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Dr. Aloka Patel received her BS in Biomedical Engineering and MD from Northwestern University. She completed her Pediatrics residency and Neonatal-Perinatal fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. She is currently Professor of Pediatrics at Rush University where she is the Division Head and the Research Director for Neonatology. Dr. Patel's research has focused on identifying health and cost outcomes of human milk feedings for very preterm infants, understanding barriers to continued provision of human milk, and clinical nutritional studies in preterm infants. Dr. Patel is multi-principal investigator for two ongoing NIH-funded studies, including an innovative randomized controlled trial of an economic intervention to offset costs associated with milk provision borne by mothers of very preterm infants and an observational study examining two-year outcomes in the trial participants.