

Bridging the Pediatric Translational Research Gap

March 4th, 2026

Program

Opening Remarks

2:00 pm Dr. Sivia Lapidus, M.D., Pediatric Rheumatologist, Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, Faculty, HMCDI and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, HMSOM

Introductions

2:05 pm Dr. Alfin Vicencio, M.D., Ph.D.
Endowed Chair of Pediatrics, Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, HMSOM.

2:10 pm Dr David Perlin, Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer and Executive Vice President, HMCDI, and Professor of Medical Sciences, HMSOM.

Presentations

2:15 pm **Spatial Biology and Pharmacology**

Dr Claire Carter, Ph.D., Assistant Member, HMCDI and Assistant Professor of Pathology, HMSOM.

Title: Spatial Multi-omics to Understand Disease Pathogenesis and for Optimizing Drug Regimens

2:25 pm **Health Disparities, Community Outreach, and Behavioral Science**

Dr. Abraham Aragones, M.D., M.S., Associate Member, HMCDI.

Title: Clinician–Community Partnerships to Accelerate HPV Vaccination and Cancer Screening

Dr. Heather Derry-Vick, Ph.D., Assistant Member, HMCDI and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, HMSOM.

Title: Adverse Impacts of Stress on Health across the Lifespan: Insights and Interventions from Behavioral Science

Dr. Gary Kwok, Ph.D., Assistant Member, HMCDI and Assistant Professor HMSOM.

Title: Digital Health Innovations in Pediatric and Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivorship

3:05 pm **Biological Markers of Disease and Nanopore Sequencing**

Dr. Olivier Loudig, Ph.D., Associate
Member, HMCDI and Associate Professor of Medical Sciences, HMSOM
Title: Early Non-Invasive Detection of Human Cancers by Targeted Isolation and
Analysis of Circulating Extracellular Vesicles

Dr. Carolina Alberca Doto, Ph.D., Sr. Research Associate, HMCDI.
Dr. Benjamin Tycko, M.D., Ph.D., Member, HMCDI.
Title: Nanopore Sequencing Applied to Common Pediatric Conditions

3:30 pm **Fungal and Immunity**

Dr. Jigar V. Desai, Ph.D., Assistant Member, HMCDI and Assistant Professor of Medical
Sciences, HMSOM.
Title: Complement in Anti-Fungal and Anti-Cancer Immunity

Dr. Neeraj Chauhan, Ph.D., Member, HMCDI and Professor of Medical Sciences,
HMSOM.
Title: Think Fungus: The Rising Role of Fungi in Human Disease

3:55 pm **Modeling Disease**

Dr. Piero Dalerba, M.D., Associate Member, HMCDI and Professor of Medical Sciences,
HMSOM
Title: Modeling Cancer as a Stem Cell Disease: Envisioning Applications in
Rhabdomyosarcoma and Other Pediatric Malignancies

Dr. Kevin Tong, Ph.D., Assistant Member, HMCDI and Assistant Professor of Medical
Sciences, HMSOM.
Title: Modeling Colorectal Cancer and GI Disease Using Patient Derived Organoids

4:20 pm **Closing Remarks and Reception for Further Discussions**

Please stay for the reception to continue discussions focused on bridging the gap between basic and clinical research.