

GIGA Kids News & Updates

Spring 2025 Update

“It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.”

— Rainer Maria Rilke

Hello GIGA Kids PIs, Coordinators & Friends,

First of all, we want to **Thank You** all for your patience and your commitment to GIGA Kids – we look forward to continuing working with you!

As of March 15th, 2025, there are **12 actively recruiting GIGA sites**. Total recruitment is presently at **N=697 participants!** This includes 627 cases and 70 healthy controls. This already puts us at **70%** of our overall goal, and, thanks to your hard work, we’re back to our initial recruitment rate of ~100 participants during this past year.

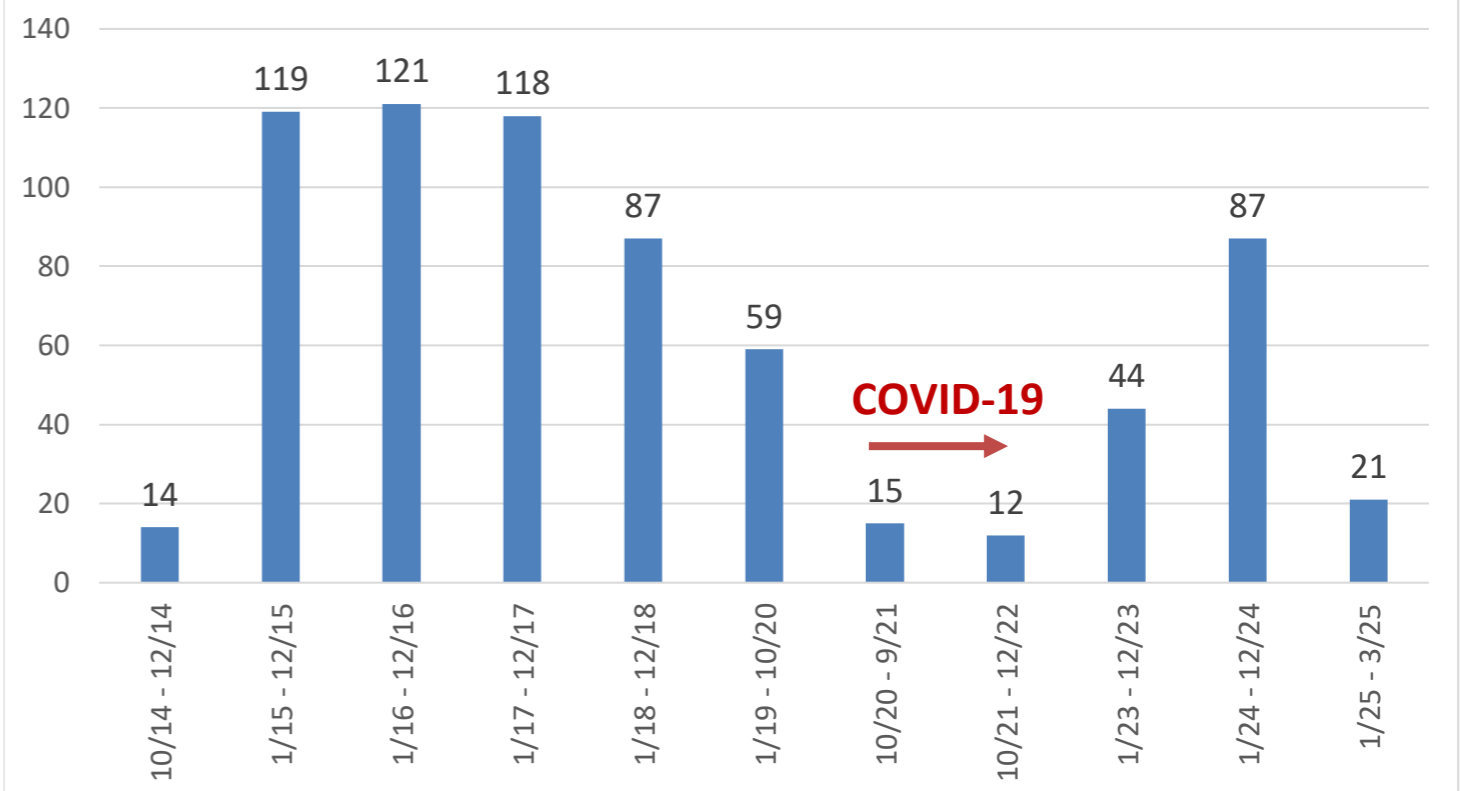
Please note that we are still **accepting new recruitment sites**, and we are actively enrolling the following:

- IgA nephropathy cases (biopsy-diagnosed)
- IgA vasculitis cases (with and without nephritis, biopsy not required)
- Healthy pediatric controls (without active infections, autoimmune disease, or liver disease)

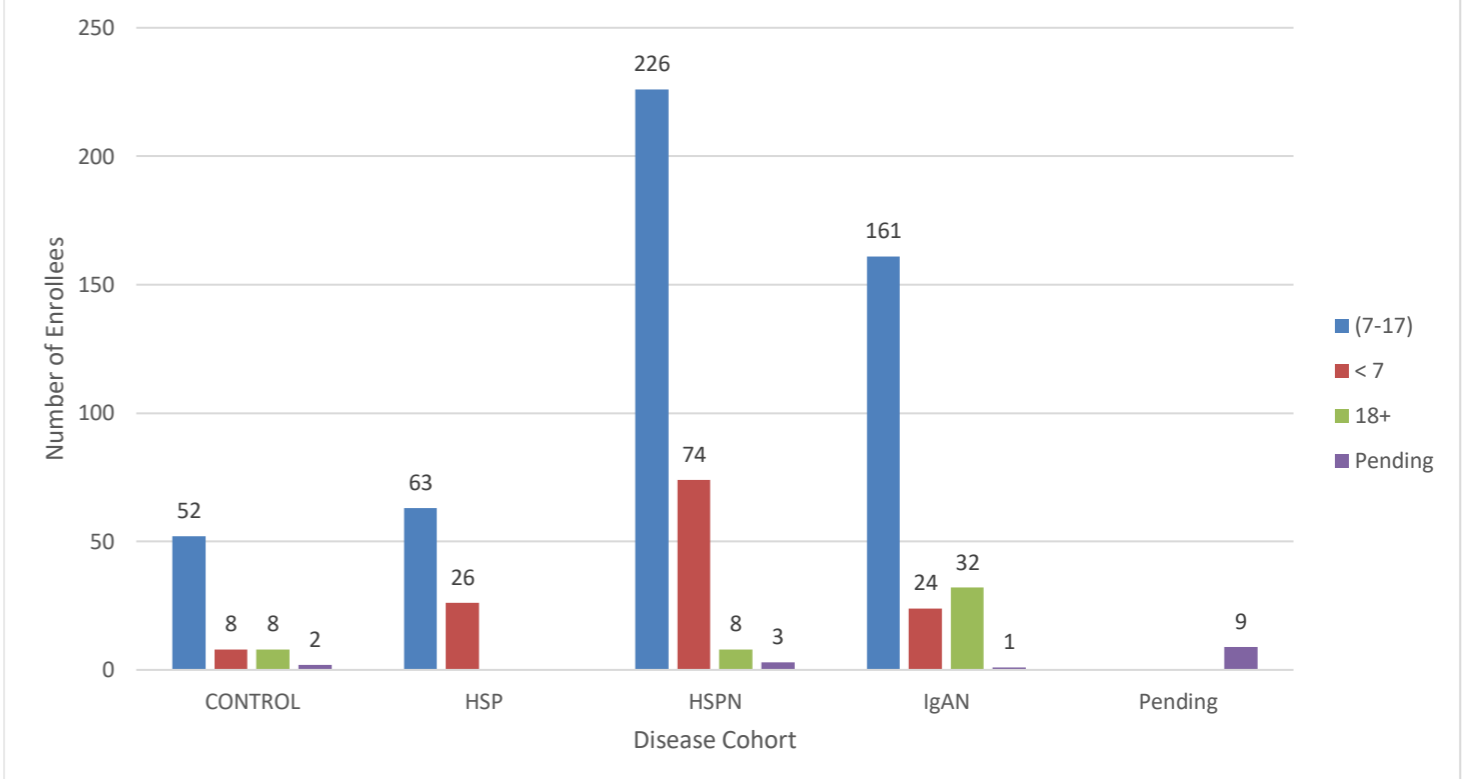
As always, please let us know how we can best support your recruitment efforts, and do not hesitate to reach out to **Cecilia Berrouet** (ccb2184@cumc.columbia.edu) with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Feel free to pass along this newsletter to colleagues and collaborators or share via social media.

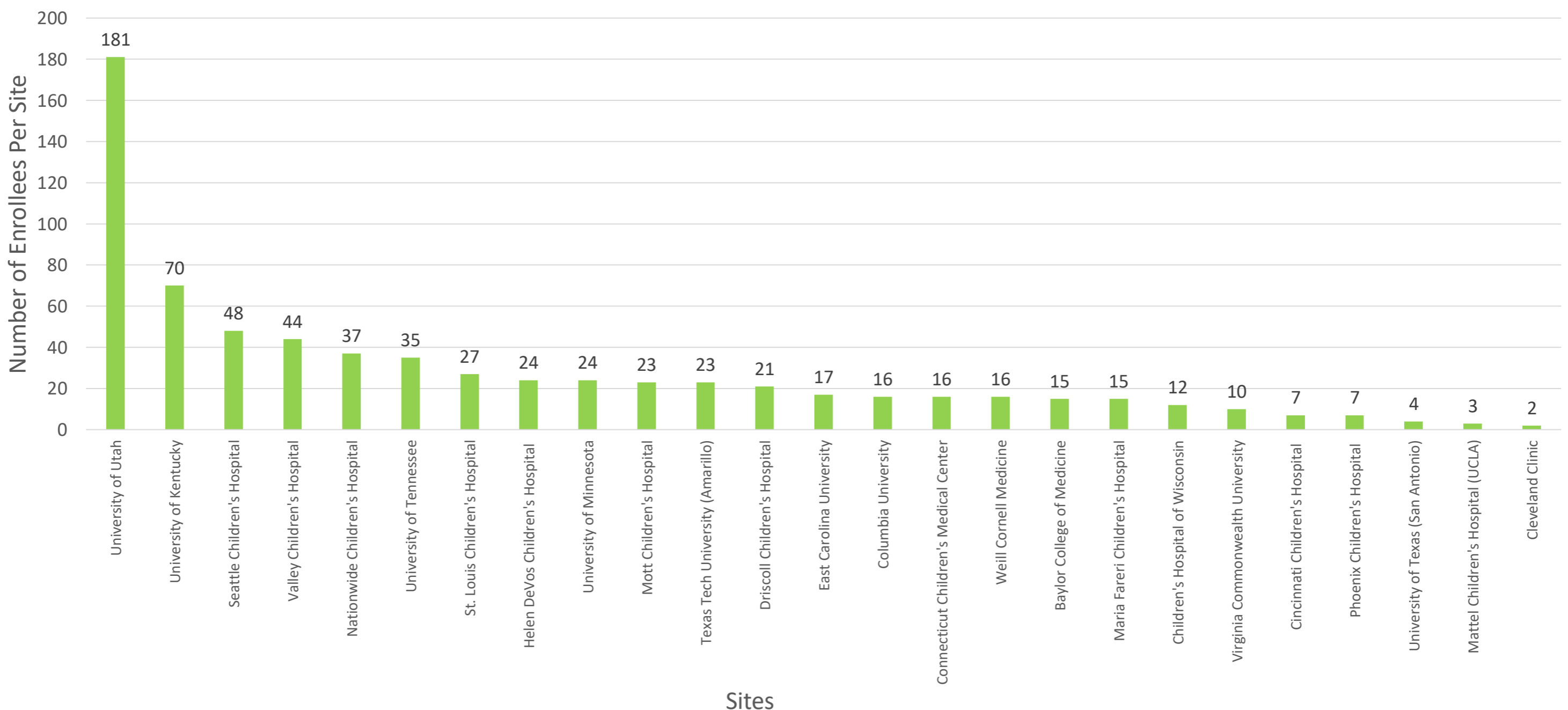
GIGA Kids Study: Recruitment by Year (N=697)



GIGA Kids Study: Breakdown of Disease by Age (N=697)



GIGA Kids Study: All-Time Recruitment Per Site (N=697)



Reminders

- We would like to thank all the sites who have been enrolling **HEALTHY CONTROLS!**
- Currently, we have **70** healthy controls (up from 33 in the past 6 months).
- Our target is 100 healthy controls so please continue to keep them in mind.
- The recruitment of healthy children for study controls has always been challenging, but here are some ideas on who is eligible:
 1. **Unrelated friends of patients** (note that blood relatives of cases, e.g., siblings, are not qualified to be controls)
 2. **Children with vesicoureteral reflux or kidney malformations** (but with no active urinary infection)
 3. **Children with injuries presenting to the emergency room or seen by orthopedic surgery**
- Any other suggestions for control recruitment are welcome, so please let us know what works well at your site.

IPNA 2025

20th Congress of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association



Dr. Smoyer, from Nationwide Children's Hospital, traveled in February to present findings from the GIGA Kids study at **the 20th IPNA Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.**

Serum Levels of APRIL Correlate with Proteinuria in IgA Vasculitis: Findings from the GIGA-Kids Study

William E. Smoyer¹, Miquel Blasco², Cecilia C. Berrouet², Lee G. Andrews³, Asher D. Schachter³, Aftab S. Chishti⁴, Margaret C. Hastings⁵, Joseph T. Flynn⁶, Raoul D. Nelson⁷, Krzysztof Kiryluk²

1. Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, OH, United States.
2. Columbia University, New York, NY, United States
3. Visterra Inc, Waltham, MA, United States.
4. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, United States.
5. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine, Memphis, TN, United States.
6. Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle, WA, United States.
7. University of Utah Health, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.

Regarding the findings, clinical and histological parameters were analyzed, and serum levels of Gd-IgA1 and APRIL in **495** pediatric patients with IgAN, IgAV, and healthy controls were measured and correlated with disease status and severity.

While serum **Gd-IgA1** levels were elevated in patients with IgAVN, only serum **APRIL** levels were positively correlated with proteinuria in the setting of IgAVN.



SPARK 2025

- SPARK is a 2-day symposium hosted by **The IgA Nephropathy Foundation** and designed for IgAN patients and their caregivers to learn about the disease, living with the disease, and being a caregiver for those with the disease. It promises to be an information-packed event with plenty of time for mingling with others and sharing your stories.
- Over 180 patients, academia, and industry members attended the event.
- **We will be there to recruit for GIGA-kids!** To learn more about the event or register, please go to <https://iganspark.org/>

Important Contact Information:

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Corinna.Bowers@nationwidechildrens.org

IRB/MTA – CUMC: Melanie Foley
mf2162@cumc.columbia.edu

Interested in participating in the GIGA Kids Study?

Our Coordinator for the GIGA Kids study, Cecilia Berrouet, can guide you through the IRB application process, and help to answer any questions you may have regarding study protocol, or recruitment.

Email: ccb2184@cumc.columbia.edu Tel: (212) 851-5216