Speaker Profiles
2025 FGFR Syndromes Collaborative Research Network Conference

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Brittany Richey

Director, Research Community Initiatives & Event Operations, Seattle Children's Hospital

Since starting at Seattle Children's in 2004, Brittany held a variety of roles before joining the research institute in 2012. Her team manages both internal community initiatives and external community relations programming, as well as oversees the event spaces on the downtown campus. A native of the Seattle area, Brittany attended college out of state before returning to Washington and all the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. She resides in West Seattle with her husband and their two daughters.

Carolina Sommer

Founder and CEO, Born a Hero Research Foundation, Co-Founder, NW Rare Disease Coalition

Carolina is the CEO/Founder of Born a Hero Research Foundation, Founder of the Seattle Rare Disease Fair (now part of the NW Rare Disease Coalition), Co-Founder of the ABC Kind Program (a national curriculum that teaches kids about loving differences, including medical differences), and Author of the Lucy's Journey books. Carolina is a member of the Rare Disease Access Working Group with EveryLife Foundation, We Work for Health, Voters for Cures, and the WA Health Access Network. Carolina was born in Medellin, Colombia and has lived in the Seattle area since she was eight. She received a BA in Theoretical Math from the University of Washington and was an intern at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Carolina is a public speaker and a certified Wedding and Event Planner. She loves to be with her family, paint, and play the guitar in her free time. In 2012 Carolina gave birth to Mariana, who has Pfeiffer Syndrome.

Ben Kjar

Utah Valley University's first-ever NCAA Division 1 Wrestling All-American and has represented the USA team

Ben Kjar Bio: Ben Kjar was born with Crouzon's syndrome (a craniofacial anomaly), and as a young boy the doctors told him that he would live a different life....and that's exactly what he's done!! Ben has risen above any of life's challenges and become a Victor not a victim.

Ben is Utah Valley University's first-ever NCAA Division 1 Wrestling All-American. At 40 yrs old Ben represented the USA at the World Championships in Greece and became a World Champion in Greco-Roman Wrestling and won a silver medal in Freestyle Wrestling. Ben is an international professional speaker and has told his story to millions around the globe, in front of crowds of up to 10,000 people! Ben's documentary, STANDOUT: The Ben Kjar Story, will have its World Premiere at the Slam Dance Film Festival in Hollywood February 2025. Ben and his wife, LaCol, are proud parents of 3 beautiful, adopted kids which are 5 yrs old and under. Ben believes the real way to become truly wealthy is to travel and experience culture and its people. If you can connect with mankind, you will have a rich life.

Ellen Morgan
FGFR Syndromes Research Registry PI; Board Member, Born a Hero Research Foundation; President and Founder, Pros Foundation

Ellen Morgan, founder of the 501(c)(3) non-profit PROS Foundation, has >25 years of drug development experience in various sectors, including large pharma, small biotech, and CRO. Her expertise extends to leading successful Clinical Research Organizations, such as Synteract and Agility Clinical. Previously serving as President, Rare Diseases at Precision for Medicine, Ellen is dedicated to accelerating effective treatments for rare diseases through PROS. She holds a BS in Chemistry and an MS in Management and Industrial Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, with post-graduate studies in statistics and genetics.

Jesse A. Taylor, MD, FACS, FAAP
Peter Randall Endowed Chair, and Chief, Division of Plastic, Reconstructive, and Oral Surgery, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Dr. Taylor is the Chief of the Division of Plastic, Reconstructive and Oral Surgery at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), specializing in the treatment of children and adolescents with congenital and acquired differences of the face and skull. He currently acts as Co-Director of CHOP's Craniofacial program and is former Director of the University of Pennsylvania/ CHOP Craniofacial Fellowship Program. He is also the holder of the Peter Randall Chair in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at CHOP. A graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Dr. Taylor completed his plastic surgery residency and fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and followed his passion for craniofacial reconstruction as a craniofacial surgery fellow under the well-respected Dr. Fernando Molina in Mexico City, Mexico. Dr. Taylor's research focuses on improving outcomes for children with craniofacial differences, genetic underpinnings of cleft/ craniofacial conditions, and patient-reported outcomes in surgery.

Anne V. Hing, MD

Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine; Faculty Member, University of Washington Division of Medical Genetics; Medical Director, Education and Academic Program and Craniofacial Genetics Program, Seattle Children's Hospital

Anne V. Hing, MD has been a member of the Seattle Children's Hospital Craniofacial Center since 1999, where she serves as one of the teams Pediatricians and Clinical Geneticists. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and an adjunct faculty member in the Division of Medical Genetics. Dr. Hing's clinical interests include the diagnosis and management of infants, children, and adolescents with craniofacial and genetic conditions. Dr. Hing has served as a principal investigator on a multicenter, international study of the genetics of cleft lip and palate which identified genes that may contribute to the condition. Since 2009, she has been the Medical Director, Education and Academic Program and Craniofacial Genetics Program. Her responsibilities include direct and indirect oversight of multiple education programs within the Craniofacial Medicine Division, Craniofacial Center, University of Washington and Africa. Dr. Hing coordinates the craniofacial resident rotation, provides bedside teaching for medical students and residents, and coordinates a multidisciplinary craniofacial lecture series for both medical and surgical trainees involved in craniofacial patient care. Dr. Hing has attended 11 cleft team training workshops in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2009, and has been a core trainer in the Partners in African Cleft Training (PACT) since 2011. She has been the Director of PACT program since 2017. Dr. Hing developed the curriculum and worked alongside PACT partners from Seattle, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Tanzaniz, and Madagascar to deliver training programs, predominantly based at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), the KNUST affiliated teaching hospital in Kumasi, Ghana. In 2020, she coordinated a weeklong virtual PACT workshop and in 2021, a PACT virtual classroom was designed, and quarterly PACT virtual seminar series were established.

Solomon Obiri-Yeboah, BDS, FGCS, IFCS

Consultant/ Senior Lecturer, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Senior Specialist/Lecturer; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana

Dr. Solomon Obiri-Yeboah is a Senior Lecturer/Consultant in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), Kumasi, Ghana. Solomon had his BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) from the University Ghana Dental School, Accra Ghana, residency and fellowship training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the KATH, KNUST, with Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeon. He had an International Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery fellowship from the University of Alabama at Birmingham Children's Hospital, USA. He serves as a board member of the Ghana Cleft Foundation and the leader of the multidisciplinary cleft palate and craniofacial team at KATH. He is the coordinator and trainer for the WACS-Smile Train post-fellowship programme in cleft surgery in Ghana. He has mentored generations of undergraduate students, clinicians, professional fellowships and cleft surgeons in Ghana and the sub-Saharan African subregion. He serves on a number of academic, NGO, national and international committees. He won the 2017 ACPA Scholar and the ACPA

Emerging Leader Award in 2019.
Outside of his professional responsibilities, Dr. Obiri-Yeboah enjoys reading, listening to music, and sightseeing. His research interests span a wide range of topics, including cleft and craniofacial anomalies, craniomaxillofacial injury, and facial reconstructive surgery, and he has over 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Azeez Butali, DDS, PhD, FICD, FAMedS, FAAAS
Gilbert Lilly Endowed Professor of Diagnostic Sciences, College of Dentistry, University of Iowa

Dr. Azeez Butali is a Professor of Craniofacial Genetics, and the Gilbert Lily endowed Professor of Diagnostic Sciences at the College of Dentistry, University of Iowa. He holds secondary appointments as Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa, and the Iowa Institute for Human Genetics.
Dr. Butali is the director of the African Craniofacial Anomalies Network (AfriCRAN), a member of the Smile Train Research and Innovations Advisory Council, Director of the International Association for Dental Research Craniofacial Biology Group, a standing member of the NIH Genetics of Health and Diseases study section, Group Program Chair of the Global Oral Health Inequalities Research Network, Executive member of the African Society for Dental and Craniofacial Genetics, a member of the Facebase Scientific Advisory Council, a member of the Clinical Advisory Board of the United Kingdom Medical Research Council National Mouse Genetics Network, and member of the College of Dentistry Faculty Promotion Advisory Council.
He is also a reviewer for the Welcome Trust, UK Medical Research Council, National Science Foundation of Poland, Swiss National Science Foundation, South African National Research Foundation and the NIH-College of Medicine, University of Lagos Building Research, and Innovations (BRAINS) grant applications. Dr Butali is a reviewer for over 30 peer-reviewed journals and currently serves as Section Editor for Frontiers in Dental Medicine.
Dr Butali was one of the first two dentists in the USA to receive the Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Award in 2014 and a recipient of the prestigious NIDCR K99-R00 Dental Scientist Career Development award in 2012. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (FAAAS), a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria (FAMedS), and Fellow of the International College of Dentists (FICD). He is a recipient of the 2022 University of Iowa International Student Graduation Faculty recognition award, 2023 SCADA Faculty Adviser Award, and the 2023 University of Iowa Leadership in Research Award. He is also a recipient of the 2025 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers by the President of the United States and White House.
As PI and Co-I on NIH and Private Foundation grant and has received multi-million dollars grant funding to support his research. He led AfriCRAN to publish the first genetic study for non-syndromic clefts in Africa, conduct the first Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) for clefting in the African population and to conduct the first and second whole genome sequencing (WGS) for orofacial clefts in African population His lab discovered CTNNA2 and SULT2A as cleft palate candidate genes and AFDN as clefting gene through GWAS and WGS. He has published over 110 articles indexed in PubMed with an H-index of 29 in Google scholar (as of today) and presented over 220 abstracts at National and International meetings. Dr Butali is currently leading efforts to translate discovery to health and the prevention of oral, dental and craniofacial diseases.

R. Priyadharshini, MDS
Consultant, Cleft and Craniofacial Surgeon, GSR Institute of Craniofacial and Facial Plastic Surgery, Hyderabad, India

Dr. R. Priyadharshini is a highly accomplished oral and maxillofacial surgeon with specialized expertise in cleft and craniofacial surgery. She earned her BDS with a gold medal from SRM Dental College and completed her MDS as a college topper at Tamil Nadu Government Dental College. She has pursued multiple fellowships in cleft and craniofacial surgery, including training under renowned international mentors.
Currently a Ph.D. scholar in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, she serves as a consultant surgeon at GSR Institute and Continental Hospital in Hyderabad. Her academic contributions include numerous PubMed-indexed publications and presentations at national and international conferences. She has received multiple awards for academic excellence and scientific presentations.
Dr. Priyadharshini is also actively involved in research, professional development, and community outreach, with a strong focus on surgical innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration. Her work has earned recognition from government officials and professional bodies alike.

Melissa McGowan
Rare Disease Mother; Board Member, Born a Hero Research Foundation

Melissa McGowan was born and raised in Wheeling, West Virginia. After earning an M.A. in elementary education with a specialization in middle school mathematics from West Virginia University, Melissa worked as a teacher, grant writer, and project director for programs that targeted schools in low-socioeconomic areas. When her daughter, Abby, was born with Pfeiffer syndrome in 2012, Melissa transitioned to being a stay-at-home mom and an advocate for children with craniofacial differences. Her stay-at-home mom duties have expanded since then; she and her husband now have six children. In addition to being an active volunteer in her church and community, Melissa is also a member of the Children's Craniofacial Association's Speaker's Bureau and gives presentations to help raise awareness and understanding of craniofacial differences. In her free time, Melissa enjoys reading, running, and playing tennis.

Amanda Schuster
Caregiver; Advocate

Headshot and bio for Amanda Schuster are unavailable

Desirae Bobov
Caregiver; Advocate

Desirae Bobov-*Mother, Caregiver, Master Health Coach, Advocate for Medical Moms.* She's a proud mother of two beautiful children, Ivan (9) and Zoya (7). Before becoming a full-time caregiver, she was a restaurant owner, building her business while raising her young family. However, everything changed during her pregnancy with Zoya, when a routine ultrasound raised concerns that Zoya might have craniosynostosis—a condition that would shape their family's journey in ways Desirae never anticipated.
After a series of tests and consultations, including one with a renowned craniofacial doctor at Seattle Children's who said it was "highly unlikely" that Zoya had craniosynostosis, Zoya was born with Pfeiffer syndrome, couldn't breathe, and required immediate intubation. This marked the beginning of a challenging, yet deeply transformative 7-year journey. In those early years, she navigated a whirlwind of surgeries, medical treatments, and emotional highs and lows, ultimately leading her to make the difficult decision to sell her restaurant to become Zoya's full-time caregiver. By the age of 7, Zoya has undergone 24 surgeries, and Desirae has remained a fierce advocate for her daughter's health and happiness. Despite the many challenges, Zoya is a true warrior—thriving and filled with joy.
In addition to being a devoted mother and caregiver, Desirae is a master health coach, with a deep focus on both physical and emotional well-being. She is passionate about living the healthiest, happiest life possible and helping others do the same, especially those like her—medical moms navigating complex journeys with their children.

Falesha Johnson
Caregiver; Advocate

Falesha Johnson is a senior director of development at the University of Washington, a dedicated mother, and an advocate for her sweet Cali Joy, a Pfeiffer Syndrome warrior. Through her journey as a medical parent, she and her husband have advocated for birth to three services and the importance of private nurse services to ensure that Cali and others have all the resources to thrive.

Kelly Cunha
Caregiver; Advocate

Kelly Cunha Pokorny is an award-winning brand and digital marketing strategist with over 25 years of experience. As the National Director of Brand Marketing, Patient Solutions, and Primary Care Initiatives at the American Heart Association (AHA), Kelly spearheads innovative

omnichannel strategies to enhance patient and healthcare professional engagement. Her expertise spans consumer, patient, caregiver, and industry engagement, driving impactful campaigns that resonate across diverse audiences.
Kelly is also a seasoned speaker, having presented at numerous national and international conferences on topics such as digital marketing, patient engagement, and healthcare communications. Her dynamic presentations and thought leadership have made her a sought-after expert in the field.
Previously, Kelly led digital marketing initiatives for an NCI-Comprehensive Cancer Center and managed marketing communications for a national orthopedic surgery center network. Her dynamic leadership and visionary approach have consistently delivered exceptional results.

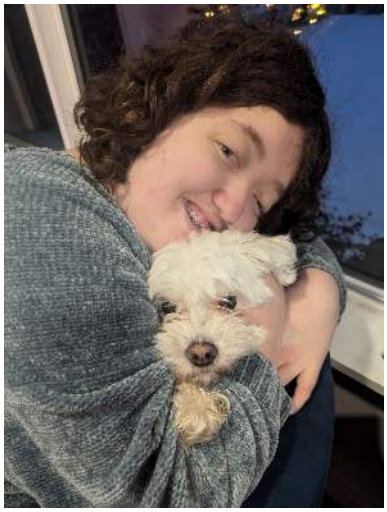
Delaney Cunha
Patient

Delaney is 13 years old and will enter 8th grade in the fall.
She has Pfeiffer Syndrome and is also partially Deaf Hard of Hearing and wears hearing aids.
Delaney is an honor roll student, and her education is her priority with big plans for her future, maybe Harvard, Yale or Juilliard. She is adored and respected by her teachers. She loves theater, swim team and self-care and truly advocates for her health and well-being.

Abby McGowan
Patient

Abby, age 12, lives in Wheeling, WV, and is the oldest of six siblings. She loves to read, swim, play tennis, and volunteer at the local zoo. She also plays the cello and piano and seeks opportunities where she can advocate for people with craniofacial differences. Abby was diagnosed in-utero with Pfeiffer syndrome and is treated at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Ellie Hollingstead
Patient



Ellie Hollingshead is a funny, creative, loving 14 yr old girl. She spends her free time reading, drawing, coloring, writing books, playing the piano, and laughing with friends.

Chanelle Cordova
Project Manager, NW Rare Disease Coalition; Project Manager, Born a Hero Research Foundation; Rare Disease and Autoimmune Disorder Parent and Patient

Chanelle Cordova is a Washington native. Married and proud mom of two boys, Chanelle's journey into advocacy was deeply personal- both she and her youngest son live with rare diseases and autoimmune disorders. When her son was born, she transitioned from a career in benefits administration to become his full-time caregiver.
Today, Chanelle serves as the Project Manager for both the NW Rare Disease Coalition and Born a Hero Research Foundation. She juggles her advocacy work with the ongoing role of caregiving, channeling her lived experience into every project she leads, with heart, tenacity, and a deep belief in the power of collective action.

Matthew Blessing, MD
Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Craniofacial Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of Washington, Seattle Children's Hospital

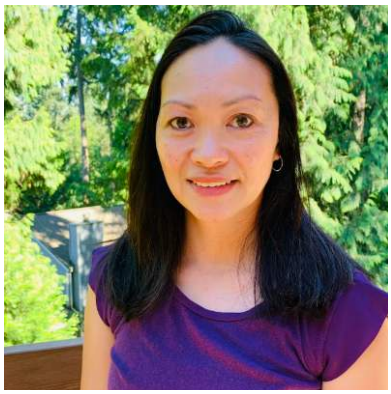
Matthew Blessing, MD, is an attending physician at Seattle Children's Hospital and an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He completed residency in pediatrics at Seattle Children's Hospital in 2008.
Dr. Blessing focuses on clinical care and medical education in his role in the Division of Craniofacial Medicine. He had similar responsibilities at the UW Neighborhood Kent/Des Moines Clinic, where he practiced as a primary care provider for eleven years. In addition, he

had administrative responsibilities regarding pediatric residents' education at his previous clinic.

Hannah Berntson, BSN, RN, CPN
Craniofacial Nursing, Seattle Children's Hospital

Hannah is a Craniofacial Nurse at Seattle Children's Hospital. She earned her undergraduate degree in Nursing from the University of Washington and started her career in the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Seattle Children's Hospital. After three years, she transitioned to the outpatient Craniofacial Clinic, where she has contributed the nursing perspective to the development of a Transition to Adult Care program, participated in the Family Advisory Board, and engaged in several quality improvement initiatives aimed at enhancing nursing workflows. Outside of work, Hannah enjoys spending time outdoors with her fiancé, Nathan, and their dog, Reggie, as well as exploring new restaurants and traveling when time permits.

Kristine Landmann
Advocate; Parent of a Child with Pfeiffer Syndrome Type 3



Kristine Landmann is a passionate caregiver advocate and an experienced pharmaceutical professional dedicated to supporting the rare disease and disability community. As a parent and advocate for an 18-year-old with Pfeiffer Syndrome Type 3, Kristine Landmann has firsthand experience navigating the complexities of rare diseases, including access to specialized care, treatment options, and patient support resources. In addition to her advocacy work, Kristine Landmann has an extensive career background in the pharmaceutical industry as Executive Area Business Sales Specialist. This unique intersection of professional expertise and personal experience allows her to bridge the gap between the healthcare industry and the rare disease community, ensuring that patient and caregiver voices are heard.
Kristine Landmann brings a powerful perspective on the challenges and triumphs of caregiving, the importance of patient-centered innovation, and the critical role of advocacy in shaping healthcare policies. Through storytelling, education, and collaboration, she aims to empower caregivers, amplify rare disease awareness, and drive meaningful change.

Laurel Sandborn
Parent to Parent Vermont; Parent of a Child with Pfeiffer Syndrome

Laurel has a BS in Elementary Education from Trinity College of Vermont and works as a Family Support Health Consultant at Vermont Family Network. She's able to support families around insurance, respite, seeking out evaluations, parent matches and many other services. In her previous role there, she worked as a Family Resource Coordinator in Early Intervention helping families navigate the Birth to 3 program. Her

daughter's diagnosis of Pfeiffer Syndrome at birth has given her many opportunities to advocate for not only her but other children and families she has worked with. In addition to her daughter's diagnosis, she has 2 adopted sons with neurodivergent needs and has learned much in the process of supporting them. Laurel is a native Vermonter but has spent some time living in Idaho and Utah. When not working, she enjoys watching her children's sporting events and activities, playing games and making and honoring family traditions. She also enjoys traveling with her husband, 4 children and son-in-law and she particularly loves spending time with her 6-month-old grandson.

Laura Tosi, MD

Orthopedic Surgeon, Children's National Hospital; Director, Bone Health Program, Children's National Hospital

Laura L. Tosi, MD, is the director of the Bone Health Program at Children's National Hospital. Her practice focuses on orthopaedic management of children with physical disabilities and birth defects. Dr. Tosi also works to increase physician awareness of bone health issues for women and children, with the goal of reducing debilitating bone injury as the population ages. Dr. Tosi also treats children and adults with spina bifida and other congenital orthopaedic problems.
Dr. Tosi has lectured extensively on women's bone health, particularly osteoporosis prevention, to women's organizations throughout the United States. Dr. Tosi is a member of the Committee on Women's Health Issues for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and serves on the Boards of Directors for the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation and the Academic Orthopaedic Society.

Ken K. Nischal, MD, FAAP, FRCO

Division Chief, Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus; Medical Director, Digital Health UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Executive Vice Chair, Department of Ophthalmology; Co-Executive Officer and Co-Founder, World Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSPOS)

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, grew up outside London, UK in Slough. Gained his medical degree from King's College Hospital, London University. Neurosurgery for 18 months prior to starting Ophthalmology as advised by his mentors. During his Neurosurgery, he was a trauma doctor and worked with Professor Watkins, who was the Formula 1 doctor; accompanied him as Formula 1 medical team. Trained in Ophthalmology at Oxford Eye hospital rotation, fellowship in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus at Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. Appointed to Consultant at Great Ormond Hospital for Children, London. There he developed a unique Pediatric Cornea service which quickly became a geo-center for children with rare diseases affecting the cornea and anterior segment disease; he developed a craniofacial ophthalmic service and an ophthalmic service for rare eye diseases.
He was member of the medical advisory committee to the Department of Health, Her Majesty's Government UK. Moved to Pittsburgh in 2011. Developed the division of Pediatric ophthalmology and Strabismus at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh: Vision Enhancement Center, Collagen Cross

Linking Center, Myopia Treatment Center, Ocular genetic service, Pediatric electrophysiology service and eye movement service. Continued development of Pediatric Cornea service. Credited for developing the TIPP Rhexis technique for pediatric cataract surgery, Banded technique for traumatic pediatric cataract surgery. Co-founded Charity World Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSPOS) (reg'd.1144806 London UK). Co-executive officer of WSPOS. 3000 members, largest single pediatric society in the world, created to develop services for children's eye care globally.

Ralph Marcucio, PhD

Professor, UCSF School of Medicine; Director, Laboratory for Skeletal Regeneration, UCSF Orthopedic Trauma Institute, San Francisco General Hospital; Co-Director, Oral and Craniofacial Science Graduate Program, UCSF, School of Dentistry

Ralph Marcucio was born in and grew up in Amsterdam, N.Y. Dr. Marcucio began his research career as an intern at The Boyce Thompson Institute while he was an undergraduate at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1990, Dr. Marcucio was accepted into Cornell University's School of Agriculture PhD program. He completed his PhD in 1995. For his exemplary performance and dedication as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dr. Marcucio was recognized by the Dean of Cornell University's School of Agriculture for his outstanding contribution to undergraduate education. After receiving his PhD, Ralph was awarded a prestigious NIH training grant to study tissue interactions that control development of the musculoskeletal system. Dr. Marcucio spent 5 years in the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine studying the origins of the musculature responsible for moving the head and jaw skeleton.

In 2000, Dr. Marcucio joined the Molecular and Cellular Biology Laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco, (UCSF). In this position, he began studying how the skeleton of the face attains its shape and form. This work has resulted in the preparation of numerous manuscripts for publication in world-renowned research journals and has formed the basis for his independent research career.

In 2003, Dr. Marcucio was appointed to the faculty at UCSF as an Assistant Professor in Residence in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. His research program focuses on two basic science areas. First, he studies bone fracture healing focusing on the transformation of chondrocytes to osteoblasts and other cell types, as well as the inflammatory process during healing. Second, Dr. Marcucio is examining the role that the brain plays during development of the facial skeleton. Dr. Marcucio is a dedicated and enthusiastic mentor to dental and medical students. His students have been invited to participate in university, state, national, and international research competitions.

Jacqueline Starrett, PhD

Sr Director, In Vivo Pharmacology, TYRA Biosciences

Jacqueline Starrett, PhD, is the Sr. Director of In Vivo Pharmacology at TYRA Biosciences, where she leads the preclinical research program focused on skeletal dysplasia. With a PhD in Experimental Pathology from Yale University and a background studying the FGFR family in both oncology and skeletal dysplasia, she now leads a multidisciplinary team to develop novel therapies for FGFR syndromes.

Rhea Daugherty, PhD, M.Ed.
Director, Medical Affairs, QED Therapeutics

Rhea Daugherty is Director of Medical Affairs at QED Therapeutics, where she leads the strategy for infigratinib in Hypochondroplasia. She has deep experience in medical affairs and field-based roles, with a focus on rare genetic conditions. Previously, she was a Senior MSL at BioMarin, supporting the launch of vosoritide in Achondroplasia. She also contributed to early medical strategy at BridgeBio, with an emphasis on scientific training and field engagement for skeletal dysplasia's. Rhea earned her PhD in Genetics and a MA in Education from Stanford University.

Jake Dahl, MD, PhD, MBA
Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Children's Mercy KC

Jake Dahl, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS, is a Complex Pediatric Otolaryngologist in the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children's Mercy Kansas City. Following his undergraduate education at Villanova University, he obtained a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Master of Business Administration from the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Dahl earned a Doctor of Medicine from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University. He completed residency training in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a fellowship in Complex Pediatric Otolaryngology at Seattle Children's. Dr. Dahl has significant experience in basic and clinical scientific research as well as patient quality and safety work. He has authored over 80 publications in peer reviewed journals, obtained research funding from the National Institutes of Health, and lectured at numerous national and international venues.

Laurie Eldredge, MD, PhD
Co-Director, Bronchopulmonary Dysphasia Program, Seattle Children's Center for Respiratory Biology and Therapeutics; Assistant Professor, Pediatric Pulmonology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital

Laurie C. Eldredge, MD, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and an attending physician at Seattle Children's Hospital. She earned her MD and PhD at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. She completed pediatrics residency training and a fellowship in pediatric pulmonology at the University of Washington.

Seenu Susarla, MD, FACS, FAAP

Division Chief, Plastic Surgery; Division Chief, Pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Surgical Director, Craniofacial Center, Seattle Children's Hospital

Dr. Susarla is the Division Chief of Craniofacial and Plastic Surgery, Division Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Surgical Director of the Craniofacial Center at Seattle Children's Hospital and the Marlys C. Larson Endowed Chair in Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery at the University of Washington. His clinical practice focuses on pediatric and adult craniomaxillofacial reconstructive surgery, including management of craniosynostosis, cleft lip and palate, dentofacial deformities, maxillofacial pathology, and primary and secondary reconstruction following facial trauma.

Dr. Susarla completed his undergraduate education at Princeton University. He completed his dental degree at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard School of Public Health, and his medical degree at Harvard Medical School. He completed surgical residencies in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Plastic Surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. These were followed by fellowship training in Craniomaxillofacial Surgery at Seattle Children's Hospital/University of Washington Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. Susarla has an active research portfolio, with over 250 peer-reviewed publications and several dozen textbook chapters. He currently serves on the editorial boards for a number of journals including *Craniomaxillofacial Trauma and Reconstruction*, the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, and *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Global Open*. He has given over 60 invited lectures nationally and internationally on cleft and craniofacial surgery, orthognathic surgery, and facial trauma reconstruction. Dr. Susarla is one of the few craniomaxillofacial surgeons in the country who are board certified in both Plastic Surgery and Oral/Maxillofacial surgery.