

# Let's Talk from the Faculty Lounge

Date: Aug 24th, 2020

Guest: Julie Mirpuri-Harthiramani, M.D.

Title: *Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology*

Picture: <https://utswmed.org/doctors/julie-mirpuri-hathiramani/>

Today's guest was Julie Mir from Pediatrics who shared her story and experience from her last 10 years here at UTSW.

## Can you tell us a little about your journey?

1. Julie started in basic science research and came in as instructor in Mucosal Immunology, however she stated that she always felt that she needed to do more for the community and wanted the opportunity to make more of a positive impact on others particularly young girls in STEM. Julie then got started in the Lyda Hill philanthropies off of a recommendation from the Office of Women Career's here at UTSW.

## How is the ambassadorship going with the girls?

1. "The biggest thing was the science communication". Science communications is completely different and the avenues engagements of communications are so progressive with social media. Julie stated that she strives to influence the young people with these different avenues of social media as this is one of the new ways of leaning for young people.
2. Julie mentioned the importance of potentially teaching others on campus on how to engage and use the new forms of social media here at UTSW to help spread what others are doing in science, but also network with colleagues.
3. Julie has dedicated quite a bit of her time with different organizations to include the Girl Scouts,
4. Recently, Julie helped spearhead a grant submittal with Dr. Helen Yin highlighting women to fund a wall a on south campus. The wall will have different diverse women from the younger age group from the grad school, medical school etc. Then every year there will be a fireside chat with some of the women who are featured on the wall. The wall is to be called the "Flames" wall. (Female Leadership Advancing Medicine, Education, and Science).

## How have you felt you have influenced your own male children with females in science?

1. Julie stated that she tries to lead by example. Julie did state that it was an ongoing challenge in general to change previous stereotypes that only men can be involved in the science field.
2. Julie stated that there has been significant strides particularly here at UTSW in regards to moving to equality in the academia field.
3. There is a lot of work still to be done, but Julie is hopeful with our younger generations that the gap will be closing.

How do someone get involved with some of the things your doing?

1. The STARS program where students come on campus and meet with those science mentors.
2. Working with communications on the UTSW app. This will help to advertise for those potential opportunities who want to reach out to students.