

# Stanford

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## Ndidi Unaka

Clinical Professor, Pediatrics

### Bio

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#### BIO

Dr. Unaka is the inaugural Chief Health Equity Officer (CHEO) for Stanford Medicine Children's Health (SMCH) and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine. Prior to her transition to SMCH in July 2024, Dr. Unaka was a faculty member in the Division of Hospital Medicine at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. In addition to her clinical role as a pediatric hospitalist, Dr. Unaka served as the Associate Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program from 2011 – January 2022. She served as the medical director of a 48- bed inpatient unit primarily for patients admitted to the Hospital Medicine service. In this role, Dr. Unaka was involved in several equity-oriented quality improvement initiatives which included work to identify, and address hunger among caregivers of hospitalized children insured by Medicaid.

Dr. Unaka worked on institution-level community health initiatives at Cincinnati Children's. She served as the Medical Director of Quality Improvement and Data Analytics for Cincinnati Children's Medicaid- focused, accountable care organization (HealthVine). In this role, she developed and led initiatives designed to improve the quality and efficiency of health care delivery to HealthVine's patient population and helped lead the change management associated with the movement toward a population-health care model that improves quality, narrows equity gaps, streamlines care, and reduces costs. She helped define appropriate health care delivery, equity, and population health measures and quality benchmarks. Additionally, Dr. Unaka was a faculty lead within Cincinnati Children's Fisher Child Health Equity Center, and she specifically focused on working with operations leaders to ensure equity was embedded within all strategic plans, goals, and metrics across all sites of care. Dr. Unaka partnered with several colleagues to lead system-wide quality improvement initiatives including work accelerated via learning networks. She was the co-lead of Cincinnati Children's Health Equity Network (HEN), an initiative borne out of the pursuit of excellent and equitable health outcomes for youth in Greater Cincinnati. The HEN supports clinical teams seeking to eliminate disparities in child health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status via targeted interventions and best practices by addressing both medical and social factors known to confer poor health outcomes.

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Professor, Pediatrics

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chief Health Equity Officer, Stanford Medicine Children's Health, (2024- present)

#### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification, American Board of Pediatrics , Pediatric Hospital Medicine (2019)
- MEd, University of Cincinnati (2015)
- Chief Residency, Cincinnati Children's Hospital (2011)
- Board Certification, American Board of Pediatrics , General Pediatrics (2010)
- Pediatric Residency, Cincinnati Children's Hospital (2010)
- MD, University of Michigan (2007)
- BS, University of Oregon (2003)

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Patient and Family Advisory Councils: Advancing Best Practice in Children's Hospitals.** *Journal of pediatric health care : official publication of National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates & Practitioners*  
Dardess, P., Dokken, D. L., Unaka, N. I., Casillas, C. A., Rouse, L., Patel, U., Rodriguez, L. R., Beck, A. F.  
2024; 38 (2): 184-193
- **An Untold Story: The Feelings of Pediatric Residents Early in the Covid-19 Pandemic and What They Can Teach Us Today.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Winn, A. S., Naifeh, M. M., Hilgenberg, S., Unaka, N. I., Mollie Grow, H., Myers, R. E., Schwartz, A., Lieberman, R., Schumacher, D. J.  
2024: 102602
- **Potential Bias in Social Work Consultations in the Pediatric Inpatient Setting.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Segev, N. R., Fanta, M. L., Litman, S., Beck, A. F., Unaka, N. I.  
2024
- **Racial, Ethnic, and Language Inequities in Ambulatory Pediatrics Patient Family Experience.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Jones, M. N., Ponti-Zins, M., MacDougall, M., Ehrlich, S., Unaka, N., Hanke, S., Meizen-Derr, J., Burkhardt, M. C., Corley, A., Adcock, R., Amanullah, S., Hackworth, J., Copeland, et al  
2024
- **"Racism happens every day, all the time": Black families' outpatient experiences of racism across a large pediatric system.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Jones, M. N., Elliott, K., Sherman, S. N., Falade, E., Clark, R. L., Lipps, L., Hill-Williams, L., Williams, C., Copeland, K. A., Beck, A. F., Unaka, N., Burkhardt, M. C., Corley, et al  
2024
- **An Institutional Approach to Equity and Improvement in Child Health Outcomes.** *Pediatrics*  
Unaka, N., Kahn, R. S., Spitznagel, T., Henize, A. W., Carlson, D., Michael, J., Quinonez, E., Anderson, J., Beck, A. F.  
2024
- **A Road Map for Population Health and Health Equity Research** *JAMA PEDIATRICS*  
Beck, A. F., Unaka, N. I., Kahn, R. S.  
2024
- **The role of competency based medical education in addressing health inequities and cultivating inclusive learning environments.** *Current problems in pediatric and adolescent health care*  
Gilliam, C. A., Lurie, B., Winn, A. S., Barber, A., Jackson, D., Weisgerber, M., Unaka, N.  
2024: 101641
- **Addressing food insecurity in the inpatient setting: Results of a postdischarge pilot study.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Smith, M., Tepe, K. A., Sauers-Ford, H., Atarama, D., Gilliam, M., Unaka, N., Beck, A. F., Shah, A. N., Schondelmeyer, A. C., Auger, K. A.  
2024
- **Potential causes of delays in paediatric perforated appendicitis: A prospective interview study.** *Journal of paediatrics and child health*  
Trinidad, S., Parrado, R., Hoang, M., Toraman Turk, S., Unaka, N., Beck, A. F., Schondelmeyer, A., Kotagal, M.  
2024; 60 (6): 193-199
- **Development of a multimodal geomarker pipeline to assess the impact of social, economic, and environmental factors on pediatric health outcomes** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION*  
Manning, E., Duan, Q., Taylor, S., Ray, S., Corley, A. S., Michael, J., Gillette, R., Unaka, N., Hartley, D., Beck, A. F., Brokamp, C., RISEUP Res Team  
2024; 31 (7): 1471-1478
- **Paediatric resident identification of cardiac emergencies.** *Cardiology in the young*  
Hills, B. K., Gal, D. B., Zackoff, M., Williams, B., Marcuccio, E., Klein, M., Unaka, N.  
2024: 1-6
- **Causal Mediation of Neighborhood-Level Pediatric Hospitalization Inequities.** *Pediatrics*  
Brokamp, C., Jones, M. N., Duan, Q., Rasnick Manning, E., Ray, S., Corley, A. M., Michael, J., Taylor, S., Unaka, N., Beck, A. F.  
2024; 153 (4)

- **Building a regional pediatric asthma learning health system in support of optimal, equitable outcomes.** *Learning health systems*  
Beck, A. F., Seid, M., McDowell, K. M., Udoko, M., Cronin, S. C., Makrozahopoulos, D., Powers, T., Fairbanks, S., Prideaux, J., Vaughn, L. M., Hente, E., Thurmond, S., Unaka, et al  
2024; 8 (2): e10403
- **Forging a Path to Effective Inpatient Health-Related Social Needs Screening and Response.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Sheak, K., Shah, A., Unaka, N. I.  
2024; 14 (4): e209-e211
- **Characterizing Inequities in Pediatric Appendicitis Delayed Diagnosis and Perforation.** *Journal of pediatrics. Clinical practice*  
Trinidad, S., Parrado, R., Gavulic, A., Hoang, M., Duan, Q., Overmann, K. M., Unaka, N., Beck, A. F., Kotagal, M.  
2024; 11: 200108
- **Out for the count: Hospitalization as an opportunity to intervene for patients experiencing homelessness.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Peterson, R. J., Beck, A. F., Unaka, N.  
2024; 19 (1): 79-80
- **Family-Centered Rounds Requires an Equity Oriented Approach.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Ridge, M. S., Parente, V., Unaka, N.  
2023; 13 (11): e342-e344
- **Crossing the Quality Chasm and the Ignored Pillar of Health Care Equity.** *Pediatric clinics of North America*  
Cheng, T. L., Unaka, N. I., Nichols, D.  
2023; 70 (4): 855-861
- **The Autonomy Toolbox: A Multicenter Collaborative to Promote Resident Autonomy.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Allen, K., Najjar, M., Ostermeier, A., Washington, N., Genies, M. C., Hazle, M., Hardy, C., Lewis, K., McDaniel, L., McFarlane, D. J., Macias, C., Molloy, M. J., Perry, et al  
2023; 13 (6): 490-503
- **Reducing Caregiver Hunger During Pediatric Hospitalization.** *Pediatrics*  
Auger, K. A., Demeritt, B., Beck, A. F., Shah, A., Litman, S., Pinson, J., Wright, T., Cronin, S. C., Casillas, C. A., Sauers-Ford, H., Ferris, S., Curry, C., Unaka, et al  
2023; 151 (5)
- **Effects of a Curriculum Addressing Racism on Pediatric Residents' Racial Biases and Empathy.** *Journal of graduate medical education*  
Jindal, M., Thornton, R. L., McRae, A., Unaka, N., Johnson, T. J., Mistry, K. B.  
2022; 14 (4): 407-413
- **US News & World Report and quality metrics: Inclusion of sickle cell disease is a matter of equity.** *Pediatric blood & cancer*  
Power-Hays, A., Dandoy, C. E., Lorts, A., Perentesis, J. P., Unaka, N., Ware, R. E., McGann, P. T.  
2022; 69 (8): e29679
- **Lifting the mask mandate puts our priorities in plain sight.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Calhoun, T., Unaka, N.  
2022; 17 (8): 668-670
- **"It Makes Me a Better Person and Doctor": A Qualitative Study of Residents' Perceptions of a Curriculum Addressing Racism.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Jindal, M., Mistry, K. B., McRae, A., Unaka, N., Johnson, T., Thornton, R. L.  
2022; 22 (2): 332-341
- **An Entrustable Professional Activity Addressing Racism and Pediatric Health Inequities.** *Pediatrics*  
Unaka, N. I., Winn, A., Spinks-Franklin, A., Poitevien, P., Trimm, F., Nuncio Lujano, B. J., Turner, D. A.  
2022; 149 (2)
- **Microaggressions: Privileged Observers' Duty to Act and What They Can Do.** *Pediatrics*  
Hackworth, J. M., Kotagal, M., Bignall, O. N., Unaka, N., Matheny Antommara, A. H.  
2021; 148 (6)
- **Falling Through the Cracks.** *Journal of hospital medicine*

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- Gupta, S., Klebanoff, M. J., Pathak, A., Unaka, N. I., Herbst, B.  
2021; 16 (11): 694-698
- **Improving Discharge Instructions for Hospitalized Children With Limited English Proficiency.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Choe, A. Y., Schondelmeyer, A. C., Thomson, J., Schwieter, A., McCann, E., Kelley, J., Demeritt, B., Unaka, N. I.  
2021; 11 (11): 1213-1222
  - **Racism and pediatric health outcomes.** *Current problems in pediatric and adolescent health care*  
Fanta, M., Ladzekpo, D., Unaka, N.  
2021; 51 (10): 101087
  - **Seven practices for pursuing equity through learning health systems: Notes from the field.** *Learning health systems*  
Parsons, A., Unaka, N. I., Stewart, C., Foster, J., Perez, V., Jones, N. Y., Kahn, R., Beck, A. F., Riley, C.  
2021; 5 (3): e10279
  - **Nurse/Resident Reciprocal Shadowing to Improve Interprofessional Communication.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Monroe, K. K., Kelley, J. L., Unaka, N., Burrows, H. L., Marshall, T., Lichner, K., McCaffery, H., Demeritt, B., Chandler, D., Herrmann, L. E.  
2021; 11 (5): 435-445
  - **Decreasing Hospital Observation Time for Febrile Infants.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Desai, S., Calhoun, T., Sosa, T., Courter, J. D., Letsinger, A., Le, M., Schubert, A., Zaremba, L., Shah, S. S., Jerardi, K., Statile, A. M., Unaka, N. I.  
2021; 16 (5): 267-273
  - **Pediatricians Contributing to Poverty Reduction Through Clinical-Community Partnership and Collective Action: A Narrative Review.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Beck, A. F., Marcil, L. E., Klein, M. D., Sims, A. M., Parsons, A. A., Shah, A. N., Riley, C. L., Bignall, O. N., Henize, A. W., Kahn, R. S., Unaka, N. I.  
2021; 21 (8S): S200-S206
  - **New Author Guidelines for Addressing Race and Racism in the Journal of Hospital Medicine.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Andrews, A. L., Unaka, N., Shah, S. S.  
2021; 16 (4): 197
  - **Disparity in Nurse Discharge Communication for Hospitalized Families Based on English Proficiency.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Choe, A. Y., Thomson, J. E., Unaka, N. I., Wagner, V., Durling, M., Moeller, D., Ampomah, E., Mangeot, C., Schondelmeyer, A. C.  
2021; 11 (3): 245-253
  - **Counterpoint: Prioritizing Healthcare Workers for Scarce Critical Care Resources Is Impractical and Unjust.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Antommara, A., Unaka, N. I.  
2021; 16 (3): 182-183
  - **What Should an Intern Do When She Disagrees With the Attending?** *Pediatrics*  
Crisci, T., Salih, Z. N., Unaka, N., Peerzada, J., Antommara, A. H.  
2021; 147 (3)
  - **Health literacy and caregiver understanding in the CHD population.** *Cardiology in the young*  
Rodts, M. E., Unaka, N. I., Statile, C. J., Madsen, N. L.  
2020; 30 (10): 1439-1444
  - **Truth in Tension: Reflections on Racism in Medicine.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Unaka, N. I., Reynolds, K. L.  
2020; 15: 572-573
  - **Improving the Transition of Intravenous to Enteral Antibiotics in Pediatric Patients with Pneumonia or Skin and Soft Tissue Infections.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Girdwood, S. C., Sellas, M. N., Courter, J. D., Liberio, B., Tchou, M. J., Herrmann, L. E., Dewan, M. L., Statile, A. M., Unaka, N. I.  
2020; 15 (1): 10-15
  - **Improving Efficiency of Pediatric Hospital Medicine Team Daily Workflow.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Unaka, N. I., Herrmann, L. E., Parker, M. W., Jerardi, K. E., Brady, P. W., Demeritt, B., Lichner, K., Carlisle, M., Treasure, J. D., Hickey, E., Statile, A. M.  
2019; 9 (11): 867-873
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- **Inpatient Communication Barriers and Drivers When Caring for Limited English Proficiency Children.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Choe, A. Y., Unaka, N. I., Schondelmeyer, A. C., Bignall, W. J., Vilvens, H. L., Thomson, J. E.  
2019; 14 (10): 607-613
- **Failure to Thrive and Frequent PICU Admissions in a 2-year-old Boy.** *Pediatrics in review*  
Morrison, T. M., Cooper, J., O'Shea, K., Unaka, N.  
2019; 40 (Suppl 1): 29-30
- **Objective Assessment of Resident Teaching Competency Through a Longitudinal, Clinically Integrated, Resident-as-Teacher Curriculum.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Zackoff, M. W., Real, F. J., DeBlasio, D., Spaulding, J. R., Sobolewski, B., Unaka, N., Jerardi, K., Klein, M.  
2019; 19 (6): 698-702
- **Diagnosis and Management of Infectious Diarrhea.** *JAMA pediatrics*  
Parker, M. W., Unaka, N.  
2018; 172 (8): 775-776
- **Fathers Know Best: Inner-City African American Fathers' Perceptions Regarding Their Involvement in the Pediatric Medical Home.** *Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities*  
Bignall, O. N., Raglin Bignall, W. J., Vaughn, L. M., Unaka, N. I.  
2018; 5 (3): 617-622
- **Preparing from the Outside Looking In for Safely Transitioning Pediatric Inpatients to Home.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Statile, A. M., Unaka, N., Auger, K. A.  
2018; 13 (4): 287-288
- **Improving the Readability of Pediatric Hospital Medicine Discharge Instructions.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Unaka, N., Statile, A., Jerardi, K., Dahale, D., Morris, J., Liberio, B., Jenkins, A., Simpson, B., Mullaney, R., Kelley, J., Durling, M., Shafer, J., Brady, et al  
2017; 12 (7): 551-557
- **Development of a New Care Model for Hospitalized Children With Medical Complexity.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
White, C. M., Thomson, J. E., Statile, A. M., Auger, K. A., Unaka, N., Carroll, M., Tucker, K., Fletcher, D., Hall, D. E., Simmons, J. M., Brady, P. W.  
2017; 7 (7): 410-414
- **Increasing Physical Exam Teaching on Family-Centered Rounds Utilizing a Web-Based Tool.** *Pediatric quality & safety*  
Patel, A., Unaka, N., Holland, D., Schuler, C., Mangeot, C., Sucharew, H., Younts, A., Maag, L., Treasure, J., Sobolewski, B., Statile, A.  
2017; 2 (4): e032
- **Five Steps for Success in Building Your Own Educational Web Site.** *Academic pediatrics*  
Patel, A., Unaka, N., Sobolewski, B., Statile, A.  
2017; 17 (4): 345-348
- **Assessment of readability, understandability, and completeness of pediatric hospital medicine discharge instructions.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Unaka, N. I., Statile, A., Haney, J., Beck, A. F., Brady, P. W., Jerardi, K. E.  
2017; 12 (2): 98-101
- **Implementation of an Innovative Pediatric Hospital Medicine Education Series.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Statile, A. M., Unaka, N., Thomson, J. E., Sucharew, H., del Rey, J. G., White, C. M.  
2016; 6 (3): 151-6
- **Revisiting the History: Hypereosinophilia in a 4-Year-Old With Purpura.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Zackoff, M., Goodwin, E., Arroyo, M., Downes, K., Unaka, N.  
2015; 5 (7): 399-402
- **An Observed Structured Teaching Evaluation Demonstrates the Impact of a Resident-as-Teacher Curriculum on Teaching Competency.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Zackoff, M., Jerardi, K., Unaka, N., Sucharew, H., Klein, M.  
2015; 5 (6): 342-7
- **A Rare Case of Pulmonary Artery Sling and Complete Atrioventricular Canal Defect in an Infant With Trisomy 21.** *World journal for pediatric & congenital heart surgery*

Alsaied, T., Sticka, J., Unaka, N., Cooper, D. S., Manning, P. B.  
2014; 5 (3): 470-2

- **Effects of the 2011 duty hour restrictions on resident education and learning from patient admissions.** *Hospital pediatrics*  
Auger, K. A., Jerardi, K. E., Sucharew, H. J., Yau, C., Unaka, N., Simmons, J. M.  
2014; 4 (4): 222-7
- **Assessment of active play, inactivity and perceived barriers in an inner city neighborhood.** *Journal of community health*  
Kottyan, G., Kottyan, L., Edwards, N. M., Unaka, N. I.  
2014; 39 (3): 538-44
- **Effect of a face sheet tool on medical team provider identification and family satisfaction.** *Journal of hospital medicine*  
Unaka, N. I., White, C. M., Sucharew, H. J., Yau, C., Clark, S. L., Brady, P. W.  
2014; 9 (3): 186-8
- **Utilizing improvement science methods to improve physician compliance with proper hand hygiene.** *Pediatrics*  
White, C. M., Statile, A. M., Conway, P. H., Schoettker, P. J., Solan, L. G., Unaka, N. I., Vidwan, N., Warrick, S. D., Yau, C., Connelly, B. L.  
2012; 129 (4): e1042-50