

GIGA Kids News & Updates

Spring 2023 Update

A New Era – Revival of GIGA-kids!

Hello GIGA Kids PIs, Coordinators & Friends,

As you well know, the COVID-19 pandemic was very disruptive to clinical studies. We have suffered significant decline in recruitment numbers during and after the pandemic, and some sites were not able to resume recruitment. However, we are now determined to revive the study and increase our recruitment numbers, to reach our target of 1,000 kids with IgA nephropathy and IgA vasculitis!

We would like to alert you to the following developments:

First, the IgA Nephropathy Foundation of America provided us with ongoing support of the study for the coming year. With a generous gift from the Foundation, we are able to purchase new recruitment kits, participant gift cards, and cover the costs of sample shipments, processing, and storage. We are extremely grateful to the IgA Nephropathy Foundation of America for their ongoing support!

Second, we would like to formally introduce **Cecilia Berrouet** as the Columbia's new GIGA Kids coordinator. As you may know, Olivia left after the pandemic and Cecilia started as a new coordinator for GIGA Kids in September 2021. She has worked with some of you already, however, she is hoping to bring GIGA Kids back to its pre-COVID glory. We are excited to be up and running again and will make sure to keep you all up to date on all things GIGA.

Finally, we want to **Thank You** all for your patience and your commitment to GIGA Kids – we look forward to continue working with you!

Now for our regularly scheduled programming... as of March 1st, 2023, there are **13 actively recruiting GIGA sites**. Total recruitment is presently at **N=550 participants**, including 538 cases and 12 healthy controls. This already puts us at 55% of our overall goal of 1,000 participants (see below), however, we now need your help to bring back our initial recruitment rate of ~100 cases per year.

Please note that we are still **accepting new recruitment sites**, and we are actively enrolling the following:

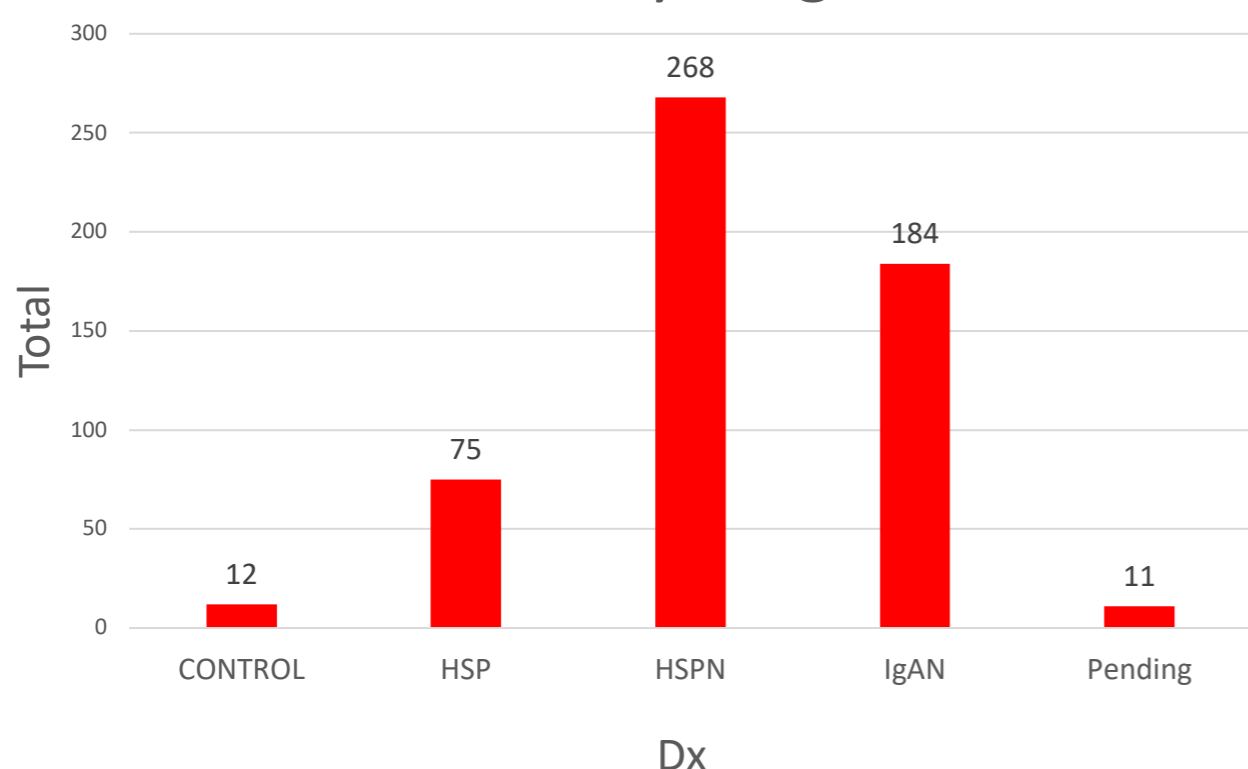
- Pediatric IgA vasculitis cases with and without nephritis (biopsy not required)
- Pediatric IgAN cases (biopsy-diagnosed)
- Healthy pediatric controls (without active infections, autoimmune, or liver disease)

Starting on March 15th, Cecilia will be hosting **Zoom "office hours"** every Wednesday at 1PM EST. Details to follow.

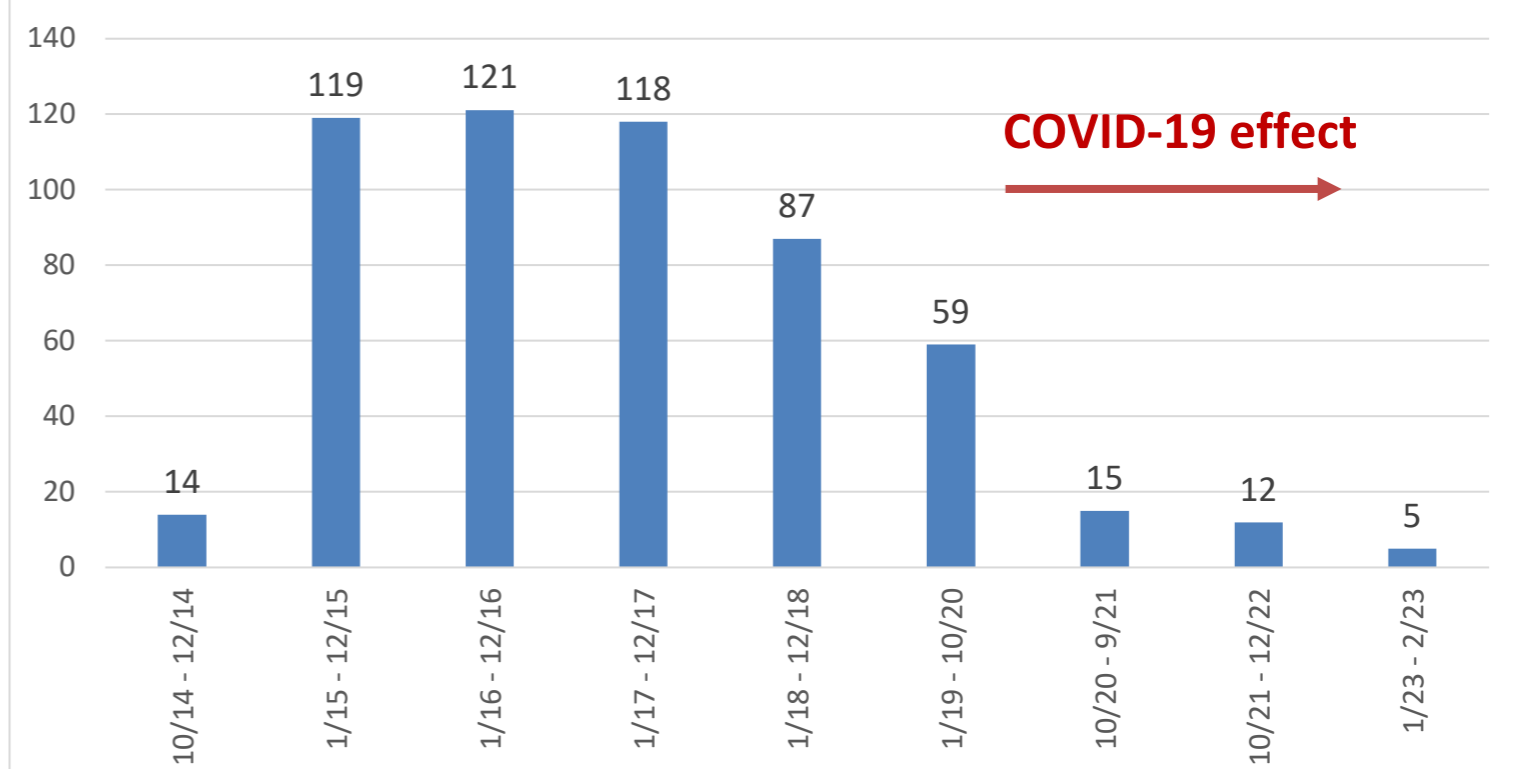
As always please let us know how we can best support your recruitment efforts, and do not hesitate to reach out to **Cecilia Berrouet** (ccb2184@cumc.columbia.edu) with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Feel free to pass along this newsletter to colleagues and collaborators or share via social media.

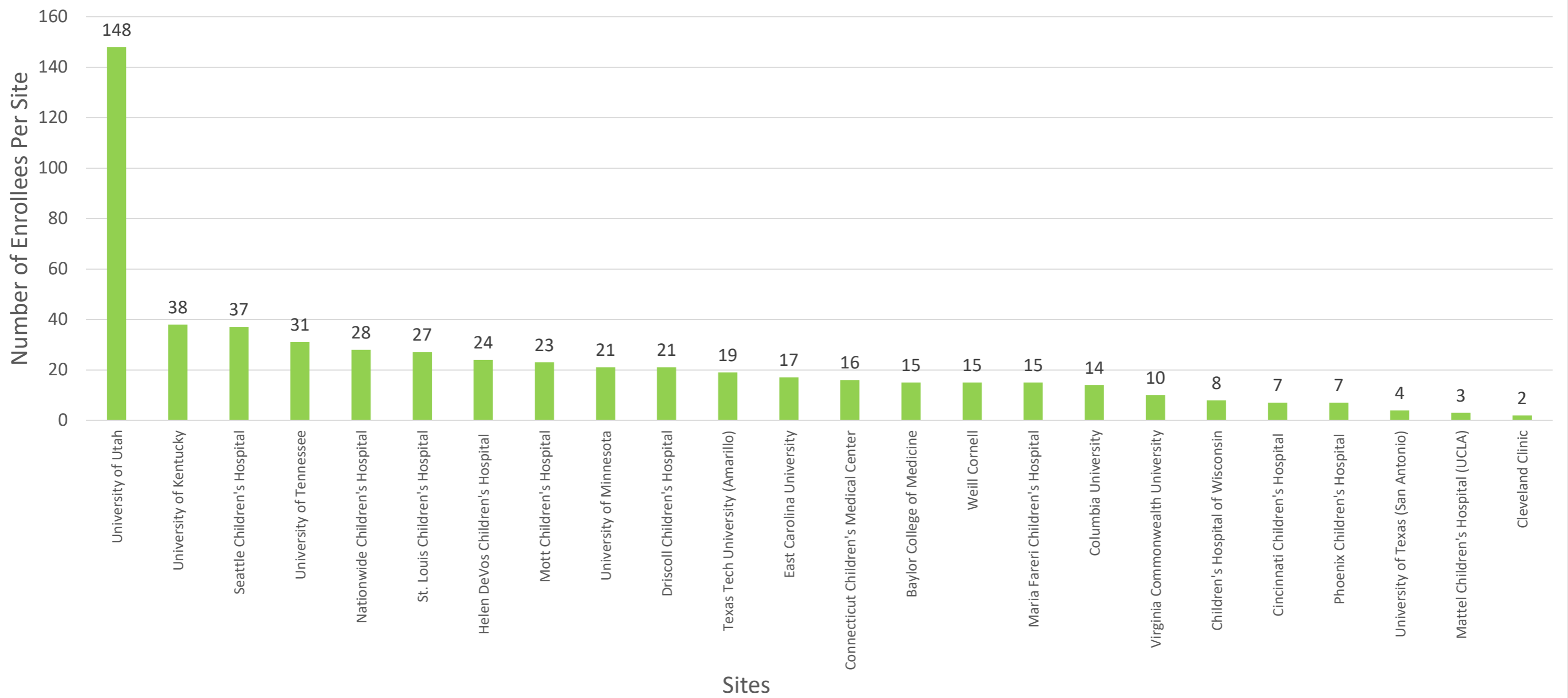
Cohort by Diagnosis



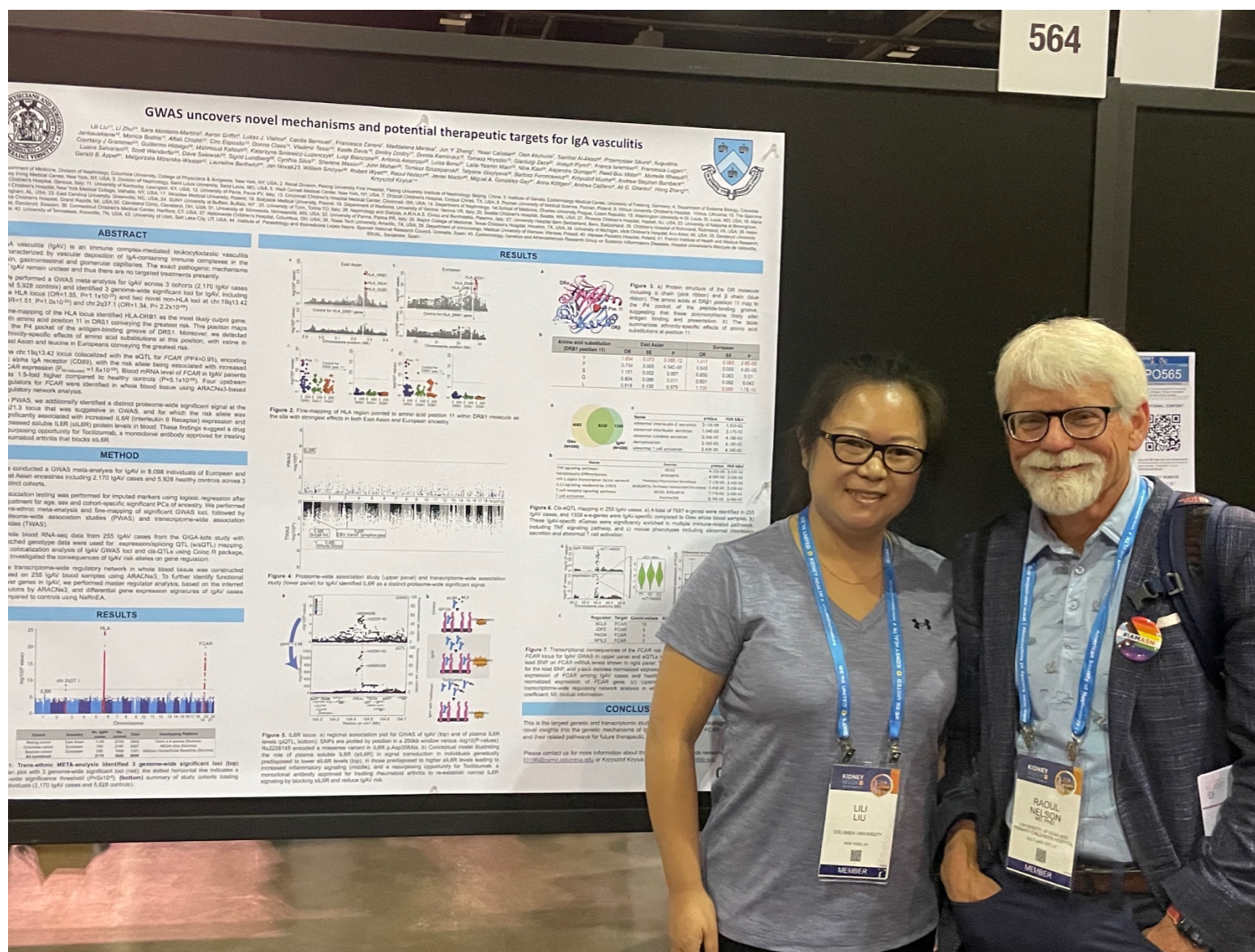
Recruitment totals per year



GIGA Kids Study: All-Time Recruitment Per Site



GIGA-kids Poster at ASN 2022



Next to the ASN poster are Lili Liu (first author) and Raoul Nelson (GIGA co-principal investigator).

Our first scientific poster was on display at the ASN Kidney Week 2022 in Orlando, Florida!

The poster summarizes our latest GWAS for IgA vasculitis including 2,170 cases and 5,928 controls. This study involved nearly all of IgA vasculitis cases recruited by GIGA-kids. We identified 3 new genetic susceptibility loci, including the HLA locus and two completely novel non-HLA signals on chr.19q13.42 and chr.2q37.1. By PWAS, we additionally identified a distinct proteome-wide significant signal at the 1q21.3 locus encoding IL6RA. Lili is currently finalizing the manuscript based on these results, which we hope to submit for publication later this Spring. We are very excited about this study and will circulate the draft within the next few weeks!

PNRC Spring 2023 Meeting

The Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC) Spring 2023 Meeting will be hosted in **St. Louis, Missouri** and has a virtual option as well. It will be from **April 14-15, 2023**.

Please register by **March 17, 2023**, if interested – <https://pnrconsortium.org/events/2023-spring-meeting>

Important Contact Information:

DUA/OpenClinica – Nationwide: Corinna Bowers
Corinna.Bowers@nationwidechildrens.org

IRB/MTA – CUMC: Melanie Foley
mf2162@cumc.columbia.edu

Interested in participating in the GIGA Kids Study?

Our Coordinator for the GIGA Kids study, Cecilia Berrouet, can guide you through the IRB application process, and help to answer any questions you may have regarding study protocol, or recruitment.

Email: ccb2184@cumc.columbia.edu Tel: (212) 851-5216