

Children's Specialized Hospital Research Center Newsletter



April 2021

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Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Children's Specialized Hospital (CSH) Research Center Newsletter. This 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

The Children's Specialized Hospital Research Center aims to advance pediatric rehabilitation by conducting and supporting scientific research that explores innovative interventions, technologies and approaches to specialized care for children and adolescents.

The Center focuses on five core areas:

[Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

[Brain Injury](#)

[Chronic Health Conditions](#)

[Cognition](#)

[Mobility](#)

*CSH has 5 core
research areas*

The Center offers training programs for students and early career research scientists through research [internships](#) and the [postdoctoral fellowship](#) program. Students represent universities across the country. This year's spring research interns are students studying neuroscience, pharmacy, and public health.

The Center sponsors the quarterly Distinguished Lecture Series, a free research education program for health care professionals to learn about cutting edge research in autism spectrum disorder, brain injury, chronic health conditions, cognition and mobility

Researcher Highlight

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

Meet Dr. Manny Jimenez

Dr. Jimenez is a Developmental Pediatrician at the New Brunswick Plum Street location of Children's Specialized Hospital. He is also Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Family Medicine and Community Health at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Chancellor's Scholar, and Director of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Education with the NJ Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Education (NJ LEND). Dr. Jimenez is a leader in making the health system more responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. His research has focused on understanding the relationship between early adversity and child development, improving access to developmental services and therapies for young children, literacy promotion within the Latinx community, and promoting optimal child development in the medical home.

Dr. Jimenez is the principal investigator for a \$5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to improve access to COVID-19 testing to underserved and vulnerable populations. Read about the project [here](#). Watch this [video](#) to learn more about what drives Dr. Jimenez to pursue research.

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

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Luciana & her family

Featured CSH Patient/Family

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

Meet Luciana Mendes-McGuire

[Listen](#) to why Luciana Mendes-McGuire and her family became involved in research.

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.

Distinguished Lecture Series

[Our most recent Distinguished Lecture Series webinar: March 29th, 2021, entitled “**Genomic discoveries prompt new questions and new opportunities in cerebral palsy.**”](#)

Speaker: **Michael C. Kruer, MD**, from Phoenix Children's Hospital

Dr. Kruer is a neurodevelopmental disabilities pediatrician and child neurologist who spoke about genetics associated with cerebral palsy and potential of personalized medicine and linkage to treatment.

Deeper Dive: Pediatric Quality of Life Study

In each issue, we will take a deeper dive on a specific CSH research study. This month's focus is on the Pediatric Quality of Life (PedsQL) research project. The PedsQL project analyzes patient and caregiver reports of quality of life at admission and discharge from CSH services. The PedsQL is a validated instrument designed to measure health related quality of life and is intended for healthy, acute and chronically ill populations. CSH has been collecting data since 2015. At present, data from children and caregivers of children diagnosed with both ASD and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is under investigation.

How does a dual diagnosis of ASD and ADHD affect caregiver perceptions of their child's quality of life?

CSH Recent Publications

CSH experts and researchers have significantly contributed to the field of specialized care for children and adolescents. One method of contribution is through publication of high-quality research that can advance the understanding of many pediatric conditions, and contribute to increased quality of life of children with disabilities.

The number of CSH research publications in peer-reviewed journals continues to grow. See the full list of CSH research publications [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Conferences

[Ready for a good night's sleep: What you need to know about sleep, autism and SPARK](#)

April 15, 2021

[Autism Science Foundation Annual Day of Learning](#)

April 22nd, 2021

[International Society of Autism Research \(INSAR\) Annual Meeting](#)

May 3rd – 7th, 2021, Boston

[International Conference of Autism Research](#)

June 3rd – 4th, 2021, New York

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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