

The Division of Neonatology also operates an outpatient NICU graduate clinic, which provides developmental follow-up for at-risk infants. Babies are seen here for physical, neurological and developmental assessments, as well as post-hospital management of ongoing medical problems. The clinic also provides evaluation services for infants at-risk for disabilities and/or in need of early intervention. The clinic is staffed by an attending neonatologist, physical therapist, dietitian, psychologist and social services personnel.

### For additional information

Website: [pediatrics.uky.edu/neopares](http://pediatrics.uky.edu/neopares)

Email: [neoPAres@uky.edu](mailto:neoPAres@uky.edu)

### Credential awarded

Upon successful completion of the residency, a certificate will be awarded by the University of Kentucky, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology.



## Program Directors

Lauren Jackson-Belcher, MSPAS, PA-C  
Tria Kinnard, MSPAS, PA-C

# Postgraduate Physician Assistant Residency in Neonatology

## Important dates

June 1 – Application deadline

Sept. 1 – Program start date



## What our residency offers:

- A unique clinical experience at the only neonatal post-graduate physician assistant residency program in the country
- Extensive hands on experience in a busy Level IIIC NICU
- Increased marketability in the competitive field of neonatology
- The ability to fill the rapidly increasing need for NICU advanced-practice providers
- Proficiency at pediatric critical care procedures
- Training in pediatric subspecialties such as cardiology, surgery, and radiology

## Program description

The postgraduate physician assistant residency in neonatology at the University of Kentucky is an intensive 12-month training program. It is designed for physician assistants who wish to subspecialize in neonatology. The program accepts two PAs each year and begins Sept. 1.

## Curriculum

The didactic portion of the postgraduate residency begins with a series of lectures given by Neonatal ICU attending physicians, NICU advanced-practice providers and pediatric subspecialty attending physicians to provide a solid foundation in neonatal physiology and pathophysiology.

Other educational opportunities continue throughout the year. These include attendance at clinical conferences, journal club, morbidity and mortality conferences, pediatric grand rounds, ethics conferences, maternal-fetal medicine conferences and pathology conferences. The residents will also have the opportunity to attend a regional neonatal conference.

The clinical portion of the residency begins with a one-week nursing rotation, during which the resident will become acquainted with the NICU bedside and the vital role of skilled bedside nursing. The following two weeks will be spent on the maternal-fetal medicine service to become familiar with the detection of congenital anomalies through prenatal ultrasound and the effect of maternal complications on the developing fetus. The next two weeks will be in the newborn nursery where the resident will learn the basics of well-baby care and acquire a baseline for a normal newborn exams.

Following these rotations, the resident will begin their service months in the NICU. They will work closely with NICU attendings, fellows, medical residents and advanced-practice providers to care for a wide variety of patients. As residents become more proficient and progress in their training, they will be expected to take on increasingly complex cases and carry a larger patient load.

## Skills

During this time, residents will also become proficient at the following procedures:

- Intubation
- Lumbar puncture
- Umbilical line placement
- Chest tube placement
- Thoracentesis
- Ventricular reservoir tap
- Peripheral arterial line placement



The residents will also have the opportunity to do several off-service rotations. These include: pediatric surgery, pediatric cardiology, pediatric radiology and other pediatric subspecialties of interest.

## Facility

The NICU at Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH) is a 66-bed, Level IIIC facility that provides care to critically ill newborns from across Central and Eastern Kentucky. With more than 800 infants admitted each year for medical and/or surgical reasons – and approximately 100 of those infants weighing less than 1000 grams – the KCH NICU cares for all neonates from the simplest to the most complex.

Services provided include conventional and high-frequency ventilation, nitric oxide therapy, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), and pre- and postoperative surgical care. KCH also has many pediatric subspecialties available for consultation including:

- Cardiology
- Pediatric cardiothoracic surgery
- Pulmonology
- Infectious disease
- Hematology
- Neurology
- Pediatric surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Ear, nose and throat
- Plastic surgery
- Gastroenterology
- Radiology
- Ophthalmology
- Nephrology
- Urology
- Endocrinology

