CPET4Kids Practicum

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Faculty/Presenters

Kathy E. Sietsema, MD is a Professor of Medicine Emerita at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She was a full-time faculty member of the Harbor UCLA Medical Center for 40 years including 14 years as Chief of the Division of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Sietsema's academic interests are in clinical exercise physiology and the use of cardiopulmonary exercise testing in clinical practice and clinical research. She has conducted original, federally sponsored and industry sponsored clinical research involving assessment of physical functioning and exercise performance in a wide range of chronic diseases including pulmonary hypertension, chronic heart failure, congenital heart disease and chronic lung diseases. She is the director of a longstanding postgraduate course on Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing, lectures at national venues on aspects of exercise testing in clinical contexts and is co-author of a leading textbook on this subject.

Dan Cooper, MD is Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, interim Executive Director of the UC Irvine Institute for Precision Health, Associate Director of the UC Irvine Institute of Clinical and Translational Science (ICTS, UC Irvine's NIH Clinical Translational Science Award), and Clinical Informatics and Analytics Unit Director of the UC Irvine Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center. Dr. Cooper's ongoing research areas include: novel approaches to gas exchange signal transduction during exercise, rethinking protocols for exercise testing in children, and the optimal use of school-based physical fitness testing to mitigate health care disparities.

Dawn Ericson (Ericson Woods), MD is a pediatric pulmonologist in Boston, Massachusetts, and is affiliated with Boston Children's Hospital. She specializes in pediatric exercise physiology and caring for children with chronic respiratory conditions, including asthma, cystic fibrosis, and chronic lung disease, helping them stay active and healthy. Her clinical and research interests focus on cardiopulmonary responses to exercise and the use of CPET to guide individualized recommendations that improve symptoms, lung function, and fitness.

Bareket Falk, PhD, is a Professor at Brock University (Canada) and a world-leading pediatric exercise physiologist. She has a long-standing interest in children's responses to exercise and the physiological effects of physical training across growth and development. Her current work examines how growth, maturation, and physical activity shape neuromuscular function. Dr. Falk has published extensively in pediatric exercise physiology, including neuromuscular physiology, thermoregulation, metabolism, and the effects of physical activity and training on bone development and muscle function in youth. Her research spans both healthy children and those living with a range of clinical conditions. She has been a member of the North American Society of Pediatric Exercise Medicine for nearly 40 years.

Scott Graf, MS is a Senior Exercise Physiologist with the UCI Health Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center. He has 20 years of experience in exercise testing across healthy and clinical populations spanning the lifespan, including work on the NIH-funded Project REACH (Revamping Exercise Assessments in Child Health) and MoTrPAC (Molecular Transducers of Physical Activity Consortium).

Naomi Gauthier, MD is a Senior Associate Cardiologist at Boston Children's Hospital and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical school where she is the Medical Director of Exercise Cardiology, founder and Director of the Cardiac Fitness Program, and Program Director for the Advanced Fellowship in Pediatric Exercise Cardiology. She co-directs the Rhodes Course for Clinical Exercise Physiology, Testing, and Interpretation for Congenital Heart Disease. Her research focuses on the benefits of exercise in patients with congenital and pediatric acquired heart disease, and her passion is to help patients discover their potential rather than focus on limitations.

Maria Horenstein, MD is a board-certified pediatric cardiologist who has been at CHOC for over 10 years. She completed the pediatric cardiology fellowship at Children's Hospital of Michigan (Wayne State University), an electrophysiology fellowship at Duke University, and obtained a master's degree in exercise from Concordia University, Chicago. She oversees all exercise stress tests, including over 300 annual CPETs, and a similar number of other stress test modalities, including stress echocardiograms at CHOC.

Shlomit Radom-Aizik, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Executive Director of the UC Irvine Health Pediatric Exercise and Genomics Research Center. Her work advances exercise medicine through clinical and laboratory research using genomic and epigenetic approaches, and through

community partnerships that promote physical activity across the lifespan. She served as a Principal Investigator on two multi-PI NIH studies: (1) Revamping Exercise Assessments in Child Health and (2) the pediatric clinical center for the Molecular Transducers of Physical Activity Consortium (MoTrPAC), a national effort to map molecular responses to exercise. Together, these research studies have conducted more than 1000 exercise assessments in children and adolescents over the past few years.

Contributed to written materials; not available for in-person activities

Adam Powell, MD is a pediatric cardiologist and Medical Director of the Cardiorespiratory Sports Clinic at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He specializes in cardiopulmonary exercise testing and cardiac rehabilitation for children and adults with congenital heart disease. https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/bio/p/adam-powell

Tod Olin, MD is a fellowship-trained pediatric pulmonologist who cares for children and adults with breathing problems during exercise. He is dedicated to helping people exercise safely and comfortably across the spectrum of health and performance—whether sick or well, fit or obese, toddlers or Olympic-level athletes. Dr. Olin is widely recognized as a global leader in exercise-induced laryngeal obstruction (EILO; also known as vocal cord dysfunction) and developed two novel interventions: therapeutic laryngoscopy during exercise (published in 2016) and the Olin EILOBI breathing techniques (published in 2017). He also works with sporting organizations to advance population health and serves as a respiratory consultant for several national sporting bodies.