Speaker Bios

**Amanda Wisniewski**, MA, CCC-SLP, holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association. She is a Senior Speech Language Pathologist at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children, a pediatric sub-acute care facility, where she serves as a clinician, manager, and mentor. Amanda has focused her career on assessment, treatment and family counseling of the medically fragile pediatric population. Specific areas of interest include: lactation and supporting breast feeding in medically fragile infants, evaluation and intervention methods in pediatric dysphagia and airway management. Amanda has more than 7 years’ experience as a pediatric SLP, with specialized training in FEES, Vital Stim, SOS Approach to feeding, PMSV/ Airway Management and Breast Feeding/lactation.

**Rachel Barrocas**, MS, CCC-SLP, is an ASHA Certified Speech Language Pathologist who specializes in the assessment and treatment of pediatric dysphagia. Rachel has spent the past 5 years working with medically fragile children in acute and sub-acute settings, including NICU, PICU, and cardiac intensive care units. Rachel is currently a Senior Speech Language Pathologist at St. Mary’s Hospital for children, where she serves as a clinician, manager and mentor. She provides assessment, treatment, and family counseling for medically fragile children from birth-21. Rachel has specialized training in performing pediatric Video-fluoroscopic Swallow Studies. Rachel also works extensively with children with tracheostomies to provide dysphagia treatment and airway management. Specific areas of interest include: early feeding interactions in high risk infants and managing dysphagia in children with cardiopulmonary compromise.

**Christina Alaimo** is a Feeding Therapist who joined St. Mary’s Center for Pediatric Feeding Disorders in October 2013. She earned her BA in Clinical/Counseling Psychology from The College of New Jersey and received her MS in Clinical/Counseling Psychology with a specialization in child and adolescent therapy from Chestnut Hill College, PA. She is currently enrolled in the Behavior Analysis Training Area PhD program at Queens College, CUNY. Christina has 4 years of clinical experience including early intervention services and Autism spectrum diagnostic evaluations. She completed a one-year internship at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Autism Center (SPARC). During that time, she provided feeding services for children with food refusal and/or selectivity and provided both social skills training and one-to-one individualized academic skill-building programs using an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) approach. Christina’s primary research involves caregiver training in pediatric feeding disorders. She continues to be involved in ongoing research within the pediatric feeding program, and is interested in the development of evidence-based treatment packages to teach chewing skills.

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Jessica Shaw is a licensed Speech Language Pathologist with 7 years’ experience who earned her master’s degree from New York Medical College. She holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association and a Teacher of the Speech Language Disabilities certificate from the New York State Department of Education. Jessica completed her training and has previously worked in an acute care setting including Westchester Medical Center/Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital where she evaluated and treated a variety of children and adult patients including those in a regional trauma ICU and Stroke Center, PICU and Level IV NICU. She has also worked at New York Hospital of Queens Center for Digestive Diseases and Swallowing Disorders, where she evaluated and treated children in the Level III NICU and in an outpatient setting in conjunction with a pediatric gastroenterologist and nutritionist. Jessica has extensive experience with diverse speech and language disorders but has focused her years as a speech pathologist in the area of pediatric dysphagia. Jessica is a certified evaluator in the Neonatal Oral Motor Assessment Scale, a certified Pediatric VitalStim Provider as well as proficient in completing pediatric Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies. She currently works at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children in the Center for Pediatric Feeding Disorders. Additionally, Jessica works at Adelphi University where she supervises and educates graduate and undergraduate students who are studying in the area of Speech Language Pathology.