

Bhattacharjee, Rakesh

Dr. Rakesh Bhattacharjee is the director of pediatric sleep medicine at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego and an associate professor of pediatrics at University of California San Diego. Prior to his appointment at University of California San Diego, he was an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Chicago, Comer Children's Hospital. Dr. Bhattacharjee earned his medical degree from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and trained in pediatrics and respiratory medicine at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. He completed a sleep fellowship at the University of Louisville. His clinical interests are in developing strategies to treat sleep disorders including sleep related breathing disorders in children utilizing multidisciplinary approaches. His research interests are investigating the effect of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) on childhood health, including examining the profound implications of intermittent hypoxia and sleep fragmentation on homeostatic mechanisms that are critical to the well-being of the child and child's growth. He is principally interested in understanding cardiovascular complications of OSA in children, and also to examine how to optimize targeted therapy of OSA in children. He has received funding through the American Heart Association to critically analyze and understand the mechanisms ascribed to vascular dysfunction in the context of childhood OSA. He was awarded by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine Junior Investigator work examining the dual complications of obesity and OSA on endothelial function. In addition, he has examined the limited efficacy of adenotonsillectomy, the first line in treating children with OSA and have uncovered the complex interaction that childhood obesity has on both the complications and treatment of OSA.