

2026 St. Jude/PIDS Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference
March 4 - 6, 2026 | St. Jude Children's Research Hospital | Memphis, TN
Symposia in Pediatric ID Research, Transplant/Immunocompromised Hosts
Infectious Diseases, Career Development and Global Health

TUESDAY, MARCH 3	
6:00 – 8:00 PM Peabody Memphis Venetian Ballroom Foyer	Early Registration Check-In
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Networking and Cocktail Hour
5:30 – 7:00 PM Peabody Memphis Venetian Ballroom	<p>Dinner and Career Panel Presentation Moderator: Kari Neeman, MD University of Nebraska Medical Center</p> <p><i>Careers in Peds ID - Administration as Part of the Mission in an Academic Health Center</i> Carrie I. Byington, MD University of California, San Diego</p> <p><i>Careers in Peds ID - Medical Education</i> Shaina M. Hecht, MD Riley Hospital for Children/Indiana University School of Medicine</p> <p><i>Careers in Peds ID - Antimicrobial Stewardship</i> Jack G. Schneider, MD Riley Hospital for Children</p> <p><i>Careers in Peds ID - Hospital Epidemiology/Infection Control</i> Ibukun Christine Kalu, MD Duke University School of Medicine</p> <p><i>Careers in Peds ID Panel - Transplant ID</i> Surabhi (Sara) Vora MD, MPH Seattle Children's Hospital/University of Washington</p>
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Open Forum and Q & A

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4	
8:00 – 8:15 AM Auditorium	<p>Welcome and Introduction Miguela A. Caniza, MD, MPH Director, Infectious Diseases Division of Global Pediatric Medicine St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p>
8:15 – 9:30 AM	<p>Luminaries in Global Health Moderator: Aslam Khan, DO Stanford Children's Health</p> <p>Luminary 1 (30 minutes) <i>Vector-borne Disease Prevention</i> A. Desiree LaBeaud, MD, MS, FASTMH Stanford University</p> <p>Luminary 2 (30 minutes) <i>Characteristics and Evolution of Arboviruses</i> Eva Harris, PhD University of California, Berkeley</p> <p>Q & A with Luminaries (15 minutes)</p>
9:30 – 10:00 AM	<p>Oral Abstracts Session 1 Moderator: Elizabeth P. Schlaudecker, MD, MPH Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</p> <p>Abstract Presentation 1: Transplant (10 minutes) <i>It Takes Two to Tango: Impact of a Reverse Two-Step Algorithm for Clostridioides difficile Infection Diagnosis in Pediatric Oncology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplant Populations</i> Dolores Freire Jijon, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital</p>

	<p>Abstract Presentation 2: Global Health (10 minutes) <i>Enterovirus D68 Detection Among Hospitalized Children with Acute Respiratory Illness in Amman, Jordan</i> Haya Hayek, MD Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Abstract Presentation 3: General Research (10 minutes) <i>Proteomic Signatures in Cerebrospinal Fluid Reveal Biomarkers for Central Nervous System Infections</i> Kayley Anderson, MPH University of Nebraska Medical Center & Children's Nebraska</p>
10:00 – 10:30 AM	BREAK
10:30 – 11:45 AM	<p>Frontiers in Pediatric Infectious Diseases Moderator: Gwenn Skar, MD, PhD University of Nebraska Medical Center</p> <p>Frontiers Lecture 1 (30 minutes) <i>Leading the Charge: Advancing Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship, One Child at a Time</i> Rana El Feghaly, MD, MSCI, CPHQ Children's Mercy Kansas City</p> <p>Frontiers Lecture 2 (30 minutes) <i>Leveraging Virtual Reality to Address Vaccine Hesitancy and Top Threats to Childhood Health</i> Joe Real, MD Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</p> <p>Q & A with Frontier Speakers (15 minutes)</p>
11:45 – 1:45 PM	LUNCH
	<p>State of the Art - CMV Moderator: C. Buddy Creech, MD, MPH, FPIDS Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>CMV Research - Universal Screening (25 minutes) Mark R. Schleiss, MD University of Minnesota</p>

<p>1:45 – 3:15 PM</p>	<p><i>Biomarkers in Congenital CMV (25 minutes)</i> Asuncion Mejias, MD, PhD, MsCS St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p> <p><i>Updates to the Diagnosis and Management of Refractory/Resistant CMV in Transplant Recipients (25 minutes)</i> Ajit Limaye, MD University of California, San Francisco</p> <p><i>Q & A with State of the Art Speakers (15 minutes)</i></p>
<p>3:15 – 3:30 PM</p>	<p>BREAK – POSTER SET UP</p>
<p>3:30 – 4:30 PM Board Room</p>	<p><i>Poster Session 1*</i> General Research and Global Health *Poster Sessions are non-accredited.</p>

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Thursday, March 5	
7:50 – 8:00 AM Auditorium	<p>Welcome and Announcements</p> <p>Monica I. Ardura, DO, MSCS, FPIDS Medical Director of the Host Defense Program and Section Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Nationwide Children's Hospital Chair, St. Jude/PIDS Symposium Planning Committee</p> <p>Gabriela Maron, MD, MSc Director IDS – BMTCT Department of Infectious Diseases St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p>
8:00 – 9:00 AM	<p>St. Jude Grand Rounds</p> <p>Moderator: Gabriela Maron, MD, MSc St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p> <p><i>HHV-6: Advances and Ongoing Challenges in Immunocompromised Hosts</i></p> <p>Joshua Hill, MD, FIDSA Fred Hutch Cancer Center</p>
9:00 – 9:45 AM	<p>Pediatric Transplant/Immunocompromised Hosts Platform 1 (30 minutes)</p> <p>Moderator: Jonathan D. Albert, MD UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh</p> <p><i>"Do I Accept This Donor?" Discussion on Calls About Infectious Risks in Prospective Solid Organ Donors</i></p> <p>Marian Michaels UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh</p> <p>Q & A (15 minutes)</p>
9:45 – 10:15 AM	BREAK
10:15 – 10:45 AM	<p>Updates from the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Transplant (PIDTRAN)</p> <p>Gabriela Maron, MD, MSc Director, IDS-BMTCT Department of Infectious Diseases St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p>
	<p>Oral Abstracts Session 2</p> <p>Moderator: Surabhi (Sara) Vora, MD, MPH Seattle Children's Hospital</p>

<p>10:45 – 11:15 AM</p>	<p>Abstract Presentation 4: Transplant (10 minutes) <i>Outcomes of Blood Culture Best Practice Implementation in Immunocompromised Children: A Multi-Center Study</i> Zeinab Houmani, MD Children’s Hospital at Montefiore</p> <p>Abstract Presentation 5: General Research (10 minutes) <i>Frequency of Asymptomatic Bordetella pertussis Colonization in Healthy Children and Adolescents</i> Dakota Musgrave Vanderbilt University Medical Center</p> <p>Abstract Presentation 6: Global Health (10 minutes) <i>Outbreak of Ralstonia spp. Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections in Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Peru 2025</i> Luzgarda Medalit Luna Vilchez, MD, MSc Instituto Nacional de Salud del Niño San Borja</p>
<p>11:15 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>11:45 AM – 12:45 PM Auditorium</p>	<p>TID Jeopardy</p>
<p>1:00 – 1:45 PM</p>	<p>Challenging Cases Moderator: Victoria Statler, MD Norton Children's and the University of Louisville School of Medicine</p> <p><i>Chronic Cough Conundrum (15 minutes)</i> Kerry Iles, MD Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</p> <p><i>The Month-long Bellyache That Wasn't What It Seemed (15 minutes)</i> Madison Murphy Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine</p> <p><i>Osteoarticular Infection in an Immunocompromised 12-Year-Old Patient (15 minutes)</i> David Rongo Tower Health/St. Christopher's Hospital for Children</p>
<p>1:45 – 2:15 PM</p>	<p>Pediatric Transplant/Immunocompromised Hosts Platform 2 (30 minutes) Moderator: Monica I. Ardura, DO, MSCS, FPIDS Nationwide Children's Hospital</p> <p><i>PTLD in Children</i> Kaitlin J. Devine, MD, MS Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</p>
	<p>Interactive Debate/Panel Discussion</p>

<p>2:15 PM – 3:15 PM</p>	<p><i>HHV-6: Advances and Ongoing Challenges in Immunocompromised Hosts</i> Joshua A. Hill, MD, FIDSA Fred Hutch Cancer Center</p> <p><i>Immunizations in Special Populations</i> Alexandra Freeman, MD National Institutes of Health</p>
<p>3:15 – 3:30PM</p>	<p>Q & A with Platform and Interactive Debate Speakers</p>
<p>3:30 – 3:45 PM</p>	<p>BREAK – POSTER SET UP</p>
<p>3:45 – 4:45 PM Board Room</p>	<p>Poster Session 2* Transplant/ICH Abstracts and Cases *Poster Sessions are non-accredited.</p>
<p>6:00 – 10:00 PM The Peabody Skyway</p>	<p>25th Anniversary Celebration</p>

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6	
8:00 – 8:15 AM Auditorium	<p>Welcome and Announcements Debra Palazzi, MD, MEd, FPIDS President, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society</p> <p>Octavio Ramilo, MD Chair, Department of Infectious Diseases St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p>
8:15 – 9:00 AM	<p>Frontiers in Pediatric Infectious Diseases Lecture 3 (30 minutes) Moderator: Matthew Kelly, MD, MPH Arkansas Children's Hospital</p> <p><i>Early Life Microbiome and Immune Development/Infection Risk</i> Michael Silverman, MD, PhD Children's Hospital of Philadelphia</p> <p>Q & A with Frontier Speaker (15 minutes)</p>
9:00 – 10:30 AM	<p>State of the Art - CNS Moderator - Miguella Caniza, MD, MPH St. Jude Children's Reserach Hospital</p> <p><i>From Outbreak to Answers: Zika CNS Pathogenesis (25 minutes)</i> Emma Mohr, MD, PhD University of Wisconsin - Madison</p> <p><i>Advances in Sequencing-based Infectious Disease Diagnostics in Children and Immunocompromised Hosts (25 minutes)</i> Charles Chiu, MD, PhD University of California, San Francisco</p> <p><i>Closing the gap: improving outcomes in paediatric TB meningitis (25 minutes)</i> Julie Huynh, MD Oxford University Clinical Research Unit</p> <p>Q & A with State of the Art Speakers (15 minutes)</p>

<p>10:30 – 10:45 AM</p>	<p>Oral Abstracts Session 3 Abstract Presentation 7: Top Abstract - RESEARCH Moderator: Gwenn Skar, MD, PhD University of Nebraska Medical Center & Children's Nebraska</p> <p><i>Defining Mechanisms of Neurodevelopmental Injury in Congenital Zika Virus Infection</i> Dhyana Magesh University of Washington</p>
<p>10:45 AM – 12:00 PM</p>	<p>BREAK/LUNCH</p>
<p>12:00 – 1:00 PM</p>	<p>2026 John H. Erskine Lecture in Infectious Diseases Moderator: Octavio Ramilo, MD St. Jude Children's Research Hospital</p> <p><i>Nucleoside Modified mRNA-LNP Therapeutics</i> Drew Weissman, MD, PhD University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine</p>
<p>1:00 PM</p>	<p>ADJOURN</p>