

RALPH D. MARTELLO, MD

Board-Certified Pediatrician | Medical Expert Witness Pediatric Hospital Medicine

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Ralph D. Martello, MD

EXPERT WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Double board-certified pediatrician (General Pediatrics and Pediatric Hospital Medicine) with 12+ years of post-residency attending practice and concurrent academic appointments at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. Full-time attending at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, a quaternary pediatric referral center. Retained in 18 pediatric medical malpractice matters across plaintiff and defense counsel nationwide, with prior deposition and trial testimony experience. Proven track record delivering clear, evidence-based expert reports and testimony in complex pediatric standard-of-care, diagnostic-error, and wrongful-death cases.

MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Martello Consulting, LLC — February 2023–Present

Founder and principal medical expert witness. Retained by plaintiff and defense counsel nationwide for pediatric medical malpractice and standard-of-care litigation.

Case Experience (current through April 2026):

Metric	Count
Retained matters	18

Metric	Count
Plaintiff / Defense	50 / 50
Deposition testimony	6 cases
Trial testimony	3 cases

Services Provided: - Case review and merit assessment - Standard-of-care opinions - Causation analysis - Written expert reports and affidavits - Deposition testimony - Trial testimony - Medical literature research and clinical guideline interpretation

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Core Pediatric Standard-of-Care Categories: - Mixed standard-of-care review (inpatient, outpatient, emergency department) - Kawasaki disease — diagnosis, IVIG timing, coronary artery sequelae - Neonatal hyperbilirubinemia — screening, phototherapy thresholds, kernicterus prevention - Medical child abuse / factitious disorder imposed on another - Sepsis and meningitis — recognition, antimicrobial stewardship, delay in diagnosis - Respiratory distress and failure (bronchiolitis, asthma, pneumonia) - Diagnostic errors — missed, delayed, and incorrect diagnoses - Wrongful death — pediatric mortality analysis and causation - Birth injuries, neonatal care, special-care nursery and NICU standards - Hospital system failures, quality improvement, and patient safety - Pediatric emergency medicine and acute care decision-making - Medical documentation — EMR review and interpretation

CLINICAL CURRENCY

Active Full-Time Attending Practice

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital — 2017–Present
Attending Physician, Pediatric Hospital Medicine

- Full-time clinical practice at a quaternary pediatric referral center and Level I pediatric trauma center
- Division admission volume: ~4,000 pediatric admissions annually
- 13–15 inpatient supervision days per month across general ward, newborn nursery, and special care nursery
- Direct supervision of residents and medical students
- Active participation in morbidity & mortality review, quality improvement, and patient safety

Academic Appointments

- **Assistant Professor of Pediatrics** — University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine (2021–Present)
- **Instructor of Pediatrics** — Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (2019–Present)

Prior Attending Practice

- **Attending Physician** — Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Sarasota, FL (2021–2025)
 - **Clinical Assistant Professor & Associate Program Director** — University of Kansas Pediatric Residency, Wichita, KS (2015–2017)
 - **Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics** — Florida State University College of Medicine, Orlando, FL (2014–2015)
 - **Clinical Assistant Professor of General Pediatrics** — University of Florida College of Medicine, Orlando, FL (2014–2015)
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BOARD CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSURE

- **Board Certified, Pediatric Hospital Medicine** — American Board of Pediatrics (2019–2030)
 - **Board Certified, General Pediatrics** — American Board of Pediatrics (2014–2030)
 - **Florida Medical License** — ME119005 (active, clear)
 - **Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics** (Section on Hospital Medicine)
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EDUCATION & TRAINING

University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL

- Doctor of Medicine (MD), 2011
- Pediatric Internship, 2011–2012
- Pediatric Residency, 2012–2014

Graduate Studies, Biomedical Sciences — University of Florida IDP (Advanced Immunology / Clinical & Translational Research) | 2008–2009 | GPA 4.0

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

- BA, Biology & Philosophy (Minor), *Magna cum Laude*, 2006
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QUALITY, SAFETY & CLINICAL GUIDELINE EXPERIENCE

- **Site Leader** — AAP Value-in-Inpatient-Pediatrics (VIP) National QI Project on Safer Options for IV Fluids (SOFI), JHACH (2019–Present)
 - **Site Leader** — AAP VIP Stewardship in Bronchiolitis Project, Wesley Children’s Hospital (2015–2016)
 - **Project Lead** — Vitamin D AAP-guideline adherence, Shands Children’s Hospital Newborn Nursery (2012–2014) — 90% improvement in adherence
 - **Co-author** — JHACH UTI Clinical Guideline (AAP-aligned, institutional)
 - **Division Lead** — Clinical Colleague Appreciation Program, JHACH (2019–Present)
 - Hospital committee participation in patient safety and risk management (current and prior institutions)
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PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Book Chapter

Rawat R, **Martello R**, Jean-Charles PY, Cudic P. “Progress Toward Total Solid-Phase Synthesis of Cyclic Lipodepsipeptide Antibiotic Fusaricidin A.” *In: Understanding Biology Using Peptides*. American Peptide Society, 2005; pp. 271–272.

Clinical Guidelines

Co-author, **JHACH UTI Clinical Guideline** (AAP-aligned; institutional)

Selected Peer-Reviewed Abstracts and Podium Presentations

- Mehta J, Mahendran A, Brubaker T, **Martello R**, Desai P, Adhikari R. “Myocardial Infarction with Use of Cannabinoid in an Adolescent.” Midwest Pediatric Cardiology Society Annual Meeting, 2016.
- Sinno M, Nehme G, **Martello R**. “Vincristine Toxicity in a Child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Receiving Posaconazole.” *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, 2016.
- Thomas S, **Martello RD**. “17-Year-Old Girl with AKI of Unknown Etiology with Nephrotic and Nephritic Features.” KU Research Forum, 2015.
- **Martello R**, Schatz D, Alkhasawneh A, Zuluaga T, Slayton W, Rohrs H. “Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis: A Unique Pediatric Presentation of a Rare Disease.” UF Pediatric Research Day, 2014.
- **Martello R**, Chen J, Gusdon A, Mathews CE. “Immune Function Differences between ALR, NOD, and NOD.mt ALR Mice.” UF College of Medicine Research Symposium, 2009.

Grand rounds and national-conference speaker on pediatric evidence-based care, bronchiolitis stewardship, and quality improvement.

GRANTS

- **Back to Bedside Innovation Grant** — ACGME, August 2017, ~\$20,000 — Principal Investigator
 - **Baby Friendly Initiative at Orlando Health / Winnie Palmer Hospital** — Empower & CDC, May 2015, ~\$225,000 — Grant co-writer (50% effort)
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AWARDS & HONORS

- **USF Pediatric Residency Attending of the Year** (2017–2018)
 - **Harvard Dean's Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award** (2015)
 - **KU Family Medicine Teacher of the Year** (2016–2017)
 - **KU Medical Student Pediatric Teacher of the Year** (2016–2017)
 - **KU Medical Student Teacher of the Year** (2016–2017)
 - **Pediatric Chief Resident Award for Outstanding Clinical Care and Teaching** (2015)
 - **Highest Honor in Medical Teaching of Residents and Medical Students** — UF (2014)
 - **Outstanding Resident Medical Student Teaching** — UF (2011–2014, annually)
 - **Lawrence M. Goodman Scholar** — UF College of Medicine (2006–2008, 2009–2011)
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) — Section on Hospital Medicine
 - Society of Hospital Medicine — Pediatric Section
 - Florida Medical Association
 - American Medical Association
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FEE SCHEDULE

Service	Rate
Initial retainer	\$2,000
Hourly rate (record review, report preparation, research, deposition, trial testimony)	\$400 / hour

Travel, lodging, and out-of-pocket expenses billed at cost.

AVAILABILITY & LOGISTICS

- Available for cases nationwide
- Flexible scheduling for depositions and trial testimony
- Typical report turnaround: 2–4 weeks from complete record receipt
- Virtual consultation, depositions, and attorney conferences available
- HIPAA-compliant secure document exchange

CONTACT

Martello Consulting

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