



# Orthopedic, Sports Medicine, & Spine Institute Fellowship Program

*Craig Spurdle, MD*

Chief of Pediatric Orthopedic Department

*Kevin S Horowitz, MD*

Fellowship Director



Nicklaus Children's  
Health System

# Overview

- Our City – Miami, FL
- Nicklaus Children's Hospital
- Orthopedic, Sport Medicine, & Spine Institute
  - Outpatient Locations
- Meet the Team
- Specialty Programs
- NCH Peds Ortho Fellowship



# Our City

- **Melting Pot of Cultures**

- Home to many international communities like Latin American, Caribbean, and Europe.
- Diverse & Delicious Cuisine including Cuban, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Columbian, Haitian, Asian, American, Mediterranean, and more!

- **Outdoor Paradise: Average Temperature is 75° F (24° C)**

- Beaches All Year Round - South Beach, Key Biscayne, Miami Beach
- Everglades National Park & Oleta River State Park
- Close to the Florida Keys



# Our City

- **City of Innovation & Art**

- Miami Design District & Little Havana
- Miami hosts events like Art Basel, attracting some of the world's top artists and collectors.
- Home of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.

- **Sports City**

- Home to Miami Heat (NBA), Miami Dolphins (NFL), Miami Marlins (MLB), Inter Miami (MLS).
- Miami also host major events like Miami Open (tennis), Super Bowl Games, and Formula 1's Miami Grand Prix.

- **“Silicone Valley of the East” : Hub for Business and Innovation**

- Miami is becoming a major hub for tech and finance, with companies like Microsoft, Google, and Goldman Sachs expanding their presence.



# Nicklaus Children's Hospital

## Mission:

To inspire hope and promote lifelong health by providing the best care to every child.

## Vision:

To **CREATE** a healthy future for every child.

## Values:

**C**ollaboration  
**R**esponsibility  
**E**mpowerment  
**A**dvocacy  
**T**ransformation  
**E**mpathy



# History



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

Where Your Child Matters Most™



1950

## VARIETY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On March 20, 1950  
Variety Children's  
Hospital opens to the  
public.

1955

## POLIO EPIDEMIC

Variety Children's  
Hospital was deemed  
the southern center for  
children suffering from  
polio.

1983

## MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Variety Children's  
Hospital is renamed  
Miami Children's  
Hospital and exponential  
growth continues.

2015

## NICKLAUS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Miami Children's Hospital  
was renamed Nicklaus  
Children's Hospital in  
honor of a \$60 million  
pledge from Jack  
Nicklaus.

2024

## KENNETH C. GRIFFIN SURGICAL TOWER

The Kenneth Griffin Surgical  
Tower, a 131,000 square-  
foot state-of-the-art facility,  
has officially opened, made  
possible by a generous \$25  
million donation from Ken  
Griffin.



# Kenneth C. Griffin Surgical Tower

- Florida's Most Advanced Pediatric Surgical Facility



**131,000**  
sq.ft. Facility



**16,000+**  
Surgeries Per Year  
(including Ambulatory Surgery Center)



**12**  
New Advanced  
Operating Suites



**800+**  
sq.ft. Per  
Operating Room



**18**  
Inpatient Rooms for  
Surgical Patients

[Click to Tour the Surgical Tower](#)  
[Building Exterior](#)  
[Operating Rooms](#)



# Surgical Services

## Current Surgical Services

Intra-operative MRI = 1  
ORs Total = 9  
Cath Lab = 1  
Hybrid = 1  
PACU rooms = 12-18  
Pre/Post rooms = 24

## NEW Surgical Service Lines OR distribution

- Cardiac = 2 OR's
- Neuro = 1 OR
- Ortho = 2.5 OR's
- General = 2 OR's
  - ENT = 1 OR
- Plastic = 1.5 OR's
  - Urology = 1 OR
- Trauma Dedicated Room
  
- Total = 12 New ORs + Existing Intra-Operative MRI

## Surgery Tower

- 40 Pre & Post-op Rooms
- Expanded Family Waiting
- New & Right-sized SPD
- Pre-Op Clinic
- Satellite Pharmacy
- Additional Growth Space
- 18 Bed Surgical Inpatient Unit

# Advanced Pediatric Care Pavilion

- Six-story 189 bed tower
  - 307 total hospital beds
- Critical care unit
- Hematology-oncology unit
- Neurology-neurosurgery unit
- Post-surgical unit



# Statistical Data



**17,163** total admissions



**201.8** average daily census



Emergency Department is one of the only freestanding pediatric trauma center with close to **100,000** visits



**201.8** average daily census



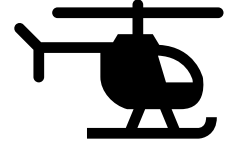
**962,191** physician visits



**16,536** total surgical cases



**307** pediatric and neonatal beds, more than any other provider of pediatrics in Florida



LifeFlight Critical Care Transport Program transports an average of close to **5,000** children annually from other hospitals in the region and beyond.



Medical Staff of more than **858** physicians and over **544** pediatric subspecialties



Over **290** mid-levels (Including NP, PAs)



**43** pediatric subspecialties



Over **573** clinicians employed by Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists



**86%** of physicians are board-certified



**86+** Pediatric Residents



**44+** Subspecialty Fellows



South FL only licensed specialty hospital dedicated exclusively to children



One of only four hospitals with a specialty-license designation by the state and the only Florida hospitals that solely provide and invest in care for children.



National and international referral center for the tiniest and most critically ill infants.



Renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medical care from birth through adolescence



Non-Profit Facility



**Nicklaus Children's Hospital**

Where Your Child Matters Most™

# Nicklaus Children's Health System

## Orthopedic Locations

Main Campus – Coral Gables

Pinecrest

West Kendall

Miramar

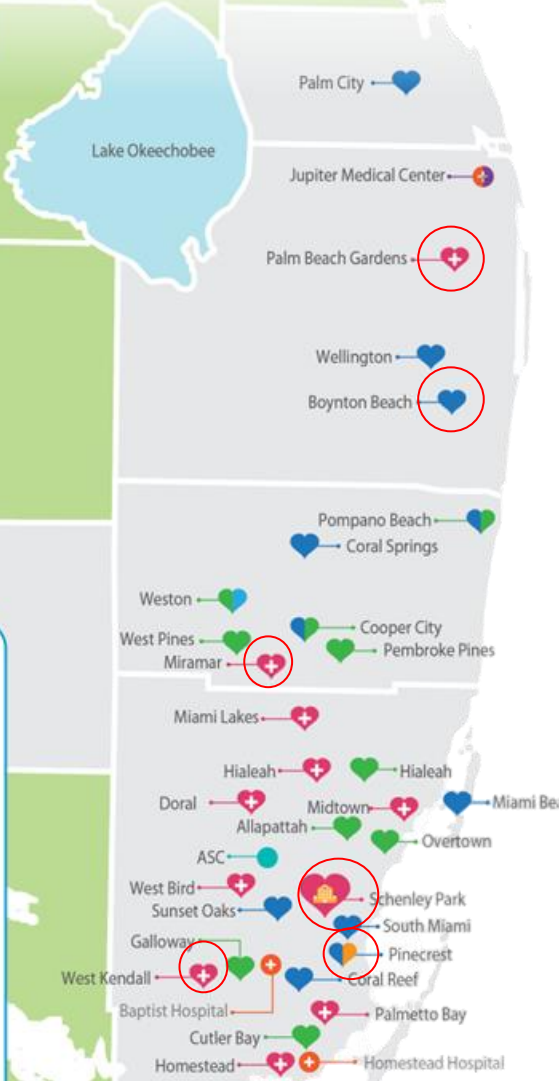
Davie

Boynton Beach

Palm Beach Gardens



-  **Main Hospital**
-  **Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC):** A state-of-the-art facility for outpatient surgery and procedures designed especially for pediatric and adolescent patients and staffed by pediatric specialists in the community
-  **ED Affiliation:** Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialist physicians staff the emergency departments at two Baptist Health South Florida hospital locations (Kendall and Homestead) as well as at Jupiter Medical Center
-  **Inpatient External Affiliation:** Affiliation that provides inpatient pediatric services
-  **Outpatient Center:** Provides pediatric specialty consultations by physicians employed by Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists and private practice physicians, rehabilitation services, urgent care, diagnostics and more
-  **Outpatient and Urgent Care Center:** Provides pediatric specialty consultations by physicians employed by Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists and private practice physicians, rehabilitation services, urgent care, diagnostics and more  
**Urgent Care Center:** Offers walk-in, after-hours pediatric care for minor injury and illness
-  **Pediatric Primary Care Center:** Provides pediatric primary care, led by board-certified physicians who work in collaboration with pediatric residents to provide personalized and prompt care for babies, children, teens and young adults under 21 years of age
-  **Specialty Care Center:** Provides pediatric specialty consultations by physicians employed by Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists and private practice physicians in an outpatient setting
-  **Sports Health Center:** Provides orthopedics and sports medicine services utilizing state-of-the-art technology to identify sports injuries and optimize performance for young athletes



# Awards

- USNWR Ranked #32 in the nation for Pediatric Orthopedics



# Accreditations and Recognition

- The Miguel “ Mike” B. Fernandez Family Pediatric Trauma Center at Nicklaus Children’s has been verified as a **Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center** by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and is the only one in South Florida to achieve Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center verification.
- Our **Research Institute** has earned full reaccreditation from the Association of Human Research Protection Programs (AHRPP). The institute is the first in the state and one of the few in the nation to achieve this standing.
- **The Diabetes Center** is an accredited diabetes education program by the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE), a National Accredited Organization (NAO), certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- **The Helen & Jacob Shaham Cancer & Blood Disorders Institute** received approved cancer program status after an in-depth survey by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Commission on Cancer.
- **The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program** is accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapies (FACT) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- **The Brain Institute’s** epilepsy center received Level 4 accreditation by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers.



THE  
**COMMITTEE**  
ON **TRAUMA**



# Community Outreach



The Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute is proud to be an affiliate of [Project ADAM](#)®, a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve children and adolescents through educational, life-saving programs that help prevent sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

This program provides schools and community organizations the education and tools to develop and sustain their SCA response programs. Clinicians from the Nicklaus Children's Heart Institute provide hands-on training and education to schools who wish to become a part of the Project ADAM program.



Food for Salud is a multi-faceted initiative launched at Nicklaus Children's in 2022 that uses the power of food and nutrition to promote the wellbeing of South Florida children and families.



**ENRICH**  
Engage, Nurture & Read  
to Infants & Children

The **ENRICH Literacy Program** was created in collaboration with clinicians to educate and empower all parents to engage, nurture, and read to infants and children. The program provides resources for parents and educators in our community to increase literacy rates from birth and beyond.

ENRICH aligns with our Nicklaus Children's Health System mission  
"to be where the children are."



**THE PERRY  
INITIATIVE**

**SAFE  
KIDS**  
MIAMI-DADE  
COUNTY



## Nicklaus Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Programs

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is the Proud Lead Organization for the Miami-Dade County SAFE KIDS Coalition. The Miami-Dade County SAFE KIDS Coalition is comprised of public, private and voluntary organizations united and committed to identify and significantly reduce unintentional deaths and injuries to the children of South Florida. We respond to the needs of our community by providing professional education, practical training programs, and legislative initiatives essential to promote the safety and wellbeing of our children.

# Moving the Next Generation of Clinicians Forward: Residencies & Fellowships



# About Our Institute



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

Orthopedic, Sports Medicine  
& Spine Institute

# About Our Institute



7

Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeons



4

Spine Surgeons



200+

Spinal Surgeries Per Year



34,000

Annual Outpatient Clinical Visits



1

Fellowship Pediatric Spine Surgeon



1,600

Surgical Procedures Per Year



6

Service Locations



27

Countries Served



19

States Served

Source: 2023 Data \*\*Confirming

# Orthopedic, Sports Medicine, & Spine Institute



- A brand new 19,000-square-foot facility opened Q1 2025.
  - 18 Exam Rooms
  - 3 Cast Rooms
  - Imaging Suite featuring 2 x-ray machines and state-of-the-art EOS imaging machine.
  - 2 Conference Rooms



# Meet the Team

<https://www.nicklauschildrens.org/medical-services/orthopedics/meet-the-team>



Where Your Child Matters Most™

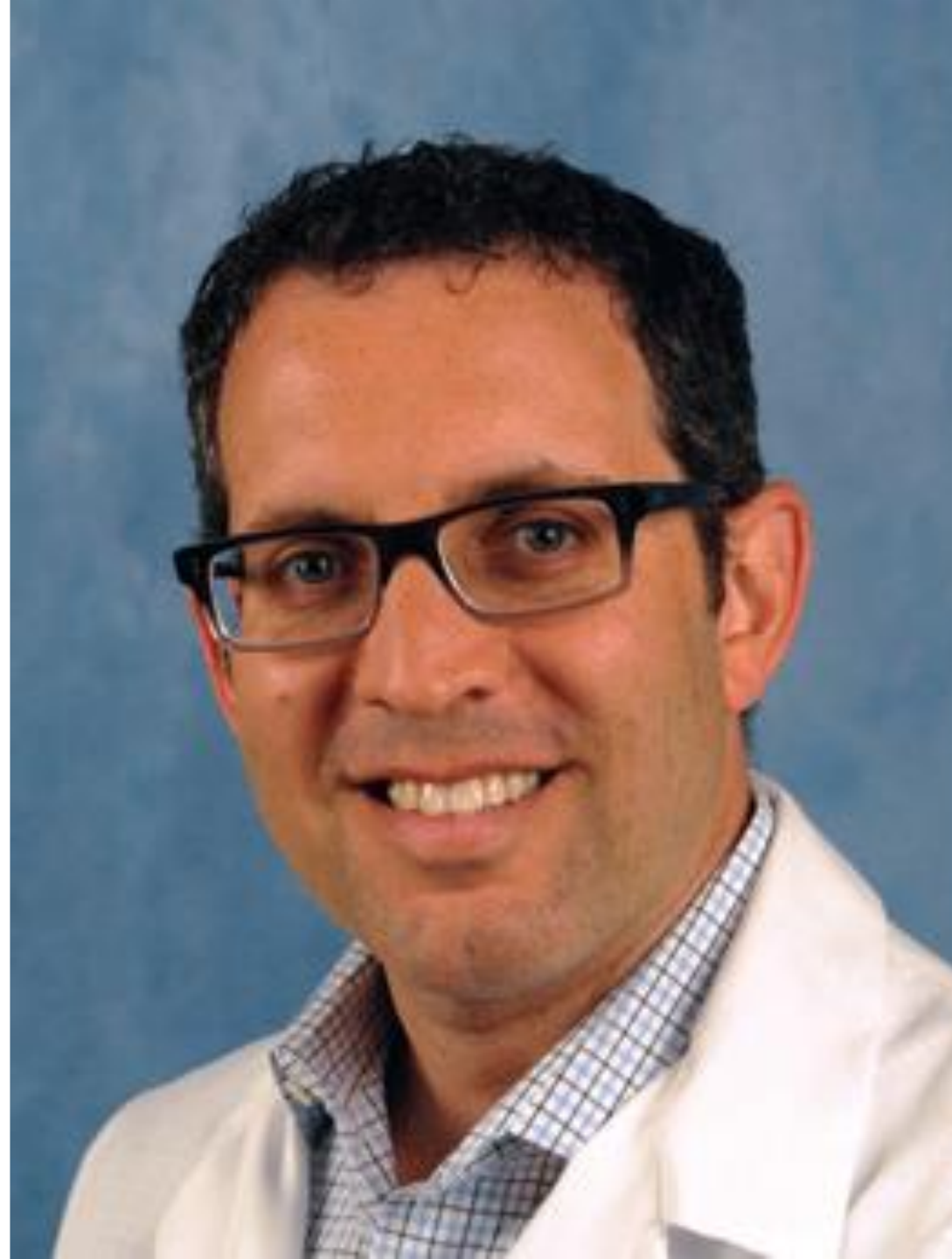
# Craig J. Spurdle, MD

- Chief of Orthopedic Surgery
  - Director, Nicklaus Children's Ambulatory Surgery Center
  - Director, Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists
  - Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Board Certified
- **Graduate** - Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.
- **Residency** - Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Miami / Jackson Memorial Hospital.
- **Fellowship** - Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite Hospital in Georgia.
- Dr. Spurdle is an assistant professor at the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and NOVA Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- *Fun Fact: He is a former member of the U.S. World Cup Ski Team and travels with the U.S. World Cup Ski and Snowboard Teams as an on-snow physician.*



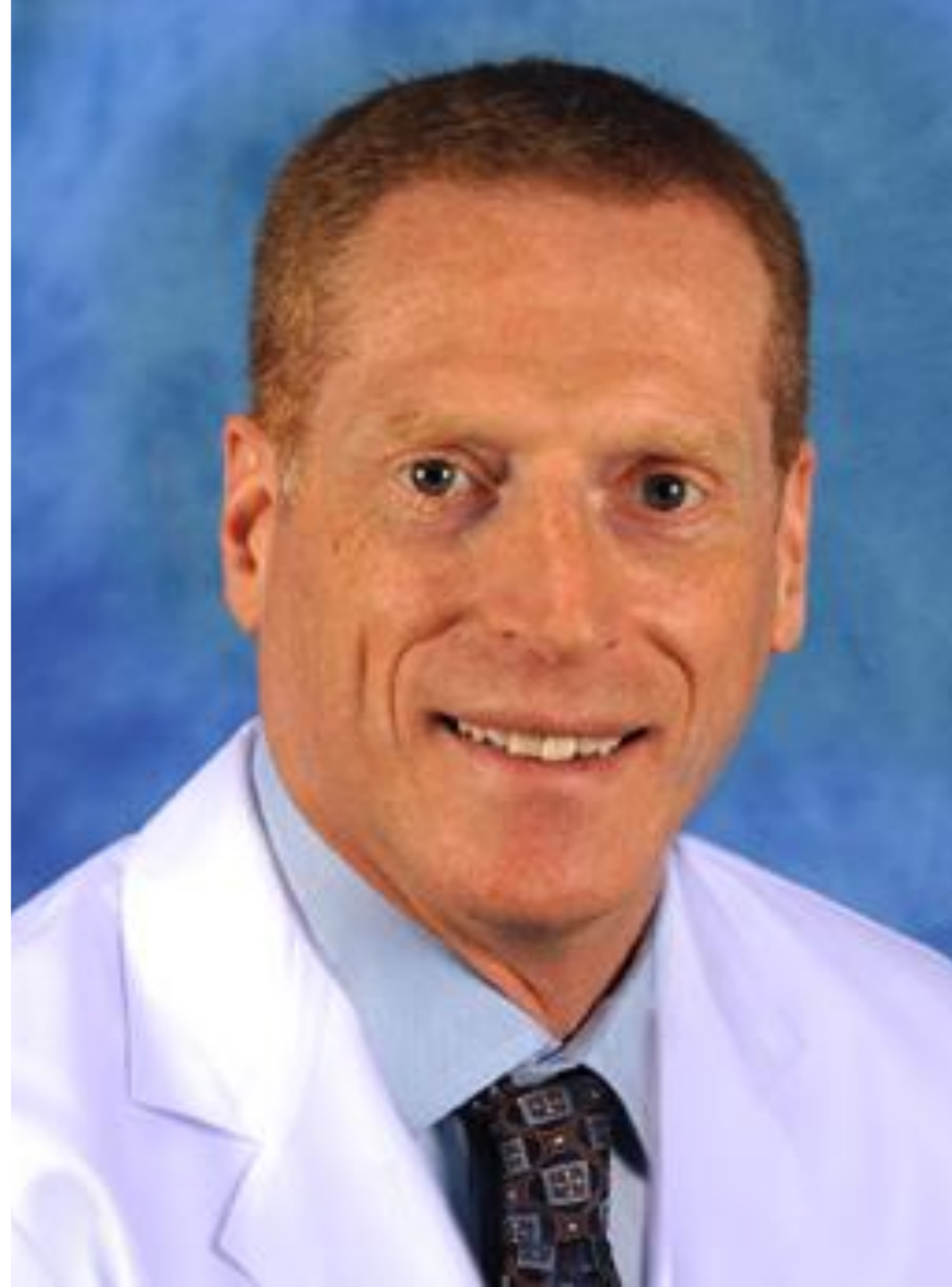
# Avi C. Baitner, MD

- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Board Certified
- [Graduate](#) - SUNY, Health Science Center
- [Residency](#) - SUNY at Stony Brook
- [Fellowship](#) - Children's Hospital San Diego
- Specialties: Pediatric hip and foot deformities including developmental hip dysplasia and clubfoot, congenital and acquired abnormalities of the skeletal system, limb deformity, pediatric fractures and orthopedic trauma.
- *Fun Fact: Dr. Baitner is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Medical Association, and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.*



# Kevin S. Horowitz, MD

- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Board Certified
- [Graduate](#) - University of Michigan Medical School
- [Residency](#) - William Beaumont Hospital
- [Fellowship](#) - Children's Healthcare of Atlanta & Schulthess Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland
- Specialties: Hip disorders, pediatric fractures and orthopedic trauma
- *Fun Fact: Dr. Horowitz is a diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Horowitz enjoys seeing the general orthopedic population and has special clinical interests in hip disorders of children, adolescents, general pediatric orthopedics and trauma including hip preservation surgery.*



# Roger E. Saldana, MD

- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Board Certified
- [Graduate](#) - University of Florida
- [Residency](#) - Tufts University
- [Fellowship](#) - Shriners/St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia
- Specialties: Pediatric sports-related injuries, limb abnormalities, general pediatric orthopedic surgery, pediatric fractures and orthopedic trauma
- *Fun Fact: Prior to joining Nicklaus Children's, Dr. Saldana served as Pediatric Orthopedics Medical Director at Baptist Health's Miami Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Institute. Nicklaus Children's and Baptist Health are pleased to collaborate in providing pediatric care excellence via a partnership established during the COVID-19 pandemic. The health systems share a common goal of offering the best care possible to the children and families of the region.*



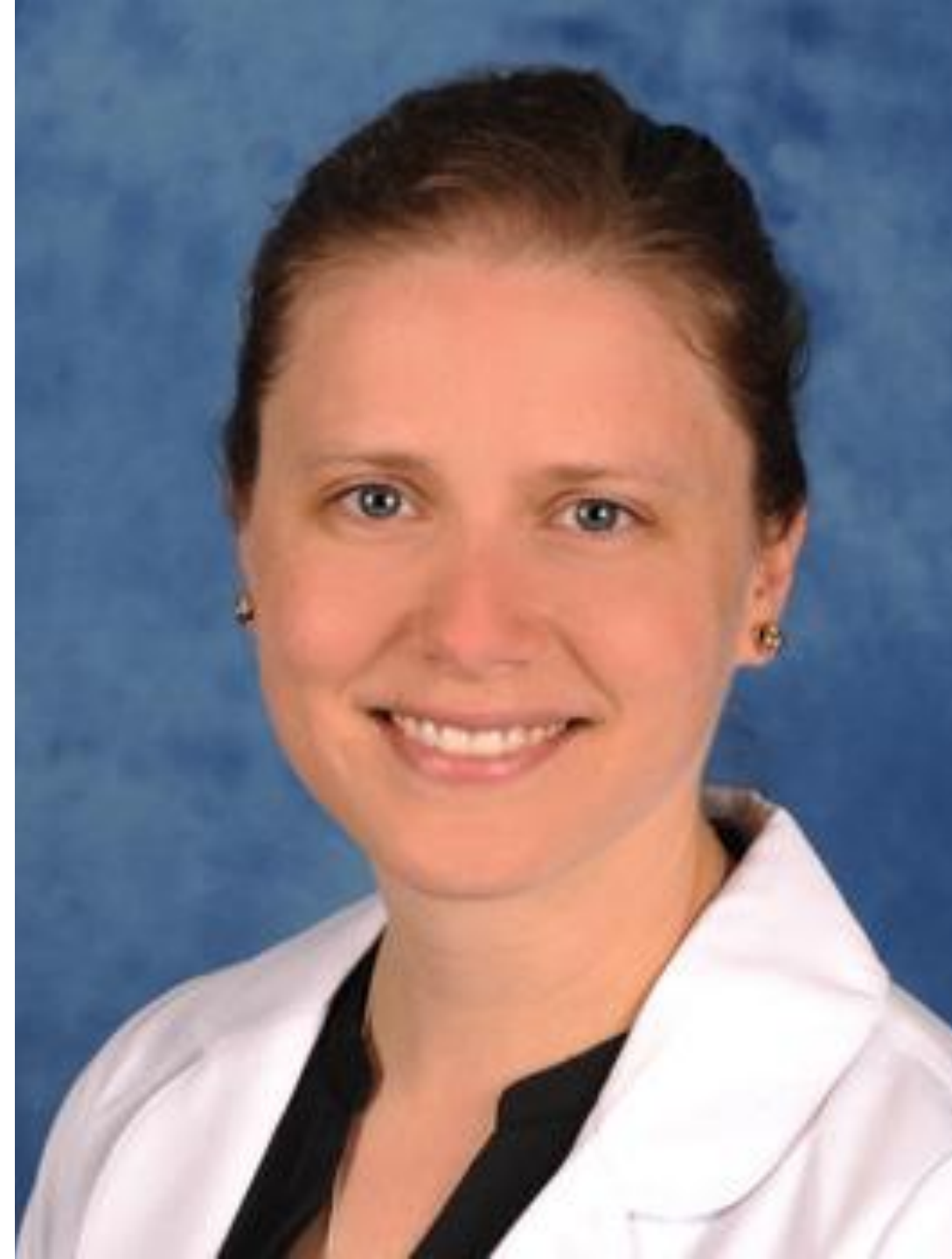
# Thomas J. Utset-Ward, MD, MBA

- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthopedic Oncology
- [Graduate](#) - Vanderbilt University
- [Residency](#) - University of Chicago Hospital
- [Fellowship](#) - Ohio State University Hospitals & Nationwide Children's Hospital
- [Masters in Business Administration](#) - Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management
- Specialties: Pediatric orthopedic oncology, sarcoma, limb salvage and reconstruction, pediatric arthroplasty and general pediatric orthopedic surgery.
- *Fun Fact: Dr. Utset-Ward is a member of the Children's Oncology Group, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Musculoskeletal Tumor Society, American Association of Latino Orthopedic Surgeons and American Orthopedic Association's Emerging Leaders Program. He has been published in peer-reviewed journals, written chapters for medical textbooks, presented at medical conferences and serves as a reviewer for orthopedic peer-reviewed journals.*



# Margaret L. Wright, MD

- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Board Certified
- **Graduate** - Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- **Residency** - Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- **Fellowship** - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia & Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
- **Specialties:** Pediatric sports-related injuries, pediatric fractures and orthopedic trauma as well as general pediatric orthopedics
- **Fun Fact:** *Dr. Wright is a member of the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America (POSNA) and American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM). Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and she has presented at medical conferences, as well as contributed chapters for medical textbooks.*



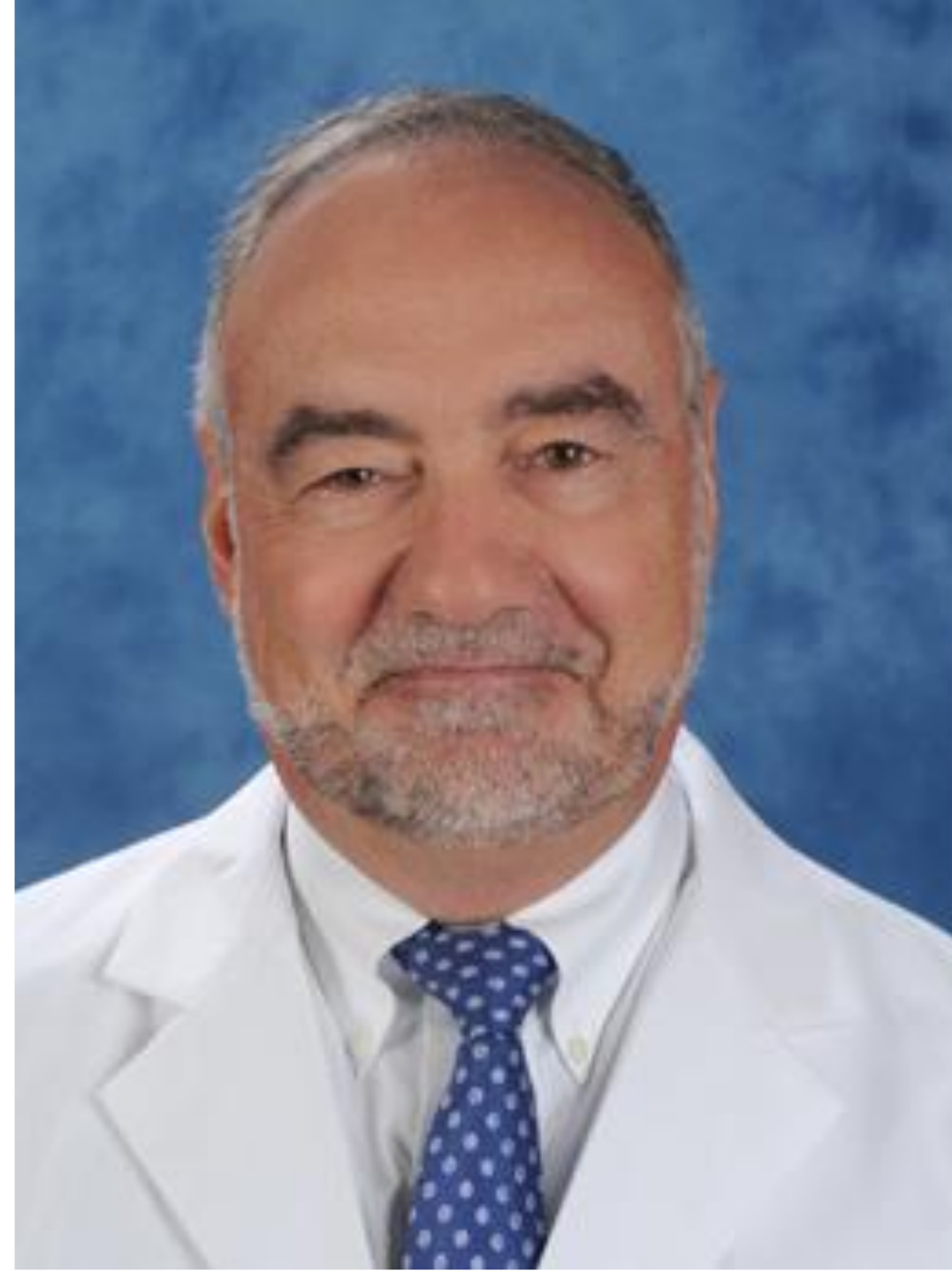
# Stephen G. George, MD

- Director of Spine Surgery, Nicklaus Children's Hospital  
Medical Director of Surgical Services, Nicklaus Children's Hospital  
Director, Nicklaus Children's Pediatric Specialists (NCPS)  
Board Certified
- **Graduate** - University of Rochester School of Medicine
- **Residency** - University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital
- **Fellowship** - Howard Hughes Medical Institute & NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital
  - **Research** - Howard Hughes Medical Institute
- **Specialties:** Complex spinal deformities, kyphosis, scoliosis, kyphosis and spondylolisthesis
- **Fun Fact:** *His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals and he has presented at conferences both nationally and globally. He is a member of the Scoliosis Research Society, North American Spine Society, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Florida Orthopaedic Society, and Harms Study Group, a renowned pediatric spinal deformity research group.*



# Thomas Errico, MD

- Associate Director of Pediatric Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Spine
- [Graduate - Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#)
- [Residency - NYU Langone Medical Center](#)
- [Fellowship - Toronto General Hospital](#)
- Specialties: Complex spinal disorders and scoliosis
- *Fun Fact: Early in his career, he trained under three prior presidents of the Scoliosis Research Society: Dr. Gordon Engler, Dr. John Kostuik and Dr. Theodore Waugh. He holds more than 150 registered patents and has been instrumental in developing some of the latest and most innovative techniques in spinal surgery. Dr. Errico served as president of the International Society of the Advancement of Spine Surgery from 2010-2011. In addition, he was president of the North American Spine Society from 2003-2004.*



# Subaraman Ramchandran, MD

- Pediatric Orthopedic Spine Physician
- **Graduate** - Maharashtra University of Health Sciences/Seth G.S. Medical College and King Edward Memorial Hospital
- **Residency** - Maharashtra University of Health Sciences/Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College and Hospital
- **Fellowship** - NYU Langone Health
  - **Research** - NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital
- **Specialties:** Complex spinal deformities, spinal tumors and degenerative spinal pathologies
- **Fun Fact:** . Ramchandran is a member of the AOSpine International and North America, International Society for Advancement of Spine Surgery, North American Spine Society, Association of Spine Surgeons of India and the Bombay Orthopedic Society. His work has been published in more than 20 peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Ramchandran has also written chapters for medical textbooks and presented at medical conferences both nationally and globally.



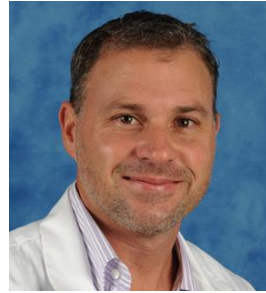
# Orthopedic Advanced Practice Providers



Stephen Bodden, PA-C



David Figueroa, PA-C



Miguel Lopez, PA-C



Patrice Neil, MMS, PA-C



Caroline Pallidine, APRN



Eduardo Romero, PA-C



Sarah Toledo, PA-C



Stephanie Aguilar, PA-C

# Spine Advanced Practice Providers



Jacqueline Amazon, PA-C



Yessenia Becraft, APRN



Alejandra Patterson, APRN



Evelyn Silva, APRN

# Nursing Team



Stacie Arce, RN



Jody Nobles, RN



Melaine Valle, RN



Nicole Orozco, BSN, RN



Lauren Zubizarreta, BSN, RN

# Athletic Training Program

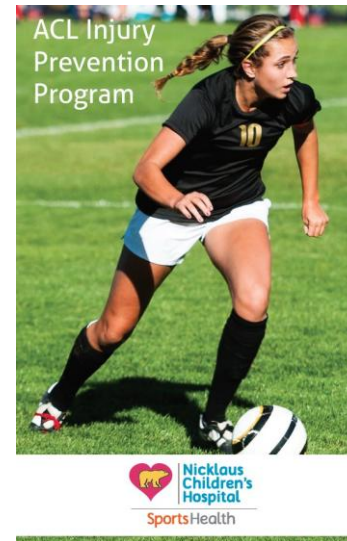
- 11 Full-time Athletic Trainers
- 7 Per Diem Athletic Trainers
- Over 30 contacts with schools (Miami-Dade & Broward County)
- Strong referral source to Sports Medicine
- High surgical conversion rates
- Affiliations
  - Miami City Ballet
  - New World School of the Arts
  - Miami Dolphins Youth Organization

## Collaboration with National Organizations

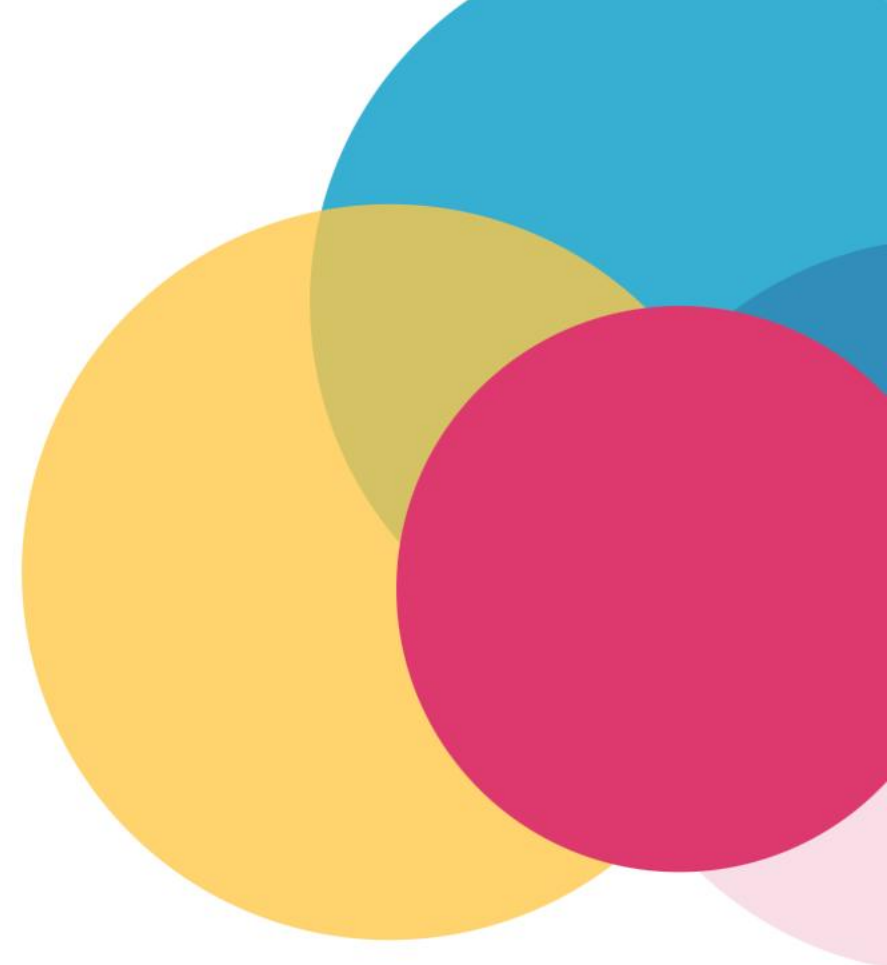
- National Youth Sports Strategy Champion
- Aspen institute Project Play Champion
- STOP Sports Injuries

## Injury Prevention and Performance Programs

- Dance Medicine and Rehabilitation Services
- ACL Injury Prevention & Return to Sport Testing programs
- Running Injury Prevention Program
- Youth Athletic Development Program



# Specialty Programs



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

Orthopedic, Sports Medicine  
& Spine Institute

# Fracture & Trauma Care

- The Miguel "Mike" B. Fernandez Family Pediatric Trauma Center
  - One of only two freestanding Level I pediatric trauma centers in Florida
  - The only freestanding pediatric trauma center in South Florida
- LifeFlight® Critical Care Transport
  - Safely transports infants and children from local clinics and hospitals in Florida as well as the Caribbean, and South and Central America.

*Transporting more than **5,000** infants and children per year to Nicklaus Children's Hospital.*

**Source: 2023 Stats provided by Marketing**



## Daily Fracture Care Orthopedic Clinic

- *high-volume outpatient clinic stationed in the NCH ED*



# Sports Medicine Program



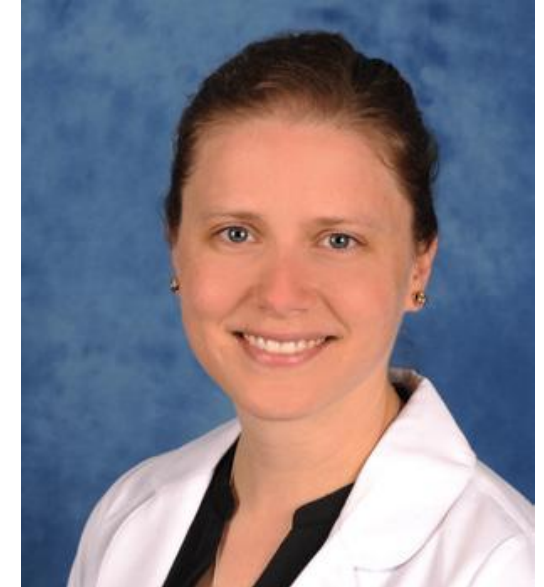
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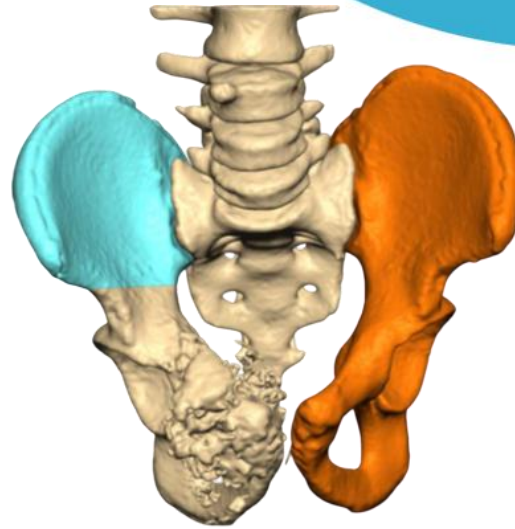
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

- Shoulder, Elbow, Knee, & Ankle arthroscopy
- Physeal-sparing ACL reconstruction
- BEAR implant & Nanoscope technology

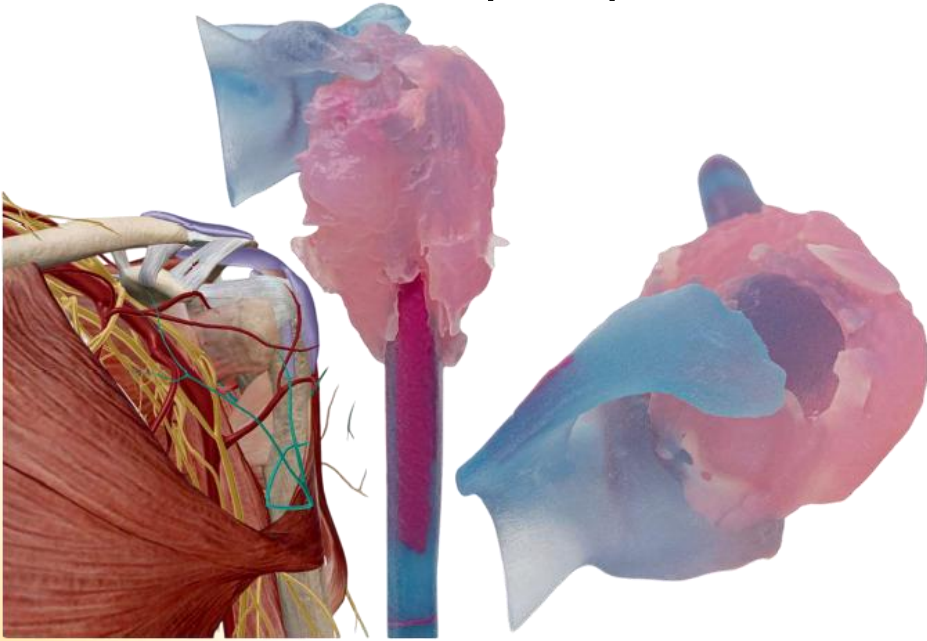


# Orthopedic Oncology Program

- Comprehensive Sarcoma treatment
- 3D Modeling, 3D Printing, and patient- specific guides
- Custom Implants
- Non-Invasive Growing Implants
- Rotationplasty
- Pediatric Hip Replacement



Thomas Utset-Ward, MD, MBA  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon  
Orthopedic Oncologist

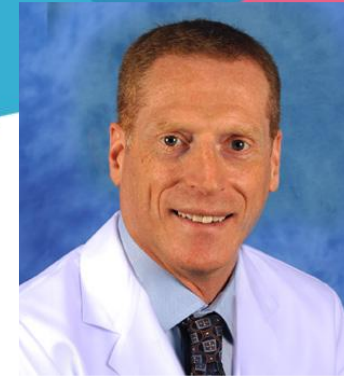


# Limb Lengthening & Reconstruction Program

- Complex congenital reconstruction
- Advanced foot/ankle reconstruction
- Pelvic osteotomies & hip reconstruction
- Stature Lengthening
- “Robotic” hexapod & Internal bone lengthening



Avi C. Baitner, MD,



Kevin S. Horowitz, MD



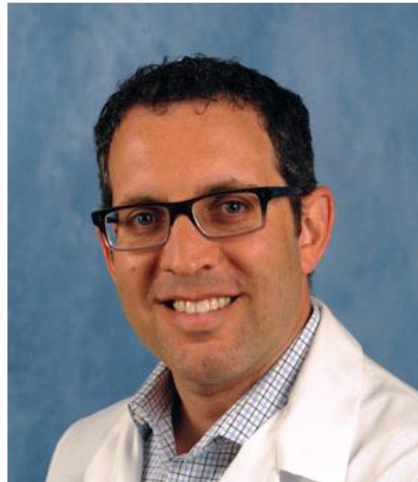
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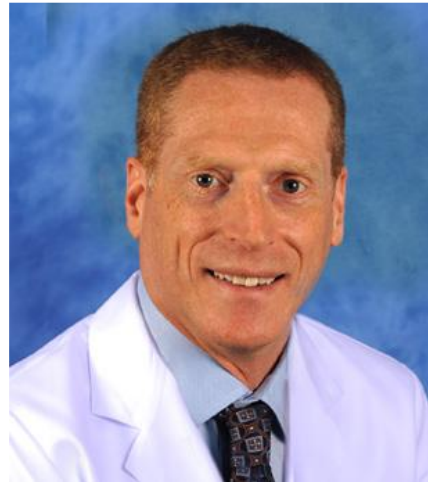
# Neuromuscular Center

## Multi-disciplinary clinics:

- Spasticity
- Spine Bifida



Avi C. Baitner, MD,  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon



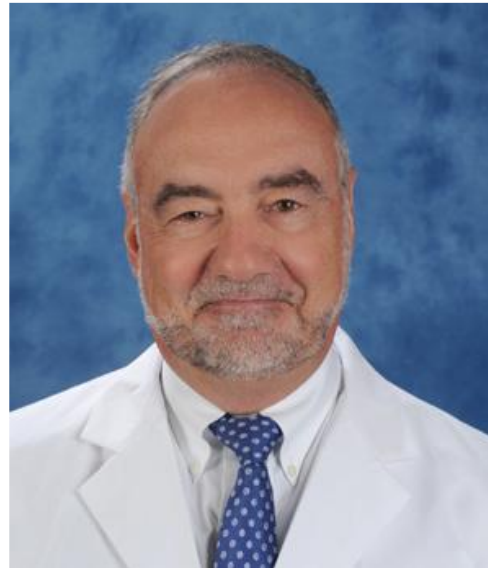
Kevin S. Horowitz, MD  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon



# Center for Spine Disorders



**Stephen G. George, MD**  
Director of Spine Surgery  
Medical Director of Surgical Services



**Thomas Errico, MD**  
Associate Director of Pediatric Spine Surgery



**Subaraman Ramchandran, MD**  
Pediatric Spine Surgeon

# The NCH Peds Ortho Fellowship

- AGCME accredited program
- Comprehensive exposure to all pediatric ortho subspecialties
- Weekly pre-op/post-op case conference
- Research opportunities
- “Fellow-friendly” program
  - High surgical hours/numbers
  - Schedule allows for sub-specialty focus
  - No mandatory on-call hours



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital

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Orthopedic, Sports Medicine  
& Spine Institute

A photograph of five diverse children of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling warmly at the camera. They are lying on their stomachs on a grassy field. The background is a bright, sunny outdoor setting with trees and a clear sky. The text 'Thank you!' is overlaid in a large, blue, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Thank you!



Nicklaus  
Children's  
Hospital