



Michael D. Kappelman, MD, MPH

Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology;
Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology;
University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill, NC

Dr. Michael D. Kappelman is an internationally recognized pediatric gastroenterologist specializing in clinical care and clinical research for children and young adults with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). He completed his medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis, pediatric residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), fellowships in pediatric gastroenterology and health services research at Boston Children's Hospital and MGH, and a Master's in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has been on faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the last 18 years, where he is a Professor of Pediatrics and an Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology.

Dr. Kappelman's career focuses on real world evidence, comparative effectiveness research, and patient-engaged research in pediatric and adult IBD. Selected examples of research projects led by Dr. Kappelman include 1) the landmark, multi-center pragmatic trial to compare anti-TNF monotherapy to combination therapy with oral methotrexate in children with Crohn's disease, 2) creation of an international registry to evaluate risk factors for the development of severe COVID-19 among pediatric and IBD patients, and 3) a prospective cohort to evaluate the effectiveness, immunogenicity, and safety of COVID immunization in this population. Along with colleagues at UNC-CH and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, Dr. Kappelman also led the development of IBD Partners, a Patient Powered Research Network that supported direct-to-patient research spanning a variety of topics ranging from prioritizing and validating patient reported outcomes to studying the effects of mental health, diet, and other behavioral and lifestyle factors on IBD outcomes. He and his research team have recently initiated a new, multi-site study to compare the effectiveness and safety of biologics and advanced therapies in children who did not respond or lost responsive to anti-TNF therapy. Over his career, Dr. Kappelman's research has been funded by the NIH, AHRQ, CDC, PCORI, foundations, and industry and he has authored more than 250 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Dr. Kappelman has held key leadership roles with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, including Chair of the Pediatric Affairs Committee, co-Chair of the Professional

Education Committee, and Associate Chief of Patient Powered Research for IBD Plexus. In recognition of his service, he has been awarded the Foundation's Rosenthal Award for Patient Support and Care in 2017 for Uniting to Care & Cure Award in 2020 and 2021. Dr. Kappelman has also served as the Director of Research and Director of Data Management for the ImproveCareNow Pediatric IBD Network.

Dr. Kappelman is deeply committed to mentoring the next generation of leaders in IBD, having mentored over 12 fellows, PhD students, and junior faculty over his career. His mentees have been highly successful in receiving extramural funding and developing their own research niches with IBD (including two prior Sherman Prize awardees). In recognition of Dr. Kappelman's passion and dedication to mentoring, he was awarded the 2020 Mentor of the Year award by the UNC Department of Pediatrics.

In 2025, Dr. Kappelman received the Sherman Prize for Excellence in Crohn's and Colitis.