
Zoom On: Sapna Kudchadkar



[Dr. Sapna Kudchadkar, MD](#)

*****@**jhm.edu

Associate Vice Chair - Research
Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Medicine
Associate Professor of
Anesthesiology and Critical Care
Medicine - Johns Hopkins
University School of Medicine USA

Sapna Kudchadkar is an Associate Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Pediatrics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Her areas of interest include sleep disturbances in critically ill children, paediatric delirium prevention and management, sedation, and paediatric ICU rehabilitation and mobility.

What are your key areas of interest and research?

My key areas of interest and research are liberating the critically ill child, which includes optimising sleep, delirium prevention and goal-directed sedation and rehabilitation.

What are the major challenges in your field?

The major challenges in my field will always be the paradigm shift that I'm working to promote. We have an ingrained culture of immobility in the intensive care unit environment-trying to change that is the first step in order to be able to move forward.

What is your top management tip?

I believe that it is absolutely a multidisciplinary team effort. You must find champions that are invested regardless of the area that you're trying to change. Getting a team in place and making sure your team members feel valued for the hard work that they're doing on a daily basis is integral to achieving that change.

What would you single out as a career highlight?

I think that the career highlight for me will always be when parents and staff tell me what a positive impact PICU Up! had on their child's and their experience during the ICU stay. It means we've made a difference no matter how large or small.

If you had not chosen this career path, what would you have become?

I would be a medical correspondent. I did a lot of radio when I was younger, and I've always loved broadcast television and broadcasting so I would have been a medical correspondent on a news program. I love public speaking. I think science communication is an area that is so much in need of more people to be invested and passionate. I work to make sure as many people as possible know about the importance of social media in health care and science for dissemination. No matter how amazing the research is that you're doing, if people doing the work at the bedside aren't hearing about it and learning about it, it's never going to make an impact. I think that's why communication plays a huge role for me.

What are your personal interests outside of work?

I'm a trumpet player. Both of my children play the trumpet and I love it when our trumpet trio plays together. So that's something I very much love. Also, traveling is one of my passions. I'm also a pretty good tennis player.

What is your favorite quote?

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The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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