



PIONEER

Pediatric Intestinal rehabilitation: Opportunities in Nutrition, Emerging clinical evidence and Experimental Research

Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation: Opportunities in Nutrition, Emerging Clinical Evidence and Experimental Research

Highly distinguished global faculty, multidisciplinary collaboration and practice-changing science

August 29 – 30, 2026

SAINT LOUIS, MO
Four Seasons Hotel

CME Credit: 10.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™



FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Eugene “Gene” Kranz

NASA Flight Director for the pioneering Apollo 11 and Apollo 13 missions. Helped Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land on the Moon!



Register

Scan for course details and registration

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The PIONEER Symposium is dedicated to advancing the care of children with intestinal failure and brings together global leaders in the field with an unparalleled faculty lineup. Following a highly successful inaugural meeting in 2025, attended by more than 150 participants with a significant virtual audience, PIONEER returns in 2026 with an expanded program and internationally recognized faculty. Designed to foster collaboration across pediatric gastroenterology, surgery, dietetics, pharmacy, and nursing, PIONEER serves as a forum for meaningful exchange, bold ideas, and practice-changing insights.

Highlights from PIONEER 2025



CME 150+ 17 2
ACCREDITED | ATTENDEES | EXPERT SPEAKERS | DAYS



PIONEER

Pediatric Intestinal rehabilitation: Opportunities in Nutrition, Emerging clinical evidence and Experimental Research

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER : PIONEER 2026

Eugene "Gene" Kranz
NASA Chief Flight Director
Apollo 11 Moon Landing • Apollo 13 Recovery

SPECIAL KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

Leadership at the Frontier: Lessons from Mission Control for Solving Medicine's Most Complex Challenges.

Gene Kranz is one of the most celebrated leaders in American space exploration.

As NASA Chief Flight Director during the Apollo era, he helped lead Mission Control for Apollo 11, supporting **Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin** during humanity's first Moon landing, and later directed the remarkable effort that brought Apollo 13 safely home after a near-catastrophic in-flight explosion.

In this keynote, he will share lessons from Mission Control on communication, innovation, decision-making, and multidisciplinary collaboration, principles that directly resonate with PIONEER's mission to advance care for children with intestinal failure and short bowel syndrome.



PIONEER SYMPOSIUM 2026

August 29–30, 2026
Date

Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis, MO
Steps away from the historic Gateway Arch!
Venue

CME Accredited
Credits

10.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

SCIENTIFIC THEMES

Rethinking Intestinal Failure — Biology, Systems, and the Future of Durable Care

Growth & Long-Term Outcomes	Redefining success and durability in pediatric intestinal failure
AI & Malnutrition Metrics	Data-driven approaches to nutrition quality and clinical decision support
Regenerative Therapies	From NEC pathways to translational innovations in intestinal repair
Surgical Innovation	Strategic decision-making, feeding access, and escalation pathways
Remote Monitoring	Building high-reliability home PN programs and surveillance models

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

- ▶ **Home Nutrition Support and Remote Monitoring:** Implement high-reliability, patient-centered care models including remote monitoring, home nutrition support, and patient-reported outcomes while addressing health systems and cost considerations.
- ▶ **Nutrition and Rehabilitation:** Apply evidence-based, multidisciplinary strategies in pediatric intestinal failure, integrating advances in nutrition, surgical management, and intestinal rehabilitation to improve long-term outcomes.
- ▶ **Liver Disease and Inflammation:** Evaluate pathophysiologic mechanisms and management of complications, including intestinal failure-associated liver disease, dysbiosis, inflammation, and feeding intolerance.
- ▶ **Growth and Adaptation:** Incorporate advanced nutritional assessment and intervention approaches, including body composition and growth quality metrics, to optimize intestinal adaptation and functional outcomes.
- ▶ **AI and Regeneration:** Integrate emerging translational and data-driven innovations, including regenerative biology, microbiome science, and AI-enabled predictive models, into clinical decision-making.

WHY ATTEND

World-Class Faculty	Cutting-Edge Science	High-Impact Networking	Exclusive Experiences
Multidisciplinary expertise from top global institutions	Latest in AI, regenerative medicine & nutrition research	Connect with pioneers shaping the future of IF care	Iconic Gateway Arch, Busch Stadium, Planetarium, St. Louis Wheel & Aquarium

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Pediatric gastroenterologists, surgeons, hepatologists, researchers, dietitians, pharmacists, nurses, advanced practice providers, trainees, psychologists, social workers, and healthcare administrators involved in intestinal rehabilitation, nutrition support, and the care of children with complex gastrointestinal disorders.



REGISTRATION

Registration is highly discounted through educational grant support.

Early Registration (Until July 19, 2026)

Free Students	\$25 Fellows / Trainees	\$75 Nurses / NPs / RDs	\$150 Physicians
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Regular Registration (Until Aug 28, 2026)

Free Students	\$150 Fellows / Trainees	\$200 Nurses / NPs / RDs	\$300 Physicians
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Onsite/Walk-in Registration

\$50 Students	\$200 Fellows / Trainees	\$250 Nurses / NPs / RDs	\$450 Physicians
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Late-breaking abstracts: Deadline: August 14, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CST



CONTACT & MORE INFORMATION

CME Program Director

Amanda Sain:
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Administrative Coordinator

Sarah Davis: sarah.davis@ssmhealth.com

COURSE DIRECTORS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Course Directors and Planning Committee:

Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA

Anthony Rejent Endowed Professor of Pediatrics and Chief, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Director: Pediatric Liver Transplantation, ASPIRE and PIONEER programs.
Saint Louis University School of Medicine, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

Nisha Mangalat, MD, CNSC

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Director Glennon Intestinal Rehabilitation & Feeding Program (GIRAF), Fellowship Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

Planning Committee:

Rahiya Rehman MD, DABOM

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Director NOURISH Program, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

Martine Saint-Cyr, MD

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition
Washington University School of Medicine

Darla Shores, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Washington University School of Medicine



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Experimental Research

August 29–30, 2026 | Four Seasons Hotel | St. Louis, MO

Rethinking Intestinal Failure — Biology, Systems, and the Future of Durable Care

DAY 1 — Saturday, August 29, 2026

PRE-CONFERENCE | Arrival & Registration

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | **Registration & Welcome Coffee**
Four Seasons

OPENING | Moderator: Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA

12:00 – 12:20 PM | **Welcome and Introductions**
Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA. Director, PIONEER Program; Chief, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Saint Louis University / SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital
Andrew J. White, MD. Chair of Pediatrics. Saint Louis University / SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:20 – 1:10 PM | **KEYNOTE: Leadership at the Frontier: Lessons from Mission Control for Solving Medicine's Most Complex Challenges**
Eugene Kranz. NASA Flight Director, Apollo 13 Mission Controller, Author of Failure is Not an Option

SESSION I: NEONATAL FOUNDATIONS & THE ORIGINS OF INTESTINAL FAILURE | Moderators: Darla Shores, Nisha Mangalat

1:15 – 1:45 PM | **From NEC Pathways to Regenerative Therapies: Preventing Progressive Intestinal Loss**
David Hackam, MD, PhD. Garrett Family Professor of Pediatric Surgery; Pediatric Surgeon-in-Chief, Johns Hopkins University

1:50 – 2:20 PM | **Before Intestinal Failure Begins: Neonatal Nutrition, Feeding Strategy, and Preventing Long-Term Growth Failure**
Brenda Poindexter, MD. Chief, Division of Neonatology; Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta & Emory University

2:25 – 2:40 PM | **Afternoon Break: Vendors & Poster Viewing**

SESSION II: INTESTINAL ADAPTATION: BENCH TO BEDSIDE | Moderators: Amit Mathur, Martine Saint-Cyr, Sanjay Jain

2:40 – 3:10 PM | **Cellular Signals Driving Intestinal Repair After Bowel Injury**
Scott T. Magness, PhD. Professor, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, NC State University Lampe Joint Departments of Biomedical Engineering, UNC Departments of Medicine, Cell Biology & Physiology

3:15 – 3:45 PM | **Designing Durable Intestinal Adaptation in Short Bowel Syndrome: Nutrient Signaling, Growth Quality, and Personalized Rehabilitation**
Kelly Tappenden, PhD, RD, AGAF, FASPEN. Dean and Professor, University of Utah

3:50 – 4:20 PM | **Microbiome-Driven Repair Pathways in Pediatric Intestinal Failure: From Dysbiosis to Therapeutic Targets**
Nikhil Pai, MD. Associate Professor, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; Director of Clinical Trials, Center for Microbial Medicine, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

4:20 – 4:35 PM | **Afternoon Break: Vendors & Poster Viewing**



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SESSION III: NUTRITION TRAJECTORIES & GROWTH QUALITY Moderators: Rahiya Rehman, Adam Farmer	
4:35 – 5:05 PM	Optimizing Feeding & Nutritional Trajectories in Pediatric Intestinal Failure: Integrating Clinical Care, Education, and Policy <i>Praveen Goday, MD. Director, Nutrition and Feeding Programs, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, The Ohio State University.</i> <i>President-elect, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition</i>
5:10 – 5:40 PM	Body Composition, Sarcopenia, and Growth Quality: Moving Beyond Weight and Length in Pediatric IF <i>Jessie Hulst, MD, PhD. Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics & Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Toronto; Staff physician, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition, Group for Improvement of Intestinal Function Treatment (GIFT), The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada.</i>
5:45 PM	Day 1 Closing Remarks <i>Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA</i>
6:00 – 7:30 PM	Reception, Networking & Group Photo <i>Four Seasons</i>

DAY 2 — Sunday, August 30, 2026

7:00 – 7:45 AM	Continental Breakfast & Poster Viewing
7:45 – 8:00 AM	Yoga & Wellness Session: Regulation, Resilience, and Recovery: Integrating Mind–Body Practices <i>Sivan Kinberg, MD</i> <i>Interactive session — comfortable attire encouraged</i>
SESSION IV: PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, DATA SCIENCE & QUALITY METRICS Moderators: Colin Martin, Miguel Guzman	
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Malnutrition as a Quality Metric and AI: Why Identification, Documentation, and Action Still Fall Short <i>Ryan T. Hurt, MD. Professor of Medicine and Professor of Nutrition, Chair Division of General Internal Medicine, Program Director Home Parenteral Enteral Nutrition, Mayo Clinic</i>
8:35 – 9:05 AM	From PIFCON to Learning Health Systems: Building the Future of Multicenter Data in Pediatric Intestinal Failure <i>Jeffrey Rudolph, MD. Division Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology; Director, Intestinal Care & Rehabilitation; Associate Professor, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh / UPMC</i>
9:10 – 9:40 AM	Building a High-Functioning Intestinal Rehabilitation Program: Structure, Culture, and Sustainability <i>Sivan Kinberg, MD, MS, MA. Director, Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation Center; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (in Biomedical Informatics), Division of Pediatric GI, Hepatology & Nutrition, Columbia University Medical Center</i>
9:40 – 10:00 AM	Break: Vendors & Posters
SESSION V: HIGH-RELIABILITY PROGRAMS & LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE Moderators: Valeria Cohran, Christopher Blewett, Jeffrey Teckman	
10:00 – 10:30 AM	High-Reliability Nutrition Support Programs: Engineering Safety and Consistency at Scale <i>Stanisław Klek, MD, PhD. Professor & Head, Intestinal Failure Center, Stanley Dudrick's Memorial Hospital, Poland.</i> <i>Chairman, European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN)</i>

10:35 – 11:05 AM	Surveillance That Matters: Smarter Long-Term Monitoring in Intestinal Failure <i>Paul Wales, MD. Professor of Surgery; Surgical Director, Intestinal Rehabilitation, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center</i>
11:10 – 11:40 AM	From Bench to Baby: Distraction Enterogenesis and the Future of Long-Term Outcomes in Short Bowel Syndrome <i>Shweta S. Namjoshi, MD MPH. Clinical Associate Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine</i>
11:40 AM – 12:40 PM	Lunch
SESSION VI: LIVER DISEASE Moderators: Brent Tetri, David Rudnick, Batul Kaj-Carbaidwala	
12:40 – 1:10 PM	Why Some Livers Recover and Others Fail: Mechanistic Lessons from Pediatric IFALD <i>Ronald J. Sokol, MD, FAASLD. Distinguished Professor, Pediatrics-Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; Bruce and Bev Endowed Chair in Child Health Research; Chief Scientific Officer- Child Health, Children's Hospital Colorado; Director, Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, University of Colorado Anschutz, Aurora, Colorado</i>
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Gut Signals to Liver Rescue: Strategies to Prevent IFALD in Short Bowel Syndrome <i>Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA. Endowed Professor of Pediatrics and Chief, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Director, Pediatric Liver Transplantation Saint Louis University School of Medicine, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital</i>
1:45 – 2:15 PM	Panel Discussion: The Future of Pediatric Intestinal Failure-Systems Innovation, Policy, and Research Gaps <i>Faculty Panel. Moderated Q&A</i>
SESSION VII: ABSTRACT & POSTER PRESENTATIONS Moderators: Adriana Montano, Noah Hillman, Wing Syn	
2:15 – 3:05 PM	Selected Abstract Presentations <i>Top-rated submitted abstracts. PIONEER 2026 scientific committee review</i>
3:05 – 3:35 PM	Closing Discussion & PIONEER 2027 Announcements <i>Ajay Jain, MD, DNB, MHA</i>
3:35 PM	Adjourn

Contact & Information

CME Program Director

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Administrative Coordinator

Sarah Davis: sarah.davis@ssmhealth.com

Registration

Students: Free | Fellows: \$150 | Nurses/NPs/RDs: \$200 | Physicians: \$300

PIONEER 2026: <https://slu.cloud-cme.com/course/courseoverview?P=0&EID=19800>



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