

Conquer Childhood Disease at UC Irvine :

Adopt a Doc for Discovery **Department of Pediatrics**

Because we care about your children

The UC Irvine Department of Pediatrics is proud to have very talented young clinician-researchers who will make discoveries that will improve the lives of children in Orange County and beyond.

Make a difference in the lives of children through supporting new discoveries.

Adopt a Doc for Discovery

\$150,000

A gift at this level will allow a donor to support an up and coming physician/researcher, selected by the Department Chair. This will allow some of our most promising young faculty time to allocate to medical research for two years. The researcher will write a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to seek support to continue the research after the first two years. Donors will be invited to meet with the researcher at the end of the year for a report on their findings and how the gift was leveraged to lead to an even greater amount of research over time.



Myriam Almeida-Jones, M.D. *Cardiology*

Dr. Almeida-Jones is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Almeida-Jones received her BA from Wesleyan University, where she was awarded the Phillip B. Brown Prize and highest honor thesis upon graduation. She obtained her medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine, where she received the Foundation of Cabo Verde Grant for significant academic achievement. She subsequently completed two years of obstetrics and gynecology postgraduate training at the Hospital for University of Pennsylvania and a postdoctoral research and fellowship training in pediatric cardiology at the Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. Dr. Almeida-Jones then elected to move west in order to pursue an additional fellowship year in advanced non-invasive cardiovascular imaging in pediatric cardiology at the Texas Children's Hospital (Baylor College of Medicine).

Research:

- Etiology and predictors of development of congenital heart disease
- Developmental genetics, prenatal screening and cardiac imaging

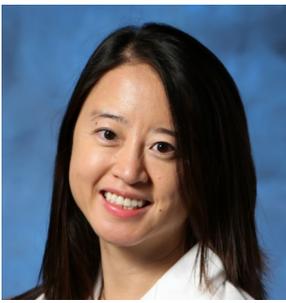


Muhammad Aslam, M.D. *Neonatal Medicine*

Dr. Aslam is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and a Staff Neonatologist in the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Division at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Aslam completed his Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School where he served as Chief Fellow during last year of his fellowship. Dr. Aslam is a Board-certified Pediatrician and Neonatologist. Dr. Aslam's main research focus is to define the cellular mechanisms of lung injury and repair in prematurely born infants, with a special focus on neonatal chronic lung disease also known as bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).

Research:

- Investigate the role of bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) and their cell culture to improve lung development in mouse models of BPD.
- Characterize markers in the tracheal fluid of premature infants and determine their role in BPD in order to identify important predictors for the disease and develop lung-sparing therapies, with a goal of improving outcomes for premature babies at risk for BPD.



Jen Jen Chen, M.D. *Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center*

Board-certified in pediatrics, Dr. Jen Jen Chen is a Pediatric Pulmonologist and is actively interested in exercise research, biometric monitoring, data science and digital health. Future plans include obtaining a masters in Data Science and starting an asthma mobile application/telemedicine clinic.

Research:

- Evaluating novel exercise protocols for cystic fibrosis children, which was presented at the CHEST conference, and was selected to attend the American Thoracic Society Fellows Symposium.
- JustStreamIt, a pilot telerehabilitation program for pediatric cystic fibrosis patients. She is co-founder of Super Kids Sunday and Get Fit Expo, a charity 5K for childhood obesity awareness, in collaboration with Millers Children's hospital and UCI Pediatrics.



Natalie Gallant, M.D. *Division of Genetics and Metabolism*

Dr. Gallant is a clinical geneticist and medical biochemical geneticist with the aspiration of becoming an independent investigator in patient-reported outcomes in the field of inborn errors of metabolism. She is currently a trainee of the Urea Cycle Disorders Consortium.

Research:

- Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in children and adults with urea cycle disorders (UCD). HRQOL is being assessed using a mixed methods approach of quantitative analysis of patient-reported outcome measures and qualitative analysis of interviews with patients and families.
- The research being carried out directly engages the community of UCD patients and advocates. The multidisciplinary research team includes experts in biostatistics, patient-reported outcomes research and sociology. Aims of this work include determining which factors impact HRQOL most in individuals with UCD and identifying factors affecting HRQOL that are not included in generic measures of HRQOL.



Kim Lu, M.D. *Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center*

Dr. Lu is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at University of California, Irvine. She completed her medical degree at Tufts University School of Medicine, her pediatrics residency at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her pediatric pulmonary fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Lu is currently a physician-researcher with the UCI Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center. Her research interests include the link between asthma and obesity in children and the effects of obesity on asthmatic children.

Research:

- Understanding the link between obesity and asthma in children in underserved communities and investigating ways to improve therapies and cures, including healthy lifestyles and changing nutrition and exercise behaviors.
- Translate research from the laboratory to benefit children and families in the community .



Candice Taylor Lucas, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center

Dr. Taylor Lucas is a board certified pediatrician and Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. She works clinically in the pediatric clinics at the UC Irvine Health Family Health Centers in the cities of Santa Ana and Anaheim, and in the newborn nursery at UC Irvine Health Douglas Hospital in the city of Orange. She is passionate about addressing the health needs of youth in low-income communities and is supported by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County and Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center to develop early child obesity prevention programs and promote, evaluate and disseminate evidence based information fostering community and clinical health systems in which children thrive.

Research:

- Early child obesity prevention and management
- Physical activity in children 0 to 5 years:
 - ⇒ Developing novel methods to assess physical activity as early as infancy
 - ⇒ Studying associations between early life physical activity, and later physiologic, cognitive and social-emotional health outcomes
 - ⇒ Identifying child, parent, family and environmental factors that can be targeted to facilitate healthy activity patterns for young children