

News Bulletin

February 13, 2018

UF and Sacred Heart Team Up for First ECMO Procedure

Thanks to extraordinary support from University of Florida Health, physicians and staff at The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart were able to perform a lifesaving procedure to treat 2-year-old Garon Flanagan, who was battling a severe asthma attack.

The high-risk procedure, carried out jointly by physicians and staff from UF Health and Sacred Heart, marked the first time that The Studer Family Children's Hospital has used an advanced life support technique called extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO. The equipment can support the function of a child's lungs and heart, allowing those vital organs to rest and heal. The technique is used only when all of the standard treatments have been tried without success.

Garon was brought from his home in Freeport to Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast in late December with severe breathing problems. From there, he was transferred to The Children's Hospital in Pensacola. Standard treatments, including use of a ventilator and medications that relax and open the patient's airway, did not work. Specialists in Sacred Heart's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit feared he would not survive and decided to consult with physicians at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville and the UF Health ShandsCair transport service. UF teams threw their full support into the effort and assembled teams to transport the ECMO equipment, intensive care physicians and technicians to Pensacola.

"Very few pediatric centers in the country are able to do this — bring a transport team, equipment and ECMO specialists to another city to save a child," said Dr. Bryan Weidner, a pediatric surgeon at The Children's Hospital.

Join Us: New Children's Hospital "Tops Out"

Join Sacred Heart on Tuesday, March 6 at 9 a.m. as we "top off" the construction site of the new four-story Studer Family Children's Hospital! The topping-off ceremony symbolizes the installation of the final and highest piece of steel on the construction project. This also marks the halfway point of our construction journey.

Please stop by the first floor of the Ninth Avenue parking garage, on the side closest to the construction site, and sign a ceremonial steel beam, which will be displayed inside the new children's hospital. The beam will be available for signing Monday, March 5 through Friday, March 9, in order to give as many of our team members as possible the opportunity to sign it.

Growing Hematology/Oncology

Pediatric hematologist/oncologist Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz has expanded his practice and will see patients on Sacred Heart Hospital's Pensacola campus, joining the office of pediatric hematologists/oncologists Dr. Debra Cohen and Dr. Amanda Strobel. Dr. Schwartz will continue seeing patients from his office with Sacred Heart Medical Group at Crestview, located at 550 Redstone Avenue West, Suite 320. To schedule an appointment, call 850-416-1575.

Palliative Care Expands

Sacred Heart palliative care physician Dr. Brian Donahue has expanded his practice to include outpatient palliative care for pediatric patients. Dr. Donahue is fellowship trained in palliative care and board certified in both pediatrics and palliative care. As a palliative care physician, Dr. Donahue provides specialized medical care, focused on improving quality of life by managing the pain and stress of living with a serious illness. To schedule an outpatient pediatric palliative care appointment, call 850-416-1575.

Within the last year, the University of Florida has hired four pediatric cardiologists to provide heart care for the panhandle region. All four physicians see patients at the newly renovated, child-friendly Pediatric Specialists practice located on Sacred Heart's Pensacola campus, where they offer same or next-day appointments Monday through Friday. Dr. Theresa Roca and Dr. Matthew Steiner joined us after caring for patients in the Pensacola community for the past 12 and 4 years, respectively. Dr. Bevin Weeks joined us last fall after spending 15 years at Yale. Dr. Matthew Furst comes to us from his pediatric cardiology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital in Ohio. In addition, two Sacred Heart pediatric echocardiogram technologists have been hired to provide care exclusively for this practice.

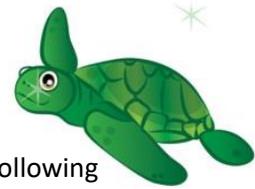
The pediatric cardiology office on Sacred Heart's campus features two new state-of-the-art echocardiogram machines. We offer outpatient echo-only visits, and our pediatric cardiologists will do same-day consults when results come back abnormal. For scheduling or information, please call 850-416-1575.

Pediatric Urology Expands

Sacred Heart Medical Group nurse practitioner Jamie Thorn has relocated her practice to 1657 Trinity Dr. on the Sacred Heart Ninth Avenue campus. This move will enable Jamie to grow the patients she serves, including by offering specialized diagnostic tests and treatments to children and adults with urological and gastrointestinal conditions. Jamie has special medical interests in treating chronic constipation, pelvic floor dysfunction and urinary and fecal incontinence. She utilizes specialized testing called urodynamics to diagnose patient conditions, and her expertise includes such non-surgical treatments as pelvic floor rehabilitation and percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation. Jamie is passionate about caring for adults and children with incontinence through medications, rehabilitation and lifestyle-management techniques.

Jamie will practice with UF pediatric urologist Dr. C. Gerry Henderson. For information or to schedule an appointment, please call 850-416-1575.

Residency News



Please join us in congratulating the following pediatric residents on their recent fellowship match:

- Dr. Andrew Boulos, Chief Resident – Emergency Medicine, University of Texas-Southwestern
- Dr. Osman Altun (Spring 2017) – Cardiology, University of California-San Diego
- Dr. Sanchitha Guruchandrasekar (Spring 2017) – Cardiology, Louisiana State University-New Orleans
- Dr. Jaclyn Havinga – Neonatology, East Carolina University-Greenville
- Dr. Vignesh Nayak – Pulmonology, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- Dr. Drexel Proctor – Emergency Medicine, Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Dr. Alina Sadaf (Spring 2017) – Hematology/Oncology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Dr. Namra Tariq (Spring 2017) – Hematology/Oncology, University of Florida-Jacksonville

All residents who pursued fellowships successfully matched. Congratulations, and thank you for representing our program!

Upcoming Events

Sacred Heart Foundation is partnering with Pensacon 2018 and their video game provider, SuperCon 2K Series, to bring you the first ever Pensacon Charity Stream, benefiting The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart. During Pensacon 2018, which takes place **Feb. 23-25**, tune in to and follow www.twitch.tv/pensacon. Type !donate in the Twitch chat and follow the link provided.

The 20th annual Radiothon, presented by Wind Creek Atmore, will be **March 1 and 2**. Join us and be a part of the fun as we broadcast live for 21 hours from Center Court of Cordova Mall. You can also tune in to hear the inspiring stories of our patients and supporters on Nash FM 102.7, Soft Rock 94.1, Magic 106.1, JET 100.7, and News Talk 1370.

For questions or suggestions of topics to cover in this newsletter, please e-mail coutzen@ascension.org or call 850-416-4713.

