Mental health for infants and young children encompasses the ability to form close interpersonal relationships, regulate strong emotions, and effectively learn from their environments. However, developing these important social-emotional skills can be disrupted by a variety of factors, including experiences of trauma, poverty, physical illness, and parental psychiatric disorders, as well as features of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The prevalence of these risk factors is reinforced by daily news coverage of the opioid epidemic, parent-child separations in immigrant families, and adverse childhood events (ACEs). These experiences have life-long implications for children’s health and well-being. However, assessing mental health concerns in this vulnerable population is complicated by their limited language skills and lack of cognitive insight, and consequently, the need to rely on caregiver report. In addition, accessing appropriate and effective interventions is also challenging.

Please join us for an interactive conversation.

Panel Participants:

**Evon Batey Lee, Ph.D., Moderator**
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Psychology and Psychiatry; Neurobehavioral Phenotypes Coordinator, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

**Andrew E. Molnar, Ph.D.**
Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, VUMC

**Katelyn Neely, M.D.**
Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics fellow, Division of Developmental Medicine, VUMC

**Verity Rodrigues, Ph.D.**
TRIAD Educational Consultant, School/Clinical Psychologist, Instructor in Pediatrics, VUMC