



Lara S. Shekerdeman, MB ChB, MD, MHA

Pediatrician In-Chief at Texas Children's
Chair of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Lara S. Shekerdeman was named as Chair of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and Pediatrician In-Chief at Texas Children's Hospital in 2022. She has 23 years of experience of clinical and academic medicine on three continents — 13 of those at Baylor/Texas Children's, where she previously served as Chief of Critical Care from 2010-2022. She is a tenured Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Shekerdeman earned her medical degree (MB ChB) from the University of Birmingham Medical School in the United Kingdom and trained in pediatrics, pediatric cardiology, pediatric and adult intensive care in the UK and Toronto. She obtained her research doctorate (MD) in pediatric cardiac intensive care, also from the University of Birmingham in 1997, and earned her MHA from La Trobe University in Melbourne, in 2009. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (UK) and a Fellow of the College of Intensive Care Medicine (Australia). Prior to joining Texas Children's, Dr. Shekerdeman served as Chief of Paediatric Intensive Care at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and Associate Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Lara has co-authored more than 160 papers and has contributed to 15 textbooks as an author or editor. Her research interests include cardiovascular physiology, mechanical cardiopulmonary support, and long-term outcomes after critical care admission, particularly after surgery for heart disease. Throughout her career, she has conducted clinical and laboratory research, participating as a principal investigator and co-investigator for numerous collaborative studies. She is a co-principal investigator for Baylor and Texas Children's for the National Institutes of Health Pediatric Heart Network, where she also chairs the PHN Scholars' study section.

During her tenure at the nation's largest children's hospital, Lara has participated in every aspect of administration and has led growth in all areas, expanding critical care services from 82 beds on one campus to 172 over three campuses, most recently with the opening of the award-winning Lester and Sue Smith Legacy Tower in 2018 which houses all critical care and the Heart Center. Under her leadership, the Division of Critical Care Medicine grew to include a talented team of 150 physician and APP faculty, including many who trained overseas, and a large proportion with training and certification in a range of pediatric subspecialties as well as critical care.

As Pediatrician In-Chief and Chair, Lara now leads the nation's largest department of Pediatrics, with more than 1200 Faculty with primary appointments in Pediatrics. The Department of Pediatrics at Baylor/Texas Children's houses 24 divisions that include Critical Care Medicine, Cardiology, Pulmonology, General Pediatrics and the Cancer Center. Her leadership team includes five executive vice-chairs and 5 vice chairs (Faculty Development, DEI, Research, Education, Community Pediatrics and Clinical Affairs), as well as vice chairs in education and research, and an APP associate vice chair.