

Julia W. McDonald, MD  
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 203-451-0376

## Education and Training

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- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA** 7/2024 - current
- Pediatric Nephrology Fellow, PGY5
  - Chief Fellow 2025-current
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC, Pittsburgh, PA** 6/2021 - 6/2024
- Pediatric Residency: Advocacy, Leadership & Service Track
- Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, NH** 8/2017 - 6/2021
- Doctor of Medicine, AOA
- Providence College, Providence, RI** 8/2010 - 6/2014
- Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude
  - Major in Psychology | Minors in Biology, Neuroscience and Spanish

## Research Experience

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- Research with **Dr. Dana Fuhrman, DO** 6/2025-current
- Grant recipient of NIH funding TL1
  - Planned retrospective and prospective study on CRRT liberalization biomarkers
- Research Project with **Dr. Michael Moritz, MD** 6/2023- current  
 Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh | Pittsburgh, PA
- Descriptive retrospective case series regarding the use of LDL apheresis in patients with multi-drug resistant nephrotic syndrome and recurrent FSGS in a kidney transplant
- Research Project with **Dr. Ivy Wilkinson-Ryan, MD** 1/2018- 6/2019  
 Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center| Lebanon, NH
- Assisted with chart review of opioid prescription practice changes in gynecology/ Oncology surgical patients pre- and post- New Hampshire Opioid legislation (HB 1423)
- Clinical Research Assistant with **Drs. Christopher van Dyck, MD & Adam Mecca, MD, PhD** 6/2014- 7/2017  
 Yale School of Medicine | New Haven, CT
- Coordinated multiple clinical trials involving participants with Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment, and cognitively normal participants at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease.
  - Independently performed comprehensive neuropsychological testing with participants
  - Developed and revised IRB protocols for new and ongoing projects; worked with IRB and other regulatory officials to ensure compliance.
  - Performed retrospective analysis of Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) database to investigate the relationships between sleep disturbance and statin use with memory decline.
- Undergraduate Researcher with **Dr. Pamela Snodgrass-Belt, PhD** 12/2013-5/2014  
 Providence College | Providence, RI
- Assisted with grant writing, research design and development, literature review, and experiments involving protein expression regulated by circadian rhythm in a rat model.
  - Responsible for rat liver/brain dissection, rat behavioral analysis, cell assays, and

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cellular respiration quantifications

Undergraduate Researcher with **Dr. Laura Stroud, PhD** 9/2012-5/2014  
Brown Alpert Medical School | Providence, RI

- Researched the neurobehavioral responses to stress across perinatal, infant and adolescent development periods.
- Established clinical setting for experiments, data entry and queries, processed biologic samples, and aided in visit preparation.

## **Advocacy Experience**

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Personal Finance Peer Group 1/2024- current

- Formed a 30 member women's only peer group to review personal finance topics where I present various topics (student loans, buying a house, budgeting, index fund investing) To improve financial knowledge

Board Member of Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh 2/2022- 12/2024

- Served as a board and subcommittee member (programming and operations) of a non-profit organization providing low-income homeowners and future first-time homeowners with home rehabilitation, repairs and utility programming through grant funding

AAP Advocacy Conferences 4/2023 & 4/2024

- DC AAP advocacy day: met with Pennsylvania representatives to discuss social media Restrictions in teens and funding for rural emergency services  
PA AAP advocacy day: met with Pennsylvania representatives to discuss juvenile justice reform (expungement proceedings and limiting out of home placements) and gun reform

Social and Community-Oriented Resident Engagement (SCORE) leader 7/2022- 6/2024

- Facilitating and leading monthly journal club of differing advocacy topics and creating noon conference curriculum for pediatric residents.

Women's Shelter Volunteer 10/2022-6/2024

- Volunteering to provide free healthcare to children's whose mothers have experienced intimate partner violence

Upper Valley Asylum Clinic Co-Creator 10/2017 - 5/2019

- Established a group that performs medical evaluations for the growing number of Asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Created Affidavit, memorandum of agreement, and practicing protocols between Dartmouth, immigration lawyers and free clinic

Physicians for Human Rights Sponsored Conference, *Planetary Health: Exploration of the Environment, Human Health, and Human Rights* 1/2019

- Moderated a panel discussion with a food health law professor (Laurie Beyranevant) And the founder of a serving group that recovers perishable foods for shelters and People in need of food (Gabe Zoerheide)

Physicians for Human Rights Sponsored Conference, *The 50%: The Changing Arc of Women's Rights* 1/2018

- Assisted with speakers' coordination and facilitated administrative aspects of annual Conference

## **Medical Education Experience**

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Fellows Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen to represent the nephrology division in hospital wide fellow group</li> </ul>	10/2024-current
Nephrology Board Review Teaching	1/2025-current
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenting nephrology board question and teaching pearls to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Pediatric residence</li> </ul>	
Residency Council	7/2023- 6/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chosen representative for my residency class to make improvements and provide feedback of resident's experiences of hospital rotations and curriculum</li> </ul>	
Pediatric Residents Interested in Medical Education (PRIME)	10/2021-6/2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided 1:1 guidance for medical students on their pediatric clerkships who are interested in improving their history taking and physical exam skills and participated in journal clubs of Med-Ed topics</li> </ul>	
Intern Boot Camp Coordinator	6/2022- 6/2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented resident-run lectures &amp; coordinated noon conference guests speaks for the intern pediatric residency class to provide educational opportunities to the unique needs</li> </ul>	
Problem-Based Learning Facilitator	8/2020 – 5/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitated first year medical students to explore clinical reasoning and foundational Conceptions in problem-based learning groups</li> <li>Provided them with feedback on their progress and areas for improvement.</li> </ul>	
Problem-Based Learning Case Development	3/2020 – 1/2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed eight 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year problem-based learning (PBL) cases to integrate foundational science and clinical knowledge which were all adopted into the required PBL curriculum for 2020-2021 academic year.</li> <li>Utilized published cases, current medical research, and my own clinical experiences to Create cases incorporating medical ethics, radiology, pathology, multicultural backgrounds, Diagnostic reasoning, and other content areas.</li> </ul>	

## **Publications**

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- Mecca, AP, Rogers, K, Jacobs, Z, **McDonald, JW**, Michalak, HR et al. Effect of Age on Brain Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor Subtype 5 Measured with [<sup>18</sup>F]FPEB PET. *NeuroImage*. Accepted 25 May 2021. Available online 27 May 2021.
- Chen M, Mecca AP, Naganawa M, Gallezot J, Toyonaga T, Mondal J, Finnema S, Lin S, O'Dell R, **McDonald JW**, Michalak, HR et al. Comparison of [<sup>11</sup>C]UCB-J and [<sup>18</sup>F]FDG PET in Alzheimer's disease: A tracer kinetic modeling study. *Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism*. 2021, Mar; Pub Status: Accepted. PMID: 33757318.
- Higgins TH, Pham M, **McDonald JW**, Neveu ML, Haslett, W, Erekson, E, Wilkinson-Ryan, I. The effect of state legislation on changing opioid prescribing practices following gynecologic surgery. *Journal of Gynecological Surgery*. 2020, Oct; Pub Status: Accepted
- Mecca AP, **McDonald JW**, Michalak HR et al. PET imaging of mGluR5 in Alzheimer's Disease. *Alzheimers Res Ther*. 2020;12(1):15. PMID: 31954399.

Kemp EC, Ebner MK, Ramanan S, Godek TA, Pugh EA, Bartlett HH, **McDonald JW** Et al. Statin Use and Risk of Cognitive Decline in ADNI Cohort. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. 2020;28(5):507-517. PMID: 31806426.

Mecca AP, Michalak HR, **McDonald JW** Et al. Sleep Disturbance and Risk of Cognitive Decline in the ADNI Cohort. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*. 2018;45:232-242. PMID: 29886490.

Chen MC, Mecca AP, Naganawa M, Finnema SJ, Toyonaga T, Lin S, Najafzadeh S, Ropchan J, Lu, Y, **McDonald JW** et al. Assessing Synaptic Density in Alzheimer Disease with Synaptic Vesicle Glycoprotein 2A Positron Emission Tomographic Imaging. *JAMA Neurol*. 2018;75(10):1215-1224. PMID: 30014145.

## **Abstracts/Poster Presentation**

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**McDonald JW**, Kumar J. BK Running rampant in a heart and kidney transplant recipient: challenges in management. Presentation at Pediatric Community of Practice (PCOP). October 2025. Virtual Presentation.

**McDonald JW**, Kumar J, Ganoza AJ, Moritz, MJ. LDL apheresis in pediatric patients with multi-drug resistant idiopathic nephrotic syndrome or recurrent FSGS in a kidney transplant. Poster at: Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting. April 2025. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Pham M, Higgins T, **McDonald JW**, Wilkinson-Ryan I. The Effect of New Hampshire State Legislation Changes on Opioid Prescribing Practices for Gynecologic Oncology Surgery in a Tertiary Care Setting. Poster at: Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Meeting. March, 2019. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Chen MK, Mecca AP, Naganawa M, Finnema SJ, Toyonaga T, **McDonald JW** Et al. Initial Experience with PET Imaging of Synaptic Density (SV2A) in Alzheimer's Disease: A New Biomarker for Clinical Trials? Poster at Clinical Trials in Alzheimer's Disease Meeting. November, 2017. Boston, Massachusetts.

Chen MK, Mecca AP, Gallezot J, Naganawa M, Finnema SJ, Toyonaga T, Lin S, **McDonald JW** Et al. Correlation of neuronal function and synaptic density in Alzheimer's disease. *Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*. 2018;59:412

Mecca AP, Rogers K, Jacobs Z, **McDonald JW** Et al. Investigating age-related associations of metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 5 expression using [<sup>18</sup>F] FPEB and PET. Poster presented at: American Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry. March, 2018. Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mecca AP, Michalak HR, **McDonald JW** Et al. Sleep Disturbance and Risk of Cognitive Decline in the ADNI Cohort. Poster presented at: International Neuropsychological Society Conference. February 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. New Orleans, Louisiana.

**McDonald JW**, Ramanan S, Kemp EC, Et al. Yale University's Involvement in the Anti-Amyloid for Asymptomatic Alzheimer's Disease (A4). Poster presented at: Alzheimer's Association Annual CT meeting. June 2016. Southington, Connecticut.

## **Awards**

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- TL1 NIH funding grant recipient for research 2025-2027
- ASPN Fellows Presentation Award, 2025
- Londino Teaching Award, 2024
- AOA Honors Society, 2021
- Multiple sclerosis society grant recipient, 2018

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