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A pediatrician and infectious disease specialist with over 20-year experience improving the standards for the prevention and the care of infections in immunocompromised children, at St Jude and globally.

A native of Paraguay, Dr. Caniza, received her medical degree at the School of Medicine of the National University in Asunción, Paraguay. She completed her pediatric residency at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York; and her fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. She earned a Master's in Public Health from the University of Memphis, Tennessee. She is board certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases by the American Board of Pediatrics.

After the completion of her studies, she joined the Department of Pediatrics at the University of South Carolina Medical School, Columbia, South Carolina, mentoring physicians in training and medical students; and she provided medical care to the at risk children in South Carolina.

In 2001, she joined the Department of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in Memphis, Tennessee, and built the Global Infectious Diseases Program (former Infectious Disease - International Outreach), she is the director of this program.

As a clinician, she cares for children with catastrophic diseases and infectious complications at St Jude and trains the next generation of healthcare providers for these at-risk children. Her passion is to improve the standards of prevention and care of infections in children globally by building the clinical workforce and institutional processes for best care. To effectively impact multiple global sites, she builds and sustains networks and working groups of clinicians with expertise in infection care and prevention. These clinicians collaborate in furthering the mission to improve children survival globally.

Dr. Caniza uses education, training and continuous mentoring as to improve the ability of local institutional experts and leaders to prevent and manage infections. She promotes better understanding and use of local data by building research resources and projects and disseminates the results of experiences globally.

In 2012 she received the "HERO" award from the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) of America for her work to improve capacity of preventionists of infections throughout Latin America. In 2020, her collaboration in education with the Memphis APIC obtained an award from the APIC, Chapter Excellence Award in Education, Communication, and Information Resources.

She continues collaborating with colleagues and organizations worldwide in infection care and prevention and writes extensively in areas of expertise.