

# Department of Neonatology

## New Staff

**Gia Yannekis, MD, MPH**



We are very pleased to announce that Gia Yannekis, MD, MPH, chief fellow of the Harvard Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine program, will be joining the Department of Neonatology in July. Gia is familiar to all in the Department and NICU because in addition to her fellowship experience at BIDMC, she has been a per diem hospitalist in the NICU.

Gia's impact has already been felt because of her keen interest in palliative care and supporting families through complex decision-making. To further that experience, she has focused on quality improvement work dedicated to enhancing trainee education during prenatal consults. She has also been conducting a qualitative research project exploring virtues that parents value in their neonatologists. As an attending, she will continue to connect with families through prenatal consults, while also facilitating communication and team leadership curriculum for residents and fellows.

Gia graduated from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard Medical School. She completed her residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she was the chief pediatric resident.

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## News

### **American Academy of Pediatrics Launches National Neonatal Designation Program; BIDMC Leaders in Prominent Roles**

The American Academy of Pediatrics announced the launch of a new national verification and designation program that recognizes hospitals with the highest levels of neonatal care. The Neonatal Excellence Program supports hospitals' initiatives to provide newborns with access to the right expertise and resources, helping to improve outcomes, reduce disparities, increase transparency and advance health for all children.

The AAP is the leading authority in neonatal verification and designation, having developed the standards for each level of neonatal care. With the program's new expansion, hospitals in all 50 states can now obtain an independent, third-party assessment by leading neonatal clinicians, demonstrating that their neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) meets the highest standards in neonatal care.

**DeWayne Pursley, MD, MPH, has been selected as Chairperson, Advisory Board of the NICU Verification Program.**

**Ann Stark, MD,** has transitioned to a new role as the Sr. Advisor, National Neonatal Initiatives. This role is vital to the success of the program, ensuring continued collaboration between the NICU Verification Program, the Committee on Fetus and Newborn (COFN), the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (SONPM), and AAP Senior Leaders.

**Munish Gupta, MD, MMSc,** has been selected to serve a four-year term on the Subboard of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine of the American Board of Pediatrics. The subboard is responsible for developing and administering certification examinations for neonatologists, as well as assisting in setting requirements for fellowship training.

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## News

### Celebrating Boston Magazine's Top Doctors



Dara Brodsky, MD  
Munish Gupta, MD  
Aimee Knorr, MD  
Karen McAlmon, MD  
Elizabeth Oh, MD  
DeWayne Pursley, MD, MPH  
Jane Stewart, MD  
John Zupancic, MD, ScD

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## News



**Kristin Santoro, MD, has been selected to participate in 2025 HMS/HSDM Leadership Development Course.**

The HMS/HSDM Leadership Development Course builds on participants' knowledge base and skills to enhance their professional development as administrative leaders in academic medicine. The curriculum focuses on human resource management, negotiation, finance, self assessment, communications, and personal career development.



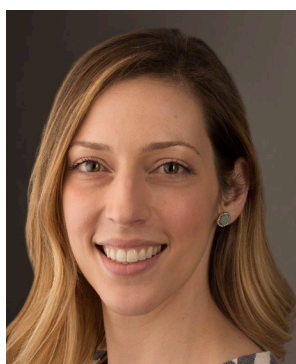
**Paige Church, MD, has been selected by the Vermont Oxford Network to serve as Content Lead faculty for the 2025-26 QI topic of Optimizing Neurodevelopment for Infants with BPD.**

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## News



**Brian King, MD, has been accepted to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health for the 205-2026 academic year for a Master of Science in Health Policy and Management**



**Kristyn S. Beam, MD, MPH, has been selected for a core faculty position for BIDMC's Center for Healthcare Delivery Science.**

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## Grants

### Ale Barrero-Castillero Awarded Two Major Grants



**2025 APA Research in Academic Pediatrics Investigator Development (RAPID) Award.** RAPID scholars are junior faculty committed to careers in academic pediatrics. Ale was funded by the American Board of Pediatrics Foundation, which prioritizes candidates committed to improvements in behavioral mental health and/or health equity.

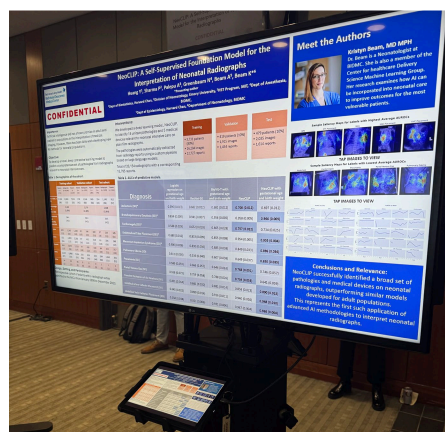
**2025 AAP Health Equity Grant Program.** Recipients are early career physicians active in research, interventions, and education that address health equity in communities and institutions.



# Department of Neonatology

## Awards

**Kristyn Beam, MD, MPH, Runner-up Poster Award at BIDMC Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Symposium** for “NeoCLIP: A Self-Supervised Foundation Model for the Interpretation of Neonatal Radiographs”



The goal of this project was to develop a novel, deep contrastive learning model to predict a comprehensive set of pathologies from radiographs relevant to neonatal intensive care. Using advanced machine learning techniques (including large language models and a contrastive image-language pretraining technique), we were able to predict neonatal diagnoses from chest radiographs early in the neonatal course. NeoCLIP successfully identified a broad set of pathologies and medical devices on neonatal radiographs, outperforming similar models developed for adult populations. This represents the first such application of advanced AI methodologies to interpret neonatal radiographs.