

# Montana Pediatrics' Providers



HEALTH PROMOTION  
DISEASE PREVENTION  
FORT PECK TRIBES

montana pediatrics

## Pediatric Specialists

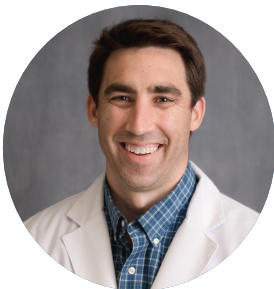


### **Kristin Melli, MSN, CPNP-PC - Montana Pediatrics' Fort Peck Program Director**

Kristin Melli is a pediatric nurse practitioner, specialized in primary care, who has had the pleasure of working with children in a variety of settings. Kristin attended the University of California, Los Angeles where she studied immunology and after about 5 years of studying cells in a lab, she decided she wanted to work with the source of those cells: people. After earning a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, she went on to work in several different health settings, including a Federally

Qualified Health Center in a big city, a private pediatric clinic in a small town, a county hospital system, a pediatric urgent care, and her local health department during COVID. Working with the school-based health clinics at Fort Peck has been a delight and she is passionate about connecting kids at Fort Peck with quality health care.

Kristin lives in Kalispell with her husband, 3 kids, dog, cat, and chickens. She enjoys spending time outside in gardens, on mountains, in lakes, or cheering her kids on from soccer sidelines. She tries to read at least a couple of books each month, cooks and bakes quite a lot, and has recently taken up tennis again.



### **John Cole, MD, FAAP**

John Cole has been a full-time pediatrician in Montana since 2013. Originally from Minnesota, Dr. Cole earned both a Master of Science in anatomy and cellular biology as well as his medical degree at Rush University in Chicago. He completed his pediatrics internship and residency through the University of Vermont in Burlington and is currently the president of the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Chair of the Pediatric department at Logan Health and provides pediatric care with Sunny View Pediatrics.

Along with his wife, Wendy, who is a wildlife biologist, and their dog, Juno, and cat, Milo, he lives outside Kalispell on property where he plans to set up shop and pursue his blacksmithing interests. He enjoys outdoor activities including camping, hiking, running and telemark skiing. A long-time competitive swimmer, Dr. Cole swam the entire 28-mile length of Flathead Lake in just over 20 hours - without a wetsuit!



### **Val Beebe, PNP**

Val Beebe earned her nursing degree at the University of South Carolina. She went on to achieve her master's degree in nursing at Old Dominion University. She worked as a critical care nurse for over 22 years in hospitals all over the country before she returned to school to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. Val has advanced nursing practice credentialing in family practice, pediatrics and neurology. Val describes her work as an NP as "pure joy".

Val has two grown children and four precious grandchildren. During the rare times she is not working, she is a steward for forested acreage at the Birdsong Tree Farm in Kila, MT. where she cares for her horses, donkeys, dogs, cats and any other stray animal that may wonder into her world.



### **Lionel Tapia, MD**

Lionel Tapia, MD is a pediatrician, treating children of all ages in both outpatient and inpatient settings. He earned his BS degree in physiology from the University of California, Davis and attended medical school at the University of Minnesota. Following that, he went on to earn a master's of science degree in Health Administration at the University of Colorado. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Tapia loves to travel with his wife in their mini-camper, spend time with their two grown children, and has completed several 110-mile bike races. In addition to this, he is also an accomplished photographer.



### **Angie Ostrowski, MD**

Angie Ostrowski is a Bozeman-based pediatrician who graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine before completing her residency in Utah. She previously worked as a pediatrician in the hospital and clinic settings in Butte.

Dr. Ostrowski receives gratification from sharing her skill and knowledge about children and healthcare with other providers, families and youth who are exploring a field in medicine. Her ability to be part of the Fort Peck team of providers, caring for a community that may be far away in miles but close in sharing the Montana spirit brings her joy. Dr. Ostrowski enjoys traveling and the outdoors. She is also a dedicated cyclist and loves cooking.



### **Amy Rickman, DNP, MSN**

Amy Rickman is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Amy received her bachelor's degree in nursing at Baker University, her master's degree in nursing and child health at the University of Alabama and then went on to earn her doctorate in nursing practice at Capella University. Amy is an Air Force veteran, where she was honored to be able to address the healthcare needs of the children of service members.

Amy and her husband have a blended family of 6 children, ranging from ages 16 to 28. She enjoys hiking, being outdoors, cycling, ballroom dancing, and experiencing foods from all cultures. Amy describes her passion for pediatrics as "having a true relationship with families, establishing trust, treating each child as a unique person, and discussing treatment plans together".



### **Lauren Wilson, MD, FAAP**

Lauren Wilson is a pediatrician, pediatric hospitalist, educator and the current vice president for the Montana Association of Pediatricians. Her education included earning her BA in German and mathematics at Rice University, her medical degree at McGill University of Montreal and completing her pediatric fellowship at the University of Vermont. After completing her education, residency and fellowship, Lauren returned to live and raise her family in Missoula, where she grew up. She loves being back home working on advocacy projects around substance use disorders, and is often called upon to speak to state government agencies or testify on bills being considered to make sure that the family and patient voice is considered.

Dr. Wilson is a strong advocate for children and improving healthcare access for all children in Montana. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking with her husband and 2 boys, growing flowers and vegetables, and playing (bad) hockey.

### **Emily Pinto-Taylor, MD**



Emily Pinto Taylor earned her undergraduate degree at Emory University. She went on to earn her medical degree at Loyola University of Chicago-Stritch School of Medicine, completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and completed fellowships in both hospice/palliative care and geriatrics at Emory University.

Dr. Pinto Taylor is passionate about caring for vulnerable populations, providing medical knowledge to all who need it, and listening to patients' stories. In her spare time, she loves chasing after her two toddlers, supporting her husband's charter school, reading bad murder mysteries, running too far, and cooking.

## **Mental Health**



### **Crystal Amundson, MS, LCPC, RPT-S**

Crystal is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S). Over the last 20 years, she has worked with people across the spectrum of care including in outpatient, school-based, residential, and acute inpatient settings. Crystal has extensive experience in the areas of early childhood, trauma, and foster care/adoption. She prioritizes creating safe spaces that respect each individual's spirituality, natural supports, and gender identity. Empowering the mental health of those around her is a deep source of joy and connection - doing it through play therapy usually means there is laughter and creativity mixed in!

Crystal grew up in Western Montana & currently lives in Billings, Montana with her husband, two children, and dog. She loves a good pun, card games, knitting, and walking her dog.



### **Tom Hoffman, MD, Medical Director of Psychiatry**

Tom Hoffman began as a hospitalist on the acute adolescent inpatient unit in September 2019 at Shodair Health. Today he serves as the hospital's medical director of psychiatry and also sees children out of the Butte Outpatient Clinic, in addition to being a provider for children in Fort Peck.

Dr. Hoffman is originally from Great Falls, Montana. A graduate of Carroll College, he attended medical school at the University of Washington. From there, he completed his training in general psychiatry at the University of Vermont, child psychiatry at the University of New Mexico, and forensic psychiatry at the University of Colorado. He is currently the co-chair of the rural psychiatry committee for AACAP, past president of the Montana Association of Pediatric Psychiatrists, and current president of the Montana Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Hoffman enjoys working with kids of all ages and is interested in how to expand care to rural areas of Montana. In his free time, he loves playing with LEGOs, spending time with family, and exploring Montana.



### **Dana Relyea, LCSW**

Dana Relyea is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a passion for bringing mental health to the forefront of conversations to ensure that the whole patient has overall mental, physical, and emotional health tended to. She graduated from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY in 2011 with her master's in mental health counseling, and moved to the state of Montana in 2012. Once relocated, she worked in CSCT with Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch until 2019, and continued working with community-based care organizations including spending time with the children and families in Fort Peck. Outside of work, Dana enjoys taking

her dogs on walks in and around her home in Helena, camping, and knitting.

## **Questions?**

Reach out to Kristin Melli at [kmelli@montanapediatrics.org](mailto:kmelli@montanapediatrics.org) or call the Wellness Center at (406) 768-6004.