2023 NCPeds Awards
Timothy P. Bukowski, M.D.D received his undergraduate degree in Economics at Georgetown University, and his medical degree from University at Buffalo School of Medicine. He com-
pleted a urologic residency at Wayne State University, then completed a combined fellowship
in Pediatric Urology at Cincinnati Childrens Medical Center and the Children's Hospital of
Michigan. Dr Bukowski currently is Director of Pediatric Urology and Chair of the Depart-
ment of Surgery at WakeMed Hospitals in Raleigh, North Carolina, as well as a Clinical Pro-
fessor in Urology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is Board
certified in
Pediatric Urology and has a special interest in complex reconstruction of the genito-
urinary system, the correction of hypospadas and, as well as interest in vesicoureteral reflux, cryptor-
chidism, pediatric hernias, and urinary voiding dysfunction.

His most recent research involves the use of Botox in Bladder for incontinence in children and
recently completed an NIH funded RIVUR study, looking at the effect of prophylactic antibiotics in the treatment of vesicoureteral reflux.

Dr. Bukowski is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the Pediatric Urology sec-
tion of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Urological Association, and the
Society of Pediatric Urology. He also has served as a Board member for the North Carolina
Pediatric Society Foundation.

He is a reviewer for peer review urology journals, including the Journal of Urology, and Jour-
nal of Pediatric Urology. Dr Bukowski has received various resident teaching awards, and has
been chosen by his peers as a Best Doctor in America for many years. He is a USA Hockey
Master level coach, and teaches in the coach Continuing Education Program. He currently
serves as Chair of the Board of RowNC, Inc , a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to growing the
sport of rowing in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. He has volunteered with the
World Pediatric Project, leading a surgical mission to Belize on regular basis since 1999.
Dr. Katie Lowry is a Pediatrician and owner of Robeson Pediatrics, PA. Her practice is located in Lumberton, NC. A native of Pembroke, NC, Dr. Lowry received her BA in Biology and Masters in Public Health (with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health) from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Lowry earned her Medical Degree and completed Pediatric Residency at Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, where she was named “Outstanding Graduating Resident” of her class.

Dr. Lowry worked with several pediatric practices prior to starting her own practice in 2010. She is currently President of the Robeson County Medical Society, and serves as a Trustee of the PBS North Carolina Board. Dr. Lowry is very active in her community and serves with several community organizations, including the Kiwanis of Robeson Lumberton, the North Carolina Pediatric Society and the North Carolina Medical Society. She is a member of PowerPoint Church.

In her free time, Dr. Katie a self-proclaimed “foodie” may be found participating in a local health fair, helping out at a church event, jogging in local 5K’s, and some half-marathons, taking mini vacays, helping with 3 adopted kittens, or walking her son’s lab Jax. Dr. Lowry and her husband Mark have four children.

David T. Tayloe, Sr. Award for Outstanding Community Service
Given to a pediatrician who has made exceptional contribution in her/his local community or statewide, and that may include efforts beyond the practice setting.

Katie Lowry, MD, FAAP
Robeson Pediatrics

For her passion and commitment to caring for children in her rural NC community and relentless advocacy to improve care for all NC children by enhancing Medicaid for children across the state.
Denny, Katz, Simon, Tingelstad Academic Service Award
Given to an academic pediatrician member for outstanding efforts to improve the health and wellness of all children in our state.

Anna Miller-Fitzwater, MD, MPH, FAAP,
Wake Forest Baptist Health

For her leadership, research and advocacy to promote and improve training for pediatricians providing care for children across the state.

Dr. Anna Miller-Fitzwater is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics in General Pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Brenner Children's Hospital. She provides both direct clinical care and resident supervision in the newborn nursery and outpatient general pediatrics clinic. Dr. Miller-Fitzwater completed her Doctor of Medicine and a Master of Public Health degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then completed a residency in Pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She has a passion for improving healthcare on a population level through advocacy, quality improvement, care management, and cross-sector community-based initiatives with a particular focus on early childhood and Medicaid. To that end, Dr. Miller-Fitzwater has served in multiple public health leadership roles at her home institution and beyond. She is a past North Carolina state medical director for Reach Out and Read (ROR) and was integral to the design and assessment of the back to birth initiative for the national ROR expansion. On a state level she is Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Pediatric Society and is the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Childhood Champion for North Carolina. Nationally, she is active in the AAP Council on Early Childhood where she is a member of the Executive Committee and co-chair of the Early Literacy Subcommittee.
Good for Kids Award

Given to an individual or organization who initiates or participates in a community or statewide effort to improve the quality of life for infants, children, adolescents or young adults.

Betty Witman, MD
WakeMed (Retired)

For her work to maintain the safety of children who have been abused

Betty Witman was born and raised in Danville, Virginia by Inez Chapman Gaddy and Dr. Clifford Garland Gaddy, who practiced Internal Medicine and Cardiology in Danville for 47 years. Betty met her husband, Bill, standing in line to register for classes at Furman University when she was 18 and he was 19 years old. She is the proud mother of 3 adult children, Carolyn Witman, M.D., Emma Witman, and William Witman. After graduating from Furman with a degree in Psychology, she completed pre-med classes at the University of Florida, then graduated from Wake Forest University/Bowman Grey School of Medicine and also completed her internship and residency in Pediatrics at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Soon after moving from Winston-Salem to Raleigh and starting a job at Western Wake Pediatrics, she began to moonlight in what was known as the “night clinic” at WakeMed Hospital. When she was offered a position at WakeMed she remained for over 30 years, where she continues to have consulting staff privileges.

From the time Betty was a medical student at Wake Forest, Dr. Sara Sinal was an invaluable role model, leading her to believe that with the will and the knowledge, she could provide excellent care for children who have been the victims of maltreatment. At WakeMed, Dr. David Ingram also taught and inspired her to care for these children. Dave Ingram authored one of the largest studies on STI in children that has ever been conducted in the world - a multi-decade study with more than 1500 patients. Many others in leadership at WakeMed allowed and encouraged her to pursue this work, while she continued to work primarily in outpatient primary care and as a hospitalist on the pediatric ward. As a result of her experience and this support from WakeMed, she was eligible to become board certified in 2011 in the relatively new sub-speciality of Child Abuse Pediatrics.

Through the efforts of SAFEchild (an organization created in 1992 to help prevent child abuse with interventions such as parenting classes and mentoring of new mothers), as well as the support of WakeMed and the community, the SAFEchild Advocacy Center (SAC) was established in 2010 with Dr. Witman as the founding Medical Director. WakeMed has generously donated the land which will house a much larger building currently under construction for a new SAFEchild Advocacy Center that will be able to serve many more children and families. Since its creation, SAC has evaluated thousands of children and helped ensure that these children received therapy, that many parents received help, and that many predatory offenders have been successfully prosecuted and incarcerated.

The founders and pre-eminent leaders in the field of child maltreatment arose from among the ranks of primary care pediatricians, hospitalists, emergency medicine physicians, critical care physicians and others with experience caring for tens of thousands of patients. Subspecialty training has certainly brought a focus on expertise, evidence-based practices and research, but it is Betty Witman’s belief that in a field that will continue to be perpetually understaffed, general pediatricians will continue to be an invaluable resource for the evaluation and protection of children who have been the victims of abuse and neglect. It is her belief that these physicians can bring a holistic approach to the care of a child and family that may be irreplaceable if it is lost. Thus, she encourages any medical student, resident, or medical provider with a passion for this work and the ability to work in a collaborative/collegial/ multidisciplinary manner, to believe that they can also provide outstanding care for these neediest of children.
Dr. Charlene Wong serves as the Senior Advisor for Health Strategy in the Office of the Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, she is coordinating a collaborative approach to protecting health that brings public health alongside health care and social supports.

She previously served as the inaugural Assistant Secretary for Children and Families in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), providing vision and leadership for supporting whole-child and family health in North Carolina. She oversaw the Division of Child Development and Early Education and launched the new Division of Child and Family Well-Being in 2022. She led cross-Departmental work in child behavioral health, child welfare, nutritional security, and maternal and infant health. In the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Wong served as the Chief Health Policy Officer for COVID-19 at NCDHHS.

She is a primary care pediatrician, specializing in adolescent and young adult medicine. She also served as the Executive Director of North Carolina Integrated Care for Kids (NC InCK), an innovative model serving ~100,000 Medicaid-insured children in central North Carolina that integrates health care, educational, and social supports and data (e.g., schools, housing, food, early care and education, child welfare). She was faculty at Duke University and the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy.

Dr. Wong's research and policy training includes fellowships at the CDC and in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain scholar and completed her medical and research training at Emory University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, University of Washington, Seattle Children’s Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

James D. Bernstein Excellence in Public Service Award
Given to a public servant in either the executive or legislative branch of government in recognition of outstanding achievement to improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents.

Charlene Wong, MD, MSHP, FAAP

For her service as the inaugural Assistant Secretary for Children and Families in the NC Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Charlene Wong serves as the Senior Advisor for Health Strategy in the Office of the Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, she is coordinating a collaborative approach to protecting health that brings public health alongside health care and social supports.

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Rising Star Award

Given to a pediatrician within their first ten years of completion of post-graduate training, in residency or fellowship, who has demonstrated excellence in the community by contributions to clinical medicine, research, education or advocacy in Pediatrics.

Cherece Grier, MD, FAAP
Wake Forest Baptist Health

For her work to enhance primary care for all children, especially those most vulnerable to minoritization through mentorship, direct care to children, and pediatric pathway promotion

Cherece Grier, MD, of Fayetteville, NC, is a graduate of the University Of North Carolina Of Pembroke and the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. She completed her pediatric residency and chief residency year at the University of Florida in Orlando. Prior to starting medical school, she started her teaching endeavors as a high school biology teacher at Fairmont High School for two years. Her desire to contribute to the intellectual growth of others continues as she currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She is an Assistant Program Director of the residency program, the residency program’s Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (J.E.D.I) Co-Leader and Continuity Clinic Director. Additionally, Dr. Grier currently works as a General Academic Pediatrician at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist focusing on the birthing center and the resident run clinic.

Dr. Grier’s professional and community interests include mentoring, pipeline programs, breastfeeding equity education, diversity, inclusion, equity and advocacy. She has been married for almost 6 years to her medical school sweetheart and they have a 3.5-year-old daughter and 1.5-year-old son. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, traveling, brunching, beaching and going to comedy shows. She is a lifetime member of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and one of the current chapter advisors for the Wake Forest School of Medicine’s SNMA chapter. She is also a member of the National Medical Association and is active with her local chapter the Greensboro Medical Society. Dr. Grier is also a proud member of the illustrious sorority Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is also a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, North Carolina Pediatric Society member and serves on the membership committee of NC Peds
Steve Shore Service Award
Given to an individual or organization who has demonstrated unwavering interest in and loyalty to the North Carolina Pediatric Society for a minimum of five years.

Christy Street, MSW
Consultant,
Community Care of North Carolina

For her leadership of NCPeds’ Fostering Health NC initiative to improve the care and lives of children in foster care

Christy Street is currently contracting with Community Care of North Carolina to assist with their work on foster care and child welfare. From mid-2017 until the end of May this year, Christy was employed with NC Pediatric Society, briefly as an Implementation Specialist and then as Program Director of the Fostering Health North Carolina program. As Program Director, she supervised the FHNC team and coordinated the FHNC program components. The goal of the FHNC program was to help improve the health and well-being of children and youth in foster care through collaboration, increased communication and understanding among partners involved in the care. Prior to her role at NC Pediatric Society, Christy worked at Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties as a Social Work Care Manager, serving all age groups as well as the role of Network Lead for CCWJC’s work on foster care. She also served as Motivational Interviewing Champion and Mental Health First Aid Instructor for CCWJC. Before that, her background in social work includes hospital-based Social Work case management and community clinic-based care.

Christy received her Master of Social Work degree from East Carolina University. Although she has worked with many populations and in a variety of settings, most of her work has been in pediatrics and maternal health and that is where her passion lies.