



INAUGURAL  
**JEAN-PIERRE FARMER**  
FOUNDATIONAL CHAIR LECTURESHIP



14  
DEC  
2023

**JULIE L. WEI, MD**

Dr. Alfred J. Magoline Chair of Otolaryngology  
Akron Children's Hospital  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine



DÉPARTEMENT DE CHIRURGIE PÉDIATRIQUE  
DE L'UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT  
OF PEDIATRIC SURGERY

# Julie L. Wei, MD, MMM

Pediatric Otolaryngologist and Division Director  
Dr. Alfred J. Magoline Chair of Otolaryngology  
Akron Children's Hospital

Professor of Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine



**Julie L. Wei**, is a Pediatric Otolaryngologist and new Division Director, the Dr. Alfred J. Magoline Chair of Otolaryngology, at Akron Children's Hospital in Akron Ohio. She is also a Professor of Otolaryngology Head Neck Surgery at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and faculty in the ENT Division at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Dr. Wei obtained her medical degree from New York Medical College, ENT residency training at Mayo Clinic Rochester, then fellowship training at the now Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. She completed her master's in medical management from Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy in May 2023. In addition to serving as division chief, Dr. Wei has also served as Surgeon-in-Chief, Director, GME Wellbeing Initiative, Chair of Medical Staff Health & Wellness Committee at Nemours Children's Hospital Orlando, and as Chair of Otolaryngology Education and Advisor for Association of Women Surgeons at University of Central Florida College of Medicine for the past near decade. She is the immediate past president of American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology and past president of Society of Ear, Nose, Throat Advances for Children.

During the onset of pandemic in 2020, Dr. Wei developed a frozen shoulder requiring decompression surgery. After surgery, due to adhesive capsulitis she lost normal range of motion despite physical therapy. Six months postop she developed cervical radiculopathy due to 4-level degenerative discs with compression of C5-C6. In February 2022, she made the difficult decision to take a "PAUSE" in clinical and surgical practice to pursue total healing without surgical intervention, while living with uncertainty about her career in surgery.

During her time away from practice, Dr. Wei devoted unprecedented time to nonoperative therapies and routine strength training and exercises to reverse her atrophic right rotator cuff muscles due to frozen shoulder. Dr. Wei leveraged her experience navigating disability to increase awareness in surgeons on surgical ergonomics, WRMSD, and encourage permission to seek help. Through writing and speaking about her journey from injury to recovery, and creating panels on surgical ergonomics at national meetings, Dr. Wei's goal is to ensure as many surgeons know of risk factors and preventive measures. She is also a fierce champion in advocating for effective mental health for surgeons through addressing the stigma and PTSD often suppressed in culture of surgery.

Dr. Wei has authored two books on how diet impacts health and wellbeing for children available on Amazon, TEDx speaker on the "Milk and Cookie Disease", created online courses and blogs to empower families on her website. She has published over 48 peer-reviewed articles, 13 invited articles and 12 book chapters. Her upcoming book, *"Safeguarding Physician Wellbeing: How to Use Checklist to Create Personal, Professional, and Psychological Safety for Physicians"* is anticipated for release in January 2024.

## PROGRAM

Drs. Sylvia & Richard Cruess Auditorium  
Research Institute (E S1.1129)  
McGill University Health Centre  
December 14, 2023

## PEDIATRIC SURGICAL GRAND ROUNDS

**7:30 am - 7:40 am** Welcome and introduction of Dr. Julie L. Wei  
– **Dr. Sam J. Daniel**

**7:40 am - 9:00 am** Presentation:  
"Surgical Ergonomics & Impact to Injury,  
Disability, Recovery and Wellbeing"  
– **Dr. Julie L. Wei**

Objectives:

- 1 Share one surgeon's journey navigating injury, disability, and recovery.
- 2 Increase awareness of risks for surgical and OR related ergonomic injury.
- 3 Review actionable changes to improve surgical ergonomics for individuals and systems.

## EVALUATION

Pediatric Surgical Grand Rounds  
Evaluation December 14, 2023



[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KP7hBotfdUC\\_bK4kvhp5kqnMn90nitRBJrKxz-si-aFUMTIHNDIESktBN0MySzQ5VIRUVENLRIZYQS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KP7hBotfdUC_bK4kvhp5kqnMn90nitRBJrKxz-si-aFUMTIHNDIESktBN0MySzQ5VIRUVENLRIZYQS4u)

# Jean-Pierre Farmer

## MDCM, FRCS(C)



**Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer**, Professor in the Departments of Pediatric Surgery, Neurology and Neurosurgery, Surgery and Oncology at McGill, is recognized as a leader in the field of pediatric neurosurgery. He is also a visionary leader who created the Department of Pediatric Surgery for which he served as inaugural Chief (2007) and foundational Chair (2011).

In over 16 years of leadership, Dr. Farmer was a staunch advocate for children. He recruited 32 new professors and has seen to the promotion of 17 individuals into higher academic ranks in his recruitment and retention efforts all to the benefit of children's surgical care. He has nurtured and supported innovation and interdisciplinary care, and he has been a strong advocate for cutting-edge therapies and approaches, playing a key role in bringing intraoperative MRI and the ROSA robot to the MCH and also promoting 'parental presence at induction', a family-centered practice unique in Quebec.

Dr. Farmer, recruited in July 1990, continues to provide clinical care to children with neurosurgical ailments today. He has worked with the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation to raise funds for state-of-the-art equipment and to establish 6 endowed chairs at the hospital. He has supported his surgical colleagues in their personal growth and professional development. In addition to his work at the MCH, he served as the McGill University Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) Associate Dean for Post-Graduate Medical Education and Director of the American Board of Pediatric Neurological Surgery. He received numerous awards including the Penfield McNaughton Award (1989), the Pfizer leadership prize in 2010, the Dorothy Williams Endowed Chair in Pediatric Surgery (2007-2023), the Grand Prix d'Excellence from the Collège des médecins du Québec (2016), two prizes of excellence in Continued Professional Development (2013) and in Interdisciplinarity (2022) from the Federation of Medical Specialists of Quebec and the "Manuscript of the Year" award from "Neurosurgery" in 2020.

He has published more than 180 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters and has been an invited professor on 85 occasions. While many in his position would be considering a well-deserved rest, Jean-Pierre continues to serve our community, as Associate Vice-Principal Health Affairs and Executive Vice-Dean at McGill's FMHS.