

**William J. Wenner, Jr. MD, JD MPA**  
Candidate: Chair Ethics Committee

In the end, it is our professional ethics that sets us apart from all others.

Repeatedly, in my interactions with attorneys, insurance companies, administrators and government officials, they have observed that Pediatricians are ethically unique among the professions. We, more than any other, focus on what is right for the patient. This has been true throughout the history of Pediatric Gastroenterology.

But now, more than ever, external forces are threatening our professional ethics. Venture Capitalists with for-profit motivation, Insurance companies with complex and weighted utilization processes, Regulators who hold us accountable for things no longer in our control, and even our employers do not understand our patient focused professional ethics. The foundation is being challenged and eroded.

In my clinical, educational and administrative roles, I had found that I was losing too many arguments with the lawyers. So mid-career, I knew that if I were to have any impact, I needed to think and possibly speak like a lawyer. Whether it increased my impact is not clear, but it made me a better clinician as the primary skill acquired was the ability to understand and elucidate diverse competing perspectives on issues.

In the twilight of my career, I hope to continue to contribute to Pediatric Gastroenterology. The Ethics Committee is a valuable resource for the members and leaders of NASPGHAN. The role of Chair of the Ethics Committee seems to be ideal for allowing my education, experience and training to assist in our professional mission.

William J. Wenner, Jr. MD, JD, MPA

# **William J. Wenner, Jr.**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

WJW105@psu.edu

7/12/2025

### **Education:**

2004	J.D.	The University of California, Davis Davis, CA
1990	M.P.A.	The Pennsylvania State University Capital Campus Middletown, PA
1983	M.D.	The Pennsylvania State University Hershey, PA

### **Postgraduate Training:**

1988-89	Quality Assurance/Utilization Review The Pennsylvania State University Hershey, PA
1986-88	Gastroenterology & Nutrition The University of Pennsylvania, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA
1983-86	Pediatrics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA

### **Faculty/Clinical Appointments:**

2020-	Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology College of Medicine The Pennsylvania State University
2020-21	Adjunct Professor Dickinson School of Law The Pennsylvania State University
2008-2020	Professor of Pediatrics, Gastroenterology The Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center
2004-05	Physician Diplomat – Pediatric Gastroenterology The University of California, Davis
1991-2001	Assistant Professor, Pediatric Gastroenterology Department of Pediatrics The University of Pennsylvania

- 1989-91 Assistant Professor  
Department of Pediatrics  
The University of California, Davis
- 1988-89 Affiliate Assistant Professor  
Department of Pediatrics-Gastroenterology  
The Pennsylvania State University

**Government Service**

- 2018-2025 Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (Board of Directors)  
2019-2023 Pennsylvania Health Advisor Early Head Start-Child Care  
Partnership

**Non-Profit Service**

- 2022-24 JKPPA Board of Directors (Patient Advocacy 501(c))

**Hospital and Administrative Appointments/Employment:**

- 2018-19 Interim Chief, Pediatric Neurology  
2011-19 Hospital Credentialing Committee. Member.  
2009-19 Mortality Review Committee- Pediatrics Department  
Chair 2010-2015  
2011-18 Medical Director, Pediatric Intermediate Unit  
2008-19 Director of Inpatient Pediatric Gastroenterology  
2005-08 Vice President Medical Affairs, Beebe Medical Center,  
Lewes, DE  
1991-2001 Medical Director for Quality, The Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

**Specialty Certification:**

- 1987- Board Certified - Pediatrics  
American Board of Pediatrics  
1992-2026 Board Certified - Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition  
American Board of Pediatrics  
1990-1993 Board Certified - Quality Assurance & Utilization Review  
American Board of QA\UR Physicians  
1983 National Board of Medical Examiners

**Medical Licensure:**

- Pennsylvania (Active)  
California (Expired)  
Delaware (Expired)

**Bar Admission/Licensure:**

- Pennsylvania (Active)

**Memberships in Professional and Scientific Societies:**

- American Medical Association

North American Society of Pediatric Hepatology, Gastroenterology & Nutrition

10/28/11 – 10/27/14 Ethics Committee  
8/15/20 - 12/31/23 Ethics Committee

Pennsylvania Medical Society

2022-23 Alternate Delegate PMS House of Delegates  
2024 Delegate House of Delegates

Dauphin County Medical Society

2022- Executive Board

**Editorial Boards**

1/2021- Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition Reports

**Sample Courses Taught**

The Physician & the Law

4<sup>th</sup> Year Elective

The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

2015-2022

Health Care Law and Policy

The Pennsylvania State University, The Dickinson School of Law

Fall 2020

Professional Responsibility & Ethics

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Core Curriculum

The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

2014-17

Pediatric Gastroenterology

Pediatric Medical Student Rotation

2008-19

**Selected Ethics Related Publications**

Wenner W. To Make Medical Care Safe, Give Someone the Authority

Penn Live. April 17, 2025

Wenner W. NASPGHAN Guidelines in a Medical Malpractice Action.

JPGN 80(6) June 2025. 1067.

Jenifer R. Lightdale, Vicky Ng, Benjamin D. Gold, Jeannie Huang, NASPGHAN leadership response to Dr. Wenner letter to editor, Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, 10.1002/jpn3.70035, 80, 6, (1068-1068), (2025).

Wenner WJ. Patient Safety in the Time of Corona. Patient Safety 2(2) 12-15. 2020.

Alexander CP, Wenner WJ. Quantifying Trainees Competence in Upper Endoscopy. Invited commentary. JPGN. 2020 Apr 27.

Wenner WJ Jr., Choi SW. Organization response to known medical errors: does peer review protection impede improvement? Am J Med Qual. 2018; 33: 552-553

Wenner WJ. Does the Legal System Provide Adequate Protection for Children in Scientific Experiments. The Unanswered Question of Grimes v. Kennedy Krieger Institute. Journal of Juvenile Law and Policy. 8(2). 2004.

Wenner WJ. Is expert testimony the practice of medicine? J Medical Discipline and Licensure. Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline, Vol. 90, No. 3, 2004, Pp. 15-20

Wenner, WJ. Unreliable Medical Experts. Pediatrics. 2003. 111(3): 711.

*Peer Reviewed Articles #(25) Full List on Request*

#### *Books*

The Pediatrician's Managed Care Manual, by W. J. Wenner, Jr. (D. Nash Senior Editor) TLC Publications. Boston, 1999. 127 pages.

*Chapters (#16) Full List on Request)*