



Ellen R. Wald Research Award

The Ellen R. Wald Research Award was established to honor Dr. Ellen Wald's distinguished career in pediatric research, academia, clinic practice, and education. The award is given to an assistant or associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics in recognition of their outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated potential for future contributions. Recipients will receive \$5,000 to spend on research or professional development expenses and a one-time award of \$5,000 via the annual compensation plan exercise.

THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Department Chairperson appoints members of the faculty to serve on the Committee. The Committee will meet each winter to review Wald Award nominations and will recommend an awardee to the Department Chairperson. The award will be presented during Research Week each spring.

ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

Assistant and associate professors whose principal appointments are with the Department of Pediatrics and are involved in ***clinical and health services research or quality improvement*** are eligible for nomination. Faculty involved in basic or translational research should be nominated for the Gerard B. Odell Award. Candidates may not be nominated for both the Odell and the Wald award.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. To nominate a faculty member, please email a one-page signed nomination letter summarizing the candidate's research accomplishments and their current CV to [Becky Bound](#). Please include "Wald Nomination" in the subject line.
2. One individual will receive this award annually. A one-time allocation of \$5,000 will be given to the awardee to support their research and/or professional development endeavors. Spending of these funds must adhere to UW-SMPH guidelines.

AWARD PRIORITIES

Award decisions are based primarily on outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated potential for future contributions in ***clinical and health services research or quality improvement***.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is expected that the Ellen R. Wald awardee will give a presentation on their current research and future plans during Research Week.

ABOUT DR. WALD

Ellen R. Wald, MD, was recruited to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) from the University of Pittsburgh in 2006 to serve as chair of the Department of Pediatrics. When she accepted the role, she was a trailblazer as the only female chair out of the 26 SMPH departments.

Wald obtained a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and her medical degree at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. She completed her pediatric residency at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn and her fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore. Wald was a distinguished and dedicated member of the University of Pittsburgh faculty for 28 years. She rose to the position of chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Disease and served as interim chair of pediatrics for two and a half years.

Wald's primary research focus is pediatric infectious diseases. She is internationally recognized for her landmark work describing childhood sinusitis and its microbiology, diagnosis, and management. Wald has an extensive record of publications and extramural funding, including 252 peer-reviewed publications to date and 35 funded grants and clinical trials totaling over \$6.7 million since joining the UW in 2006. She is frequently

invited to present her research, deliver Grand Rounds, or be a visiting professor in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to her research and publication accomplishments, Wald is considered among the best teachers in pediatric infectious disease, achieving 12 teaching awards throughout her career.

Wald displays an effortless balance of her commitments and dedication to the missions of SMPH, UW Health, the Department of Pediatrics, and ultimately for the care of all children. Under her leadership, the Department of Pediatrics has experienced incredible growth. The number of faculty members more than doubled, from 90 to 200. Extramural research funding from the National Institutes of Health increased nearly five-fold, from \$3.8 million (2006) to \$23.1 million (2020); the respective national ranking rose from 44th to 13th. The state-of-the-art American Family Children's Hospital opened in 2006 and has grown to include many robust specialty programs which provide truly outstanding and compassionate medical care.

In the fall of 2021, Wald received the prestigious Folkert Belzer Award, a lifetime achievement recognition presented annually to an SMPH faculty member. Named for the late former chair of the Department of Surgery, the Belzer Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has had a pivotal impact on the school and the people and populations it serves. Her profound commitment to improving the health of all children, and her advancement of the department's clinical and academic missions were noted as just some of the reasons she was chosen for the distinguished award.