

# Children's Health Council Impact Report July 2021

## By the Numbers

Funds Raised Fiscal Year 2020-2021



# Total **\$5,643,840**

Children's Health  
Investigators Fund



## **\$254,000**

Other Children's  
Health Funds



## **\$2,188,000**

To establish the endowed  
Gerald M. Loughlin, MD  
Professorship of Pediatrics



## **\$3,201,840**

From 2014-2021,  
CHC members have contributed

**\$12,982,937**

to support  
pediatric health.

Total member households:

**62**



Children's health areas funded

Child and adolescent psychiatry

Cardiology

Emergency medicine

Endocrinology

Gastroenterology and nutrition

Hematology/oncology

Neurology and neurosurgery

Newborn medicine

Otolaryngology

Pulmonology

Surgery

# Children's Health Investigators Fund Recipients

The Children's Health Investigators Fund is a vital source of support for early-career scientists, providing the funds needed for our pediatric investigators to establish promising preliminary results and then qualify for large-scale federal grants. In August 2020, \$250,500 from the Investigators Fund was distributed to support the research projects below.

## Dr. Avital Falk

Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Director, Behavioral Health and Integration in Pediatrics



Dr. Avital Falk's work focuses on novel ways to increase access to evidence-based services for anxiety and depression in youth. Since 2017, Dr. Falk and her team have been developing and expanding Maya, an app-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) program that delivers state-of-the-art mental health treatment to youth with anxiety.

This year, Dr. Falk and her team have focused on reprogramming the app to make the content customizable and tailored to each user's specific psychological needs. New app modules teach evidence-based techniques like cognitive restructuring, relaxation and breathing, as well as exercises to improve sleep hygiene and problem-solving skills.

The team is also launching a research study that examines which incentives – gamification, loss aversion or social support – keep youth most engaged. Through this study, they will ensure the maximum benefit for their young patients. As Dr. Falk and her team continue their development of Maya, they plan to disseminate the app more broadly to expand access to quality, personalized mental health care for youth.

"It has been an honor to get to know members of the CHC. The Investigators Fund **advances our research so we can provide cutting-edge care to youth and families.**"

## Dr. Jacqueline Gofshteyn

Instructor in Pediatric Neurology



Dr. Jacqueline Gofshteyn's research aims to understand the immune mechanisms underlying pediatric rheumatologic and neurologic diseases. She is focused on identifying immune biomarkers for disease activity in juvenile dermatomyositis, a disease that can leave children with profound muscle weakness, rash and multiple organ failure. To identify biomarkers, Dr. Gofshteyn looks at differences in cell types and gene expression found in children affected by juvenile dermatomyositis compared with healthy children or children with other autoimmune diseases.

Her long-term goal is to integrate these same approaches to the study of biomarkers for disease activity in severe epilepsy syndromes and other seizure-related disorders. Dr. Gofshteyn and her team have advanced the development of a pediatric seizure disorders biorepository that includes blood samples from children with epilepsy, first-time seizures or symptomatic seizures. Uncovering biomarkers for disease activity can help doctors better manage diseases such as juvenile dermatomyositis and seizure-related disorders and may lead to new, groundbreaking treatments.

"Generous support from donors to the Investigators Fund has **strengthened my dedication to research and our ability to bring innovative therapies to children.** This Fund is instrumental to the success of young investigators."

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*As of June 30, 2021*

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