



## **Caridad de la Uz, M.D.**

Dr. Caridad de la Uz is the director of Pediatric Electrophysiology at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She oversees the care of pediatric and adult congenital cardiac patients with heart rhythm disorders and hereditary arrhythmia conditions. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. de la Uz performs cardiac procedures such as ablations and cardiac device implants. She is active in translational and clinical research on genetic arrhythmia conditions and on biological pacing, which she hopes will change how we care for our young pacemaker and ICD patients. Born in Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. on the Mariel Boatlift in 1980, she received her undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University, attended Georgetown University School of Medicine and did her general pediatrics training at Boston Children's Hospital. She then completed her general pediatric cardiology training and subspecialty training in pediatric electrophysiology, heart rhythm disorders, at Texas Children's Hospital, where she worked as a director and was a member of the General EP team for six years. In her free time, Dr. de la Uz relishes time with her family, which may include shopping trips or cooking with her daughter, learning about cars with her son and enjoying time with her three dogs.



## **Philip Sherfey, Esq.**

Philip Sherfey, Esq., serves as the director of the Hearings Division and chief hearing officer of the Marketplace Appeals Group at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He oversees the hearings-level adjudication of Healthcare Marketplace appeals. He is a licensed attorney in the state of Maryland and is certified in healthcare compliance. Philip graduated from the Penn State Schreyer Honors College with a degree in political science, with a focus in international relations, and served as a research assistant in an international treaties database project. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore. Philip resides in Pennsylvania with his wife and four children and stays very busy in his roles as husband and father. He also enjoys volunteering as a church youth group leader and volunteering in education programs at local schools, including in the Junior Achievement program.



## **Lígia Jordão, BSN, RN, MBA**

Lígia Jordão, BSN, RN, is a pediatric and adult congenital heart disease electrophysiology/EP nurse specializing in implantable cardiac devices -- pacemakers, defibrillators, monitors -- at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Born and raised in Portugal, she began working as a baker when 11 years old and knew by age 12 she wanted to become a nurse. Upon moving to the United States, she began pursuing her dream through her college classes, supporting herself through full-time work at her family's bakery. She later received a small grant to complete her BSN at Liberty University. After a few years of working in adult cardiology, with a summer camp in nursing and six months on a medical mission

in Honduras in between, she finally achieved her goal of working in pediatric care. That came with the job in the cardiac ICU at Boston Children's. Two years of service there launched her now more than two-decade EP career, with the last decade at Johns Hopkins. Lígia also holds an MBA. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, spending time in nature and with her family, gardening, and learning about how to do a myriad of things, especially those where she can use her creativity.

### **Marie A. Yeh, Ph.D.**



Marie A. Yeh, Ph.D. (Kent State University), is an associate professor in Loyola University Maryland's Marketing Department whose translational, award-winning work sits at the intersection of theory, policy and marketing to find solutions particularly for the most vulnerable. Prior to career switching into academia, she led in nonprofit management and public health serving most recently as the Coalition for Children's Mental Health executive director. Her prior 11+ years of experience span health promotion and disease prevention utilizing media campaigns, coalition building, peer education, social marketing, and other methods to raise awareness and affect attitudinal and behavioral change. Her grant governance brought in over \$12 million in funding for her nonprofit clients. To refuel her deep-seated need to improve the human condition, Marie loves spending time with her family, playing with her dogs, reading (sci-fi, fantasy, and/or romance), listening to music of all genres (especially live) and dancing (who wants to go line dancing?).

### **Veronica "Ronnie" Gunnerson**



Ronnie Gunnerson retired in 2021 after a distinguished career in communications – first as a business journalist in the early days of the personal computer and home video industries, then as a public relations executive at Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (now Warner Bros. Discovery), and finally as an affiliate associate professor in Communication at Loyola University Maryland. Her 50-plus-year professional life also has seen notable successes in the nonprofit sector, including being tapped as the founding executive director of the PBS Foundation and called to serve as the executive director of the ALS Association DC/MD/VA Chapter. One of her latest successes, the children's book "Emily's Secret Slippers" (Apprentice House, 2022), marks the beginning of the fourth phase of her communications journey. Widowed with grown children and grandchildren, she delights in the company of her townhouse mates Calico Cat Minnie and Yorkshire Terrier Nellie at the Chester River on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

