cell disease regardless of age. Using data from the Michigan Sickle Cell Data Collection program, **Sarah Reeves** helped the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identify adults with sickle cell disease who were eligible for the expanded coverage. Dr. Reeves is continuing to use data from the Michigan Sickle Cell Data Collection program to evaluate the effects of the expanded coverage and to facilitate outreach initiatives to enroll eligible adults.

SHAPING THE NATIONAL DISCOURSE ON CHILD HEALTH



Sarah J. Clark, M.P.H.

Since 2007, the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health has surveyed U.S. parents to capture their views and experiences on a wide range of child health topics. The poll aims to shape the national discourse on child health by ensuring representation of parents' perspectives, as well as to influence child health policy and generate new ideas for research. The poll's reports are explicitly designed to have broad public appeal and are regularly covered by national media outlets, such as CNN.

"We focus on common issues, and structure our reports so that parents can take away new information or important messages," says **Sarah J. Clark, M.P.H.**, research scientist in the department of pediatrics and co-director of the Mott Poll. "The Mott Poll gives us a chance to explore early signs of future child health issues. For example, we were one of the earliest groups to have data about vaping, misuse of prescription pain medicine, and online gambling. Dissemination of these reports alerted parents to emerging issues and provided researchers with baseline data from which to measure the impact of research interventions."

Media Coverage of the Mott Poll

- Does your teen consume protein supplements? Here's what experts say (CNN)
- Parents need to talk to their tweens sooner about puberty (CNN)
- Parents 'should be seen and not heard' when it comes to kids and their friendships (CNN)
- Parents are worried that their anger might be influencing their children. Here's what experts say (CNN)
- Use positive reinforcement instead of threats for your child's misbehavior, experts say (CNN)
- Mental, physical health top parental concerns in comprehensive new poll (American Journal of Managed Care)
- 1 in 5 parents say potty training is harder than expected, University of Michigan poll finds (WDIV-Detroit)
- UM Poll: Some parents find potty training more difficult than expected (WWJ)
- Parents are cool with teen boys using protein supplements to bulk up. Health experts, not so much (People)
- She's 11 years old. She's about to graduate from college. And she's just getting started (The Los Angeles Times)

SUSAN B. MEISTER LECTURE IN CHILD HEALTH POLICY

The annual Susan B. Meister Lecture in Child Health Policy invites speakers from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds to share their expertise on topics that are timely and relevant to the health and well-being of children. Since the inaugural lecture in 2006, this event has hosted business executives, professional athletes, academic leaders, and more. The 2024 lecture, "The Impact of Neighborhoods on Child Health: Opportunities for Better Policy," hosted Adrianne Todman, then acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, who spoke on her career experiences working to improve housing policy at the national level.

In recent years, the lecture has included a panel discussion, which includes University of Michigan faculty and staff as well as members of the community. This diversity of backgrounds and specialties helps to attract and engage a broad audience. **Jessica Bielawski**, CHEAR center manager, says that the panel discussion is always a bright spot of the lecture. "The panel discussion adds an impactful element, allowing for unique perspectives on wide-ranging topics and serves as a platform for new voices and connections," she says.

Meredith Irvine, M.H.A., studio manager of Sophie's Place and manager of creative arts therapies at Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital, was a panel member at the 2025 Meister Lecture, "Music, Health, and Wellness Across the Lifespan: Pathways to Improve Child Health and Policy." Reflecting on her experience, she says: "I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Susan B. Meister Lecture as a panelist. It was an incredible honor to serve alongside esteemed colleagues who have such depth of knowledge of the incredible impact that the creative arts can have on one's health care journey. It was an honor representing Michigan Medicine and sharing the important impact of music therapy as it pertains to clinical and evidenced-based interventions that we can provide to patients and families in the form of holistic and psychosocial care. I also learned so much from my colleagues from the surrounding communities about how music is an integral part of the world of education, and how programs deeply impact mental health for our youth in a positive way."

In addition to the panel discussion, the 2025 Meister Lecture included an engaging keynote speech by Anthony White, the artistic director of the Detroit Youth Choir, as well as an upbeat performance by children in the choir. "To have the children there was really special," says **Donna**

Martin, Ph.D., the Ravitz Foundation Endowed Professor of Pediatrics and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. “It was a great way to feel connected, and the experience brought home the fact that the research being conducted at CHEAR has a tangible impact and can improve the lives of children.”











SUSAN B. MEISTER LECTURE IN CHILD HEALTH POLICY: SPEAKERS, PANELISTS, AND PARTICIPANTS

2025: Music, Health, and Wellness Across the Lifespan: Pathways to Improve Child Health and Policy

Anthony White
Artistic Director, Detroit Youth Concert Choir and Performing Arts Company

Introductory Remarks:
Matthew VanBesien
President, University Musical Society

Panel Discussants:
Kate Fitzpatrick-Harnish, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

Karl Grosh, Ph.D., M.S.
Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

Meredith Irvine, M.H.A.
Sophie's Place Studio Manager, Michigan Medicine

Victoria Shaw, Ph.D.
Detroit School and Arts Partnerships Lead, Marsal Family School of Education

Moderator:
Jeremy Adler, M.D., M.Sc.
Interim Director, Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research Center

Closing Remarks:
John Z. Ayanian, M.D., M.P.P.
Director, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan

2024: The Impact of Neighborhoods on Child Health: Opportunities for Better Policy

Adrianne Todman
Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Panel Discussants:
Sara Adar, Sc.D., M.H.S.
Associate Chair and Associate Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health

Jennifer Erb-Downward, M.P.H.
Director of Housing Stability Programs and Policy Initiatives, Poverty Solutions, University of Michigan

Alison L. Miller, Ph.D.
Professor, Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health

Carla O'Connor, Ph.D.
University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Marsal Family School of Education

Moderator:
Jeremy Adler, M.D., M.Sc.
Interim Director, Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research Center

Closing Remarks:
Kathleen Cagney, Ph.D., M.P.P.
Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

2023: The Impact of School Closures on Child Health and Development: a Call for Interdisciplinary Action

Donna Mazyck, M.S., R.N.
Executive Director, National Association of School Nurses

Panel Discussants:
Tiffany Munzer, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics

Donald J. Peurach, Ph.D.
Professor of Educational Policy, Leadership, and Innovation, Marsal Family School of Education

Julie Ribaudo, LMSW
Clinical Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work

Moderator:
Lisa A. Prosser, Ph.D.
Director, Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Center

Closing Remarks:
Elizabeth Birr Moje, Ph.D.
Dean, George Herbert Mead Collegiate Professor of Education and Arthur F. Thurneau Professor, Marsal Family School of Education

2022: Effects of the Pandemic on Trauma and Abuse within Families and Communities: Experts on Child Health and Aging Come Together to Clarify Thinking for the Future

Terry Fulmer, Ph.D., R.N.
President, The John A. Hartford Foundation

Panel Discussants:
Debra Chopp, J.D.
Associate Dean for Experiential Education
Clinical Professor of Law
Director, Pediatric Advocacy Clinic

Todd I. Herrenkohl, Ph.D., M.S.W.
Marion Elizabeth Blue Professor of Children and Families
School of Social Work

Preeti N. Malani, M.D., M.S.J.
Chief Health Officer
Professor of Medicine, Infectious Disease, Michigan Medicine

2019: Making Government Work to Reduce Child Hunger

Robert Gordon, J.D.
Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Introductory Remarks:
Kelly Orringer, M.D.
Director, Division of General Pediatrics

Natasha Pilkauskas, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Moderator:
Lisa A. Prosser, Ph.D.
Director, Susan B. Meister Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Center

2018: The Effects of the Opioid Crisis on Children and Families

Linda Smith
Director, Early Childhood Development Initiative Bipartisan Policy Center

Introductory Remarks:
Chad Brummett, M.D.
Co-Director, Michigan Open

Kelly Orringer, M.D.
Director, Division of General Pediatrics

The Meister Lecture series began in 2006. For information on lectures prior to 2018, go to https://chear.org/meister-lecture.

Education and Training

TRAINING THE NEXT LEADERS IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

The CHEAR Fellowship has been providing rigorous training in pediatric health services research since 2000. The fellowship offers formal didactics, structured mentorship, and hands-on research experience to trainees conducting high-impact, rigorous pediatric health services research. During their two-year appointment, each fellow collaborates with mentors to create a personalized learning plan that addresses their specific needs and interests. In recognition of the strength and importance of the CHEAR fellowship, departments and divisions have participated in sharing the cost of the fellowship experience.

Cara Janusz, Ph.D., assistant professor of implementation science and public health sciences at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, completed the CHEAR Fellowship in 2022. Through the program, she gained valuable knowledge and experience. She says: "I completed my Ph.D. training in epidemiology after many years working on global immunization policy issues with an international agency. The CHEAR Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to learn from talented research mentors who were doing high-impact child health research with direct implications for driving evidence-based policy and practice changes. I developed deeper methodological expertise through applied learning in the real world, mentored health services projects, and completed the fellowship with a stronger sense of direction and excitement for my research agenda."

Since 2019, CHEAR fellows have:

- Presented 23 conference abstracts (e.g., Pediatric Academic Societies, AcademyHealth)
- Published 21 manuscripts in high-impact journals (e.g., JAMA Network Open, Health Affairs, Academic Pediatrics)
- Secured research-intensive positions after graduation
- Received five grants from internal and external funders



CHEAR-LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP BRIDGES DISCIPLINES

The CHEAR-LSI Child Health Policy Scholars Fellowship provides training in pediatric health services research to students currently enrolled in a biomedical sciences training program. The primary aim of the fellowship is to provide fellows with the skills and perspectives necessary for a future research career outside of the traditional academic setting. In January 2020, CHEAR welcomed the inaugural CHEAR-LSI fellow, **Xin Wen, Ph.D.**, who completed the fellowship while concurrently completing the molecular and cellular biology Ph.D. program. **Nyimasata Danjo** joined as the second CHEAR-LSI Fellow. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and a member of the laboratory of Roger Cone, Ph.D.

CHEAR SUMMER INTERNSHIP DRIVES INTEREST IN PEDIATRIC HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

The goal of the CHEAR Summer Internship (CSI) is to increase the number of students who pursue careers in pediatric health services research. This program allows opportunities for undergraduate students to work with and learn from CHEAR faculty. The 10-week program incorporates workshops, shadowing and mentorship opportunities, and hands-on research experience. Since 2020, 15 interns have graduated from the program.

Erin McDonnell, who completed the CSI in summer 2025, says that her faculty mentor, **Jeremy Adler**, is teaching her about the research process and how it can make a difference in patients' lives. "Before working with him, I had a vague idea of research as being something that is only done in a lab with pipettes and microscopes, and I didn't have an interest in doing research where I could not see how my work was directly impacting people. Dr. Adler has allowed me to join in on research conferences and explained how his and others' work has changed the standards of care in pediatric gastroenterology. Now, I am more excited about continuing my research throughout my career and working to improve care for not just my own patients, but hopefully for patients around the world as well."

Collaborations

CAMPUS, GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS ADVANCE MISSION

CHEAR has a longstanding history of multidisciplinary collaborations with other departments, schools, and institutions at the University of Michigan. These collaborations were enhanced when CHEAR relocated to the North Campus Research Complex in 2022, thus bringing it into closer proximity to the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, an organization that connects over 800 health services research-focused faculty across the University of Michigan campus.

CHEAR also recognizes the importance of collaboration beyond the University of Michigan. To that end, CHEAR frequently invites Visiting Professors from around the globe to share their expertise through presentations, as well as Scholars-in-Residence who stay for extended periods of time.

Visiting Professors

2021-2024:

- Jean Raphael, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor of General Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology Oncology, Associate Director for the Center of Excellence in Health Equity, Baylor College of Medicine
- Kamila Mistry, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director of Extramural Research, Education and Priority Populations, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Matthew Aalsma, Ph.D., Professor, Director of Children's Health Services Research, Indiana University
- Stephen Patrick, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., FAAP, Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health, Co-Director of the Center for Health Services Research

Scholars-in-Residence

2023-2024:

- Félice Lê-Scherban, Ph.D., M.P.H., Drexel University: one-year sabbatical
- Joyce Molenaar, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands: one-month visit
- Hui-Min Hsieh, Ph.D., Fulbright Scholar, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan: six-month sabbatical
- Kim Dalziel, Ph.D., University of Melbourne: one-year sabbatical
- Hamoud Alhazmi, Ph.D. student in Computer Science and Engineering from Ohio State University: two-day visit

CHEAR FACULTY INVESTIGATORS

Jeremy Adler, M.D., M.Sc.*
Ryan Barbaro, M.D., M.S.*
Erin Carlton, M.D., M.Sc.*
Karen Chiu, M.D.
Kao-Ping Chua, M.D., Ph.D.*
Sarah Clark, M.P.H.*
Matt Davis, M.P.H., Ph.D.
Amanda Dempsey, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Kevin Dombkowski, Dr.PH., M.S.
Gary Freed, M.D., M.P.H.*
Samir Gadepalli, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.*
Matthew Greenhawt, M.D.
Joseph Kohne, M.D.
Joyce Lee, M.D., M.P.H.*
Sarah Lipson, Ph.D., Ed.M.
Michelle Macy, M.D., M.S.
Zubin Modi, M.D.*
Kathryn Moseley, M.D., M.P.H.
Suparna Mullick, M.D.
Folafoluwa Odetola, M.B. Ch.B., M.P.H.*
Lisa Prosser, Ph.D., M.S.*
Sarah Reeves, Ph.D., M.P.H.*
David Sandberg, Ph.D.
Ellen Selkie, M.D., M.P.H.
Mori Stern, M.D.
Courtney Streur, M.D., M.Sc.
Lily Hsu Strong, M.D.
Beth Tarini, M.D., M.S.
Susan Woolford, M.D., M.P.H.*
Esther Yoon, M.D.
Joseph Zickafoose, M.D., M.S.*

CHEAR FACULTY EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Achyuta Adhvaryu, Ph.D.
Rajesh Balkrishnan, Ph.D.
Thomas Buchmueller, Ph.D.
Debra Chopp, J.D.*
Amy Cohn, Ph.D.*
Natalie Colabianchi, Ph.D.
Susan Collins, Ph.D.
Sandra Danziger, Ph.D.
Donald Duquette, J.D.
Daniel Eisenberg, Ph.D.
Steven Erickson, Pharm.D.
Margherita Fontana, D.D.S., Ph.D.*
Charles Friedman, Ph.D.
Todd Herrenkohl, Ph.D., M.S.W.*
Jan Hu, DDS, Ph.D.
Robin Jacob, Ph.D.*
Kristin Klein, Pharm.D.
Paula Lantz, Ph.D.
Carol Loveland Cherry, Ph.D.
Kristy Kiel Martyn, Pharm.D.
Bridget McCormack, J.D.
Varsha Mehta, PharmD, F.C.C.P.
Alison Miller, Ph.D.*
Dana Muir, M.B.A.
Kelly Orringer, M.D.
Hanna Phan, Pharm.D., F.C.C.P., F.P.P.A.*
Natasha Pilkauskas, Ph.D., M.A., M.P.P.*
Peter Polverini, D.D.S., D.M.Sc.
Julie Ribaudo, L.M.S.W., IMH-E
Mary Ruffolo, Ph.D.
Joseph Ryan, Ph.D.
Anne Schroth, J.D.
Sarah Stoddard, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.P.*
Christina Weiland, Ed.D., M.Ed.*
Jack Wheeler, Ph.D.
Marc Zimmerman, Ph.D.

** Denotes current appointment*

SUSAN B. MEISTER CHILD HEALTH EVALUATION AND RESEARCH CENTER
MICHIGAN MEDICINE

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