

Core Faculty

Brian Carter, MD, board-certified neonatologist with training in ethics and palliative care, is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Medicine, who joined the staff at Children's Mercy in July of 2012 with responsibilities in both Neonatology and the Bioethics Center. Dr. Carter received his M.D. from the University of Tennessee, College of Medicine in 1983 and completed his residency in pediatrics at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado. After a year as a general pediatrician, he completed a 3-year fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver. He spent 13 years in the US Army Medical Corps and is a 1991 Gulf War veteran. Throughout his career, he has served on the faculty of 4 medical schools – the Universities of Colorado and Georgia, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, and Vanderbilt. He has received recognition in both palliative care and perinatal ethics, has authored over 100 journal articles and 30 book chapters, and has co-edited 3 texts – two in pediatric palliative care and one in neonatology. He has previously served on the National Perinatal Association's Board of Directors, and is the immediate past Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In 2018 he became the Sirridge Endowed Professor of Medical Humanities & Bioethics at UMKC.

Jeremy Garrett, PhD, joined the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center in May, 2010 as Research Associate in Bioethics. He also holds appointments as Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Adjunct Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dr. Garrett received his PhD in Philosophy from Rice University where he served for several years as Managing Editor of the *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*. His areas of specialization include pediatric bioethics, genetic and genomic ethics, and the historical, methodological, and philosophical foundations of bioethics. Dr. Garrett has published more than 30 journal articles and book chapters and has edited books on the ethics of animal research and the historical development of bioethics in the United States. Dr. Garrett serves on the hospital Ethics Committee at Children's Mercy and organizes the hospital's monthly Ethics Brown Bag Workshop Series. Outside the hospital, he serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* and is Chair of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities' Philosophy Affinity Group.

Angie Knackstedt, BSN, RN-BC is Health Literacy & Bioethics Clinical Coordinator at Children's Mercy Kansas City. She serves as Co-Chair of the Nursing Ethics Forum (NEF) at Children's Mercy Hospital, which is a unique forum created in 1988 to provide resources and support for nursing staff at Children's Mercy and to assist nurses in dealing with ethical issues. She has given presentations on the NEF model of nursing ethics engagement and ethics champion programs at the annual meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and the National Nursing Ethics Conference as well as other national meetings in nursing and nursing ethics. Angie was also a member of the Pediatric Certificate Program inaugural class. She is Co-Director of the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics Program and serves on the hospital's Ethics Committee. She coordinates Children's Mercy health literacy efforts through her work with the Office of Equity and Diversity. She focuses on the health of children, injury prevention, health policy and education as a board member of Kansas Action for Children and a nurse planner for health professional education throughout the Kansas City Community.

John Lantos, MD, is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the Director of the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center (CMBC). Dr. Lantos spent 21 years at the University of Chicago where he served as Chief of the Division of General Pediatrics and Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. He received his M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. After a residency at Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and two years in the US Public Health Service, he accepted a Fellowship in Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago. Ten years ago, he was named as the John B. Francis Chair in Bioethics at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City. In 2009, he started the CMBC at Children's Mercy. It was only the second pediatric bioethics center in the country. He has served as president of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics and the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities. He has written or

edited seven books and has published more than 300 journal articles and book chapters. He has appeared on Oprah, Larry King Live and Nightline, and was named one of the best pediatricians in the Midwest by Ladies Home Journal.

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Jill Beck, MD, is a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. She received her MD from Case Western Reserve University and completed her residency in pediatrics at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. She completed a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology/BMT at the University of Minnesota. Jill is a 2014 graduate of the Children's Mercy Certificate in Bioethics. She currently serves as co-chair of the Children's Hospital & Medical Center ethics committee.

Siri Fuglem Berg, M.D., Ph.D. is Head of Public Health, Municipality of Gjøvik, Norway. Prior to her current role, Dr. Berg worked as an anesthesiologist at Innlandet Hospital Trust, Oslo, Norway. She is a 2014 graduate of the Certificate Program in Pediatric Bioethics. Dr. Berg is co-founder of the International Trisomy Alliance (ITA), mother of Evy Kristine full trisomy 18 and author of "Evy Kristine: A Beautiful Journey". In 2018 she received an award in Norway for her efforts to raise awareness of rare trisomy conditions and fight for trisomy children's right to medical interventions on equal terms with other children. She currently serves on the Gjøvik department of health ethics committee and is about to finish a program for MDs specializing in public health. More information on Siri can be found on the ITA website: <http://www.internationaltrisomyalliance.com/ita-founders.html>.

Amy E. Caruso Brown, MD, MSc, MScS, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Bioethics and Humanities at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, where she is practicing pediatric oncologist, a clinical ethics consultant, and the co-director of Foundations of Reasoning in Medicine, a required longitudinal course for medical students encompassing bioethics, public health, and related fields. Prior to joining the faculty at Upstate, she received a medical degree from Emory University, a master's degree in medical anthropology from the University of Oxford, and a master's degree in clinical science from the University of Colorado, and completed residency training in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Children's Hospital Colorado and fellowship training in pediatric hematology/oncology at the Children's Hospital Colorado. Her current research interests include the problems of legal action as a response to treatment refusal for childhood cancer, the impact of social media on trust and the family-provider relationship, and the role of social justice in health professions education. She completed the Certificate in Pediatrics Bioethics in 2017.

Julie Cakici, BA, BSN, RN, is the Project Manager at Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine in San Diego. Formerly a part of the Children's Mercy Precision Medicine Research team, the Genome Center, and the Bioethics Center investigating the clinical utility of whole genome sequencing for acutely ill newborns along with the ethical, legal, and social implications of such testing. Prior to working in genomic research, was a pediatric emergency nurse. Julie received a BA in Liberal Arts, a classical Great Books education, from St. John's College. After receiving a BS in Nursing from Rockhurst University- Research College of Nursing, Julie went on to complete the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics, class of 2013. Currently pursuing an MPH in Epidemiology. Julie was an active member of CMH's Nursing Ethics Forum, she was a member of a taskforce to provide genetic and genomic education to the bedside nurses at CMH. She also worked for several years with JVS, a local refugee resettlement agency in Kansas City, to promote health education with newly resettled refugees.

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Michael Deem, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), holding a joint appointment in the School of Nursing and Center for Healthcare Ethics. At Duquesne, Michael teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and healthcare ethics, and he participates on the hospital ethics committees at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, UPMC Presbyterian, and UPMC Shadyside. He is also an affiliate faculty member of the Indiana State University M.S. Genetic Counseling program. Michael was the 2015-16 Pediatric Ethics and Genomics Fellow at Children's Mercy Hospital, and before that he received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. He lives in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania with his wife, Katerina, and their four children. Michael's faculty webpage: <http://www.duq.edu/academics/faculty/michael-deem>

Denise Dowd, MD, MPH, is an attending physician in the emergency department of the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri and is Associate Medical Director of the Office for Faculty Development there. She is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and adjunct Professor at the University of Kansas. Dr. Dowd has practiced in critical care hospital settings for over 30 years, starting as a nurse in urban Detroit. She has been in her current position for 22 years and her contributions to injury prevention research, education and child advocacy have spanned 25 years. She has received numerous honors including Mayor's declarations from the cities of Cincinnati and Kansas City, Missouri Communicator of the Year Award, and Gold Foundation Humanitarian Award. She has been active volunteer for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for many years, serving on numerous projects and committees as well as representing the AAP in Congressional testimony. At the AAP she helps lead project to address early childhood adversity and is a primary author for the AAP's firearm injury prevention policy statement.

Larissa Hines, MD, completed her Pediatrics Residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and is currently in the final year of her fellowship training in Child Abuse Pediatrics at the University of Utah. She currently serves on the hospital's ethics committee and is completing a certificate in Conflict Resolution. Her interests include ethics education, ethical considerations in child abuse, specifically medical neglect, mandatory reporting and abusive head trauma. She has two young children and enjoys adventures and the outdoors.

Amber Hoffman, MD, co-founded the Children's Mercy Beacon Program, a nationally recognized patient-centered primary care medical home for children with the most complex special needs and their siblings in Kansas City, MO. The Beacon team communicates with health care providers in clinics, hospitals, schools, and at home to coordinate care and assist with transition throughout the health care system. She is currently the Associate Chief of General Academic Pediatrics, Medical Director of Hospital Medicine, and the Program Director for the Pediatric Residency Training Program at Nemours Children's Hospital (NCH) in Orlando, Florida. She also started the Medically Complex Coordination Clinic at NCH and serves on their ethics committee.

Charlotte Jacobsen, RN, MSN, is the Service Line Director of Allergy/Immunology at Children's Mercy Hospital. She trained as a nurse in the United Kingdom and worked at leading pediatric hospitals in the UK including the Sick Children's Hospital at Great Ormond Street, London. Charlotte is a member of CM's Nursing Ethics Forum and serves on the Equity and Diversity Council. Charlotte is a graduate of the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics, class of 2013.

Dr. Azanna Ahmad Kamar currently holds the position of Senior Lecturer and Consultant Neonatologist at University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. She is a University of Malaya MBBS graduate and spent her paediatric training years at Paediatric Institute Hospital Kuala Lumpur, with subsequent training in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland. Whilst in central Dublin, she received further training whilst working at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin, the Coombe Women and Infants' University Hospital, and the Rotunda Hospital. She was also trained as a member of the Irish National Neonatal

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Transport Programme (NNTP) team. At present, as the head of the neonatal intensive care unit of University of Malaya Medical Centre, she teaches medical and biomedical engineering students. Her interests are in demographics of infant diseases, management of neonatal and paediatric ethical dilemmas, Cochrane collaboration & systematic reviews, targeted therapeutic/health interventions, infant resuscitation & ventilation, growth and nutrition, and the development of technological advances applicable to neonatology. She is also a keen bioethicist and had received her certificate in Paediatric Bioethics Programme from Children's Mercy Hospital in affiliation with the University of Missouri, Kansas City, USA in the year 2016. She is also a past President of the Perinatal Society of Malaysia 2016/2017, and had led several activities to further uphold and strengthen perinatal health in Malaysia. She is married with one child.

Erwin Jiayuan Khoo is Lecturer of Paediatrics at International Medical University (IMU), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He was an undergraduate at IMU (graduated 2006) and completed postgraduate training in paediatrics through the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), United Kingdom in 2012. He was appointed Board of Director and Consultant Paediatrician at Baby and Beyond Child Specialist Clinic, Kuala Lumpur in 2014 and served as a pro bono Consultant Paediatrician in Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar, Seremban (HTJS). In 2016, he was appointed as a Council Member of the College of Paediatrics, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia, and as a President of the IMU Alumni Association. His areas of clinical and research interest are paediatric bioethics, medical education, and ambulatory paediatrics. In the bioethics arena, Dr Khoo was certified in Pediatric Bioethics (2016) from the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center in affiliation with University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine as a Claire Giannini Trust International Scholarship Recipient.

Stefan Kutzsche, MD, is a pediatrician and anesthesiologist with a longstanding broad clinical experience, and combines both administrative and educational skills. He came from the Department of Neonatal Intensive Care Medicine, at Ulleval Oslo University Hospital to join International Medical University in Malaysia in April 2014. He completed his MSc in Health Professionals Education at the University of Maastricht in 2011, Master in Health Management (MHA) at the University of Oslo in 2006 and his PhD in neonatology in 2002. He is certified in multicultural pedagogy and received the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics in 2013. He was formerly the editor of the Journal of the Norwegian Pediatric Association. His main interests are neonatal intensive care medicine, pediatric bioethics, workplace based learning, clinical teaching at the bedside, clinical supervision, reflective learning and decision making. [Watch Stefan discuss the Certificate Program.](#)

Drew Lasky, MD: "For my day job I care for children with Rheumatic diseases. I've been doing it now for 21 years. My involvement in ethics started a little later. I was a member of the ethics committee at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City for nine years, 4 years of which I was Chair. I participated as a member of the ethics consult team for 8 years. I moved myself and family out to Portland Oregon in 2013 to work at Randall Children's Hospital and live in the Pacific Northwest. I helped develop and start an ethics consult service in 2014 for which I serve as the director. I continue to have a strong interest in clinical ethics consultation and the best way to provide ethics support to staff, patients and their families."

Jennifer (Jenni) Linebarger, MD, MPH, FAAP, joined the faculty at Children's Mercy in 2011, and is board-certified in Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is the Medical Director of the Palliative Care Team (PaCT) at Children's Mercy, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, site director for the Pediatric Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship (in conjunction with the University of Kansas), and serves on the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In her AAP role, she helped write the [Resilience in the Face of Grief and Loss curriculum](#).

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Matthew Mayer, MD, double-board certified in Pediatrics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is an Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado where he joined the staff of Children's Hospital Colorado in 2016. Dr. Mayer received his M.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 2005 and completed his combined-residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was faculty in the department of Pediatric Rehabilitation at Children's Mercy Kansas City from 2010-2016. His clinical focus is caring for children with disabling conditions such as muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy and brain injury. His ethical interests include decision making for children with disabilities. He completed the Pediatric Bioethics Certificate program in 2013 and served on the Children's Mercy Hospital ethics committee from 2013-2016. He is also a member of the American Academy of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine's Ethics and Peer Review Committee.

Donna D. McKlindon MSN, PMHCNS-BC, is the Associate Director for the Department of Medical Ethics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and co-chair of the Hospital Ethics Committee. Donna is a graduate of the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics Course, class of 2012.

A graduate of the University of Michigan (BSN) and the University of Pennsylvania (MSN), Donna has held a variety of positions in pediatric nursing over the past 39 years, including Clinical Nurse Specialist for Mental Health. A primary focus of the CNS-MH role was the education and support of staff in the delivery of family centered care and development of well boundaried parent/professional partnerships. In addition to advocating for the mental health and wellness of staff, patients and families on unit, organizational and systems levels, the CNS- MH provided guidance and support to staff around issues related to self-preservation, work/life integration, team and group dynamics, communication and the management of patient/family/staff relationships. Much of this work has carried over into her current role in the DME at CHOP.

Donna has published and spoken nationally on the topics of family centered care, Therapeutic Relationships and the impact of social media on health care.

DeeJo Miller is a Patient and Family Engagement Program Manager at Children's Mercy Hospital in the Center for Clinical Effectiveness. Her entry into children's health care came in 2004 when her thirteen year old daughter was diagnosed with cancer. Over the next two years, she spent over 300 days inpatient and saw thirty different specialists with her daughter. In 2007 she joined the Family Advisory Board at Children's Mercy as a volunteer and in 2008 was hired to serve as a voice for families who come to Children's Mercy. Her role in the hospital has evolved to managing over 100 Patient Family Advisors and more than 10 Patient Family Advisory Councils to ensure that the perspective of patients and families is infused from the bedside to the boardroom.

Her interest in ethics comes from her experiences as a parent of a child with medical needs and subsequently her experiences of working with the staff that care for these children. DeeJo is a member of the Ethics committee and a graduate of the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics, class of 2015.

Laura Miller-Smith, MD, is a board-certified pediatrician and pediatric critical care physician. She received her residency and fellowship training at Washington University in St. Louis/St. Louis Children's Hospital, before coming to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City as one of their intensivists. She is currently an Assistant Professor at University of Missouri-Kansas City. Laura is particularly interested in the ethical dilemmas that are encountered in the pediatric intensive care unit, and graduated from the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics Course in 2014. She now serves as Vice Chair of the Hospital Ethics Committee.

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Martha Montello, PhD, Martha Montello is creator and director of the Medical Writing Center at Children's Mercy Hospital. She is also faculty at the Center for Bioethics and the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and holds a visiting professorship at University of Pavia, Italy. Dr. Montello is Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*. She lectures nationally and internationally on literature and medicine and narrative approaches to bioethics. Her scholarship has been published widely in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Hastings Center Report*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Clinical Ethics*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Academic Medicine*, *New Orleans Review*, and the *Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. She is co-editor of *Stories Matter: The Role of Narrative in Medical Ethics*.

Laura Murkin, PharmD, is a pediatric clinical pharmacist II at Children's Mercy Kansas City. Laura represents the pharmacist perspective as a faculty member. Laura graduated from the program in 2016. In addition to her work in pharmacy in bioethics, Laura is involved in the Education Department as a faculty member.

Doug Myers, MD, works in the Division of Hematology & Oncology at Children's Mercy Hospital. A specialist in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, he has been a member of the Ethics Committee for several years and currently serves as chair of the committee. Dr. Myers' recent interest in ethics has focused on the ethical conduct of research, which builds on his experience as a hematology/oncology fellow participating on the Baylor College of Medicine Institutional Review Board, Data Review Committees, and Protocol Review Committees at the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy in Houston, Texas.

Henry (Hank) Puls, MD, is a pediatric hospitalist at Children's Mercy Hospital. He completed his pediatric residency training at Doernbecher Children's Hospital at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Puls spends most of his time caring for general inpatients, including children with chronic complex medical conditions. He also has the opportunity to collaborate with the following specialties: gastroenterology, rehab medicine, neurosurgery, and orthopedic surgery services. Dr. Puls has had an interest in ethics since undergraduate studies and realized the importance of additional training during his residency. He serves on the Children's Mercy Ethics Committee. Dr. Puls earned his Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics in 2013. His areas of professional ethics interest include general pediatrics research and those ethical dilemmas commonly encountered by the pediatric hospitalist: abuse & neglect, best interest, palliative care, and the effects of healthcare providers' moral distress and biases on patient care.

Cathy Shubkin, MD, is a general pediatrician at Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. Her training includes an MD from George Washington University and internship/residency at Children's Hospital Seattle and Boston Medical Center. She has worked in both urban and rural underserved primary care clinics. She has been in New Hampshire since 2008 where she is the Associate Program Director for the pediatric residency program, a clinical consultant on the hospital ethics committee, and the director of the pediatric bioethics curriculum. Her interests in ethics include all things in outpatient general pediatrics, adolescent decision making and ethics education in residency training. Cathy received the Children's Mercy Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics in 2017.

Stacy C. Smith, MLS, BSN, RN, CHPPN, is the Clinical Ethicist at Children's Health in Dallas, Tx. Stacy worked for over a decade in pediatric hospice and palliative care. She has a Masters of Liberal Studies in Bioethics from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas and is a 2017 graduate of the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics Program. Stacy is currently working on another graduate degree in Dispute Resolution/Conflict Management at SMU. In addition to her clinical ethics responsibilities, Stacy has developed a moral distress consult program at Children's.

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Dane Sommer, DMin, MDiv, BCC, is the Director of Chaplaincy Services at Children's Mercy Hospital. He is active in counseling patients and clinicians regarding the ethical issues in organ transplantation. Dr. Sommer does ongoing work on the theology of suffering. He served as a long-standing member of the hospital Ethics Committee.

Beth Sonnevile, MDiv, BCC, is a Staff Chaplain at Children's Mercy Hospital working weekdays, working as the chaplain coordinator for our 4-room Fetal Health Center, as a chaplain in the Intensive Care Nursery and on the general Med/Surg units. She has five years prior experience in hospice care at a 32-bed facility. Beth earned the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics in 2016 with a literature review on the Medical Intervention of Children with Gender Dysphoria.

Vince Staggs, PhD, is a biostatistician and health services researcher at Children's Mercy. Previously he was on biostatistics faculty at the University of Kansas Medical Center. My wife and I have 5 children (4 by birth, 1 adopted through China's special needs program). My interests include decision-making regarding treatment of extremely premature babies, research ethics, and the epistemic processes through which people collect and use information to assess risk, make judgments and decisions, and draw conclusions about what is true. I am also working (slowly) on an MDiv.

Meghan Strenk, MS, CGC, is a Genetic Counselor II in the CMH Division of Clinical Genetics, where she has been a practicing clinical genetic counselor since July 2007. In that time, she has worked in both general genetics/dysmorphology to coordinate genetic testing and other evaluations for patients with physical or intellectual disabilities, and in metabolic genetics following up on Kansas and Missouri state newborn screens and helping diagnose and manage children with inborn errors of metabolism or other biochemical disorders. She is a 2015 graduate of the CMH Bioethics Center's Pediatric Bioethics Certificate, and is a member of the CMH Ethics Committee. As a genetic counselor with additional training and interest in ethics, Meghan has specialized experience in the complexities of genetic testing and diagnosis of genetic testing in families, and the numerous complex ethical issues associated with these complexities, including consent/assent, cost of testing, ambiguity, variants of unknown significance/incidental findings, usefulness, and potential pitfalls of results. She also has a strong interest in allocation of resources, access to helpful and appropriate genetic testing for all patients, and effective use of genetic testing technologies to help make diagnoses for families.

Erin Thomasma, LMSW, LCSW, is currently the weekend/overnight Social Worker for Children's Mercy Hospital which serves all areas of the hospital. Erin's time is spent primarily in the Critical Care and Emergency Departments. She previously was the Neurology & Epilepsy Center Social Worker and worked closely with the Palliative Care Team. Erin also spends time in the Neurosurgery, Infectious Disease and Dermatology Outpatient Clinics. Each of these experiences has drawn her towards taking a deeper look at Social Work policy and practice in the medical setting. Erin earned the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics in 2015, having completed her project focusing on a Child Abuse & Neglect Policy.

Andrea M. Vandeven, MD, MPH, is a pediatrician with fellowship training in Behavioral Pediatrics and Child Abuse. She was a member of the CMH Ethics Committee from 2008-2016. She recently returned to Boston Children's Hospital where she is a consultant with the Child Protection Team and a member of the Ethics Advisory Committee.

Vanessa Watkins, MPH, FACHE, CHES, serves as Administrative Director of the Certificate Program in Pediatric Bioethics. In 2015, Vanessa earned the Certificate in Pediatric Bioethics from the Children's Mercy Bioethics Center; her project and paper focused on vaccine hesitant parents. Vanessa serves on several hospital committees including as Co-Chair of the Children's Mercy Council on Violence Prevention (and member of the Peer Violence subcommittee (bullying)), and the Physician Marketing Committee. Vanessa is board-certified in health care administration as a Fellow (FACHE)

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through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). She is a recipient of the ACHE Early Careerist Healthcare Executive Regent's Award, the San Diego Organization of Healthcare Leaders Outstanding Board Member Award and the ACHE Service Award. Vanessa received the San Diego State University Health Services Administration AMI Distinguished Graduating Student Award. She has over 10 years of progressive experience in health care program management, strategic planning and community benefits, primarily for Children's Mercy and Sharp HealthCare.

Jasmine Williams, MD, completed her pediatric residency at Tulane/OLOL. She then went on to complete a year fellowship in Neonatology at the University of Maryland before realizing her true passion was pediatric palliative and hospice medicine. She went on to complete a pediatric hospice and medicine fellowship at the University of Florida and is currently a pediatric palliative and hospice medicine physician at Johns Hopkins All Children's in Florida. She completed the bioethics course last year and serves on the hospital ethics committee. Her interests include perinatal and neonatal palliative care, integrative medicine, and resident education. When not seeing patients, she enjoys cooking and traveling.

Susan H. Wootton, MD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas (UT) Medical School at Houston and member of UT's Center for Clinical Research and Evidence Based Medicine. A graduate of Washington and Lee University and the Medical College of Georgia (1997), she completed her residency at the University of Virginia (2000). She served as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for two years (2000-2002) during which time she participated in the Stop Transmission of Polio Program in Nepal. After CDC, she completed her 3 year pediatric infectious disease fellowship (2002-2005) at Texas Children's Hospital during which time she investigated the molecular epidemiology of tuberculosis and epidemiology of children hospitalized with rhinovirus infection. After her fellowship, she completed a 1 yr. post-doctoral fellowship in vaccinology at the University of British Columbia's Vaccine Evaluation Center in Vancouver, B.C. where she received extensive training in surveillance and vaccine trials. Since joining UT in 2007, Dr. Wootton has been involved in all levels of teaching (medical students, residents, fellows and faculty) and her research focuses on vaccine-preventable infections. She currently serves as Co-Chair for the Texas Pediatric Society Infectious Disease Committee and board member for The Immunization Partnership.

Jihad Zahraa, MD, is the Chairman of the Pediatric Critical Care Department, King Fahad Medical City, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Previously, he has held positions in UAE and KSA. Originally from Syria, he graduated from Damascus University Medical School. Dr. Zahraa completed his pediatric residency at St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan, completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois and completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan. He is a 2014 graduate of the Children's Mercy Certificate Program in Pediatric Bioethics. He is board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care Medicine.