



MAILMAN CENTER FOR  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

2023-2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



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# Mailman Center at a Glance

## WHO WE ARE

For more than 50 years, the Mailman Center for Child Development has been a hub where physicians, educators, advocates, researchers, and families come together to improve pediatric health and development. Our vision is to build healthier futures for children with disabilities and special healthcare needs through innovation, connection, and impact.

## OUR PRIORITIES



- Enhancing health outcomes for children with disabilities and special healthcare needs
- Strengthening community partnerships and family voices
- Promoting innovation through technology

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK

Our collaborative team includes:

- Expert faculty and staff across pediatric subspecialties
- Mailman Center Advisory Council (MAC) family and community members who guide our priorities
- Dedicated community partners serving schools and neighborhoods

## GROWING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



**100** Future Leaders  
Trained Annually

**17** Disciplines

**70%** Of Graduates Hold  
Leadership Roles

Through the **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)** program, the Mailman Center has trained more than 100 future leaders across 17 disciplines in just the past two years. Over 70% of these graduates now hold leadership roles in advocacy, policy, and clinical care.

## CARING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

In 2024 alone, the Mailman Center served 21,000+ children and families, with over half of those services delivered directly in communities—whether in schools, early childhood centers, or through mobile and telehealth programs.

Highlights include:  **> 21,000**  
Children Served



**12** Pediatric Specialty Clinics



**17** Community-based Programs

## RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

Research at the Mailman Center is practical, collaborative, and aimed at improving lives. In 2024, our teams produced

**73** Published Papers

**104** Funded Grants

**\$45M** In Leveraged Funding

## ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

We partner with trusted local organizations to co-design programs where families live and learn. Key Partners:



## MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

From national funders to local champions, our partners make this work possible. Their support fuels programs, research, and training that transform lives and shape healthier futures.

Together, we're creating healthier beginnings and brighter futures for every child.



**DONATE  
TODAY!**



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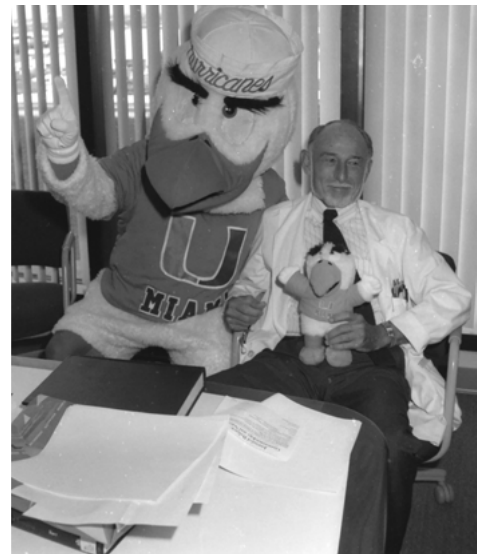
# A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Established in 1971 with the generous support of the Abraham and Joseph Mailman family and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, the Mailman Center for Child Development was one of the first 11 University Affiliated Facilities (now a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities-UCEDD). The vision of **Eunice Kennedy Shriver** and **Dr. Robert E. Cooke**, each of whom had family members with an intellectual/developmental disability, led to the development of a **national workforce dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities**. This vision continues to guide the Mailman Center's mission to train leaders, conduct research, and provide services that promote engagement with the community, access to effective services, and opportunity for independence for all.

For over five decades, the Mailman Center has remained committed to **innovation, impact, and connection** in advancing the well-being of children and families. Leveraging the expertise of faculty across pediatrics, the medical school, and various University of Miami schools and colleges, the Center serves as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration in child health, development, and disability.



Bill Nyhan, Carol Schear, Fran McGrath, Ted Kennedy, Sam Giammona, Margorie Martin, Deforest Strunk, and Eunice Shriver (1969)



Lee Worley with Sebastian the IBIS



Abraham and Joseph Mailman



# VISION STATEMENT

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Improving lives through Innovation, Impact, and Connection

# MISSION STATEMENT

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To strengthen health and well-being of individuals with disabilities and their family members by addressing the multiple drivers of health outcomes through community partnerships, training, research, clinical services, and advocacy

# OUR PRIORITIES

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The Mailman Center launched its current **strategic planning process** in March 2024, marking a renewed commitment to advancing its mission through community engagement and focused direction. Significant progress has been made through collaboration with faculty, staff, and community partners to identify key priorities that align with the Center’s vision and values.

As a result of this collaborative effort, **three strategic priorities** have been established to guide the Center’s efforts over the next five years:

- Enhance health impact and child outcomes
- Advance community-based participatory approaches
- Promote innovation through technology



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...

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In 2014, the Mailman Center began a transformation of organizational structure and priority that was innovative yet highly uncertain. We changed our focus from disciplines working alongside each other in multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary ways and committed to an interprofessional model of training, service, and research. We reorganized the Mailman Center around important themes of promoting behavioral health, lifespan, neurodevelopmental discovery science, community wellness, and neurodevelopmental intervention science to create Interprofessional Collaboratives (IPCs). We committed to our principal value of improving lives through innovation, impact, and connection, and prioritized working on the intersection of disability with the challenges and opportunities in our unique South Florida community. Ten years later, the experiment, while not always easy, has been profoundly successful as we have doubled and nearly tripled the impact of the Mailman Center within and outside our University of Miami home.

We believe change does not need to be disruptive or destructive but instead thoughtful and guided by core values that look to the future. In 2024 we addressed this by going through a year-long process to determine our strategic priorities for the next ten years. These new strategic priorities-creating and evaluating technology to address needs of children and adults with disabilities, integrating community participatory principles in all aspects of our Center's function, and focusing on health impact- will guide our efforts to improve access to effective, evidence-based interventions that result in improved outcomes for children with developmental disabilities and other complex health needs, their families, and the communities where they live.

Change is an inevitable part of life. We can be leaders in influencing positive change. Our next ten-year Mailman Center strategic priorities are laser-focused on leading this change and doing so in a way that results in meaningful improvements in outcomes and continued growth of caring and supportive communities. I hope from the bottom of my heart that the 2035 lookback on our work will reflect that we have done just that.

Daniel Armstrong, PhD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Daniel Armstrong', with a stylized, cursive script.

Director, Mailman Center for Child Development



# OUR TEAM



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Our Executive Leadership Team works alongside Core Infrastructure Directors, Interprofessional Collaborative (IPC) Leads, Core Program Leaders, and the Mailman Advisory Committee to drive the strategic priorities of the Mailman Center. Through this collaborative structure, they help advance the Center's mission and vision—fostering innovation, maximizing impact, and strengthening connection across disciplines, communities, and systems of care.

## Executive Leadership



**DIRECTOR**  
Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.



**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & CHAIR, PEDIATRICS**  
Glenn Flores, M.D.



**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**  
Michelle Schladant, Ph.D.



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Jason Jent, Ph.D.



**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR**  
Aja Levine, M.S.W.

## Core Infrastructure Directors



**RESEARCH**  
Alan Delamater, Ph.D.



**INNOVATION**  
Dainelys Garcia, Ph.D.



**CLINICAL SERVICES**  
Eileen Davis, Ph.D.



**TRAINING**  
Elana Mansoor, Psy.D.



**HEALTH IMPACT**  
Jennifer Walton, M.D., M.P.H.

## Interprofessional Collaboratives (IPC) Leaders



**PROMOTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
Elizabeth Pulgaron, Ph.D. and Julieta Hernandez, Ph.D.



**COMMUNITY WELLNESS**  
Ruby Natale, Ph.D., Psy.D. and Maite Schneker, Ph.D.





## Interprofessional Collaboratives (IPC) Leaders (Continued)



### NEURODEVELOPMENTAL INTERVENTION SCIENCE

Michelle Berkovits, Ph.D. and Lynn Miskiel, M.A.



### NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISCOVERY SCIENCE

Daniel Messinger, Ph.D. and Jennifer Coto, Ph.D.



### LIFESPAN

Lawrence Friedman, M.D. and Shelly Baer, L.C.S.W.



## Core Programs Leadership



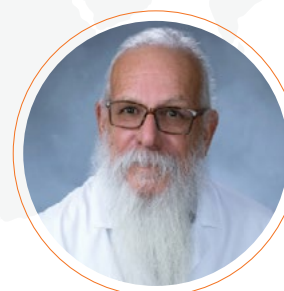
### DEBBIE INSTITUTE

Kathleen Vergara, M.A.



### NORTH DADE EARLY STEPS

Michelle Berkovits, Ph.D.



### CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Walter Lambert, M.D.



### PEDIATRIC MOBILE CLINIC

Lisa Gwynn, D.O.



### LINDA RAY INTERVENTION CENTER

Daniel Messinger, Ph.D. and Isabel Chica, M.S. Ed



## Mailman Advisory Committee

The Mailman Advisory Committee (MAC) is the guiding voice of the Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of Miami. As our federally mandated Consumer Advisory Committee, the MAC ensures that the lived experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are at the heart of our work. Membership includes representation from: Disability Rights Florida, The Advocacy Network on Disabilities, Family Network on Disabilities, Miami-Dade Public Schools, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Florida Developmental Disability Council, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired, UM-NSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (USF UCEDD), Push to Open Inc, Guardianship Program of Dade County:

- Roselyne Antao
  - Jairo Arana
  - Shelly Baer
  - Kathy Balaban, Co-Chair
  - Beth Boone
  - Stephanie Preshong-Brown, Co-Chair
  - Nancy Torres Burling
- Ire Diaz
  - Enrique Escallon
  - Heather George
  - Hillary Jackson
  - Maricela Jimenez
  - Elana Mansoor
  - Leigh Markowitz
  - Ernie Martinez
- Joanne Palenzuela
  - Elma Pierre
  - Kent Schomber
  - Kelli Hunter-Sheppard
  - Jean Sherman
  - Carol Brady-Simmons
  - Linda Starnes



# TRAINING AND EDUCATION: Preparing the Next Generation of Disability Advocates



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The Mailman Center's **Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)** program prepares emerging leaders from diverse disciplines to improve systems of care for children with disabilities and their families. Through interdisciplinary training, clinical and community-based experiences, and a strong focus on family-centered practice and policy engagement, LEND trainees build the knowledge, skills, and vision needed to drive systems-level change. Their experiences prepare them to lead as advocates and allies, working in partnership with individuals with disabilities and families to co-create systems that reflect lived experience, increase access, and create opportunities.





The LEND Audiology Supplement, overseen by [the Children's Hearing Program \(CHP\)](#) at the University of Miami Ear Institute, provides interdisciplinary training in pediatric audiology. Under the direction of [Dr. Chrisanda Sanchez](#), the program equips audiology trainees with hands-on clinical and leadership experience in caring for children with hearing loss and co-occurring developmental disabilities.

CHP offers comprehensive, family-centered care to more than 7,000 children annually and is internationally recognized for its interdisciplinary team model. LEND trainees participate in early hearing detection, intervention, and care coordination, with opportunities to contribute to newborn screening at Holtz Children's Hospital, clinical trials on bone conduction implants, and the launch of CHP's first Microtia Clinic. At the [2025 Early Hearing Detection and Intervention \(EHDI\) Conference](#), LEND trainees and faculty presented on innovations in care coordination and interdisciplinary service models.



The partnership between the Mailman Center and Children's Hearing Program continues to build capacity in the field by developing skilled, collaborative pediatric audiologists committed to improving outcomes for children with hearing loss and developmental differences.

## Professional Development to Improve Outcomes for Children with Hearing Loss

In February 2025, the Mailman Center's Debbie Institute and the Otolaryngology Department co-hosted a dynamic one-day Innovation and Connection Conference titled **"Overcoming Barriers and Paving the Road to Success for Children Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing."** Sponsored by the Neurodevelopmental Implementation Science Interprofessional Collaborative, this one-day virtual event welcomed over 214 attendees, bringing together families, professionals, and researchers to examine the complex barriers faced by children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families.



From classrooms to clinics to Capitol Hill, Mailman Center-trained leaders are reshaping what's possible. These "Leaders of Today" illustrate how our training programs spark bold action, lived-experience leadership, and lasting systems change.



## Melissa Merrick, PhD

Melissa T. Merrick, PhD, exemplifies the mission of the Mailman Center for Child Development by rethinking existing paradigms through leadership, science, and compassion. A former LEND trainee and nationally recognized expert on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), Dr. Merrick now serves as President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. Her work has redefined how the nation approaches child maltreatment,

focused on strengthening families, promoting well-being, and building communities where children are safe and supported. Whether influencing federal policy or establishing local partnerships, she channels the Mailman Center's interdisciplinary training into reimagining what is possible.



Click the image to watch the video

## Farrah Meme, MS.Ed

Farrah Meme is an **Emerging Transformational Leadership Program (ETLP)**-trained advocate, educator, and founder of Morebility, a nonprofit that supports families of children with disabilities. Also a LEND alum, Farrah's leadership journey began with personal experience and grew into a professional mission. While raising four children and working full-time, she earned her master's in educational leadership. Farrah embodies the Mailman Center's vision: transforming lived experience into powerful, community-driven advocacy.





In 2024, the Mailman Center for Child Development provided clinical services to over 21,000 children and families, with more than half of these services delivered in community-based settings. Our programs encompass a wide range of offerings, including interdisciplinary assessments and diagnostic services, therapeutic

and care navigation supports, and prevention-focused interventions. Services are delivered not only within the Mailman Center but also in early childhood education centers, schools, community-based sites, and through telehealth.

Mailman Center professionals play a critical role on interdisciplinary teams across a variety of pediatric specialties, including Endocrinology, Pulmonology, Hematology/Oncology, Allergy and Immunology, Infectious Diseases, and Primary Care Pediatrics — and through initiatives such as the [Behavioral Health Hub](#), [HealthySteps](#), and the [Pediatric Mobile Clinic](#).

**12**

**Pediatric  
Specialty  
Clinics**

**17**

**Community-based  
Programs**

**> 21,000  
Children  
Served**

# Mailman Center Clinical Services and Programs



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Learn more about the many clinical services available at the Mailman Center



## The Progression Across Transition in Healthcare

(PATH) Clinic is an innovative interdisciplinary program supporting

adolescents and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) as they move from pediatric to adult healthcare. Led by [Dr. Jonathan Tolentino](#), [Dr. Anjali Saxena](#), and the Mailman Center's Shelly Baer, MSW, the

care coordinator, the PATH team provides coordinated, person-centered care that engages families, clinicians, and future providers across disciplines to ensure continuity of care for young adults transitioning to adult systems of care.

Among those future providers is **Cameron Hope Tovin**, an **M.D./M.P.H.** student at the University of Miami. Inspired by her older brother Zach, who has autism, Cameron is deeply committed to improving healthcare transitions for people with developmental disabilities. Through her training and work with LEND and the PATH Clinic, she combines her lived experience as a sibling advocate with hands-on



training in transition medicine—helping shape a system that better supports individuals and families often left behind in the shift to adult care.

Read more about Cameron's journey and the PATH Clinic's approach to transition care:

[Helping People With Disabilities Navigate a Tough Transition](#)



Dr. Juliana  
Acosta Lievano

The **University of Miami Pediatric Sleep Clinic** represents a leading model of interdisciplinary care in South Florida. Led by **Dr. Ignacio Tapia**, in collaboration with Mailman Center faculty **Dr. Juliana Acosta Lievano**, the clinic brings together experts in pediatrics, psychology, respiratory therapy, and sleep medicine to address a broad range of sleep concerns in children and adolescents, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

In addition to providing comprehensive clinical services, the clinic plays a vital role in **training the next generation** of healthcare providers by offering hands-on learning opportunities for medical and psychology trainees.

This integrated approach reflects the Mailman Center's commitment to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality, developmentally informed pediatric care.

## PEDIATRIC SLEEP CLINIC VIDEO





Dr. Jennifer Coto

The **UConcussion Program** at the University of Miami offers comprehensive concussion management through a multidisciplinary approach that integrates innovative research and community outreach to enhance care and awareness. Clinical services are available at both the main medical campus and the Lennar Foundation Medical Center, providing patients with physical, emotional, cognitive, and academic support.

The **pediatric concussion clinic** is held Thursday afternoons at the Batchelor Children's Research Institute, focusing on the care of children and adolescents with both sport- and non-sport-related injuries. The clinic is led by **Dr. Juan Solano**, MD with Mailman Center faculty **Dr. Jennifer Coto, Ph.D.**, serving as the pediatric psychologist and **Director of Psychological Services for the UConcussion Program**. In this role, she assesses cognitive and emotional functioning, evaluates readiness for return to school and sports, and provides neurocognitive screenings during clinical visits. She also offers academic and behavioral support, including school accommodations and strategies to promote adherence to individualized treatment plans.

[UConcussion.com/our-clinic](https://UConcussion.com/our-clinic)





## UM's Child Protection Team: Leadership, Legacy, and Community Collaboration



### Strengthening Partnerships: Co-Locating CPT at Kristi House to Enhance Child Protection Services

When the need to relocate the **Child Protection Team (CPT)** was identified, community partner, **Kristi House**, stepped up to integrate this essential program into its Children's Advocacy Center. This strategic move enables CPT's team of pediatricians, nurses, and psychologists to deliver forensic medical services on-site, alongside Kristi House's clinical staff, State Attorney's Office prosecutors, and Guardian Ad Litem attorneys. The co-location enhances coordinated care for some of our community's most vulnerable children and families.

Kristi House's 21,000-square-foot facility, originally built in 1998, is being renovated to accommodate CPT services while preserving its trauma-informed, child-friendly design. The renovation includes creating medical suites and workspaces. The \$1.59 million project is in progress through 2025.

The University of Miami's Mailman Center is proud to continue its longstanding partnership with Kristi House in serving children who have experienced abuse, trafficking, or other trauma. Together, we are building a more integrated system of care that provides comprehensive support—medical, legal, and psychological—for families in their greatest time of need.



# Research That Promotes Health, Access, and Connection



By advancing health, increasing access to care, and fostering meaningful connections for all children and families, research is at the heart of the mission of the Mailman Center for Child Development. Our interdisciplinary teams drive innovation and collaboration across clinical, translational, and community-based settings to tackle pressing challenges. By translating research into practice and policy, we enhance clinical services, support workforce development, and elevate outcomes—directly contributing to our vision of improving lives through innovation, impact, and connection.

## IN 2024

73

**Published Papers**

72

**Conference Presentations**

104

**Funded Grants****>\$45 MILLION****Annual Leveraged Funding**

## National Recognition for Dr. Tiffany Field's Groundbreaking Infant Massage Research



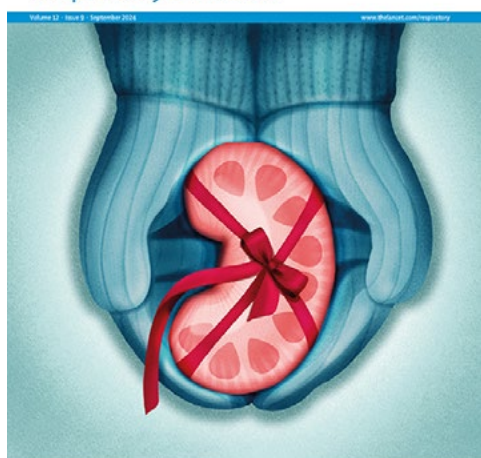
The innovative work of [Dr. Tiffany Field](#), Research Professor of Pediatrics and long-standing member of the Mailman Center for Child Development, received national recognition in The New York Times on May 16, 2025. Featured in the article, “9 Federally Funded Scientific Breakthroughs That Changed Everything” by Alan Burdick and Emily Anthes, Dr. Field’s research was highlighted as one of nine studies that have had transformative societal impact. In collaboration with Dr. Saul Shanberg of Duke University, Dr. Field’s early research demonstrated that gentle tactile stimulation—mimicking maternal behavior in rat pups—led to accelerated

growth. This foundational discovery led to a pivotal clinical study in neonatal intensive care at Holtz Children’s Hospital, where Dr. Field applied infant massage therapy to preterm infants. Results showed not only improved growth but also earlier discharge, marking a significant advance in neonatal care.

Article link: [9 Federally Funded Scientific Breakthroughs That Changed Everything](#)

## Protecting Neurodevelopment in Children with Cystic Fibrosis Following Early Anesthesia Exposure

THE LANCET  
Respiratory Medicine



Articles  
Hypertension for organoid criteria  
organoids in kidney transplantation:  
a randomised controlled trial  
See page 103

Articles  
Long-term outcomes of early exposure to  
repeated general anaesthesia in children  
with CF: a randomised controlled trial  
See page 219

Articles  
Estimated number of lives directly saved  
by COVID-19 vaccination in Europe:  
a retrospective surveillance study  
See page 214

A landmark phase 4, multicenter randomized trial (CF-GAIN), published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine (June 2024), examined the long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes of early, repeated exposure to general anesthesia in children with cystic fibrosis. The study, led by Dr. Claire Wainwright, chief of pediatric pulmonary medicine at the University of Queensland in Australia and [Dr. Daniel Armstrong](#), director of the Mailman Center, followed children from infancy (initially assigned to bronchoalveolar lavage therapy under anesthesia or standard care) through late childhood, assessing testing memory, attention, thinking speed, and brain scans. This rigorous study provides valuable reassurance to clinicians and families: repeated anesthesia with one kind of anesthetic in early childhood does not pose detectable harm to neurodevelopmental outcomes.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

# Advancing Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Through Digital Innovation



A recent randomized study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, co-authored by [Dr. Alan Delamater](#), professor of Pediatrics and Psychology at the Mailman Center, involved 900 children and their parents to explore strategies for improving obesity prevention during the critical first two years of life—an early period in which infant growth can predict long-term risks for obesity and cardiovascular disease. Traditional interventions in this age range have shown limited success, particularly among racially and ethnically diverse populations disproportionately affected by childhood obesity.

This study evaluated the impact of supplementing pediatric primary care counseling with a health literacy-informed digital intervention. Findings revealed that the digital component significantly improved children's weight-for-length trajectories and reduced obesity prevalence by 24 months of age. Importantly, the intervention proved effective across a racially and ethnically diverse sample, demonstrating its potential as a scalable and equitable approach to promoting healthy early growth.

[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

**PEDIATRICS**  
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS  
MAY 2024 • VOLUME 153 • NUMBER 5  
[www.pediatrics.org](http://www.pediatrics.org)

## ARTICLES

**The TIPP Program to Reduce Childhood Injuries** E. M. Perrin *et al.*  
**Biomarkers and Short-term Fever** A. Venkatesh *et al.*  
**Time to Clinical Stability in Children With COPD** M. A. Field *et al.*  
**Key Vaccination Indicators** A. K. Taylor *et al.*  
**Open Notes Experiences of Parents in the PDS** D. Chou *et al.*  
**Prevalence and Family Mental Health Care Utilization** K. E. Schwab *et al.*  
**Laboratory Changes During GAT in T1D Adolescents** A. Williams *et al.*  
**SARS-CoV-2 Test to Stay in Exposure** T. Donald *et al.*  
**COVID-19 and Asthma Exacerbations in Children** J. P. Sautter *et al.*  
**Childhood Adiposity, Biomarkers, and Adolescent PDS** K. D. Whitham *et al.*  
**Trends in the Use of Race in Pediatrics** A. Nunez *et al.*  
**PEDIATRICS PERSPECTIVES**  
**Anticipatory Guidance to Prevent Adolescent Overweight** K. E. Schwab *et al.*  
**EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE**  
**Presenting Language Equity in Pediatrics Health Care** K. Schwab *et al.*  
**ADVOCACY CASE STUDY**  
**Advocates for Equitable Access in Washington State** P. B. Tandon *et al.*  
**COMMENTARIES**  
**Anticipation for Asthma Remission** T. J. Savage and M. H. Kagan  
**Local Change, Collaboration, and an Equity Lens in GI** M. S. Hogg and A. M. Shih

## REVIEW ARTICLES

**Antibiotics for Acute Sinusitis** J. J. Connolly *et al.*  
**Policy Approaches for Increasing IPV Vaccination** M. D. McQuinn *et al.*  
**Hospital-Based QI Interventions and Health Disparities** D. B. Robinson *et al.*  
**Understanding Disparities in the PDS** J. Arnold *et al.*  
**STATE-OF-THE-ART REVIEW**  
**Where We Are Now: Pediatric, Pregnancy-Related Lung Injury** C. K. Barker *et al.*  
**SPECIAL ARTICLES**  
**OF FOUNDATION: Evidence for CMM/CFRPS** D. M. Olson *et al.*  
**Health Care and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities** D. Robinson *et al.*  
**Health Equity Research Review Process** B. L. Kohn *et al.*  
**QUALITY REPORTS**  
**Improving Pediatric-Associated Care in Pediatric Hospitals** C. E. McNamee *et al.*  
**Anterior Anterior Sutures in Children QI Project** M. J. McNamee *et al.*  
**CONSENSUS TO REDUCE HIGH-LEVEL INEQUITIES**  
**DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS**  
**Prevalent Fever in a Child With Suspected G6PD Deficiency** M. J. McNamee *et al.*  
**CASE REPORTS**  
**Multisystem Reactivity and Pediatric Chronic Pain** A. Wills *et al.*  
**Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for OSA in a Young Child** A. Wills *et al.*  
**FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**  
**Confidentiality in the Care of Adolescents** E. J. O'Hara *et al.*  
**Improving the Environment: Communication and Practice & Community Medicine**

American Academy  
of Pediatrics  
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

## Evaluating the Impact of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Injury Prevention Program

The American Academy of Pediatrics' Injury Prevention Program (TIPP), developed in 1983 to support pediatricians in preventing unintentional injuries, had not been formally evaluated—until now. In a recent cluster-randomized trial involving primarily low-income, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic Black families, researchers assessed TIPP's effectiveness in reducing injuries during the first two years of life. The findings, based on data acquired with the contribution of the Mailman Center's [Dr. Alan Delamater](#), demonstrated a significant reduction in parent-reported injuries among families who received TIPP guidance, providing the first empirical support for its implementation in routine pediatric well-child visits.

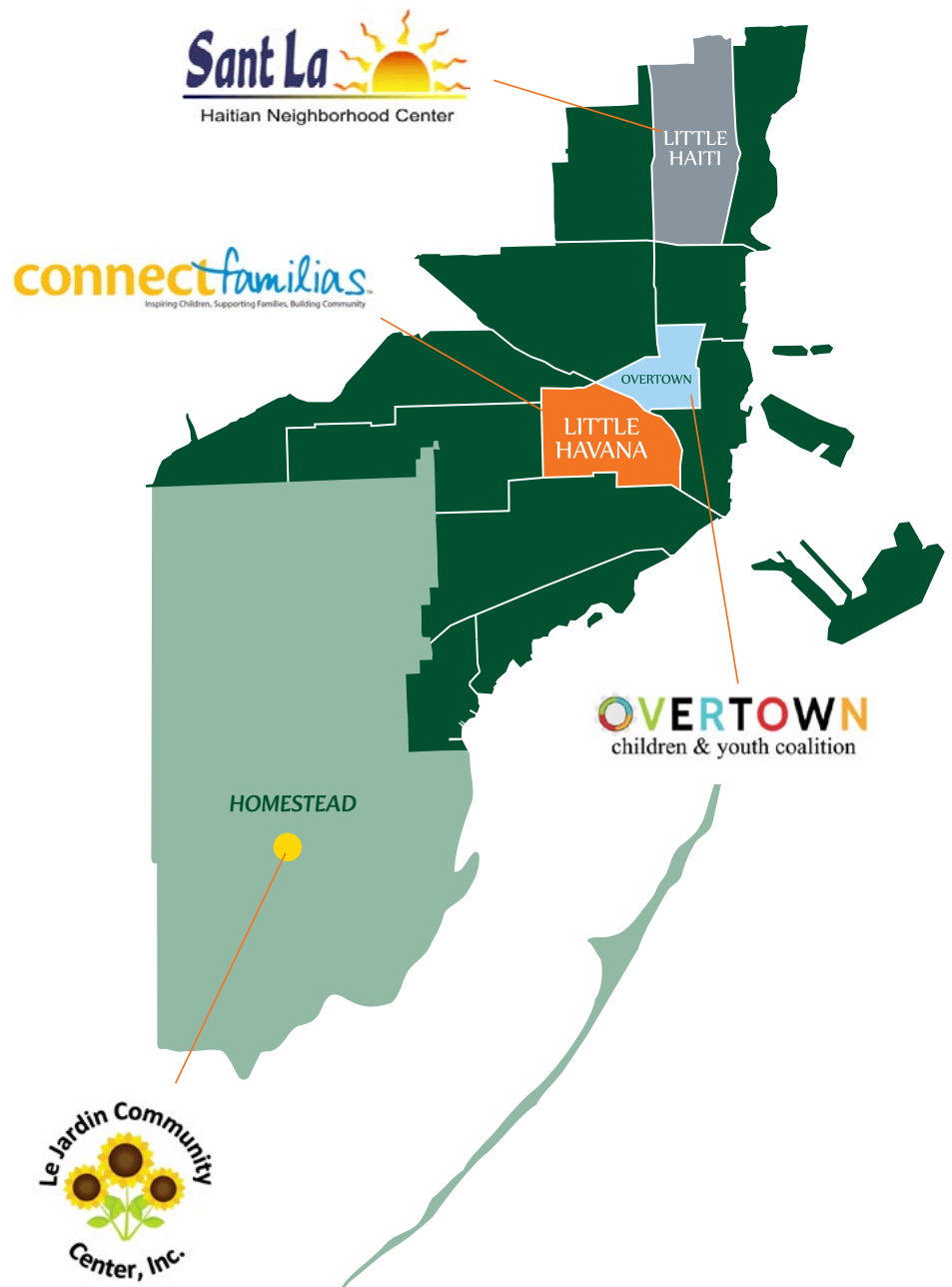
[FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)





The Mailman Center is deeply committed to embedding its work within the communities who partner to address the needs of children and families—ensuring that services, supports, and solutions are both accessible and impactful. This commitment has evolved into strategic, community-based partnerships that addresses the unique strengths and needs of historically challenged neighborhoods across South Florida.

In 2024–2025, we continued to expand our reach and deepen our relationships through strong collaborations with trusted community-based organizations, including **ConnectFamilies** in Little Havana, **Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center** in the Northeastern Corridor, the **Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC)**, and **Le Jardin** in Homestead. These partnerships represent more than service delivery—they exemplify a shared vision to co-create equitable systems of care that reflect the lived experiences of children with disabilities and their families.



This community-driven approach not only reduces barriers to care but also amplifies impact—reaching families where they are, in the languages they speak, and the networks they trust. Together, these partnerships are building stronger, healthier communities and shaping systems that uplift all children and families across South Florida.



Anthony Robinson, Executive Director - OCYC's strategic blueprint encompasses an array of support for services from cradle-to-career. We believe in impacting lives from pre-birth to youth workforce development.

"The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) proudly aligns with the Mailman Center's mission to improve the lives of all children through innovation, impact, and connection. As the backbone organization of a community-wide collective impact model, OCYC brings together schools, service providers, families, and local leaders to co-create bold, innovative solutions that address the social determinants of health and opportunity. We are committed to generating lasting impact by investing in culturally responsive programming, data-driven strategies, and sustainable systems that uplift children from cradle to career. At the heart of our work is a commitment to meaningful connection – ensuring every child in Overtown has a strong village of support and a pathway to reach their full potential."



The Mailman Center is proud to partner with **Le Jardin Community Center**, a vital early childhood organization serving over 1,000 children from birth to age five across Homestead and Florida City. This collaboration supports inclusive, community-based practices that promote healthy development for all children, including those with disabilities.

Through the **Step Up AT** initiative, Mailman Center staff have worked closely with Le Jardin's curriculum and disability teams to integrate assistive technology coaching into classroom practices—fostering access, participation, and inclusion. In addition, Le Jardin implements the **Healthy Caregivers, Healthy Children (HC2)** curriculum with training and technical assistance from Mailman Center faculty. This evidence-based model promotes wellness through center-wide policies focused on nutrition, physical activity, and screen time reduction, and is adaptable for children with diverse needs.



## Dr. Ruby Natale: Bridging Education, Healthcare, and Community to Empower Miami's Future



Pictured Dean Ford and  
Dr. Ruby Natale

**Dr. Ruby Natale**, the visionary behind Jump Start, an award-winning program at the Mailman Center that supports early educators, has been recognized for her impactful contributions to both education and community health. In 2024, Jump Start received the Program of the Year award from The Children's Trust, acknowledging its significant role in reducing preschool expulsions across Miami-Dade County. Dr. Natale's approach emphasizes partnership and practical support, focusing on social-emotional growth to improve outcomes for children, families, and educators alike. This consultative model has reached nearly every childcare center in the county. In addition to her work with Jump Start, Dr. Natale, a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and lead of the Community Wellness

Interprofessional Collaborative, was honored with the 2024 Community Engagement Award for her sustained commitment to addressing health disparities and advancing equity in underserved communities. Her work bridges healthcare, education, and community systems to foster wellness and resilience, particularly in Miami's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





Pictured Dean Ford and  
Dr. Jason Jent

**Dr. Jason Jent**, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Assistant Director of the Mailman Center, was recently recognized with two prestigious honors in 2024: the Inclusive Excellence Award and the Micah Batchelor Award for Excellence in Children's Health Research. The Inclusive Excellence Award celebrates faculty who champion equity and inclusion within academic and clinical environments, and Dr. Jent was one of only two recipients. His work focuses on dismantling systemic barriers through trauma-informed, family-centered practices and leadership development.

In addition, Dr. Jent received the Micah Batchelor Award for his innovative project, "Enhancing Pocket PCIT with Generative AI: A Randomized Controlled Trial to Improve Engagement, Retention,

and Outcomes in a Digital Parenting Intervention for Children with Disruptive Behavior." Both honors reflect the Mailman Center's mission to lead with purpose—anchoring its work in partnership, impact, and inclusion to create lasting change and improve the lives of children and families.

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## Dr. Walter Lambert: Honored for Decades of Leadership in Protecting and Healing Vulnerable Children



Dr. Walter Lambert, left,  
receives the Child Protection  
Center's Lifetime Achievement  
Award from CPC Executive  
Director Douglas Staley

**Dr. Walter Lambert**, Medical Director of the University of Miami's Child Protection Team, was recognized with three major honors for his decades of service to vulnerable children. He received the Florida Department of Children and Families' 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for his innovative contributions and measurable impact on child welfare outcomes statewide. In May 2025, Kristi House named Dr. Lambert its "Crusader of the Year" for revolutionizing the response to child abuse through his leadership on the Multidisciplinary Team at the Children's Advocacy Center. In July 2025, Dr. Lambert was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sarasota Child Protection Center, for which he has served as Medical Director since 2014. As Dr. Daniel Armstrong remarked, "There are tens of thousands of children who have benefited from Dr. Lambert's work—our community is a better place because of his unwavering dedication to protecting and healing the most vulnerable."

## Dr. Jennifer Walton: Pioneering Leadership in Developmental Pediatrics and Advocacy for Children with Disabilities



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**Dr. Jennifer Walton** exemplifies leadership in developmental and behavioral pediatrics, health impact, and interdisciplinary education. As Section Chief of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Miami and Cross-IPC Director of Health Impact at the Mailman Center, she advances family centered and compassionate care for children with disabilities. Her **2024 Society for Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP) Mid-Career Award** honors her national impact in clinical care, teaching, and advocacy, all grounded in a commitment to systems that serve every child and family with dignity.

## Alan M. Delamater, Ph.D., Honored with 2025 Dennis Drotar Distinguished Research Award



**Alan M. Delamater, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology and Director of Clinical Psychology and Research at the Mailman Center for Child Development, received the **2025 Dennis Drotar Distinguished Research Award** from the Society of Pediatric Psychology (APA Division 54).

This prestigious national award recognizes Dr. Delamater's four decades of influential research on behavioral and psychosocial aspects of diabetes and obesity in racially and ethnically minoritized youth. A leading figure in pediatric psychology, Dr. Delamater has authored nearly 200 peer-reviewed publications and 50 book chapters and has served as principal investigator on numerous federally and institutionally funded research projects, including a T32 training grant focused on minority health disparities. His global impact is further reflected in his leadership roles with the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD)."

Dr. Alan Delamater pictured with T32 grant trainees Dr. Elizabeth Pulgaron, left, and Dr. Jessica Valenzuela, right

# In Memoriam: Dr. Susan K. Dandes' Legacy of Compassion and Leadership in Child Protection



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The Mailman Center remembers **Susan Dandes, Ph.D.**, former Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Clinical Director of the University's Child Protection Team. A UM alumna and lifelong child advocate, Dr. Dandes dedicated her career to protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Renowned for her expertise in forensic evaluations and her calm, decisive leadership, she played a pivotal role in shaping child protection practices across South Florida. As a founding board member of Kristi House, she helped bring to life the vision of co-locating CPT within the Children's Advocacy Center—an effort realized shortly before her passing.

Dr. Dandes is remembered as the heart of CPT and a transformative force in the lives of countless children and families. Her legacy of compassion and leadership continues to guide the work she helped build.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# In Memoriam: Dr. Robert H. Morgan, Advocate, Educator, and Pioneer in Trauma-Informed Care



The Mailman Center honors the memory of **Robert H. Morgan, Ed.D.** Assistant Professor Emeritus and longtime social work leader, who passed away in March 2025. Over nearly five decades, Dr. Morgan shaped the field of trauma-informed care through his clinical work, teaching, and deep commitment to social justice.

A champion for survivors of domestic violence, in 1992 Dr. Morgan founded the **Heroes Program**, a nationally recognized intervention model supporting families affected by trauma. His work blended compassion with innovation, integrating mental health, child development, and social work into coordinated care for vulnerable children and caregivers.

Widely respected for his mentorship, Dr. Morgan trained generations of professionals in trauma-responsive practices, earning accolades including Florida Social Worker of the Year and the University of Miami's Excellence in Teaching Award. His legacy endures in the programs he built, the students he inspired, and the lives he helped heal.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

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## Advancing Strategic Priorities: Innovation in Technology, Community-based Participatory Principles, and Health Impact



As part of the Mailman Center's ongoing strategic initiatives, each of our three priority workgroups—**Health Impact**, **Community-Based Participatory Principles**, and **Innovation in Technology**—is actively advancing efforts that align with our mission to improve outcomes for all children, including those with special health care needs. These collaborative efforts are critical to ensuring that each strategic priority is resourced, actionable, and aligned with the Mailman Center's vision of **Innovation, Impact, and Connection**.



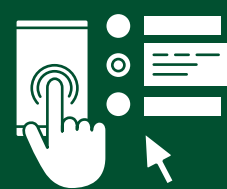
### HEALTH IMPACT

**Health Impact** reflects our unwavering commitment to ensuring all children, especially those with disabilities or chronic health conditions, have equitable access to high-quality health services. We advance this goal through services, training, and research that promote better health outcomes and dismantle barriers to care.



### COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES

**Community-Based Participatory Principles** guide how we engage with the communities we serve. By centering community voices from the outset, we co-design sustainable solutions that reflect local needs and lived experiences. This approach builds trust, strengthens impact, and ensures that our work remains relevant and lasting.



### TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

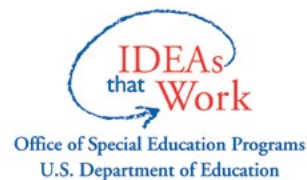
**Innovation in Technology** captures our efforts to use data and emerging tools to improve services and outcomes. From developing tech-enabled interventions to expanding access through digital platforms, we are building a future where innovation supports real-world impact.

**Leave Your Mark. Build the Future. [Click Here to Donate Today!](#)**

Together, these pillars illustrate the Mailman Center's integrated approach to advancing health, improving outcomes, and creating systems that work better for children and families.



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**2023-2025**

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