

AGENDA

MIT-Hood Pediatric Innovation 2026

October 29, 2026

TIME*	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)
8:00a	Registration & Breakfast	
9:00a	Welcome & Overview	Elazer R. Edeman; Joseph J. Frassica; Robert Sege
9:20a	Built for Kids: Devices and Manufacturing <i>A closer look at where pediatric devices have failed children – and where new models for manufacturing and distribution could get it right.</i>	Panelists: Orin Herskowitz; David Hoganson; Jose Pacheco; Alvaro Rojas-Peña Moderator: Elazer R. Edeman
10:30a	Break	
10:45a	From Data to Deployment: AI and Machine Learning for Pediatric and Adolescent Care <i>How pediatric data becomes machine learning that reaches children and adolescents – and the infrastructure being built to carry that work safely to its next stage.</i>	Michael Blum; Adam DeLong & Jesse Raffa; Amar D. Mandavia; Kit Newth Moderator: Joseph J. Frassica
12:10p	Lunch & Networking	
1:00p	KEYNOTE SESSION The Convergent Cord: Funding Pediatric Ultra-Rare Disease as a Model for Innovation <i>Most ultra-rare diseases are, in fact, pediatric – and curing them means reconciling clinical need, scientific discovery, and health care economics into new approaches to funding.</i>	
1:00	Keynote	Andrew W. Lo
1:35	Q&A	
2:00p	Inaugural Hood Hub Pediatric Innovation Awardees	
2:30p	Break	
2:45p	Innovators Forum: Bridging the Last Mile	Panelists: Sophie-Charlotte Hofferberth; Amar D. Mandavia Moderator: Joseph J. Frassica
3:20p	Closing the Distance: Lessons from Rural Health <i>What rural health projects have already learned – and how to close the distance between a child and pediatric specialty care.</i>	Panelists: Alexa Craig; Ana Jaklenec Moderator: Robert Sege
4:15p	Hub Program Announcements	
4:30p	Program Closing	
4:30p	Networking & Refreshments	
6:00p	Close of Day	

*Times subject to change