

DEPARTMENT OF  
PEDIATRICS

January 24, 2023

DIVISION OF CRITICAL CARE  
MEDICINE

To the IHQI Scholars Program Selection Committee:

## FACULTY

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to serve as the Faculty Sponsor for the project “Bivalirudin in Pediatric Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) Patients”, led by Drs. Lauren Brown and Ursula Adams.

**Benny Joyner, Jr., MD, MPH, FCCM**  
*Division Chief*  
*Chief Quality Officer,*  
*UNC Children's Hospital,*  
*Vice-Chair Quality and Safety,*  
*Department of Pediatrics*

I currently hold positions as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics & Anesthesiology in the Division of Critical Care Medicine. I serve as the Medical Director of the Pediatric ECLS program and of Pediatric Respiratory Therapy. In these roles, I work closely with residents and fellows, as well as oversee unit operations. The combination of educational responsibility and leadership of the ECLS program has allowed me the opportunity to develop strong relationships with administrative and clinical members of our ECLS team. I have participated in our Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO) Center of Excellence Award application process, and I am again leading our application for reaccreditation this year.

Jenny Boyd, MD  
Katherine Clement, MD  
Margaret Kihlstrom, MD  
Kieran Leong, DO  
Daniel Lercher, MD  
David McSwain, MD  
Afsaneh Pirzadeh, MD  
Matthew Pizzuto, MD  
Erin Reade, MD  
Stephanie Schwartz, MD  
Paul Shea, MD  
Melissa Smith, MD  
Tracie Walker, MD

At a recent ELSO conference, improvements in anticoagulation strategies was a leading topic of discussion, as many centers continue to struggle with bleeding and thrombotic complications, which can lead to poor outcomes. This bivalirudin project that I am sponsoring was borne from desires from both Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Critical Care teams to improve the care we provide for this complex patient population. Children that require ECLS are one of the most resource-intensive patient populations within the Children's Hospital. To redesign any portion of the care process successfully will require multidisciplinary team input, development of new protocols, educational materials, and ongoing review of data and process feedback.

## FELLOWS

Robin Atha, MD  
Lauren Brown, DO  
Isabelle Riley, MD  
Katherine Schroeder, MD  
Christen Seaman, MD  
Catherine Trub, MD

In both the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and ECLS Programs, I have had the opportunity to participate in quality improvement efforts and seen firsthand initiatives that have succeeded and failed. This proposed bivalirudin project is ideal for the IHQI Scholars Program. Firstly, there are only a few days out of the entire year that we are not taking care of ECLS patients. This means that every day provides an opportunity for examination of process and quality improvement. Secondly, improvement in care coordination and communication are ongoing pediatric intensive care unit and institutional priorities. This project well-complements current quality improvement efforts occurring in the PICU.

Lastly, the team involved in this project is unique in that we have strong input from two key departments: Pediatric Medicine and Pediatric Surgery. Both project leads – Dr. Ursula Adams and Dr. Lauren Brown – have several years of training remaining at UNC, and the support that the IHQI Program will provide helps fulfill our mission to develop the next generation of quality improvement leaders.

I am invested in this project and its team. I have prior experience leading quality efforts within the PICU and ECLS Program but feel strongly that the support of IHQI will ensure this project's success and allow us to build lasting, improvement changes that flourish beyond clinical protocols. Because of my roles within the ECLS Program and the PICU, I can strongly support this project, connecting the team with other areas of the organization and providing them access and resources. I am prepared to commit fully to the time required to ensure the project's success.

Thank you for your consideration, and I welcome the opportunity to provide more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine C. Clement MD".

Katherine C. Clement, MD  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Division of Critical Care Medicine  
Medical Director, Pediatric ECLS Program  
Medical Director, Pediatric Respiratory Therapy