



**NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY, HEPATOLOGY AND NUTRITION
[NASPGHAN]**



NASPGHAN FOUNDATION

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HARRY SHWACHMAN AWARD

The Shwachman Award is given by NASPGHAN to a person who has made major, lifelong scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition in North America. The award is designed to preferentially honor a member of NASPGHAN for their achievements in the field.

THE 2025 SHWACHMAN AWARD JORGE A. BEZERRA, MD

Jorge Bezerra, MD is the epitome of a physician scientist and deserving recipient of the 2025 NASPGHAN Shwachman Award. He has made sustained and major scientific contributions and achievements to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition. Dr. Bezerra is committed to laboratory and clinical studies investigating mechanisms and management of neonatal cholestasis. In addition, he has made major contributions to education in our discipline, training numerous young members of our field. He has achieved outstanding administrative accomplishments in the field, as well as in Pediatrics, as Chair of a major department; he is a role model for all. Dr. Bezerra provides excellent clinical care and advocacy for childhood digestive diseases.

Jorge Bezerra was born and raised in the Brazilian beach town of Natal; Jorge describes a childhood in which he “enjoyed playing soccer every day.” Thankfully, his dreams of a professional career in the sport were diverted to pediatric GI! A major early force was Dr. Burris “Duke” Duncan, from the University of Arizona (UofA), who worked in Brazil to improve global child health and reduce morbidity and mortality in areas with limited resources. Jorge’s early experience as a volunteer in Natal children’s hospital ward, which provided care for underserved families, cemented his career choice. In 1984 Jorge followed Dr. Duncan to Tucson/UofA where he served as a research assistant in physiology, led by Dr. Otakar Koldovsky, investigating functional GI maturation. His exposure to clinical medicine led him to initiate Pediatric residency training at the UofA – during which Dr. Bezerra won the “Trainee Triple Crown,” receiving all 3 graduating resident awards – Excellence in Teaching, in Clinical Service, and in Research, as well as the Resident Research Award from the AAP. He chose to pursue fellowship training in pediatric GI, driven by his laboratory experiences and his clinical experiences caring for children with GI diseases under the mentorship of Dr. John Udall, Jr., at the UofA. In 1990 Dr. Bezerra began his Fellowship in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and the University of Cincinnati (CCHMC/UC). He quickly absorbed relevant literature to support the clinical care of his assigned patients, rapidly developing into a gifted clinician, eager to solve and treat the most difficult and perplexing cases. Inspired by the growing field of pediatric liver diseases, he pursued laboratory research training under the mentorship of Dr. Sandra Degen, with a focus on molecular genetics and liver regeneration. In 1996 Dr. Bezerra was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, CCHMC/UC, and rapidly rose to Associate Professor (2001) and Professor of Pediatrics (2005) and Director of the CCHMC NIDDK Digestive Health Center. In 2015 he became Division Director as the William and Rebecca Balistreri Chair in Pediatric Hepatology. In 2022 he was appointed Pediatrician-In-Chief, Children’s Medical Center at Dallas.

Dr. Bezerra is a leading investigator in pediatric hepatology whose scientific achievements have transformed our understanding of biliary atresia and related cholangiopathies. Motivated by the lack of biomarkers or effective medical treatments, he pioneered mechanistic studies using animal models, identifying pro-inflammatory circuits and immune cells that target the biliary epithelium. His lab uncovered key immunologic and genetic signatures, discovered MMP-7 as a diagnostic biomarker, and linked biliary atresia to other cholangiopathies through molecular profiling. With continuous NIH funding over a 35-year career, Dr. Bezerra has combined biochemistry, immunology, and molecular biology to produce over

180 publications that bridge fundamental biology and clinical application, including the development of biliary organoids for therapeutic discovery.

Dr. Bezerra has had a transformative impact on graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows, working diligently to ensure their success, carving a pathway for his trainees and junior investigators. The list of liver-based physicians and scientists he has trained includes basic scientists, clinical and research fellows in our field, and numerous student mentorship (clinical and research). These trainees carry the torch with a record of achievement and leadership as clinicians, investigators, and educators.

Dr. Bezerra’s achievements and accomplishments have brought him academic honors and national recognition. He was elected to membership in the APS, the ASCI, and the Association of American Physicians. He serves as a member of the Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section (NIDDK), the NIH College of CSR Reviewers, and the Board of Scientific Councilors (NIDDK Intramural Research). Jorge has frequently served worldwide as a visiting professor, distinguished lecturer, and invited speaker, including several honorary named lectures.

Dr. Bezerra became a member of our society in 1994 and has dedicated 30 years of service and a significant amount of time to NASPGHAN activities. He, in conjunction with his numerous trainees and collaborators have submitted abstracts to our Annual Meeting (one winning the “Fellow Research Award.” In 2005). In addition, he has served as an invited Faculty member at numerous NASPGHAN meetings.

Jorge states that his greatest joy is his family: wife Susan and their three boys Tiago (wife Taylor), Lucas (wife Julia), and Paulo (fiancée Alexa) and his grandchildren Mira and Felix. Jorge has enormous affection for his parents, his nine siblings, and his native Brazil.

Dr. Bezerra has had a major impact on NASPGHAN, the members, and the patients that we care for - he has performed detailed molecular studies of inherited forms of cholestasis, which have led to a greater understanding of normal liver metabolism, transport mechanisms, and adaptive processes. This has opened the possibility of gene or cell therapy for these disorders. In light of his dedicated and productive substantial scholarly activity, his well-founded skills as a clinician, and his innate ability to lead, collaborate and organize, Dr. Bezerra clearly merits the 2025 Shwachman Award.

HARRY SHWACHMAN AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

1987 – Claude C. Roy, MD	2000 – William Klish, MD	2013 – Mitchell Cohen, MD
1988 – Arnold Silverman, MD	2001 – Jon Vanderhoof, MD	2014 – Peter Whittington, MD
1989 – Murray Davidson, MD	2002 – Buford Nichols, MD	2015 – D. Brent Polk, MD, AGAF
1990 – J. Richard Hamilton, MD	2003 – Peter Durie, MD	2016 – Wayne Lencer, MD
1991 – Otakar Koldovsky, MD, PhD	2004 – Fayez Ghishan, MD	2017 – Kathleen B. Schwarz, MD
1992 – Samuel Fomon, MD	2005 – Frederick Suchy, MD	2018 – John A. Barnard, MD
1993 – Richard J. Grand, MD	2006 – Judith Sondheimer, MD	2019 – Anne Griffiths, MD, FRCPC
1994 – Gerard B. Odell, MD	2007 – Emanuel Lebenthal, MD	2020 – Mark E. Lowe, MD, PhD
1995 – W. Allan Walker, MD	2008 – Michael Thaler, MD	2021 – Glenn T. Furuta, MD
1996 – Joyce Gryboski, MD	2009 – Ronald J. Sokol, MD	2022 – Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD
1997 – John B. Watkins, MD	2010 – Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC	2023 – Nicola Jones, MD, PhD
1998 – Marvin Ament, MD	2011 – David H. Perlmutter, MD	2024 – Susan J. Henning, PhD
1999 – William Balistreri, MD	2012 – Alessio Fasano, MD	



MARGARET STALLINGS NASPGHAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Margaret Stallings NASPGHAN Distinguished Service Award is presented to an individual to recognize excellence and service to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition by achieving national and/or international recognition in their field.

THE 2025 MARGARET STALLINGS NASPGHAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD VALERIA COHRAN, MD

Dr. Valeria Cohran's journey of academic and clinical excellence and dedicated service to her patients, colleagues, trainees and more importantly to NASPGHAN and the field of pediatric gastroenterology had its humble beginnings in Memphis TN, and Senatobia, Mississippi. Senatobia, a city known as the county seat of Tate County, Mississippi, in the Memphis Metropolitan Area, and has a population of around 8,500 (Cir. 2020); ~5,000 when Dr. Cohran was growing up. Despite overcoming many challenges along her path, Dr. Cohran has continued to succeed, all the while paying it forward to her colleagues and trainees, never letting others' impressions or biases prevent her from achieving her goals. Dr. Cohran graduated from Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi with her B.S. in Chemistry. Tougaloo College is a private, historically black college in the Tougaloo area of Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Cohran obtained her M.D. at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, and subsequently completed her pediatric residency, pediatric gastroenterology fellowship and a 4th year, Advanced Clinical Fellowship in Intestinal Rehabilitation and Nutrition at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She trained with icons including James Heubi, William Balistreri, Mitchell Cohen, Mike Farrell and Sam Kocoshis.

At the completion of her fellowship training in 2004, Dr. Cohran was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and at the same time, fresh out of fellowship training, assumed the role of Medical Director of the Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplantation Program for the Division of Gastroenterology, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Formerly Children's Memorial Hospital). Dr. Cohran quickly rose to prominence in her sub-specialty. She achieved this recognition through being one of those people who rolls up her sleeves and 'gets to it' - doing the work necessary to improve her patients' lives - through her direct care of fragile, medically complex patients, her work on the Interdisciplinary Intestinal Rehabilitation team she help to grow at Lurie Children's in Chicago, and, as the Director of the Lurie Hospital Nutrition Committee. Dr. Cohran has created and implemented multiple local, regional, national and international platforms for medical education, mutual learning, networking and collaboration and provided mentorship in the management of children with intestinal failure. Dr. Cohran has never shied away from professional growth as she is Certified by American Board of Pediatrics in Pediatric Transplant Hepatology from 2008 until the present, and in September 2024, was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She has leveraged and expanded her expertise in overseeing clinicians from multiple disciplines with the collective goal of providing appropriate nutrition and achieving nutritional outcomes that includes enteral independence, with the hopes of the child eventually being independent of "tubes". To put it plainly, Dr. Cohran has been simply exemplary in her service to her patients, colleagues and NASPGHAN.

I have known Dr. Cohran for over 24 years ago, first meeting her when she was a pediatric GI fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I have been blessed with the opportunity to get to know, observe and work closely with Val in multiple contexts – through direct interaction in planning and executing national meetings, NASPGHAN activities, and in particular, working with her on committees, leadership council and DEI initiatives. It has truly been a pleasure watching Dr. Cohran, a rising star from the beginning of her tenure at Northwestern University/Lurie Children's Hospital, blossom into an established, respected, and distinguished key opinion leader who is recognized regionally, nationally and internationally. Dr. Cohran continues to "pay it forward," raising critical questions and collaborating with colleagues around the world to better understand, diagnose and manage children and adolescents with intestinal failure and establish optimal approaches to achieving enteral nutrition, growth and developmental outcomes. She is truly one of those "go to" experts when it comes to intestinal rehabilitation – and now – based both on her academic and personal achievements, health equity due to Dr. Cohran's consistent pursuit of achieving intentional equity and inclusion for all. This intentionality has made Lurie Children's Intestinal Rehabilitation program, which Dr. Cohran leads, a unique and nationally recognized multidisciplinary intensive program for care of these medically complex children. Patients often self-refer to Dr. Cohran for second and third opinions after seeing her name in social media groups for caregivers.

Evidence of Dr. Cohran's clinical care reputation and as a thought leader in intestinal rehabilitation and nutrition, includes local, regional, national, and international speaking invitations at NASPGHAN events, DDW, ASPEN, and beyond. Her educational writings and invited reviews are enduring pieces of continuing medical education. Dr. Cohran has served on local and national committees and continues to be integrally involved in NASPGHAN as well as the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

Dr. Cohran is an incredibly bright, compassionate, and extremely hard-working – she has an infectious bubbly personality that puts people at ease, and she addresses even the most uncomfortable and difficult situations with grace, professionalism, poise and a smile. Dr. Cohran is dedicated to her own family, to her patients and to the academic community in which she works –she IS NASPGHAN. Dr. Cohran is one of those people one cannot help but like and admire. Her calm demeanor and personable, disarming bright and infectious smile and laughter, and her balanced and thoughtful approach to problem solving gives her the unique ability of being a leader in actions and words. Dr. Cohran is without question the type of individual who has earned the excellence and reputation deserving of the 2025 Margaret Stallings Distinguished Service Award.

MARGARET STALLINGS NASPGHAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

2003 – Joseph Fitzgerald, MD	2011 – Ivor D. Hill, MD, MD, ChB	2019 – Neal LeLeiko, MD, PhD
2004 – James Keating, MD	2012 – Alan Leichtner, MD	2020 – Paul Hyman, MD
2005 – Kathleen B. Schwarz, MD	2013 – John N. Udall, Jr., MD, PhD	2021 – Barry Wershil, MD
2006 – Harvey Sharp, MD	2014 – Melvin B. Heyman, MD, MPH	2022 – Athos Bousvaros, MD, PhD
2007 – Susan Henning, PhD	2015 – Kathleen J. Motil, MD, PhD	2023 – Maria Mascarenhas, MBBS
2008 – Richard Colletti, MD	2016 – David A. Gremse, MD	2024 – George J. Fuchs, III, MD
2009 – Fredric Daum, MD	2017 – Eric Sibley, MD, PhD	
2010 – Harland S. Winter, MD	2018 – Michael R. Narkewicz, MD	



AAP MURRAY DAVIDSON AWARD

The Murray Davidson Award recognizes an outstanding clinician, educator, and scientist who has made significant contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition.

THE 2025 AAP MURRAY DAVIDSON AWARD CARLO DI LORENZO, MD, FAAP

The Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (SOGHN) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is delighted to present Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, FAAP, with the 2025 Murray Davidson Award. This award recognizes an outstanding clinician, educator or scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition and through this contribution, made a significant impact on pediatrics. For all his contributions that improve the lives of patients, his impact on trainees and faculty, and the significant contributions to our Academy and our Society, we are grateful.

Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, FAAP earned his MD from 2nd School of Medicine at the University of Naples and continued there for his Fellowship training. In addition, he completed research fellowships at Hospital Universitaire de Enfants in Brussels, Belgium and at University of Southern California County Hospital in Los Angeles. His training was completed in the Department of Pediatrics at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center in Torrance California. Dr. Di Lorenzo's first faculty position was at UCLA starting in 1990 and has been practicing pediatric gastroenterology since that time. His career took him to the east coast and the University of Pittsburgh in 1994 where he practiced for a decade during which time he was promoted to professor of pediatrics. He then moved to The Ohio State University in 2004 to become the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Nationwide Children's Hospital where he has remained.

He is widely regarded as an expert clinician, researcher, educator and world expert in pediatric neurogastroenterology motility disorders. He has actively helped develop our understanding and diagnosis of functional gastrointestinal disorders. The contributions in this area are extensive but are highlighted by chairing the Rome Foundation "Child/Adolescent" committee for Rome III (2002) and continuing this leadership to the present Rome V (2026). He has had a profound impact on how we approach patients with dysmotility and functional GI disease. This started with his first grant to evaluate gastrointestinal motility in 1992 at UCLA. Multiple clinical trials have followed to understand and expand the care options for children with functional and motility disorders. His scholarship has improved the lives of innumerable patients. Dr. Di Lorenzo's prolific scholarship extends beyond ROME and must be applauded. He has 283 peer reviewed articles, 87 Invited Articles & Editorials, 63 Book Chapters and 6 books. His expertise and passion are recognized with an early career lecture on gastroesophageal reflux and gastric emptying in childhood at ESPGHAN in 1986. This was followed by an additional 381 national and international lectures and countless local and regional talks. His work was recently celebrated with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society in 2025. He has achieved all of this with his characteristic broad smile.

His hard work and energy have also extended to NASPGHAN where he served as the President from 2014-16 and with active participation and leadership of several committees as well as development of multiple clinical practice guidelines. He was honored as a Schwachman Award winner (2022) due to his major, lifelong scientific and educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition in North America. Perhaps the highlight of his NASPGHAN contribution was organizer of the NASPGHAN World Soccer Cup.

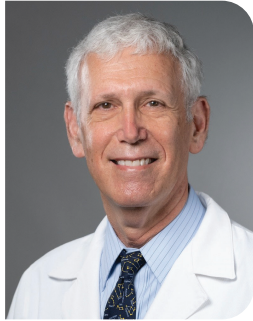
The AAP has also greatly benefited from his energy, leadership and scholarship as he led the AAP SOGHN Professional Education Programming Committee (2021-25) focusing on planning SOGHN contributions to the AAP National Convention and Exhibit (NCE). He has also provided countless lectures for the AAP and currently holds the record for attendance at an H-section session, which is the marquee event for SOGHN at the AAP NCE. The value he identifies in the opportunity to educate pediatricians is clear by his enthusiasm and continued contributions. One of his nominees stated that amongst his Ohio community pediatricians his "reputation is one of accessibility, knowledge and kindness." This is further reflected in his work for the AAP to advance the knowledge and skills of pediatricians.

Murray Davidson, MD was a pioneering pediatrician who played a significant role in establishing pediatric gastroenterology. Dr. Di Lorenzo echoes his trailblazing legacy with his clinical, scientific, and educational contributions to our field. Dr. Di Lorenzo's momentous impact is recognized broadly in both pediatric gastroenterology and pediatrics and will endure.

Supported by a grant from Abbott.

AAP MURRAY DAVIDSON AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

1993 – Barbara S. Kirschner, MD, FAAP	2004 – William J. Klish, MD, FAAP	2015 – Robert H. Squires, Jr., MD, FAAP
1994 – Arnold Silverman, MD, FAAP	2005 – Joseph F. Fitzgerald, MD, FAAP	2016 – Steven Schwarz, MD, FAAP
1995 – Emanuel Lebenthal, MD, FAAP	2006 – George Ferry, MD, FAAP	2017 – Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg, MD, FAAP
1996 – Robert Suskind, MD, FAAP	2007 – Michael Farrell, MD, FAAP	2018 – David Piccoli, MD
1997 – James P. Keating, MD, FAAP	2008 – Jay A. Perman, MD, FAAP	2019 – Susan Baker, MD, PhD, FAAP
1998 – John B. Watkins, MD, FAAP	2009 – Linda S. Book, MD, FAAP	2020 – Leo Heitlinger, MD, FAAP
1999 – William F. Balistreri, MD, FAAP	2010 – Alan M. Leichtner, MD, FAAP	2021 – Estella Alonso, MD
2000 – W. Allan Walker, MD, FAAP	2011 – B UK Li, MD	2022 – Ronald E. Kleinman, MD, FAAP
2001 – Richard Grand, MD, FAAP	2012 – Samuel Kocoshis, MD, FAAP	2023 – Maria Oliva-Hemker
2002 – Marvin E. Ament, MD, FAAP	2013 – Philip Rosenthal, MD, FAAP	2024 – Melvin Heyman, MD, MPH
2003 – William K. Schubert, MD, FAAP	2014 – Jeffrey S. Hyams, MD	



NASPGHAN MASTER EDUCATOR AWARD

The NASPGHAN Master Educator Award for excellence recognizes individuals who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and/or nutrition through education scholarship on a national or international basis.

2025 NASPGHAN MASTER EDUCATOR AWARD STEPHEN M. BOROWITZ, MD

Stephen M. Borowitz, MD, is the 2025 recipient of the NASPGHAN Master Educator Award, honoring more than three decades of outstanding contributions to pediatric gastroenterology education and mentorship. A beloved teacher, innovative clinician, and tireless advocate for learners, Dr. Borowitz's legacy is etched in the thousands of medical students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty who have been shaped by his curiosity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dr. Borowitz grew up in Evanston, Illinois, where his early years were defined as much by Little League baseball as by an insatiable curiosity about the world around him. He graduated cum laude from Tulane University in 1976 with a degree in sociology and statistics and earned his medical degree from Rush Medical College in 1980. He completed both his pediatric residency and fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Vanderbilt University Medical Center before joining the faculty at the University of South Alabama in 1986. In 1988, he was recruited by Dr. Jim Sutphen to the University of Virginia (UVA), where he would spend the next 36 years in roles of increasing leadership and influence, culminating in his appointment as Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health Sciences. He became Professor Emeritus in 2024.

At UVA, Dr. Borowitz quickly earned a reputation as a master educator whose teaching combined rigorous evidence-based medicine with an approachable, discussion-driven style. His oft-repeated "but why?" posed to residents and students during rounds was not a challenge, but an invitation to think deeper and perhaps laterally, to search for evidence, and to consider the patient's story in full. Learners fondly recall his erudite but laconic quotes that resurface years later in clinical practice: "Something must be different about this child," and "The most important thing we can give our patients is time and compassion."

His contributions to UVA's educational mission are staggering in scope. For decades, he staffed five to six half-day clinics each week, mentoring generations of medical students and pediatric residents in outpatient care. He moderated morning report four days a week for years, transforming it into an engaging, interactive forum for clinical reasoning. Even with time constraints and daily stresses, both residents and faculty left morning report with renewed purpose and a greater appreciation for starting the day with critical thinking. His commitment to teaching earned him virtually every departmental and institutional award available, including multiple McLemore Birdsong Awards for Excellence in Teaching (the highest honor from the residency program to faculty), the UVA All-University Teaching Award, the David C. Harrison Distinguished Educator Award, and repeated recognition by medical students and residents. Nationally, he has been consistently recognized among *Best Doctors in America*, *Castle Connolly's Top Doctors*, and *America's Most Honored Doctors*.

An innovator in educational pedagogy and meta-cognition, Dr. Borowitz has long been a digital pathfinder in integrating technology into clinical training. He pioneered the use of the electronic health record (EHR) in medical student education, earning an Innovation in Medical Education Grant to introduce EHR skills in the pre-clinical years. He led research into resident sign-out processes in collaboration with systems engineers, resulting in publications, national presentations, and a sign-out curriculum now embedded in UVA's Pediatric Internship Readiness Course. Whether computer-assisted differential diagnosis in the 1990s or voice recognition and AI integration in recent years, Dr. Borowitz was always eager to explore new tools. He views technology not as a novelty or static tool, but as a dynamic "evolutionary" means to improve patient care and clinical reasoning.

Dr. Borowitz's scholarly work spans pediatric nutrition, clinical informatics, and physician information-seeking behaviors, reflecting his interdisciplinary approach to medicine. His research collaborations with engineering and public health colleagues have informed both institutional practice and national discourse. Yet, his proudest professional accomplishment has never been a publication or a title but rather the success of his trainees. As one former resident-turned-colleague wrote, "I have a dream job because I get to work with the teacher I most admired during residency. I am standing on his shoulders as I strive to be the best educator I can be."

His leadership extended beyond UVA to the broader pediatric gastroenterology community. A member of NASPGHAN since 1986, Dr. Borowitz has contributed to national education initiatives, presented at countless conferences, and inspired colleagues through his thoughtful, evidence-based approach to both patient care and teaching. His influence is felt not only through those he has directly mentored, but through the ripple effect of their work in institutions across the country.

Despite his many accolades, Dr. Borowitz remains characteristically humble about his career. When learning that he received this award he wrote: "I feel quite the imposter as all I feel I have done is follow in the footsteps of my role models and mentors and tried hard not to let them down. A teacher is only as good as his/her students, and I have had the tremendously good fortune of having been surrounded by wonderful students, amazing role models and mentors." His colleagues, however, know better as he has set a standard for excellence in medical education that will inspire future generations.

Away from the lecture hall and clinic, Dr. Borowitz is known for his wit, his warmth, and his ability to make both patients and learners feel heard and valued. Long before "work-life balance" became a familiar phrase, Steve embodied its true meaning through the way he lived. Those who know him well recognize his deep love for his wife, his two daughters, and now his three grandchildren. Those who have worked with him as colleagues, trainees, or mentees have witnessed the same profound love and respect he extends to his work family. Through his example, he has taught us, and continues to teach us, what genuine balance looks like each day. The Chicago native, returning this year to his "old stomping grounds" to receive the Master Educator Award, still carries the lessons he learned there about teamwork, perseverance, and asking big questions into every facet of his life.

As he reflects on a career devoted to teaching, mentoring, and caring for children, Dr. Borowitz's impact is perhaps best measured not in awards or publications, but in the countless physicians who strive to emulate his example: to always be curious, to always ask "why?", and to let patients be their greatest teachers.

NASPGHAN MASTER EDUCATOR AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

2018 – BUK Li, MD

2019 – Alan M. Leichtner, MD, FAAP, MS-HPed

2021 – Praveen Goday, MBBS

2022 – Norberto Rodriguez-Baez, MD

2023 – Jean Molleston, MD

2024 – Marsha Kay, MD



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Margaret K. Stallings NASPGHAN Executive Director 1995–2025

Margaret Stallings joined NASPGHAN in 1987 as their meeting manager while employed by SLACK Incorporated. In 1995, she assumed the role as NASPGHAN's first Executive Director. In 2000, she opened the first NASPGHAN National Office in Flourtown, PA. She served under more than 20 NASPGHAN Presidents until her retirement in July 2025.

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/TAKEDA PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS INC. RESEARCH INNOVATION AWARD

Modeling Macrophage–Cholangiocyte Interactions in Chronic Ductopenic Rejection with Primary Human Cholangiocyte Organoids

Anna Peters, MD – Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION MID-CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Role of Melanoma Differentiation–Associated 5 (MDA5)–Viral Sensing in Intestinal Mucosal Homeostasis

Jodie Ouahed, MD, MMSc, FRCP, FAAP – Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/QOL MEDICAL, LLC RESEARCH AWARD FOR THE STUDY OF DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH CARBOHYDRATE MALDIGESTION/MALABSORPTION IN CHILDREN

Identifying Effective Strategies for Enteral Autonomy in Pediatric Intestinal Failure:

Real-World Evidence and Stakeholder Perspectives

Susan Gutierrez, MD – UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, San Francisco, CA

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/GEORGE FERRY YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Metabolic Reprogramming as a Therapeutic Strategy for Microvillus Inclusion Disease:

Targeting PPAR α –Mediated Lipid Homeostasis

Casey Johnson, MD – Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/SANOFI YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD FOR THE STUDY OF PEDIATRIC EOSINOPHILIC GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

Determining the Effect of N-Acetylcysteine on Fibrosis in Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Matthew Adrian Buendia, MD – Monroe Carell Jr Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD FOR THE STUDY OF PEDIATRIC LIVER DISEASE AND/OR LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

Support by Education Grants from Ipsen and Mirum

The Role of IFN- γ Signaling in Pediatric Autoimmune Hepatitis: Toward Mechanistic Insight and Precision Biomarkers

Silvia Nastasio, MD – Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/CROHN’S & COLITIS FOUNDATION IBD YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

The Role of Enteroendocrine Cells in IBD Pathogenesis

Gui Piovezani Ramos, MD – Mayo Clinic Arizona, Phoenix, AZ

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS [CONTINUED]

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION ADVANCED FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC ENDOSCOPY

Feasibility and Safety of Endoscopic Chemical Pancreatectomy via ERCP-Guided Acetic Acid Infusion in a Goat Model

Olawale Oduru, MD – UAB Medical Center/Children’s of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/ABBOTT NUTRITION ADVANCED FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN PEDIATRIC NUTRITION

Using Spatial Transcriptomics to Predict Teduglutide Response in Children with Short Bowel Syndrome

Courtney Svenstrup, MD – Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, IN

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/CPNP NUTRITION RESEARCH GRANTS

Comparing Accuracy of Length Measurements Using Length Board vs. Length Mat in Pediatric Patients Less than 2 Years of Age

Caitie Hessenthaler, BS, MS – Children’s Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION INNOVATIONS IN CLINICAL CARE GRANT

Machine Learning Model for Tacrolimus Dosing

Alaa Abdelghani, MBBS – UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, San Francisco, CA

The Gut Guide: Developing a Digital Resource Library for Youth with DGBIS

Ilana K. Moss, PhD – Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and Streamind Health, Los Angeles, CA

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION/APGNN/CPNP NUTRITION ADVOCATE AWARDS

Support from Abbott

Patricia A. Bierly, MSN, CRNP – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA (APGNN – Nurse)

Lauren Fiechtner, MD, MPH – MassGeneral Hospital for Children, Boston, MA (NASPGHAN – Physician)

Christy Figueredo, MS, RD, CSP – University of Miami, Miami, FL (CPNP – Dietician)

CELIAC DISEASE FOUNDATION/NASPGHAN FOUNDATION PILOT GRANT

Improving the Screening Process for Celiac Disease in Children:

Interviewing Caregivers to Uncover Barriers and Facilitators to Diagnostic Confirmation

Monique Germone, PhD, MA – Digestive Health Institute, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

GERARD ODELL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIVER RESEARCH

Novel Point-of-Care Diagnostic Risk Model and Clinical Calculator for Biliary Atresia

Sandra Ríos Meléndez, MD – The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

AMIN TJOTA PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN PANCREATIC RESEARCH

Children with Sickle Cell Disease Hospitalized at Children's Hospitals with Acute Pancreatitis have a Longer Length of Stay and Require More Procedures Compared to Those Without Sickle Cell Disease

Olawale Oduru, MD – Children's of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

THE GRAND WATKINS PRIZE

FGFBP1+ Upper Crypt Stem Cells Regenerate Injured Intestinal Epithelium

Jonathan Miller, MD – New York-Presbyterian, New York, NY

NASPGHAN FOUNDATION TERI LI YOUNG EDUCATOR AWARD

Gary Galante, MD, BSc, MEd, FRCPC – University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

AAP MITCHELL B. COHEN EARLY TO MID-CAREER LEADERSHIP AWARD

Amy G. Feldman, MD, PhD, FAASLD – Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO

THE CPNP DIETITIAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Wendy Elverson, RD, CSP, LDN – Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

SUE PECK EXCELLENCE IN NURSING PRACTICE AWARD

Amy M. Donegan, PCNP, RN – Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

ABSTRACT AWARDS

APFED OUTSTANDING EGID ABSTRACT AWARD

Unique Gene Signatures Identify Treatment-Response and Age-Specific Differences Between Adults and Children with Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Joshua B. Wechsler, MD, MSc – Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago, IL

The Correlation Between Esophageal Distensibility with Dysphagia Scores in Pediatric Eosinophilic Esophagitis is Dependent on Disease Activity

Joshua Thariath, MD, MSE – McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

CYCLIC VOMITING SYNDROME ASSOCIATION (CVSA) YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PRIZE IN HONOR OF B LI

Impact of Aprepitant use on Length of Stay and Repeat Hospitalization for Children with Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome

Sergio Cobos, MD – Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH

ABSTRACT AWARDS [CONTINUED]

FEEDING MATTERS OUTSTANDING PEDIATRIC FEEDING DISORDER ABSTRACT AWARD

Salivary Substance P is a Sensitive and Specific Biomarker of Aspiration in Infants and Toddlers

Daniel "Pete" Duncan, MD – Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

Argon Plasma Coagulation Treatment for Gastric Inlet Patch in Symptomatic Children: A Retrospective Chart Review

Sara Alremawi, MD – Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

Pediatric Liver Transplant Outcomes and the Association with Socioeconomic Status: A Population-Based Cohort Study Over 30 Years

Toshifumi Yodoshi, MD, PhD – The Hospital for Sick Children/ICES, Toronto, ON, Canada

NASPGHAN ENDOSCOPY PRIZE

Anesthesia-Free Transoral Endoscopy Using a Modified Pacifier in Early Infancy

Jonathan A. Berken, MD – Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

NASPGHAN NEUROGASTROENTEROLOGY AND MOTILITY PRIZE (CLINICAL SCIENCE)

Gastric Motor Dysfunction by 13 C-Spirulina Gastric Emptying Breath Test and Dynamic Gastric MRI in Adolescents with Dysautonomia vs. Healthy Controls

Fatima Zohra Khamissi, MD Candidate – Medical College of Wisconsin Dept. of Pediatrics, Milwaukee, WI

NASPGHAN NEUROGASTROENTEROLOGY AND MOTILITY PRIZE (BASIC SCIENCE)

A Large-Scale Elisa-Based Study to Determine the Diagnostic Threshold of Human Pepsin A as a Biomarker of Microaspiration

Nidhi Kapoor, PhD – Orlando Health, Orlando, FL

NASPGHAN NUTRITION PRIZE

Clinical Trial of Whole-Fat Bovine Dairy to Lower Hepatic Steatosis in Children with Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease

Megan Roach – University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA

YOUNG FACULTY CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Trends in Inpatient Healthcare Utilization in Children with Feeding Difficulties

Suzanna Hirsch, MD – Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

YOUNG FACULTY INVESTIGATOR AWARD

A Novel Truncating EP300 Mutation Impairs Intestinal Epithelial Differentiation in Patient Tissue and Organoids and can be Rescued by Chemical HDAC Inhibition

Lauren V. Collen, MD – Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA

CORPORATE SUPPORTER RECOGNITION

We thank the following companies and organizations for their generous support of our 2025 educational and research programs:

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