

# Children's Specialized Hospital The Research Center Newsletter



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## Welcome!

The Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) Research Center Newsletter provides an overview of research conducted at CSH. We will regularly share information about CSH studies, lectures, and resources. Each issue features a CSH researcher, a CSH patient/family participating in our studies, and upcoming events and activities. We would like to keep you in the loop so please reach out with any suggestions or questions.

## About The Research Center

Children's Specialized Hospital has five research areas:

[Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

[Brain Injury](#)

[Chronic Health Conditions](#)

[Cognition](#)

[Mobility](#)

## Join Our Studies

Several research studies are actively recruiting participants. To see which studies you may be eligible to join and to learn more about how to participate, see [autism](#), [brain injury](#), [chronic health conditions](#), [cognition](#), and [mobility](#) studies.

## Researcher Highlight

In each Center newsletter, we will highlight a CSH Researcher, their current research, and inspiration.

### Meet Dr. Joman Y. Natsheh

Dr. Natsheh, a physician-neuroscientist, is the Research Lead for the Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics section of Children's Specialized Hospital. She is also a Research Assistant Professor at Rutgers University Medical School and a Visiting Scientist at Kessler Foundation. Her research focuses on characterizing cognitive and brain function patterns of different neurodevelopmental disorders. She leads the efforts to establish a research nucleus at the Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics section. In particular, she focuses on building original research studies and collaborations, while engaging the clinical staff who are interested in research. Dr. Natsheh's role will be a model that we aspire to replicate in different CSH medical sections.

Watch this [video](#) to learn more about what drives Dr. Natsheh to pursue research.

Here is a sample of Dr. Natsheh's [recent publications](#).



Dr. Joman Y. Natsheh

## Featured CSH Patient/Family

At CSH, our focus is on research that expands understanding and explores new treatments and therapies for our patients. In each issue, we feature a CSH patient/family involved in research.

### Meet the Marin family

[Listen](#) to why the Marin family became involved in research and joined the [SPARK research study](#).



## Distinguished Lecture Series

Our next Distinguished Lecture Series webinar is July 22, 2021, entitled **“Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Among Children: From Evidence-Based Guidelines to Emerging Research”**



Speaker: **Angela Lumba-Brown, MD**, Stanford University

Dr. Lumba-Brown is a pediatric emergency medicine physician with expertise in neuroscience and neurocritical emergencies. She is a national expert on traumatic brain injury and has led several recent large guideline projects. A member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, she is also the co-director of the Stanford Brain Performance Center where she works to advance the neuroscience of childhood development, injury, and aging through prevention, novel biomarker discovery and other diagnostics, and treatments. [Register for the virtual Distinguished Lecture here.](#)

## Deeper Dive: SPARK

*SPARK is the largest  
ASD research study in  
the United States*

In each issue, we will take a deeper dive on a specific CSH research study. This month's focus is on the SPARK (Simons Powering Autism Research) project. SPARK is funded by the Simons Foundation and is for people with ASD of any age, living in the US, and their families. CSH is one of 31 clinical sites participating in SPARK. SPARK's goal is to speed up understanding of ASD by collecting information from surveys and DNA to find possible genetic causes of autism, power future autism research on a wide variety of topics, and build a growing community of individuals, families, and researchers. Currently, over 27,000 families with ASD have joined SPARK. Participants can enroll online from home and are eligible to receive gift cards for submitting saliva or other survey completion. [See more information on SPARK here](#) or call 908-301-5958

## CSH Recent Publications

Research at CSH was highlighted in recent issues of the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. In a study by Drs. Myriam Casseus and JenFu Cheng, healthcare utilization of children with cerebral palsy was examined. They found that children with CP have high prevalence of chronic health conditions and are also more likely to have unmet need for care coordination. This underscores the importance of effective care coordination in this population.

Read the study abstract [here](#) and watch the video abstract [here](#).

Drs. Manny Jimenez and Jill Harris, together with Drs. Caroline Coffield and Deborah Spitalnik (Principal Investigator) from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, conducted a study to better understand the experiences of Latino parents of young children newly diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Parents described several barriers with implications for clinical practice. Read the study abstract [here](#) and watch the [video abstract](#).

See the full list of CSH research publications [here](#).

## Upcoming Events and Conferences

[2021 Virtual World Congress on Brain Injury](#) virtual July 28-July 30, 2021.

[American Psychological Association](#) virtual annual conference August 12-14, 2021.

[Brain Injury Association of the US](#) upcoming webinars

[4th International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury](#) Oct 6-9, 2021. In person, New York City, NY

## Contact Us

To learn more about our research, if you are interested in discussing potential collaborations, or if you have questions or comments, please contact us at:

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