

Pediatric INSIGHTS

A Physician Resource From UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh | chp.edu

Special Feature (page 4)

Now Hear This:
**UPMC Children's Treats Common
Conditions With Special Care**

Inside This Issue

- 1** | Quality and Safety Award
- 2** | Telehealth for Pediatric Urology
- 3** | A Patient Experience Masterpiece
- 4** | **Feature Story**
UPMC Children's Treats Common Conditions With Special Care
- 7** | Andy's INSIGHTS
- 8** | Laurels for Our Staff
- 9** | News You Need

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Pediatric INSIGHTS is published four times a year for physicians and friends of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, which is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to admit and to treat all patients without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, or disability. UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is a public charity under 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible to the extent permitted by law. We do not sell or trade our mailing list.

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CHP513855 KL/JZ 1/2020 © 2020 UPMC



The WINTER 2020 Issue of Pediatric INSIGHTS

Cover story: Even treatment for common conditions can be life-changing. Just ask Lori Altrudo, who brought her son, Vincenzo, to **UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh** seeking answers for his difficulty hearing, sleeping, and eating. Treatment by a pediatric otolaryngologist included an audiogram to confirm hearing loss due to fluid behind both eardrums. **Page 4**

In addition:

- > The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation dreams big for patients. This time, the result is the new **Nora Grace Kaufman Center for Creative Arts Therapy and the Dream Big Studio**, the only independently operated hospital radio and TV studio in the country, designed to bring hope and healing through Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy. **Page 3**
- > Andrew Urbach, MD, medical director for Patient Experience and Development, highlights the evolution of Children's Express Care over the last decade and introduces **UPMC Children's Pediatric Orthopaedic Urgent Care**. **Page 7**
- > **Connect with UPMC Children's** and get free access to informative podcasts, webinars, and more that explore pediatric and adolescent medicine. Earn CME or CEU credits, too. **Page 8**

Physician Referral Service

412-692-PEDS
(7337)

To refer a patient to any of UPMC Children's Hospital
of Pittsburgh's clinical services, please call our
Physician Referral Service at **412-692-PEDS (7337)**.

Visit the Referring Physicians section of UPMC Children's
website at chp.edu/physicians.

UPMC Children's Earns Leapfrog Award

Top Hospital Designation Signifies Outstanding Quality and Safety

Highlighting its achievement in patient safety and quality, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh was recently named a Top Children's Hospital nationally by The Leapfrog Group.



The highest performing hospitals on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey are recognized annually with the prestigious Leapfrog Top Hospital award. Along with UPMC Children's being named a Top Children's Hospital, UPMC Northwest was acknowledged as a Top Rural Hospital.

"We are thrilled that UPMC Children's and UPMC Northwest received this highly coveted honor for

our commitment to delivering the highest quality care," says Tami Minnier, UPMC's chief quality officer. "As we continue to enhance the patient experience, this recognition showcases our outstanding UPMC team that works diligently to improve the safety of the care we provide for our patients and their families."

UPMC Children's and UPMC Northwest were selected as Top Hospitals out of a record 2,100 hospitals participating in The Leapfrog Group's annual survey, which measures performance across many areas of hospital care, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care, and prevention of medication errors.

The list includes 10 Top Children's Hospitals, 18 Top Rural Hospitals, 37 Top General Hospitals, and 55 Top Teaching Hospitals.

Wolfson Children's Hospital, the Jacksonville, Florida, hospital that is part of the UPMC Children's Heart Institute network, also was named a Top Children's Hospital. •

**UPMC CHILDREN'S
IS ONE OF 10 TOP
CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS
IN THE NATION.**

More Good News: UPMC Hospitals Make the Grade

The Top Hospital awards follow The Leapfrog Group's Fall 2019 Hospital Safety Grade, in which 15 UPMC hospitals received the highest "A" rating. (The Leapfrog Group does not grade critical access hospitals or specialty hospitals such as UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.)

According to The Leapfrog Group, hospital patient safety rankings can be a life-or-death matter, with hospitals graded "A" saving more lives.

More than 2,600 hospitals are rated by Leapfrog twice a year based on their ability to prevent medical errors, infections, and other harms to patients.

The following 15 UPMC hospitals earned the top grade for fall 2019:

- UPMC Altoona
- UPMC Bedford
- UPMC Carlisle
- UPMC Hamot
- UPMC Horizon – Greenville
- UPMC McKeesport
- UPMC Mercy
- UPMC Northwest
- UPMC Passavant – Cranberry
- UPMC Passavant – McCandless
- UPMC Pinnacle Community Osteopathic
- UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg
- UPMC Pinnacle West Shore
- UPMC Presbyterian
- UPMC St. Margaret

Pediatric Urology Adds Telehealth in Johnstown



When Janelle Fox, MD, FACS, joined UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in September 2019, expanding Pediatric Urology care with telemedicine was a natural fit.

As a surgeon, Dr. Fox had five years of experience with telehealth in the U.S. Navy, where she served from 2002 to 2019.

"My goal has always been to provide easier access to high-quality pediatric subspecialty services for both parents and pediatricians," she says.

In January 2020, she launched a pilot telehealth clinic at Children's Specialty Care Center Johnstown. It is primarily for prenatal consultations, postoperative check-ups, and triaging patients to determine if they can be managed locally or need advanced testing and an exam at an ambulatory care center. Diagnoses best served with telehealth include:

- > Congenital hydronephrosis
- > Maternal fetal medicine consultation
- > Kidney stones
- > Voiding dysfunction

The focus is on making health care convenient in an underserved area for families who may be unable to travel to UPMC Children's Hospital in Lawrenceville or UPMC Children's ambulatory care centers in Monroeville, South Fayette, and Wexford.

"Traveling long distances for health care is simply not always practical given weather, missed work and school, and even basic transportation. We cannot let this limit care for children and hence have to bring subspecialty care to them. This should be done judiciously for diagnoses that are not reliant on a physical exam," Dr. Fox says.

The Pediatric Urology telehealth clinic is scheduling appointments for both new and established patients on the second Wednesday of each month, with the ability to expand to meet future needs. During each visit, a nurse in Johnstown will interview the patient, check vital signs, and load imaging for the doctor to view remotely at the Telemedicine Center at UPMC Children's Hospital before speaking with the family via video monitor.

Pediatricians are encouraged to call with questions. "One of our goals is to partner with local pediatricians, so they have subspecialty resources whenever they need them," she adds.

For more information or to make a referral, call 412-692-7984. Pediatricians who would like to speak with Dr. Fox or another Pediatric Urology provider may call 412-692-7932, option 3. Confidential patient information, photographs, or DICOM-compatible radiologic imaging may be sent to the following secure email address: PediatricUrology@chp.edu. •



Children's
Hospital of Pittsburgh
FOUNDATION



WALK_{for} CHILDREN'S

Saturday, June 6 • Schenley Park
Event opens at 8 a.m., Walk begins at 10 a.m.

Join the 5th annual *Walk for Children's*!

On Saturday, June 6, join our community in helping patients and families from all over the world who come to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh to receive treatment.

Your participation and support through *Walk for Children's* ensures that patients and families receive the best care, regardless of their ability to pay.

REGISTER. FUNDRAISE. WALK.
walkforchildrens.com

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UPMC LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

UPMC HEALTH PLAN



A Patient Experience Masterpiece

Foundation Dreams Big for Children

A foundation's work improving patient care doesn't always take the form of individual, small-scale projects. Sometimes the projects are much, much larger.

About three years ago, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation launched the Masterpiece of Hope campaign to bring hope and healing through Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy (CEAT). More than \$8 million was raised toward this project and, thanks to generous donor support, the dream became a reality in the form of the new Nora Grace Kaufman Center for Creative Arts Therapy and the Dream Big Studio.

Opened in September 2019, the state-of-the-art Nora Grace Kaufman Center for Creative Arts Therapy allows Child Life experts to offer a unique experience for every child. Children can use private music and art therapy rooms, a creation station, pottery wheels, a theater, and Matt's Maker Space.

"This opens up a world of endless possibilities for them," says Kory Antonacci, CEAT program coordinator. "It's a safe space to express themselves, cope with their visit or diagnosis, and heal through creative modalities."

Adjacent to the Eat'n Park Atrium, Dream Big Studio lives up to its name. The studio includes professional audio equipment, broadcast-quality microphones, video cameras, a green screen, and a full control room. Designed with kids in mind, it is an outlet for patients and families to forget they are in the hospital, and provides the opportunity for self-expression, creativity, and to dream as big as they wish.

"We want all patients to experience the wonder and joy that comes with creative self-expression," says Riley Hammond, events coordinator, Child Life.

Dream Big Studio has the distinction of being the only independently operated hospital radio and TV studio in the country, and the only one completely funded by philanthropy.

"Our hospital is committed not only to helping heal the body, but the mind and spirit," says Rachel Petrucelli, president, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. "Creative and Expressive Arts Therapy helps kids and families find comfort, hope, and even precious moments of joy in the midst of a difficult diagnosis. This is a priceless gift, one that simply wouldn't be possible without philanthropy." •



TOP LEFT: Luke, a UPMC Children's patient who had a double lung transplant, plays the guitar with Nicole Steele, music therapist.

TOP: CEAT staff and former patients join Jimmy, a UPMC Children's cancer patient, to celebrate the opening of the groundbreaking studio.

CENTER: Chyna, who was treated at UPMC Children's for leukemia, tests the innovative hub's new virtual reality headset.

BOTTOM: Dream Big Studio



Hearing better is just one of the benefits of the treatment Vincenzo Altrudo (*center*) received at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Now he has more energy to keep up with his older sister, Angelina (*left*), and twin, Sophia.

Now Hear This:

UPMC Children's Treats Common Conditions With Special Care

Vincenzo Altrudo was struggling. At age 5, he had difficulty hearing, eating, and sleeping, and a long bout of strep throat. He lost 5 pounds at a time when he should have been gaining weight. He didn't complain much, but his mother had that gut feeling that her son needed help.

And though she initially scheduled an appointment with an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor who treats adults and children, that unique radar that mothers have told her to bring her son to a pediatric ENT specialist at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

That decision changed their lives.

"Having a pediatric ENT specialist made sense to me because they know kids. An ENT doctor that was an adult doctor might not have caught Vincenzo's other issues," says Vincenzo's mother, Lori Altrudo.

From Vincenzo's first visit on April 3, 2019, pediatric otolaryngologist Reema Kirit Padia, MD, suspected that he would need a tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, and bilateral myringotomy and tubes. They are among the most common pediatric surgical procedures, often done for children with frequent throat and ear infections.

According to the 2017 National Health Statistics Reports, 289,000 ambulatory tonsillectomies are performed annually in the United States for children younger than 15 years of age. UPMC Children's did more than 1,900 in 2019.

Why choose UPMC Children's?

Bringing a child to UPMC Children's for the treatment of even the most common conditions can have significant benefits. UPMC Children's is ranked among the top pediatric hospitals in the country in the most recent *U.S. News & World Report* Honor Roll of America's Best Children's Hospitals, and offers doctors and staff who are experienced with handling the special needs of pediatric patients. In addition, patients at UPMC Children's have enhanced access to subspecialty care throughout the hospital's network of physicians.

"The health care providers at UPMC Children's are focused on the needs of kids," says David Chi, MD, chief, Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology. "Whether it's for the simplest or most complex treatment, we are used to taking care of children. We also have access to other specialists, so if additional referrals are necessary they can be made promptly."

From drawing blood to alleviating fear before surgery, the team at UPMC Children's is familiar with how kids think, feel, and react in stressful situations. "For ear care, a great asset that we have at UPMC Children's is trained pediatric audiologists who know how to obtain tests from kids who are infants all the way up to teenagers who have developmental delays. An audiologist who doesn't work with children often may not be able to get the same results as a pediatric audiologist," says Dr. Padia.

Addressing multiple concerns

An audiogram was one of the first tests Dr. Padia ordered for Vincenzo. At that initial clinic visit, she listened to Mrs. Altrudo's three main concerns and examined Vincenzo. "The family felt like they had to turn up the volume more around him, though he had passed his school hearing test. Another concern was restless sleep at night with frequent wake-ups and mouth breathing. He also was having difficulty with feeding, gaining weight, and eating meats and solids," says Dr. Padia.

An exam showed that Vincenzo had fluid behind both eardrums, a common cause of hearing loss in children. The audiogram was performed at the hospital the same day, and Dr. Padia reviewed the results with the family before they left. It confirmed he had hearing loss.

He also had enlarged tonsils and adenoids, which can make swallowing difficult and contribute to sleep apnea. The tonsils were a grade 4 on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the worst. His adenoids were blocking 75% of his air passage at the back of his nose.

"Because the upper respiratory system is connected so intimately, we tend to see multiple concerns and multiple problems during one patient visit that we have to address," she says.

Clinical guidelines suggest a tonsillectomy is appropriate for children who have seven episodes of tonsillitis in one year, or five episodes per year for two consecutive years, or three episodes per year for three consecutive years. Vincenzo had a history of ear and throat infections, and the family had been seeking help for swallowing issues since he was an infant.

Eating and swallowing issues and failure to gain weight also can be caused by gastrointestinal problems, so Dr. Padia used her UPMC Children's connections to fast-track Vincenzo's case to pediatric gastroenterologist Wednesday Sevilla, MD, MPH, CNSC. She evaluated him on April 9, within six days of Vincenzo's initial encounter at UPMC Children's.

"There was a lot of doctor-to-doctor communication that helped facilitate it," says Dr. Sevilla. "We don't work in isolation. We like to collaborate. That improves access for our patients."

Vincenzo's symptoms manifested as what appeared to his family to be a lack of appetite and a picky eater, but in addition to enlarged tonsils, he also had allergic inflammation of the esophagus. "As pediatricians, because we know how eosinophilic esophagitis presents in younger children, we were able to diagnose it right away," says Dr. Sevilla.



ABOVE: Wednesday Sevilla, MD, MPH, CNSC, and Reema Kirit Padia, MD, coordinated care for Vincenzo's gastric and ENT symptoms.

Coordinated care

The family faced multiple ENT procedures — tonsil and adenoid removal, and the insertion of ear tubes to drain fluid from behind the eardrums — as well as an upper endoscopy that was needed to confirm the eosinophilic esophagitis. Coordination of care meant Vincenzo could have all the procedures during the same surgical visit, and reduce his exposure to anesthesia, trips to the hospital, and emotional stress for the patient and family.

Vincenzo underwent surgery on July 16. "I work with kids. I know kids get anxious and scared. It was traumatizing for me because he was panicked," says Mrs. Altrudo, a behavioral health liaison for local schools under the University of Pittsburgh Maximizing Adolescent Potentials program (and a former employee of the UPMC Community Care Behavioral Health Organization). "All of the staff at UPMC Children's were amazing. They specialize in kids. I really do feel like they go above and beyond."

Continued on page 6

The ENT portion of the surgery lasted about 45 minutes. A gastrointestinal specialist completed the endoscopy in about 20 minutes. Tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, and bilateral myringotomy and tubes are often performed together, and many children are able to go home the same day. “We kept Vincenzo overnight because in his particular case we knew he already had trouble swallowing, and I wanted to make certain he was taking his pain medication appropriately and staying hydrated,” Dr. Padia says.

Getting better

“I got teary-eyed the day we saw Dr. Padia for our follow-up. I said, ‘I don’t know how to thank you because you truly listened to everything,’” Mrs. Altrudo recalls. “We still might be fighting him to eat every day if it wasn’t for her and Dr. Sevilla. Mealtime was extremely stressful for me.”

Despite Vincenzo’s lifelong difficulties with eating and speech, no one had ever suggested he see a gastroenterologist, until they

met with Dr. Padia, she adds. “I am so thankful for those two ladies, because they have given us answers.”

Medication is already helping to reduce Vincenzo’s eosinophilic esophagitis. Dr. Sevilla will continue endoscopic check-ups every eight to 12 weeks to determine if the esophagus is healed and the medication can be discontinued.

Dr. Padia will also monitor Vincenzo’s condition. “We will see him every year until we know that the tubes have come out on their own and the eardrum has healed appropriately. The tubes that we put in on average last about 12 to 18 months,” she says. “The hope is that once these tubes are out his Eustachian tubes will continue to mature and he won’t need a second set.”

Now 6, Vincenzo’s life in Plum with his parents Lori and Vincent, twin sister Sophia, and 8-year-old sister Angelina, is improving. He is hearing, eating, and sleeping better, although some minor speech issues remain. He went from having little energy to being an energetic soccer player. “He’s definitely better all the way around,” says Mrs. Altrudo. •

Initiative Makes Scheduling Specialty Appointments Top Priority

The combined expertise at UPMC Children’s Hospital helps many kids, and now the hospital has launched an initiative to enhance access to care for even more families.

Started as a pilot with five clinical areas in early 2019 and expanded to other subspecialties in August, the initiative is focused on creating more opportunities for clinical visits and scheduling those visits sooner. The Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology is leading the way, with an improvement in the percentage of new patients scheduled within 14 days of an initial request from 22% to 75%.

“It’s helped because patients haven’t had to wait as long to see an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) specialist,” says David Chi, MD, chief, Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology. “It allows them to have more prompt assessment and treatment when necessary.”

Pediatric Otolaryngology is one example of how the hospital is implementing changes across its clinical areas. Other changes include:

- Evening clinics for select specialties at the main hospital and at Children’s East
- Saturday clinics at the main hospital, with Lab and Radiology services available
- Select walk-in clinic days for Child Neurology
- Expanded hours for Children’s Express Care at the main hospital

While access to care has always been a focus for UPMC Children’s, this new initiative expands the effort across the continuum of care.

“We’ve really tried to take a holistic approach and analyze the whole process, from the initial call to scheduling the next visit with the after-visit summary as the family is walking out the door,” says Nicholas Barcellona, vice president of Operations, vice president of Pediatric and Academic Affairs, and executive administrator for the Department of Pediatrics.

Using APPs to enhance patient access is a key facet of the initiative. “We have done this successfully by developing APP fellowship programs to train APPs to provide autonomous, comprehensive pediatric care, within the scope of their license and in collaboration with their supervising physician,” says Michael Comunale, executive administrator, Department of Pediatrics. The number of full-time APPs increased from 129 in 2016 to 208 in 2019.

Overall, the hospital has improved the percentage of new patients scheduled within 14 days from 35% to 55%. The average number of days waiting decreased by 33%, from 43 to 29. •

REDUCING WAIT TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS





ANDY'S INSIGHTS

A Decade Later: How Express Care Is Changing

We live in a world where seemingly every service is “express” — from furniture delivery to our daily cup of coffee — so it was only natural that health care would join those ranks. The real challenge isn't just delivering fast service, it's delivering excellence.

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh opened Children's Express Care Centers in 2010 with two locations in Pittsburgh's north and south communities. We sought to fill a health care void: offering parents affordable, child-centered, nonemergency care when a child develops a painful earache, falls, or is bitten by the neighbor's pup on an evening or weekend when their pediatrician isn't available.

Urgent care centers were already well-established as an alternative to nonemergency care back in 2010, but the care they deliver is very different. Raymond Pitetti, MD, chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, said it best when he helped launch our service a decade ago as the first medical director of Children's Express Care: “All we do is take care of kids — that's our specialty. That's important because kids are different from adults. Their illnesses and injuries are different and their medicines and treatments are different.”

Because Children's Express Care offers after-hours care, it's not classified as an urgent care or emergency department visit. Parents are billed at a lower co-pay by most insurers, and at a rate that's generally less expensive than other urgent care centers.

More locations, more services

Over the past decade, we've expanded our locations and extended our hours to better serve families. In 2019, Children's Express Care treated a record 90,000-plus patients at eight western Pennsylvania locations: Erie, Jefferson Hills, Monroeville, South Fayette, Washington Hospital, West Mifflin, Wexford, and UPMC Children's in Lawrenceville.

As we've grown, our commitment to providing express care excellence for patients and their families has never wavered. Our locations are staffed only by pediatric specialists trained in caring for kids. The entire experience — from the diagnostic tools we use to the medicines prescribed — is designed for the children we serve. And our innovative new “Save My Spot” service avoids long waits by allowing busy parents to secure treatment based on their anticipated arrival time.

NEW ORTHOPAEDIC URGENT CARE

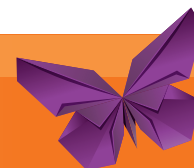
We're introducing a separate initiative to meet the need for after-hours care for minor fractures and breaks, and muscle and joint problems for kids from birth to age 21. UPMC Children's Orthopaedic Urgent Care, located at UPMC Children's, is staffed by skilled orthopaedic specialists who can examine, diagnose, and treat — including splinting or casting — on the spot. Details are at chp.edu/OrthoUrgentCare.

In all we do, our Children's Express Care services remain focused on our role as an extension of your practice. We provide quality pediatric care for your patients when you're not available and we help your families avoid the high cost of emergency department treatment. By providing your office with electronic reports that summarize the treatment we delivered and any follow-up care needed, we ensure the continuum of care that begins — and ends — with you.

Andy Urbach, MD, is medical director for Patient Experience and Development at UPMC Children's Hospital. He welcomes your comments and questions. Please send an email to MDrelations@chp.edu. •



Visit Navigation



Our outpatient visit coordinator helps manage the complexities of scheduling multiple medical appointments for patients who need to return to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh three or more times within the same month. For more information, contact Visit Navigation at visitnavigation@chp.edu or 412-692-5687. Julia Angotti is the Visit Navigation manager.

Laurels



These UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh staff members recently received recognition in their fields.



UPMC Children's Heart Institute cardiologist and researcher **Mousumi Moulik, MBBS**, was awarded a new National Institutes of Health R01 grant in July to continue her studies on the TEAD1 transcription factor and its role in maintaining normal cardiac function.



Megan Natali, PA-C, Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, is the recipient of the 2019 Distinctive APP of the Year Award. Nominations were submitted from UPMC Children's administrators, faculty, nurses, therapists, and advanced practice providers (APPs), and they are a testament to the hard work APPs do throughout the hospital.



Several UPMC Children's physicians were recently elected into the American Pediatric Society (APS). Active membership is reserved for individuals who have distinguished themselves as child health leaders, teachers, scholars, policymakers, or clinicians and whose important contributions are recognized nationally or internationally. Inductees include (*left to right*): **Thomas Diacovo, MD**, chief, UPMC Newborn Medicine Program, and director, Neonatal Cardiovascular Research, Heart Institute; **Amy Houtrow, MD, MPH, PhD**, chief, Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, and medical director, Rehabilitation Institute; **Jacqueline Kreutzer, MD, FAAC, FSCAI**, chief, Pediatric Cardiology, and medical director, Heart Institute; **Marian Michaels, MD, MPH**, Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute; and **John Williams, MD**, chief, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, who received the 2020 Norman J. Siegel Outstanding Science Award from the APS for his contributions to pediatric science.



Ken Nischal, MD, FRCOphth, chief, Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology, Strabismus, and Adult Motility, and director, Pediatric Program Development, UPMC Eye Center, was awarded the Secretariat Award on behalf of the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) Board of Trustees and Committee of Secretaries. The Secretariat Award recognizes special and distinct contributions to the AAO and to the profession of ophthalmology, as determined by academy secretaries in their respective areas.

UPMC Children's EEG Lab received EEG Lab Accreditation from the American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Technologists (ABRET). UPMC Children's lab is one of only two in the Pittsburgh region to have achieved this five-year ABRET certification.

Pediatric Insights Webinar Series

chp.edu/webinars



Feb. 19, 2020
Pediatric Dyslipidemias
Brenda Mendizabal, MD



April 15, 2020
Anxiety in Children and Adolescents
Justin Schreiber, DO



March 18, 2020
2020 Lyme Disease Update for the Pediatrician
Andrew Nowalk, MD, PhD



May 20, 2020
Enteroviruses and Acute Flaccid Myelitis Update
John Williams, MD

Revitalized Colorectal Center Focuses on Multidisciplinary Care for Children

Team Offers Support and Treatment for Complex Conditions

Kelly Austin, MD, MS, FACS, FAAP, is the new director of the Colorectal Center for Children at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Five other pediatric surgeons who all share an interest in colorectal surgery also are part of the center: Geoffrey Bond, MD; Barbara Gaines, MD; Kevin Mollen, MD; Ward Richardson, MD; and Stefan Scholz, MD, PhD. The surgeons, along with Amanda Neal, PA-C, and Tori Dixon, RN, BSN, work closely and interchangeably to care for all children who receive treatment in the center.

A major focus of the Colorectal Center moving forward is multidisciplinary care. The center will continue to provide support for complex interrelated problems associated with multiple colorectal and pelvic conditions such as complex anorectal malformations, Hirschsprung's disease, neurogenic bowel, and fecal incontinence. In addition to the core group of pediatric surgeons, members of the divisions of Gastroenterology, Urology, Gynecology, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics, Rehabilitation Medicine, Pathology, and Radiology, and a specially trained team of nurses and advanced practitioners, participate in patients' care. Physical therapy and pelvic floor rehabilitation, nutritional services, and child life will commonly be incorporated into patient visits.



Some members of the Colorectal Center team are (from left): Kevin Mollen, MD; Tori Dixon, RN, BSN; Barbara Gaines, MD; Kelly Austin, MD, MS, FACS, FAAP, director; Ward Richardson, MD; and Stefan Scholz, MD, PhD.

Vibha Sood, MD, who recently joined UPMC Children's as a gastrointestinal motility specialist, also works closely with the Colorectal Center. The team at the center will work behind the scenes with any new patient to assure the center is the best place to start their care. If after review of the medical/surgical history the team determines that gastrointestinal motility is the best place to start, the team will work to schedule the patient with Dr. Sood.

The Colorectal Center continues to hold monthly Bowel Management Workshops, which offer education for patients and families to begin their outpatient treatment program dealing with fecal incontinence. At the end of this workshop and associated clinic visit, patients and families are better able to understand incontinence and are introduced to a customized treatment plan.

The Colorectal Center team will determine if a Bowel Management Program is necessary for each patient, but anyone interested in colorectal education is welcome to attend.

For more information about the Colorectal Center or to register for a workshop, visit chp.edu/colorectal, email ColorectalCenter@chp.edu, or call 412-692-7280. The fax number is 412-692-6069. •

Neches Selected for Pulse of Pittsburgh



ABOVE: Keith McIntire, Heart Camp director, and Dr. Neches at Heart Camp in 2018

William H. Neches, MD, will receive the 2020 Peter J. Safar Pulse of Pittsburgh Award at the American Heart Association's (AHA) Pittsburgh Heart Ball on Feb. 29.

Honorees must have made significant contributions in the fight against heart disease and stroke in at least two of these areas: clinical, research, education, and community health. They also must demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the mission of the AHA in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Dr. Neches has done all that and more. He was a pediatric cardiologist at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh from 1972 to 2004 and director of the division from 1994 to 2000. In the latter part of his career at UPMC Children's, Dr. Neches became involved in medical informatics and led the hospital's journey to computerized provider order entry (CPOE) — becoming the first hospital in the nation with a CPOE system in 2002.

In 1991 he helped found the Dr. Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids — a camp that lets kids be kids without their heart condition limiting them. As one of the nominators wrote of Dr. Neches' impact through Heart Camp: "At home I didn't know anybody else with a surgery scar like mine. At camp there wasn't anybody without one." •

KNOWS BONES. KNOWS KIDS.



Pediatric Orthopaedic Urgent Care

WEEKDAYS 5-9 P.M. • WEEKENDS 1-5 P.M.
MAIN HOSPITAL, LAWRENCEVILLE
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED