

2025

QI SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

VOLUME 7



PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY
ANNE KINYUA

POISE: A Year of Progress

The Pediatric Office of Improvement Science (POISE) is dedicated to improving pediatric outcomes across Alabama by connecting resources, advancing education, and fostering quality care through improvement science.

Our Physician Quality Officers are leaders in quality improvement, offering coaching and education to enhance the academic impact of quality work within the UAB Department of Pediatrics.

QI Directors



Adolfo Molina, MD, MSHQS



Emily Smitherman, MD

QI Officers



Amy Cajacob, MD



Nicholas Cajacob, MD



David Galloway, MD



Samantha Hanna, MD



Rachel Kassel, M.D.



Ashley Moellinger, NP



Jeremy Loberger, MD



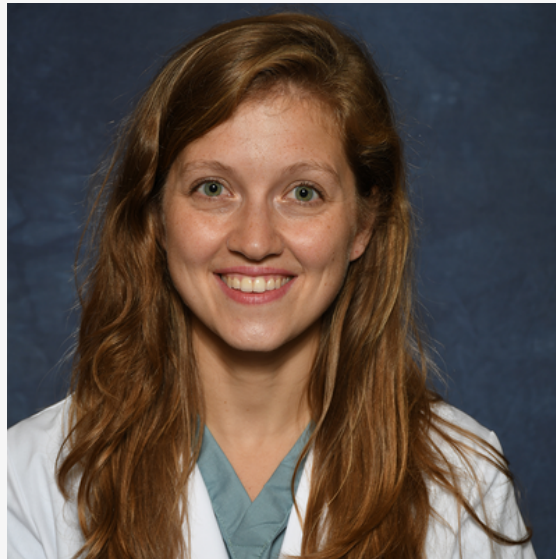
Jessica Schmitt, MD

We foster quality improvement through comprehensive education and project coaching, supporting scholarship and recognizing excellence in QI. Through initiatives like the Fellow QI Awards, Faculty Achievement Awards, and Scholarship Day, we celebrate and honor those dedicated to advancing quality improvement in patient care.

RESIDENT QI AWARDS

INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF POSTPARTUM PARENTS AT RISK OF OPIOID OVERDOSE WHO ARE DISCHARGED WITH NALOXONE.

HANNAH STONE, MD, SAM GENTLE MD



Hannah Stone, MD

The award-winning QI project aimed to address the alarming rates of pregnancy-associated deaths in Alabama related to substance use disorders by increasing the proportion of postpartum patients at risk of opioid overdose who received intranasal naloxone at discharge. By implementing targeted interventions, including stocking naloxone kits in postpartum units, updating postpartum order sets, and providing multidisciplinary education, the initiative achieved a significant increase in naloxone orders from 12.7% at baseline to 41%. This project highlights the potential of structured QI efforts to improve outcomes in vulnerable populations and has paved the way for expansion into other care settings.

FELLOWSHIP QI AWARDS



Dr. Joshua Cooper

Dr. Joshua Cooper led a pioneering project in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) to enhance antimicrobial stewardship, significantly reducing the Standardized Antimicrobial Administration Ratio (SAAR) and improving patient care.

Dr. Cooper's innovative use of digital touchpoints in electronic medical records optimized antimicrobial prescriptions, reducing antibiotic use without compromising patient safety. His work has led to lasting improvements in our practices.

He has shared his findings at UAB and is preparing a manuscript for publication. Dr. Cooper's outstanding work makes him a deserving recipient of the Fellowship QI Award.

Dr. Aphton Lane, played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of a best practice checklist aimed at improving nutritional plans during PICU rounds. Dr. Lane helped spearhead a quality improvement project focused on addressing the prevalent issue of malnutrition in critically ill children, which is linked to worse clinical outcomes.

Through this initiative, the team set a SMART aim to increase the percentage of PICU patient encounters where a complete nutrition plan, including details and goals, is developed during rounds from a baseline of 28% to 58% by December 2023. The success of this project, driven by the use of a checklist and QI champion prompts, has already led to significant improvements in the consistency of nutritional assessments and patient care during rounds.



Dr. Aphton Lane

Faculty Achievement Awards



Melissa Mannion, MD

Dr. Melissa Mannion, a faculty member in Pediatric Rheumatology, was awarded the UAB Faculty Achievement Award for her exceptional contributions to quality improvement (QI) in the field. Her leadership in the Pediatric Rheumatology Care and Outcomes Improvement Network (PR-COIN) has enhanced care quality, safety, and outcomes for pediatric patients with chronic rheumatic diseases. Under her guidance, her team became one of the highest-performing centers, adopting a treat-to-target approach and developing a juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) dashboard. Additionally, her work with the Quality Improvement in Rheumatology Clinic (QUIRC) Committee has improved patient portal enrollment, resource distribution, and the creation of a transition policy for patients moving to adult care.

Dr. Colm Travers, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UAB and neonatologist at Children's of Alabama, has been nominated for the 2024 Department of Pediatrics Quality Improvement Achievement Award for Junior Faculty. He directs the Golden Week Program™, a quality improvement initiative that has significantly reduced death and severe intracranial hemorrhage among extremely preterm infants. His work has gained national and international recognition, leading to UAB's invitation to join the Tiny Baby Collaborative. Dr. Travers has also contributed to projects aimed at reducing bronchopulmonary dysplasia, late-onset sepsis, and improving protocols for ventilator management and thermoregulation in the NICU. As the Departmental Value Officer and Associate Medical Director of the RNICU, he continues to influence neonatal care and mentor future quality improvement leaders.



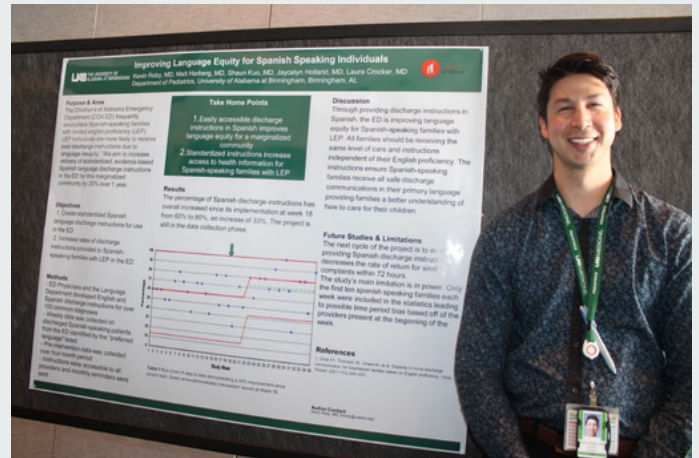
Colm Travers, MD

PEDIATRIC SCHOLARSHIP DAY: FEATURED ABSTRACTS

IMPROVING DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPANISH SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS

KEVIN ROBY, MD, MATTHEW HARBERG, MD, SHAUN KUO, MD

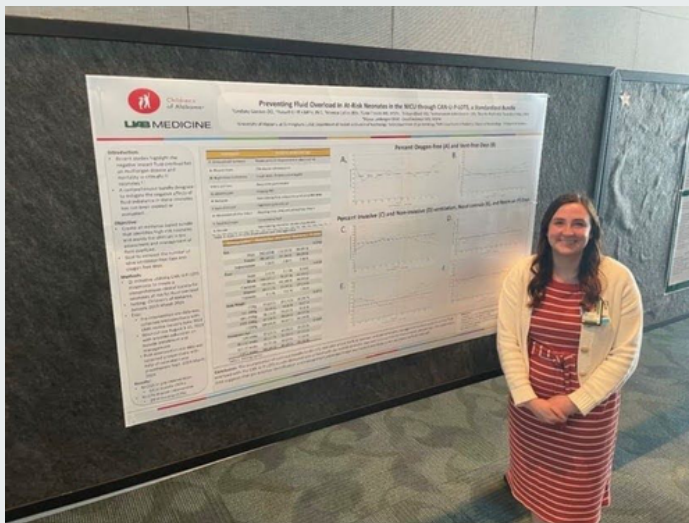
Background: The Children of Alabama Emergency Department (COA ED) frequently encounters Spanish-speaking families with limited English proficiency (LEP). LEP individuals are more likely to receive inadequate discharge instructions due to language barriers. This leads to a delay in receiving standardized, evidence-based discharge instructions. By increasing the delivery of standardized, evidence-based discharge instructions for LEP patients in the ED, we aim to improve language equity for this marginalized community by 20% over 1 year.



Kevin Roby, MD

PREVENTING FLUID OVERLOAD IN AT-RISK NEONATES IN THE NICU THROUGH CAN-U-P-LOTS, A STANDARDIZED BUNDLE

LINDSEY GORDON, MD, DAVID ASKENAZI MD, MSPH, FASN



Lindsey Gordon, MD

QI ANNUAL WRITING WORKSOP



POISE conducted a writing workshop to assist providers within the Department of Pediatrics (DOP) in publishing their quality improvement (QI) work. The workshop, had an average attendance of 13 participants per session.

One participant raved about the workshop, saying:

"I thought it was fantastic. I would do it again. I liked that it was very practical tips with correlating examples. It was like a clear, concise how-to guide for writing QI manuscripts. It made the process of writing a QI manuscript seem a lot less daunting. I liked that it was interactive with all of the participants."

The workshop included several key sessions: .

Introductory Writing

- The session covered QI journals, the SQUIRE guidelines, and elements that make QI projects publishable.

Introduction Section

- Participants reviewed introduction sections through the lens of SQUIRE guidelines.

Methods

- This session focused on reviewing process, outcome, and balancing measures, comparing traditional versus QI statistics.

Results

- The session covered rules for identifying special cause variation, creating and annotating control charts suitable for publication, and constructing a demographic "table 1."

Discussion

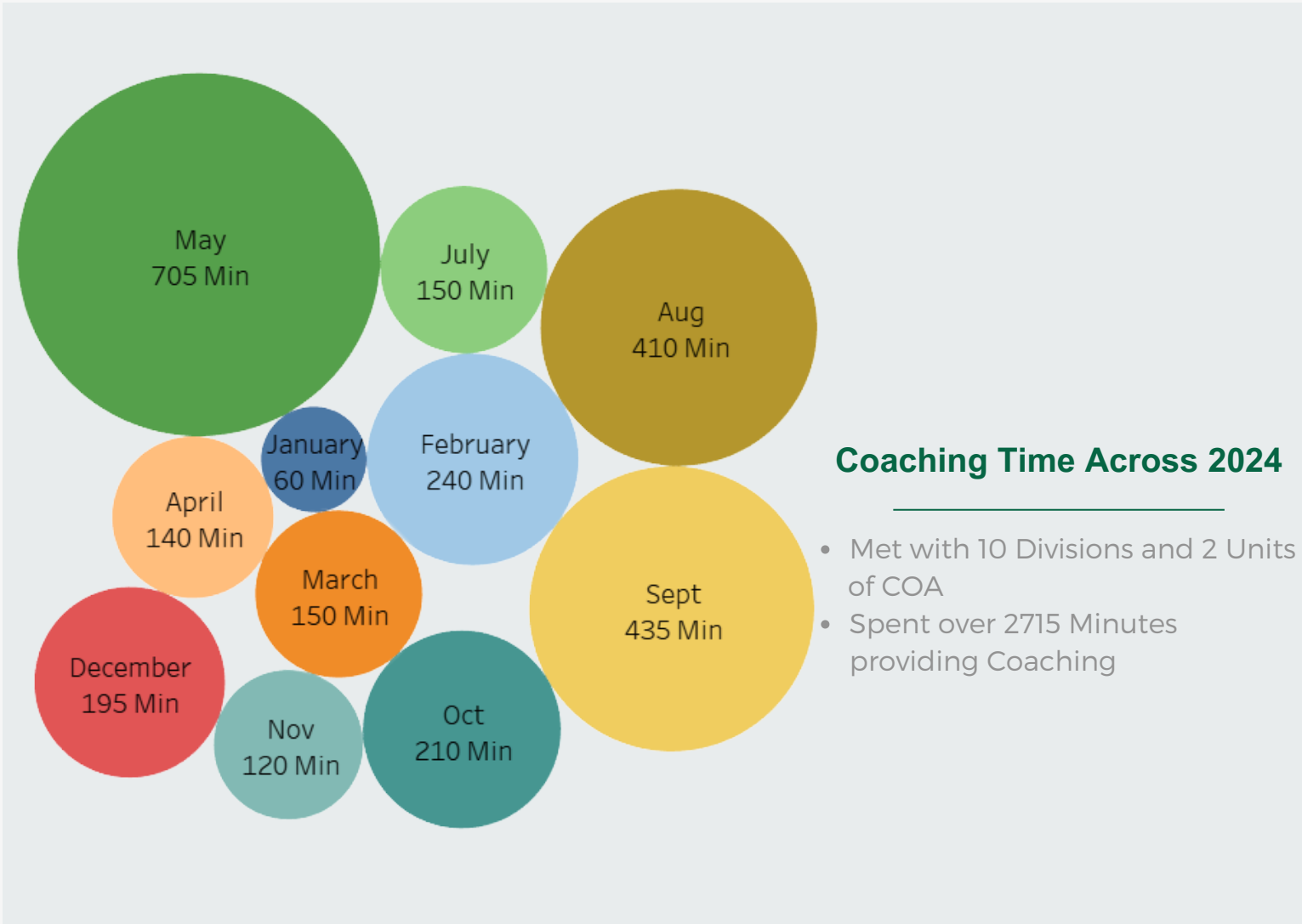
- The group examined the cadence and length of the discussion section, focusing on key aspects to include or exclude

Writing Your Abstract/Title

- Participants learned how to choose journal titles and determine the critical elements to include or exclude in abstracts, with a final wrap-up and feedback session.

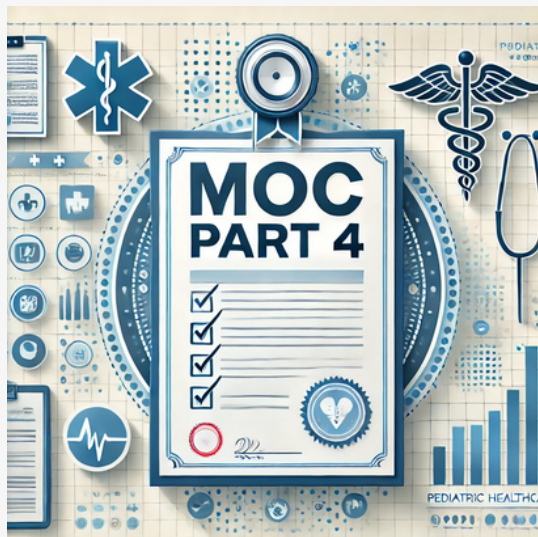
2024 Coaching Highlights

In 2024, POISE proudly offered impactful coaching sessions that empowered faculty and staff to advance their quality improvement initiatives. These sessions provided personalized guidance, actionable insights, and hands-on support, enabling participants to overcome challenges and achieve measurable progress in their projects. By fostering collaboration and building expertise, POISE coaching sessions played a vital role in driving meaningful improvements in pediatric care throughout the year.



POISE provided impactful coaching sessions, supporting faculty and staff in achieving meaningful progress in quality improvement initiatives.

MOC PART 4



POISE facilitated and approved **10 MOC Part 4 projects** this year, supporting our faculty and staff in advancing pediatric care through quality improvement initiatives. These projects align with the American Board of Pediatrics' Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 requirements, helping providers enhance patient care and processes while earning credit for their work.

For more information on how **POISE can support your MOC Part 4** submissions, <https://www.childrensal.org/maintenance-certification/maintenance-certification-overview>

This Years Project

- Improving Medical Error Reporting Among Pediatric Resident Physicians
- Working Toward Viral Suppression and Retention in Care
- Increase Spanish Language Discharge Instructions Provided to Spanish-Speaking Families in the ED
- Firearm Safety Project in PCC
- Improving Timely Feedback from Housestaff to Medical Students
- Increasing the Proportion of Postpartum Parents at Risk of Opioid Overdose Who Are Discharged with Naloxone
- Feeding Tube Study
- Teen Vaccine Adherence
- Improving EMPOWER Healthy Habits Team Well-Being Index
- Improving Food Insecurity Screening at Children's of Alabama

Looking Ahead: Top 3 Goals for 2025

As we enter 2025, POISE remains dedicated to fostering a culture of quality improvement and innovation in pediatric care. Our goals for the year reflect our commitment to growth, collaboration, and excellence.



1

Recruit More QI Officers

Build a stronger team by identifying and onboarding dedicated QI leaders who are passionate about advancing pediatric care.

2

Expand Local QI Activities

We plan to host a Safety & Quality Day, offer tailored coaching sessions, and offer the QI Writing Workshop again.

3

Support External Networking Opportunities

Facilitate connections with national and regional QI networks to share best practices and promote collaboration beyond Alabama.

Get Involved with POISE

The POISE office is here to support your quality improvement (QI) journey and enhance patient outcomes for children across Alabama. Whether you're new to QI or have experience, our team offers tailored support to help you succeed.

How POISE Can Help You:

- Guidance on QI Projects: From idea development to implementation, we're here to assist you in designing and executing impactful QI initiatives.
- Education and Training: Participate in workshops, coaching sessions, and events like our QI Writing Workshop to expand your expertise.
- MOC Part 4 Submissions: Earn Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 credit for your QI work with our facilitation and support.
- Coaching and Mentorship: Receive personalized guidance from our experienced QI officers to refine and achieve your project goals.
- Collaboration Opportunities: Partner with us on initiatives or expand your pre-existing QI projects.



Let's Work Together to Improve Pediatric Care and outcomes.

Contact us at POISE@uabmc.edu to learn more about how we can assist or how to get involved.