



Outstanding Young Alumnus

Jason L. Freedman, MD '06, MSCE

Jason L. Freedman, MD '06, has distinguished himself as one of the nation's leading pediatric hematologist-oncologists through his leadership in stem cell transplantation, supportive cancer care, medical education, and clinical quality improvement. An internationally recognized clinician, researcher, and educator, he has helped advance the care of children with cancer and blood disorders by developing innovative approaches that improve both clinical outcomes and quality of life for patients and families while shaping standards of care adopted by pediatric oncology programs worldwide.

A native of Bayside, New York, Dr. Freedman earned a bachelor's

degree in human biology, health and society from Cornell University in 2002 before graduating magna cum laude from Upstate Medical University in 2006. During medical school, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, served as its president, and received numerous honors recognizing his academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to service, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, the Bruce Farrell, MD Leadership Award, and the Student Citizen Award.

His career path was influenced by two important Upstate mentors, medical oncologists Sarah Grethlein, MD, and Sheila Lemke, MD '86. Their compassionate approach to caring

for patients with cancer revealed that oncology was about far more than treating disease—it was about building relationships and guiding patients and families through some of life's most difficult moments. A subsequent pediatric rotation confirmed that pediatric oncology was where he belonged.

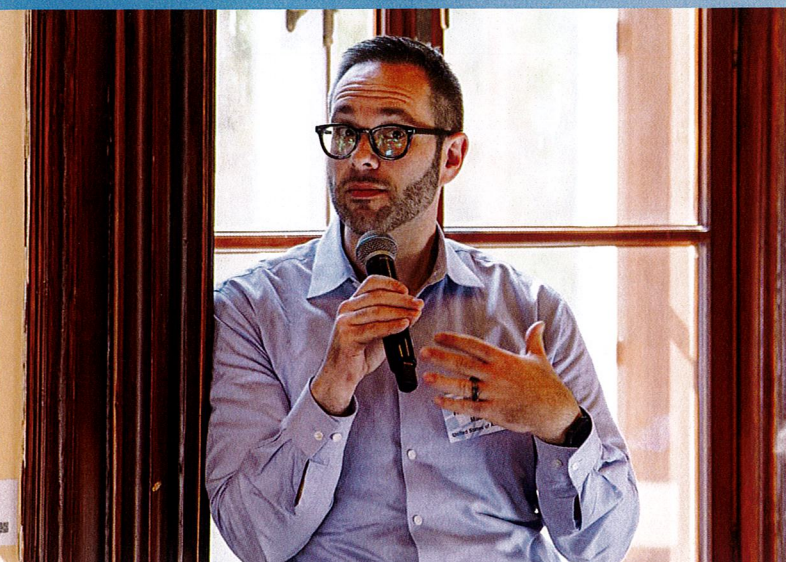
Following graduation, Freedman completed his residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia University), where he was selected to serve as chief resident. He then completed a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), earning a master of science in clinical epidemiology (MSCE) from the University of Pennsylvania during his fellowship training.

Freedman officially joined the faculty at CHOP in 2016 and has remained there throughout his career. Now an associate professor of clinical pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, he serves as inpatient medical director of Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation and director of the Oncology/BMT Hospitalist Program. His clinical practice focuses on blood and marrow transplantation, cellular therapies, and gene therapies for children with malignant and nonmalignant diseases, while his administrative leadership has strengthened clinical operations and enhanced the delivery of care for some of the hospital's most medically complex patients.

Throughout his career, Freedman



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has focused on an area of pediatric oncology that often receives less public attention but has an enormous impact on patients' lives: supportive care. His research seeks to reduce the complications associated with cancer treatment and stem cell transplantation by improving the prevention and management of infections, treatment-related toxicities, malnutrition, nausea, pain, and other side effects. He has led and collaborated on numerous clinical studies, authored textbook chapters and peer-reviewed publications, and helped develop evidence-based clinical guidelines that have standardized supportive care practices for pediatric cancer patients internationally.

Equally significant has been Freedman's leadership in quality improvement and patient safety. He has directed initiatives that have increased vaccination rates among immunocompromised children, improved nutritional support, enhanced chemotherapy safety, reduced hospital length of stay, and developed innovative programs to improve the overall hospital experience for pediatric oncology patients. His work emphasizes prac-

tical, system-wide improvements that allow children to receive safer, higher-quality care while minimizing the burdens associated with prolonged treatment.

A gifted educator, Freedman has trained medical students, residents, and fellows throughout his career while directing multiple educational programs at CHOP. His commitment to teaching has earned numerous honors, including the William Potash Fellow Teacher of the Year Award, CHOP's Distinguished Teaching Award, and the 2024 Oncology Educator of the Year Award. He is a frequent invited speaker at national and international conferences, sharing expertise in pediatric oncology, stem cell transplantation, supportive care, and quality improvement with physicians around the world.

Freedman's leadership extends well beyond his institution. He serves in numerous national and international organizations,

including the Children's Oncology Group, where he contributes to supportive care guideline development, and the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), where he chairs the Pediatric Study Group. Through these organizations, he has helped advance collaborative research, establish evidence-based clinical guidelines, and improve supportive care for children with cancer across the globe.

Despite his many accomplishments, Freedman remains guided by the philosophy that first drew him to oncology as a medical student: that physicians can profoundly improve patients' lives even when they cannot cure disease. His dedication to compassionate care, education, innovation and service has improved outcomes for countless children and families while influencing pediatric cancer care far beyond the walls of his own institution.

Despite his passion for his work, Freedman says his greatest priority is his family: husband Neil, son Elijah, and daughter Ezra.



Dr. Freedman with his family: husband Neil, son Elijah, and daughter Ezra