



Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship Training Program

Applicant Information Packet



MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Charleston, South Carolina

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Welcome

We are glad you are considering the Pediatric Nephrology fellowship training program at the Medical University of South Carolina. The enclosed information should help acquaint you with our division, our curriculum, and the city we call home. Interviewing for fellowship positions is an exciting experience, and we hope your day with us is both enjoyable and informative.

You will have the opportunity to meet and talk with our faculty, advanced practice providers, nursing team, and current fellows. We are proud of the care we provide to the children of South Carolina and the surrounding region, and we encourage you to ask anyone here about the division, the training experience, and the community.

If, during or after your interview, you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact any of our faculty. Contact information can be found at musckids.org. You may also reach us through our Education Program Coordinator, Erin Renslow, at 843-792-0269 or renslowe@musc.edu.

The Program at a Glance

Program length	Three years (PGY-4 through PGY-6)
Accreditation	ACGME-accredited; American Board of Pediatrics
Positions	One fellow per academic year
Application	ERAS; participates in the NRMP Match
Location	MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital, Charleston, South Carolina



A harbor-facing terrace at MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Meet Our Team

Our division brings together physicians, advanced practice providers, and nursing staff who together deliver the full spectrum of pediatric kidney care — from general nephrology and hypertension to dialysis, continuous renal replacement therapy, and kidney transplantation.

Faculty



Anita Perez
Division Chief
Fellowship Program Director
Dialysis Director



Megan Yanik
Transplant Director



Kelly Garrity
Pediatric Nephrology



Gina Aeckersberg
Pediatric Nephrology
Graduate of our fellowship program



Joshua Zaritsky
Pediatric Nephrology
Joining the division September 2026

Advanced Practice Providers, Nursing & Program Coordination



Naajah Hughes
Nurse Practitioner



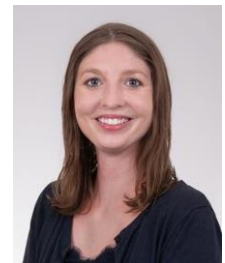
Katie Cathcart
Nurse Practitioner



Lindsey Willis
Nurse Practitioner



Stacy Sipple, RN
Patient Care Coordinator



Erin Renslow
Fellowship Program
Coordinator

Fellowship Overview

The fellowship is intended for physicians to acquire particular expertise and skills in clinical practice, teaching, investigative research, and the administrative functions related to the field of pediatric nephrology. The clinical information and skills acquired during residency training will sharpen and focus as the fellow gains new knowledge and experience pertinent to the management of children with kidney disease.

The fellow will participate in the teaching of both trainees and families. An understanding of clinical research will be fostered through coursework in research design and through the development and execution of a research project. In addition, exposure to the administrative aspects of managing a team will be afforded the fellow during the years of training.

Clinical Facilities & Experience

MUSC Children's Health serves as the comprehensive regional pediatric quaternary hospital for Charleston and the surrounding area. MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital, which opened in February 2020, contains 250 beds — an increase of nearly 20 percent over the previous hospital.

Unique features include:

- An entire floor dedicated to the care of children with heart problems
- A comprehensive interventional program for non-cardiac surgical procedures, housing six operating rooms, four procedure suites, and an MRI scanner specifically designed for the care of children
- A full top floor dedicated to the care of children with cancer and blood disorders, providing these longer-term patients with soothing views of Charleston and the surrounding tidal areas
- A 22,000 lb. rooftop helipad engineered to accommodate the Coast Guard's Jayhawk helicopter for emergency and disaster situations

All major subspecialties are represented at our institution, with national recognition in the U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals rankings across multiple pediatric specialties. MUSC Health has invested more than 500 million dollars to expand the clinical mission of pediatric care in the region through the construction of MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and a medical office building and ambulatory surgical center.

Our Division

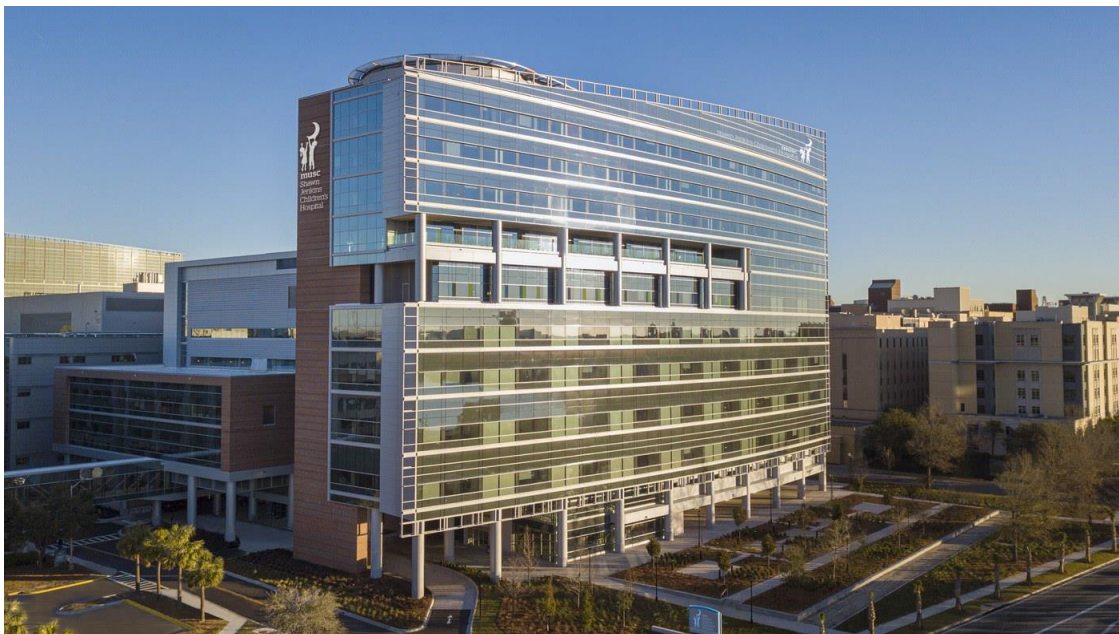
Every year the Pediatric Nephrology division provides approximately 3,200 outpatient visits, 2,000 inpatient consults, 1,400 inpatient acute dialysis days, 30 kidney biopsies, 5-10 kidney transplants, and cares for 5–10 hemodialysis patients and 5–10 peritoneal dialysis patients. Our pediatric transplant program is among the strongest in the country, with a waiting time of less than six months and excellent one-year patient and graft survival. Fellows train across the full continuum of care — inpatient consults and critical care nephrology, the multidisciplinary kidney transplant clinic, acute and chronic dialysis, and general nephrology and hypertension clinics — in a facility designed around the needs of children and families.



Family respite space with peninsula views



Interactive play and activity space



MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital and Pearl Tourville Women's Pavilion

Clinical Sites

Fellows train across three sites in the Charleston area. Inpatient work is concentrated downtown, while outpatient clinic and dialysis take place in North Charleston.

MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

The inpatient service is based here, and kidney biopsies are performed on site. This is also where the multidisciplinary kidney transplant program is centered.

10 McClennan Banks Drive, Charleston, SC 29425

MUSC Children's Health R. Keith Summey Medical Pavilion

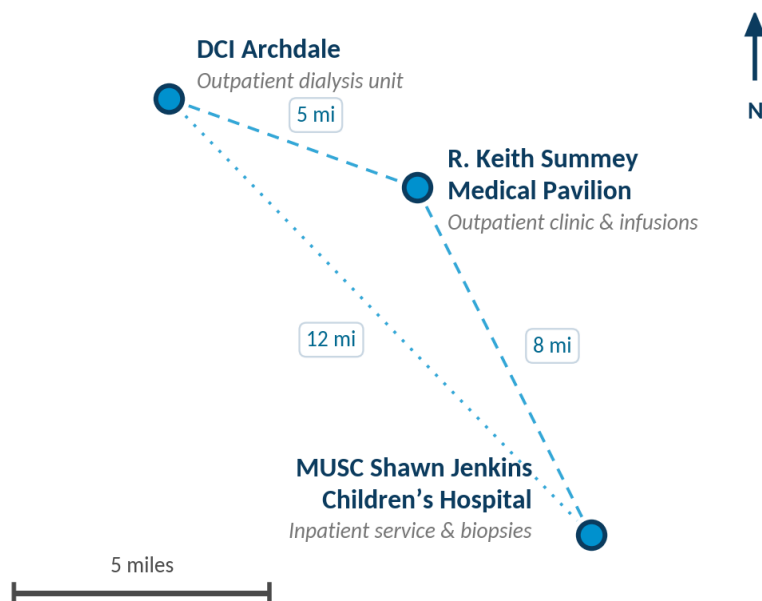
Outpatient clinic is held here, and infusions can be given on site. The pavilion houses specialty clinics from across pediatrics under one roof, making it easy to touch base with other specialties when a patient needs input the same day.

2250 Mall Drive, North Charleston, SC 29406

DCI Archdale

Our outpatient dialysis unit. Fellows round here during their outpatient and research blocks and follow the same patients across all three years of training.

5300 Archdale Boulevard, North Charleston, SC 29418



The three sites run along a roughly northwest line from the downtown peninsula out through North Charleston. Distances shown are straight-line; driving distance and time are longer.

Clinical Time & Call

The academic year is divided into thirteen four-week blocks, distributed across the three years of training so that inpatient responsibilities are balanced against protected outpatient and research time. The block-by-block schedule follows this section.

Outpatient experience

Fellows have no outpatient responsibilities while on inpatient rotations. Outpatient time is instead taken one week at a time during the combined research and outpatient blocks, and that week is call-free.

Fellows carry their own panel of clinic patients rather than joining attending clinics. This structure gives fellows real continuity with the children and families they care for across all three years of training. On Thursdays, fellows attend transplant clinic in place of their own clinic.

During outpatient and research blocks, fellows also join rounds at the DCI outpatient dialysis unit. Fellows follow these patients longitudinally and take on increasing responsibility for their care over the course of the fellowship, so that by graduation they know the dialysis population well.

Procedures & dialysis training

Fellows perform kidney biopsies during their inpatient rotations and may take on additional biopsies during outpatient time if they wish to build further volume.

Fellows gain experience with every dialysis modality offered by the division: continuous renal replacement therapy, acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis, and chronic hemodialysis. The division also uses Aquadex ultrafiltration, which is not available at every training program and gives fellows an additional tool for managing fluid overload. Apheresis training is provided on the inpatient service, and fellows build on their chronic peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis experience during outpatient rotations.

Call

Fellows take seven days of call per month, including one weekend. All call is home call, and the volume is the same across all three years of training. An attending is always on call alongside the fellow. Outpatient weeks are protected and call-free.

Time distribution by year

Combined research and outpatient blocks are typically made up of three research weeks and one outpatient week. On that basis, each year of training breaks down as follows.

Weeks per year	PGY-4	PGY-5	PGY-6
Inpatient	16 weeks	12 weeks	12 weeks
Outpatient	9 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks
Research	27 weeks	30 weeks	30 weeks
Total	52 weeks	52 weeks	52 weeks

Block Schedule

The table below shows how the thirteen blocks are assigned across the three years of fellowship.

Rotation key

- **IP** — Inpatient
- **OP** — Outpatient
- **R** — Research
- **R/OP** — Combined research and outpatient block

Block	PGY-4	PGY-5	PGY-6
Block 1	R/OP	R/OP	IP
Block 2	IP	IP	R/OP
Block 3	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 4	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 5	R/OP	IP	R/OP
Block 6	IP	R/OP	IP
Block 7	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 8	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 9	IP	R/OP	IP
Block 10	R/OP	IP	R/OP
Block 11	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 12	R/OP	R/OP	R/OP
Block 13	IP	R/OP	R/OP

PGY-4, PGY-5, and PGY-6 correspond to the first, second, and third years of fellowship. Specific block dates are set each academic year.

Electives

Fellows may arrange elective time in the HLA laboratory, urology, or renal pathology. Electives run anywhere from one to three weeks and are structured around the individual fellow's interests and goals.

Fellowship Curriculum

Research Experience

All pediatric fellows participate in both in-person and online courses in Evidence-Based Medicine and Clinical Research Methods during their dedicated research months. In addition, fellows are expected to attend and participate in regular journal club meetings, during which critical review of current literature pertinent to pediatric nephrology is conducted. MUSC and the GME office also offer regular conferences pertinent to fellows and their development in these areas.

Fellows are expected to design and implement a research project during their three-year fellowship, satisfying the “Meaningful Accomplishment in Research” requirement of the American Board of Pediatrics in order to sit for the Sub-board examination in Pediatric Nephrology.

Fellows entering the training program are not assigned to a research project. Through discussions with faculty, educators, and clinicians, the fellow identifies a research question and a mentor to assist in addressing it. We firmly believe that a project must be of genuine interest to the fellow, or it is not worth pursuing. The mentor is responsible for providing the ongoing formative feedback that is essential to the trainee’s attainment of competence in clinical care, teaching, and scholarship.

The first block of the first year is protected for this purpose. A project does not have to be identified during that block; rather, the time is intended to give the fellow room to meet with potential research mentors and to work out which direction of research they may be most interested in pursuing.

Each fellow will have a scholarship oversight committee (SOC) with appropriate expertise in scholarly research endeavors; the SOC is appointed during the first year of fellowship. The mentor and SOC together ensure scholarly progress and success. We expect that fellows will submit their completed research projects to a national meeting for presentation, and fellows whose work is accepted are supported by the division to present at the conference.

In addition to their scholarly project, each fellow is expected to participate in a quality improvement project over the course of fellowship. Fellows have access to institutional QI resources and mentorship, and QI work frequently intersects with divisional priorities in dialysis, transplant, and inpatient care.

Fellowship Curriculum, continued

Teaching Experience

Fellows prepare and present instructional lectures to students, residents, nurses, and other medical personnel on topics related to pediatric nephrology.

We almost always have medical students and pediatric residents rotating with the division, so beyond formal lectures there is ample opportunity for bedside teaching, case-based discussion, and day-to-day mentoring for fellows who enjoy that part of the work.

MUSC's Center for Academic Excellence collaborates with all pediatric fellowship directors to provide resources for fellows in specific areas such as developing a CV, conducting small group discussions, professionalism, and preparing scholarly publications. Fellows have the opportunity to teach and mentor residents as well as medical students in several College of Medicine teaching courses. Fellows may also elect to participate in a certificate program awarded by GME, the Certificate as a Clinician-Educator, which expands formal instruction in teaching and provides an opportunity to be mentored in an educational research project.

Administrative Experience

Fellows participate in inter- and intra-departmental meetings as they relate to Pediatric Nephrology and are of interest to the individual fellow. As part of this process, policies and procedures are developed and reviewed. We encourage fellows to choose multidisciplinary committees or project development teams that support their interests within our field.

Fellows have many opportunities and resources to perform and evaluate the success of quality improvement projects that affect operations in both Pediatric Nephrology and the children's hospital as a whole. As an employee of MUSC, each fellow is given free access to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's course offerings, including Quality Improvement, Patient Safety, and Leadership.

Educational Conferences

Protected time is set aside each week for fellow education. The format varies, but the curriculum is built to cover the full American Board of Pediatrics content outline for pediatric nephrology over the course of the three-year fellowship.

Core Didactics

- **Shared fellow didactics with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** — held on Tuesdays. Both fellows and faculty present, and the entire body of board-relevant content is reviewed over the course of the fellowship.
- **ASPN fellow lecture series** — held monthly and available to all fellows, with protected time to attend.
- **ASPN Pathology and Radiology webinars** — held monthly, alternating between pathology and radiology topics.
- **MUSC fellow-wide didactics** — all fellowship programs together, covering career planning and professional development. These typically occur twice per year.
- **Statistics course** — offered annually and taken together with the NICU fellows.
- **Nephrology / Urology / Radiology case conference** — every other month, where difficult nephrology and urology cases are reviewed and discussed together with the radiologists.
- **PICU fellowship conferences** — fellows attend morbidity and mortality conference and occasional educational conferences with the PICU fellowship when the content is relevant to nephrology.

Other Conferences

- **Transplant selection committee** — monthly
- **Sign-out** — every Thursday. In addition to handoff, this is protected time to discuss complicated patients and work through transplant questions as a group.
- **Grand rounds** — every Friday morning
- **Transplant QAPI** — every three months

Research Opportunities

MUSC is home to the Darby Children's Research Institute, a dedicated pediatric research facility that supports investigators across the Department of Pediatrics and provides fellows with access to laboratory space, core facilities, and basic science mentorship. Fellows interested in bench research can pursue projects there in collaboration with faculty whose work spans kidney development, transplant immunology, and mechanisms of kidney injury.

There are also ample opportunities for clinical and translational research within the division and across the institution. Active areas include kidney transplantation, glomerulonephritis, quality improvement work through collaboratives such as SCOPE in dialysis care, and educational research. Fellows are encouraged to explore the area that interests them most and are supported in identifying a mentor whose work aligns with that interest.

Fellows also have access to institutional research infrastructure through the South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute, including biostatistical support, study design consultation, and regulatory guidance.



The MUSC research campus, home to the Darby Children's Research Institute

Salary & Benefits

Effective July 1, 2026, the following pay levels were established (IR IV.C.2.C):

Level	Annual Salary	Level	Annual Salary
PGY-1	\$65,614	PGY-5	\$74,932
PGY-2	\$67,118	PGY-6	\$78,044
PGY-3	\$69,172	PGY-7	\$81,246
PGY-4	\$71,757	PGY-8	\$85,854

Residents and fellows may be eligible for an additional incentive of up to 4% of the annual salary, in accordance with South Carolina State Human Resource Regulations, based on achieving identified metrics.

Other Benefits

The benefits below are provided to all ACGME and CODA residents and fellows contracted through the GME Office.

- **Wellness Center** — GME covers the cost of MUSC Wellness Center membership
- Meal funds that can be used across campus, including at Starbucks
- **Malpractice coverage** — occurrence-based policy provided through the Insurance Reserve Fund
- Salary advance provided to incoming PGY-1 residents
- Work cell phone provided
- Paid parking
- Full access to the MUSC library, online journals, and PubMed
- Employee Assistance Program
- Assistance Abroad through the MUSC Travel Residency
- **Uber Home Safely** — vouchers providing free transportation for residents and fellows when too fatigued to drive home
- Lyra Health mental health support
- Paid maternity and paternity leave
- Paid conference attendance
- **ASPN Board Review Course** — covered by the program
- **PREP questions** — provided annually, covered by the program
- **Board review book** — covered by the program
- **Professional society memberships** — dues for societies such as the AAP, ASPN, IPTA, IPNA, and PNRG are covered by the program
- Three weeks of annual leave, plus one week off over a holiday of your choice
- Three weeks of sick leave

Living in Charleston

Charleston sits where the Ashley and Cooper Rivers meet the Atlantic, and it is a remarkably easy place to live. The peninsula is walkable and historic, the beaches are twenty minutes away, and the surrounding Lowcountry offers marsh, creek, and maritime forest within a short drive. Winters are mild, the growing season is long, and life outdoors is possible nearly year-round.



What we love about the Lowcountry

- **The water** — sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and fishing are all part of ordinary weekends here, and Folly Beach, Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, and Kiawah are each within a half-hour of downtown.
- **The food** — Charleston is one of the most celebrated food cities in the country, with a deep bench of Lowcountry, seafood, and regional Southern cooking.
- **History and architecture** — founded in 1670, the peninsula is one of the best-preserved historic districts in America, and the Battery, Rainbow Row, and the city's churches and gardens are all part of daily life.
- **Arts and culture** — Spoleto Festival USA each spring, plus the Gaillard Center, Charleston Music Hall, and a busy year-round calendar of music and theater.
- **Family life** — the South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston RiverDogs baseball, Stingrays hockey, and a network of parks, greenways, and family neighborhoods across the tri-county area.

Getting Settled

Fellows live all over the tri-county area, and each neighborhood offers something a little different. Below are a few places our team tends to point new arrivals toward.

Where people live

- **Downtown / peninsula** — walk or bike to the hospital; historic housing stock and the shortest commute.
- **West Ashley, James Island & Johns Island** — more space and yard for the money, close to Folly Beach and the Stono River.
- **Mount Pleasant** — family-oriented, strong schools, easy access to Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms.
- **Park Circle & North Charleston** — a growing food and brewery scene with more affordable housing.

A few local favorites

Ask anyone in the division for their own list — everyone has one.

- **Shem Creek** — bars and restaurants along the water in Mount Pleasant, with dolphins in the creek more often than not.
- **King Street** — the spine of downtown for shopping, restaurants, and evenings out.
- **The Battery & White Point Garden** — a picturesque walk along the southern edge of the peninsula.
- **Oysters and Lowcountry seafood** — a local institution, especially from fall through early spring.
- **Barbecue** — Charleston sits at the crossroads of several South Carolina barbecue traditions, and the whole-hog style is worth seeking out.



Thank you for visiting.

We hope to see you in Charleston.

Division of Pediatric Nephrology

Medical University of South Carolina

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