



**Weill
Cornell
Medicine**

Children's Health Council

**10 Years of Advancing
Children's Health**



**Annual
Impact
Report**

September
2024



Letter From Our Dean



The entire Weill Cornell Medicine community works together to advance our research and clinical care in order to ensure the best outcomes for everyone who walks through our doors, and our supporters help make this possible.

The Children's Health Council (CHC) at Weill Cornell Medicine exemplifies the best kind of partnership between philanthropy and research in the service of our patients – a partnership we're proud to celebrate in the 2024 Children's Health Council Impact Report. The entire Weill Cornell Medicine community works together to advance our research and clinical care in order to ensure the best outcomes for everyone who walks through our doors, and our supporters help make this possible.

As a father and a grandfather, I am thrilled to see the important collaborative research efforts across the Department of Pediatrics, the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health and the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and I am touched by the effects of their endeavors on our youngest patients and their families.

This year, the CHC marks a decade of support and accomplishment. The 10th anniversary edition of our annual report offers a sampling of the many ways your philanthropy furthers great work. I urge you to read about how the Council is helping to change medicine: through the energy and commitment of its membership; in the extraordinary team of faculty advisors who help guide funding from the Children's Health Investigators Fund toward gifted researchers; and in the brilliant work of those who receive these grants.

The CHC's impact on children's health is both immediate and enduring. I am deeply impressed by your dedication to Weill Cornell Medicine and look forward to continuing our work together in the years to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Harrington MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert A. Harrington, M.D.

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

Letter From Our Chair



The Children's Health Council turned 10 this year – and we're celebrating! Over the past decade, we have grown from 6 households to 77, and our dedicated members have collectively contributed \$23.5 million towards children's health research, education and care. This special 10th anniversary edition of our annual Impact Report details some of our past accomplishments, and provides a glimpse of our future.

Back in 2014, some of us weren't yet parents and weren't aware of the brilliant work this new Council was already helping to fund. As our children have grown, so has the impact of the Council. Over time, we've been privileged to support many initiatives, including an app for cognitive behavioral therapy for adolescents; research into how respiratory viruses drive critical illness in

children; and a search for novel therapies to minimize chronic lung disease in premature infants. All of this, and so much more, is happening because of your philanthropy. This issue shines a spotlight on founding member Nancy Paduano, whose committed engagement continues to inspire us. We're also pleased to welcome some of our newest members, who joined us just this past year, and highlight our most recent recipients of grants from the Children's Health Investigators Fund.

None of this would be possible without the work of our incredible vice chairs and executive committee. They create momentum for us and I'm so grateful for the time and energy they bring to the Council. Everyone in the group contributes their insights, helping to drive important advances in pediatrics and children's health.

In the coming year, we'll have a full slate of events for our members and their families, from discussions with leading faculty, to special opportunities that will awaken the scientist in our children. Whenever you participate in an event and deepen your interests, you help propel the mission of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. With Dean Harrington's leadership – and your commitment to the CHC – we're looking ahead to a future of discovery and breakthroughs.

I hope you're as excited as I am to dive into this year's report, and that you see how your membership is advancing not just the future of Weill Cornell Medicine, but the future for all children and their families.

Thank you for all you do!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey S. Weiss".

Casey S. Weiss
Chair, Children's Health Council



Casey and Noah Weiss with their children, Bowie and Nash

Children's Health Council By the Numbers

Fundraising FY2024

CHC Fundraising Total

\$2,054,246

Children's Health Investigators Fund

\$72,713

Other Children's Health Funds

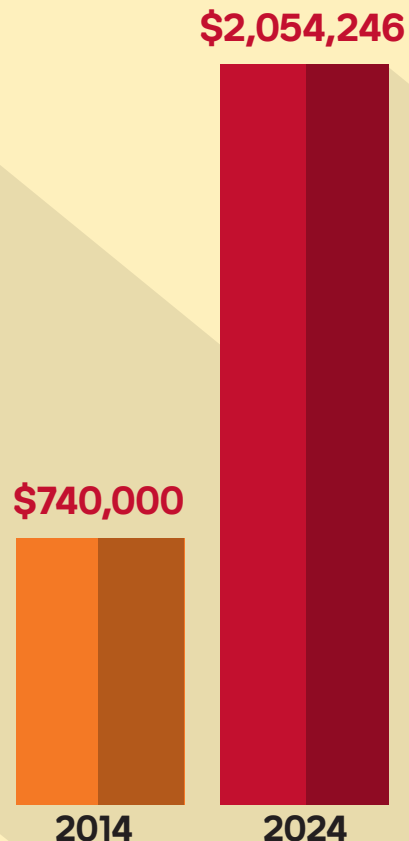
\$1,981,533

Total CHC Funds raised
from 2014-2024:

\$23,579,613

Fundraising Totals

FY2014 and FY2024:



20 Children's Health
Investigators Fund
(CHIF) Recipients
2014-2024



30

pediatrics faculty held National Institutes of Health awards in 2023-2024, totaling over

\$34.5 Million

in project funds

Children's Health areas funded by CHC since 2014

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Cardiology

Emergency Medicine

Endocrinology

Gastroenterology and Nutrition

Global Health

Health Equity

Hematology/Oncology

Neurology

Neurosurgery

Newborn Medicine

Otolaryngology

Pulmonology

Surgery



There are

229

open clinical studies in the Department of Pediatrics

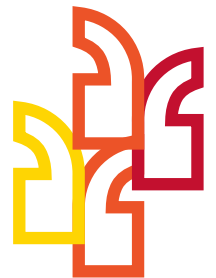
From July 2023 to June 2024:

100

WCM pediatrics faculty had

236

unique publications, including book chapters and articles published in peer-reviewed journals



Children's Health Investigators Fund Recipients 2023-2024

The Children's Health Investigators Fund is a vital source of support for early-career scientists, providing the funds needed for Weill Cornell Medicine pediatric investigators to establish promising preliminary results and then qualify for large-scale federal grants. In July 2023, **\$248,598** was distributed from the Fund to support the exciting research projects outlined on these pages.



Simone Caielli, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Immunology Research
in Pediatrics

Dr. Simone Caielli focuses on improving treatments and quality of life for children suffering from rheumatic diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). He is investigating how problems in certain cell structures might be related to the way pediatric SLE develops. His work has the potential to help doctors better manage the disease and create new therapies.

"With funding from the Children's Health Investigators Fund, we have made significant research advances in the field of pediatric lupus, an autoimmune disease where the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own tissues. Specifically, we learned that in kids with lupus, monocytes (a unique type of white blood

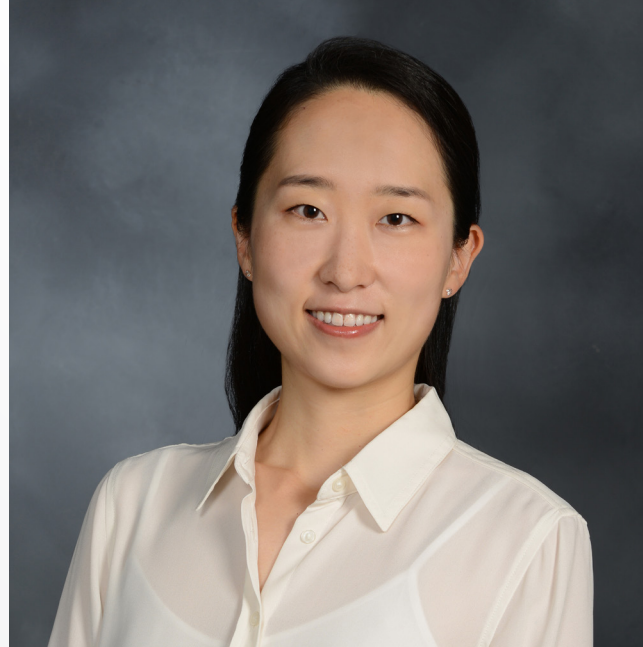
cell) can produce both interferon and a pro-inflammatory protein not previously linked to this disease. We believe these and other discoveries are crucial for developing new treatments and improving care for children with lupus. Thank you, members of the Children's Health Council, for your invaluable support."

Jimin Lee, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Dr. Jimin Lee's overarching research objective is to develop and implement a novel, family-centered intervention that enhances communication between medical teams and caregivers of children with complex medical problems during the transition from hospital to home care. Pediatric hospital discharge is a critical period for children and their caregivers; Dr. Lee hopes her work can improve the quality of care and clinical outcomes.

"This past year, support from the Children's Health Investigators Fund has enabled me to better understand the problems and the flaws in helping medically complex children successfully make the transition from hospital to home. These children have multiple chronic health conditions that can limit their daily activities and require ongoing care. My long-term goal is to help these kids by developing, testing and implementing a sustainable intervention to improve their post-discharge experience and boost their quality of life. Support from the Children's Health Council has been pivotal in advancing this research."



Andrea Temkin-Yu, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry

Dr. Andrea Temkin-Yu's research aims to increase access to evidence-based strategies to support parents struggling with mental health difficulties during pregnancy and shortly after. She is currently running a pilot trial of an app-based tool that teaches skills for managing anxiety and low mood.

The goal is to create an easy-to-use, effective and accessible program for expectant and new parents in hopes of improving outcomes for the entire family.

"I am very grateful for the Children's Health Investigators Fund. The support has been pivotal in the development of Maya: Perinatal Skills Program, a new mobile app designed to help pregnant and postpartum individuals manage mood and anxiety. We're already getting great user feedback, and we're immensely hopeful Maya will prove to be a helpful tool for a population in dire need of mental health interventions."



Meet Our Faculty Advisors

Since its creation in 2018, the Children's Health Investigators Fund has awarded grants to 20 researchers, contributing to 15 different projects. Outstanding faculty advisors select the most promising research projects for funding. These faculty believe deeply in the Fund's importance, and they credit CHC philanthropy for helping to advance these early-stage investigations.



Virginia Pascual, M.D.

Dr. Pascual is director of the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health at Weill Cornell Medicine and the Ronay Menschel Professor of Pediatrics. A pediatric rheumatologist, she focuses on understanding childhood autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, including arthritis, lupus and immune responses to infections and vaccinations. Under her leadership, the Drukier Institute uses advanced approaches to define molecular and genetic causes of pediatric diseases, leading to improved treatments.

Dr. Pascual has performed pioneering genomic studies that identified the role of specific cells and proteins in lupus and of inflammatory proteins that contribute to juvenile arthritis, now successfully targeted in the clinic. She also developed a personalized approach to identifying drivers of disease activity in children with lupus.

Dr. Pascual is program director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases-funded U19 Autoimmunity Center of Excellence and a National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases-funded P50 Center of Research Translation. Her major honors include a 2017 Lupus Insight Award (Lupus Research Alliance) and a 2020 Distinguished Basic/Translational Investigator Award (American College of Rheumatology). A graduate of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid in Spain, she was elected to the American Association of Physicians in 2018.



"The Children's Health Council's steadfast support of mental health, inflammatory diseases, cancer, data science and other exciting areas of research is truly remarkable. These fields are crucial to children's health, and I believe today's efforts will yield real advances over the next decade."

Sallie Permar, M.D., Ph.D.

Nancy C. Paduano Professor in Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Permar is chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine; pediatrician-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian Komansky Children's Hospital; and a professor in the Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis Program at Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

A physician-scientist focusing on the prevention and treatment of viral infections in newborns, she earned her M.D. from Harvard Medical School and her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Permar's laboratory investigates immune protection against vertical transmission of viral pathogens, such as HIV. She has also made important contributions to vaccine development.



An awardee of the Gale and Ira Drukier Prize in Children's Health Research, Dr. Permar has received many honors, including the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering and the E. Mead Johnson Award from the Society of Pediatric Research. She is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association of Advancement of Science. A leader in physician-scientist training, she directs the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Pediatric Scientist Development Program.

“The members of the Children's Health Council are true partners in changing medicine. They understand so much about the scientific process and how we generate innovations in health care. They also have a remarkable and unique understanding of why we need generous philanthropy to truly advance the health and well-being of children.”



Rebecca Lynn Rendleman, M.D., C.M.

Dr. Rendleman is vice chair for child and adolescent psychiatry and an associate professor of clinical psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine, and program co-director of the Center for Youth Mental Health at NewYork-Presbyterian. A graduate of the McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Montreal, she trained in psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Hospital before joining the Weill Cornell Medicine faculty in 1993.

Dr. Rendleman has made significant contributions to clinical service, program development and training and education. Her areas of interest include health-care communication, child and adolescent psychiatry acute care, and training and education in those areas. She assumed leadership of the Weill Cornell Medicine Payne Whitney Clinic Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program in 2002 and helped design and lead the NewYork-Presbyterian Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program, a joint initiative along with Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University.

Dr. Rendleman's articles have appeared in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management and Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, among others. In her previous role as a program director and now as the vice chair for child and adolescent psychiatry, she has helped oversee the training of more than 200 child and adolescent psychiatrists. Since 2014, she has been part of a Hospital-wide initiative to improve patient experience through more effective communication.



“I am impressed by the passion, dedication and thoughtfulness of Children's Health Council members. They understand the joys and challenges of raising healthy and happy children, and their interest in helping advance the care of all children is inspiring.”

New Member Spotlight

Presenting the faces and voices of some of the 10 families we welcomed this year. “It means so much when people make the commitment to join the Children’s Health Council,” says Casey S. Weiss, the CHC’s co-chair, “and we’re delighted to have them with us.”



Taryn and Sam Blank with their children, Georgina, Paloma and Robert



Libbey and Ryan Nivakoff with their children, Charlotte and Fitzgerald



Zach and Del Arrick with their twins, Chase Elliott and Whitney Mae

“We decided to get involved with the Children’s Health Council because **we value preventative care, and enjoy being a part of fun social events!**”



Layla and Josh Nemazee with their children, Theo and Maya

“We are deeply connected to children’s health issues due to our growing family and professional experiences in health-care



services. **The Children’s Health Council aligns perfectly with our desire to contribute meaningfully to solutions** that can positively impact outcomes for children.”

Javier and Lauren Starkand with their children, Luke and Julia



Blair and Jason Vahn

“We were inspired to join the Children’s Health Council by close friends who are active members. Our son is arriving in December, but we’ve been passionate about children’s causes even before moving to New York. **We’re eager to collaborate with this group and support the incredible work at Weill Cornell Medicine.**”

If you know friends or family who might be interested in learning more about the CHC, please contact chc@med.cornell.edu

Donor in Focus:

Nancy Paduano

For Nancy Paduano, few things in her life are more important than helping the best and brightest physician-scientists find cures for pediatric cancer, infectious diseases and other serious childhood illnesses.

A founding member of Weill Cornell Medicine's Children's Health Council (CHC), Ms. Paduano is proud of the group's decade-long efforts to raise funds for promising researchers in the Department of Pediatrics. She and her husband, Daniel, recently pledged generous funding to create a Clinical Scholar Award in Pediatrics. This endowed fund will help early career physician-scientists balance patient care with research and teaching activities.

"I love our researchers," says Ms. Paduano, who is also a member of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows. "They are so smart, so creative and so dedicated to their work. I love being around them. I love listening to them speak about their work and how it might help very sick children."

Ms. Paduano's commitment to Weill Cornell Medicine began in 1986, when one of her two sons underwent successful brain surgery. "I later asked myself, 'How do you repay an institution that has saved your child's life?'" She quickly found an answer – strategic philanthropy and volunteer support of the institution's finest researchers.

Since that time, Ms. Paduano has given back exponentially to Weill Cornell Medicine – through her volunteer leadership and through her family's generous philanthropy. Among their many gifts, the couple helped to establish the Nancy C. Paduano Professorship of Pediatrics in 2001; the professorship is now held by Dr. Sallie Permar, pediatrician-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian Komansky Children's Hospital and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine. *[For more about Dr. Permar, see pp. 6-7]*

But it is especially through the Children's Health Council that her support has proven meaningful to her over time.

"Thanks to our amazing members, the CHC provides a ready source of funding through such programs as the Children's Health Investigators Fund, which awards seed money to early-career investigators," Ms. Paduano says. "We enjoy meeting the researchers and attending the various educational events."

When the CHC started 10 years ago, Ms. Paduano was one of only six inaugural members. The membership now stands at 77 households and counting.

"It's been lovely to see the growth over the years," she says. "We still have some of the core members who started with me in 2014. But now, we have a large contingent of younger families who are equally dedicated to the cause of children's health. They're smart, business-savvy people who bring their experience to the work of the Council."

"They are just the best ambassadors a medical center could have. Maybe not all of them are able to make the big gift right now, but they will be the future champions of Weill Cornell Medicine."

Consistent support, the type that fuels the Children's Health Council's mission, is what pediatric health research needs to thrive. Ms. Paduano believes all scientific research is fruitful, and that donors should not worry if a given project ultimately bears fruit or not.

"It's an ongoing process, and it's all important in the end," she adds. "We can never give up. As a great pediatrician once told me, 'If we can cure a disease in children, we can cure it for adults, too.'"



“Thanks to our amazing members, the CHC provides a ready source of funding for such programs as the Children’s Health Investigators Fund, which awards seed money to early-career investigators.”

Nancy Paduano

At a Glance

Children's Health Council Events 2023-2024

All-Member Meeting and Reception, May 2024



Dr. Jimin Lee, Patricia Meadow, Dr. Simone Caielli, Dr. Andrea Temkin-Yu



Noah Weiss, Caroline Kaufman and Adam Kaufman



Reed Rayman, Dr. Maya Hartman, and Danielle Rayman, Vice Chair of Marketing



Dr. Whitney Keefe Snider

Tour of the Dr. Sallie Permar Laboratory, March 2024



Sara Alemzadeh and Dr. Ashley Nelson

Hamptons Reception hosted by the Bernstein family, July 2023



Danielle Rayman; Ali Bernstein, Vice Chair of Membership; Casey S. Weiss, Chair; Erika Feil-Lincoln, Vice Chair of Programming

Reception hosted by the Nataraj family, October 2023

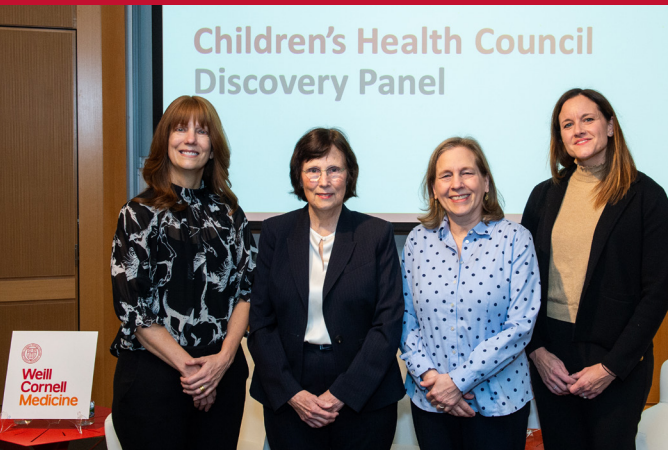


Dr. MacKenzi Preston, Courtney Nataraj, Dr. Kevin Ching, Naveen Nataraj



Dr. Virginia Pascual, Lori Freedman, Casey S. Weiss, Mara Feil, Danielle Rayman

Discovery Panel on Youth Mental Health, November 2023



Dr. Carolyn Hildebeitel, Dr. Anne McBride, Dr. Rebecca Rendleman, Dr. Shannon Bennett



Dr. Sallie Permar speaking at the Nataraj reception

Tour of the Dr. Francis Lee and Dr. Jihye Kim Laboratory, December 2023



Nathaniel Tse, Janet Krauthamer, Lori Freedman, Dr. Kim, Dr. Lee, Dr. Merima Sabanovic, Erika Feil-Lincoln, Gabriel Aboodi

Children's Health Council Members

Chair

Casey S. Weiss

Vice Chairs

Alison Bernstein, Vice Chair of Membership
Erika Feil-Lincoln, Vice Chair of Programming
Danielle Rayman, Vice Chair of Marketing

Executive Committee Members

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Gail Cohen
Gale Drukier, Ed.D.
Ira Drukier, Ph.D.
Mara Feil
Lori Freedman
Barbara B. Friedman
Debra Gelband
Lynne Hammerschlag
Amir Handjani
Josh Harris
Maya Hartman, M.D.
Caroline Kaufman
Charlotte Lenzner
Jed Lenzner
Patricia T. Meadow
Ronay Menschel
Courtney A. Nataraj
Layla Nemazee
Libbey Nivakoff
Nancy Paduano
M. Steven Silbermann
Christina Truesdale

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Anne-Victoire A. and Benjamin C.
Gabrielle Aboodi
Madelyn Antoncic, Ph.D.
Del and Zach Arrick
Alexandra and Max Bandier
Mackenzie and Stephen Bartlett
Alexandra and Michael Bassik
Taryn and Samuel Blank
Hannah Blumenthal and Quentin Chu
Kate and Matthew Burke
David M. Cohen
Phyllis and Jeffrey Cole
Rebecca and Loïc de Kertanguy
Elissa and David Emden
Marianne Ruggiero Farina and Anthony Farina
Brian Feil
Michael Fieldstone
Danielle and David Fowler
Michael Freedman
Friedman Family Foundation
Samantha and Ryan Fuld
Michael Gelband
Barbara Glauber
Beth Goldman and Matt Mezvinsky
Ferne and Bernard Goldsmith

Mark Hammerschlag
Debra and Bruce Kahne
Elaine and John Kanas
Adam Kaufman
Bernadette and Dennis Kearney
Stephanie and James Kearney
Breanna and John Khoury
Galina and Igor Kirman
Janet Krauthamer and Jason Schoenberg
Michelle and David Kroin
Rekha Kumar, M.D. and Vinay Kumar
Kim and Jonathan Kushner
Kate Lei and Shahan Yang
Matthew Lincoln
Hailey Lustig and Stephen Prince
Richard Menschel
Caitlin Moscatello and Christopher Kellen
Naveen Nataraj
Anna and Emanuel Neuman
Alicia Nevarez-Bunnell and Mitchell Bunnell
Ryan Nivakoff
Raisa and Ndu Okereke
Dan Paduano
Margaret and Andrew Paul
Robin and Michael Poulos
Cassy and Dick Quintal
Reed Rayman
Amanda and Jason Redlus
Eve H. Robbins
Izabella and Jordan Rubin
Jenna and Paul Segal
Julie A. Silbermann
Stephanie A. Sirota
Annalisa and Jonathan Snider
Whitney Snider, M.D. and David Snider
Lauren and Javier Starkand
Jill Swid Rosen and Eric Rosen
Alexis and Drew Tarlow
Betty Teshome and Marcus Dunlop
Donald Truesdale
Blair and Jason Vahn
Noah N. Weiss
Cricket Whitton and Nick Hammerschlag
Carolyn Seely Wiener
Julia and John Zito
Stephanie and Richard Zogheb

Faculty Advisors

Virginia Pascual, M.D.

Drukier Director, Gale and Ira Drukier
Institute for Children's Health
Ronay Menschel Professor of Pediatrics

Sallie Permar, M.D., Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Nancy C. Paduano Professor

Rebecca Lynn Rendleman, M.D., C.M.

Vice Chair, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

As of June 30, 2024



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We're
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