

Erika Fernandez

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Dr. Fernandez is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics/Division of Neonatology at the University of New Mexico School (UNM) of Medicine. She attended the University of New Mexico where she majored in Electrical/Biomedical Engineering and received her medical degree. She continued her education at UNM, completing a Pediatric residency after which she joined First Choice Community Healthcare. She served as a Pediatrician at the First Choice sites located in Belen, Los Lunas and the North Valley where she was also medical supervisor. She returned to UNM to complete a Fellowship in Neonatology in 2004 and is now Board certified in both Neonatology and Pediatrics. She is responsible for the medical care of newborn infants admitted to the University of New Mexico Hospital and for the education of medical students, residents and nurse practitioner students during their rotations through the newborn intensive care unit.

Dr. Fernandez's research interest is in the adrenal response of newborn infants to stress and critical illness with a particular focus on cardiovascular homeostasis. As a Principal Investigator she has successfully designed and completed research projects and produced peer reviewed publications in this area of research at the University of New Mexico (UNM). She was awarded a Supplemental grant in 2008 through the National Neonatal Research Network which is funded by the NICHD/ National Institutes of Health (NIH) and because of this support, was able to develop a multi-center, prospective, comparative study in her area of research interest which recently completed enrollment of over 830 critically ill infants across the country. She continues to be active in contributing to the understanding of shock, adrenal function and respective treatments in the critically ill newborn infant population. She is a member of the Human Research Review Committee (IRB) and the Pediatric Research committee. She is also a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Society of Pediatric Research, and the Western Society for Pediatric Research. She has served as the conference chair for the regional conference and as the New Mexico representative for the District VIII American Academy of Pediatrics. She is an ad hoc scientific reviewer for peer-reviewed journals and abstract presentations at regional and national Pediatric Research Conferences.

She is also currently the medical director for the Neonatology Medical Education Outreach Program within the Pediatric Department and has been the conference chair of the Annual Amazing Newborn Conference for the past few years. As the medical director for the Neonatal Outreach Program, she is responsible for directing, creating, and organizing educational outreaches for the smaller communities in New Mexico to ensure high quality of newborn healthcare.