

I. OVERVIEW

A. Nicklaus Children's Hospital (NCH)



Welcome to Nicklaus Children's Hospital (Formerly known as Miami Children's Hospital), a world leader in pediatric healthcare. Nicklaus Children's Hospital® is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children with more than 650 attending physicians, over 2,000 employees, and over 130 pediatric sub-specialists. The 289-bed hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medical care from birth through adolescence. Nicklaus Children's Hospital offers more than 40 pediatric specialties and subspecialties, and is home to Florida's only free-standing pediatric trauma center. The hospital is routinely ranked among the best children's hospitals in the nation. Nicklaus Children's is also home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and has been designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet facility, the nursing profession's most prestigious institutional honor. At Nicklaus Children's the focus is always on advancements in pediatric medicine.

Nicklaus Children's Hospital's mission is to provide excellent family centered healthcare to children in an academic environment that exceeds the expectations of those we serve and educate; as well as to collaborate with others in our community to improve the health status of children.

Thanks to the founding vision of Dr. Arthur H. Weiland, Variety Children's Hospital opened its doors on March 20, 1950, just as the polio epidemic was encompassing the United States. Variety Children's Hospital was soon deemed the southern center for persons suffering from polio. Throughout the years, the hospital continued to grow and offer new services to meet the needs of the community. Renamed Miami Children's Hospital in 1986, and Nicklaus Children's Hospital in March 2015; this once small facility is a non-profit, freestanding children's hospital that is internationally recognized for its outstanding medical care, research and innovation.

In 1982, Ambassador David M. Walters activated Nicklaus Children's Hospital Foundation to meet that pledge. Following the tragic loss of his six-year old granddaughter Shannon from leukemia, Ambassador Walters vowed that no child ever need leave South Florida to receive the highest caliber medical care.

His legacy lives on today. Ambassador Walters' passion for children's health and his commitment to raising the money to help fund the best pediatric care for all children, led to the Foundation becoming the largest single supporter and source of continued funding for Nicklaus Children's Hospital. It is through those contributions that Nicklaus Children's Hospital grew and earned its reputation as a world-leader in pediatric health care.

B. NCH Graduate Medical Education (GME)

Mission Statement

The GME program at NCH strives to provide an ideal environment for the acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for its graduates to achieve the highest levels of professional and personal accomplishment and to safeguard the public trust. In so doing, we

support a balanced educational program comprised of individual programs united under a common institutional goal and with shared participation in an interdisciplinary curriculum. The Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) represents an organized division within the Department of Medical Education, and is directed by Director of Medical Education (DME)/ Designated Institutional Official (DIO) who oversees the NCH GME training programs. These programs include General Pediatric Residency Program, Pediatric Medical and Surgical Subspecialty programs, Pediatric Dentistry, Pharmacy, Psychology, and Physician Assistant training programs. The DME's/ DIO's responsibilities include institutional oversight; maintenance of contracts and affiliation agreements; coordination of salaries, benefits, and insurance; and implementation of GMEC policies and procedures.



C. NCH – Institutional Oversight of Graduate Medical Education

Nicklaus Children's Hospital is committed to the highest quality institutional oversight of its Graduate Medical Education (GME) Programs. A Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) is chaired by the DIO and provides oversight of all training programs. The GMEC committee meets every month and is comprised of hospital administrators, the Safety and Quality Institutional Director, the program directors, key teaching faculty, and residents' representatives, coordinators, and other guests. Its role is defined by the ACGME. Below is the list of the members of the GMEC:

Co-Representative	Co-Representative
COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP	
Rani Gereige, MD Chair Director of Medical Education Designated Institutional Official (DIO)	Beatriz Cunill, MD Vice Chair Director, Pediatric Core Program
TRAINING PROGRAMS LEADERSHIP	
Beatriz Cunill, MD Director, Pediatric Core Program Maria Behnam-Terneus, DO Associate Director, Pediatric Core Program	Mark Gabay, DO Associate Director, Pediatric Core Program

Anuj Jayakar, MD Director, Child Neurology Program Wilson Heredia Nunez, MD & Sayed Naqvi, MD Associate Directors, Child Neurology Program	Andrea Granados, MD Director, Pediatric Endocrinology Program Adriana Carrillo-Iregui, MD Associate Director, Pediatric Endocrinology Program
Michael Leoncio, DO Director, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Program Kaitlin Kobaitri, DO Associate Director, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Program	Renee Morgan, MD Director, Adolescent Medicine Program
Jason Katz, MD Director, Pediatric Cardiology Program Sherrie Joy Baysa, MD & Ryan Halickman, MD Associate Directors, Pediatric Cardiology Program	Michelle Blumstein, MD Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Program Ana Maria Paez, MD Associate Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Program
Luis Caicedo, MD Director, Pediatric Gastroenterology Program Lina Felipez, MD; Annette Medina, MD; & Carla Perez, MD Associate Directors, Pediatric Gastroenterology Program	Melissa Clemente, MD Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program Maria Behnam-Terneus, DO Associate Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine Program
Marytery Fajardo, MD Director, Clinical Neurophysiology Program Anuj Jayakar, MD Associate Director, Clinical Neurophysiology Program	Americo Padilla, MD Director, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Program Nicole Redondo, MD Associate Director, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Program
L. Santiago Medina, MD Director, Pediatric Radiology Program	Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo, MD Director, Allergy-Immunology Program
Ziad Khatib, MD Director, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Program Ossama Maher, MD Associate Director, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Program	Fuad Al Khoury, MD Director, Pediatric Surgery Program Shahab A. Shaffieh, MD Associate Director, Pediatric Surgery Program
Jordan Steinberg, MD Director, Craniofacial Plastic Surgery Program	Daniel Nassau, MD Director, Pediatric Urology Program
Kevin Horowitz, MD Director, Pediatric Orthopedics Program	Toba Niazi, MD Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery Program (NST)
Oscar Arevalo, DMD Director, Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program Lesbia Drukeinis, DDS Associate Director, Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program	Rose M. Alvarez-Salvat, PhD Director, Psychology Internship Program
Bhavi Patel, DO Director, Pediatric CICU Program (NST)	Keith Meyer, MD Director, Pediatric Neurocritical Care Program
Thomas Errico, MD Director, Pediatric Orthopedic Spine Program (NST)	David Kalfa, MD Director, Pediatric Congenital Heart Surgery Program (NST)
TEACHING FACULTY	
Alexandra Byrne, MD Director, FIU Pediatric Clerkship Alt: Julie Kantor, MD Associate Director, FIU Pediatric Clerkship	Alexis Kowalski, MD Director, SGU Pediatric Clerkship
Maria Milla, MD Attending, Continuity Clinic General Pediatrics and/or Designee	Athena Pefkarou, MD Attending, Div of Ped Hem/Onc

Magaly Diaz-Barbosa, MD Attending, Chief Division of Neonatology (Administrator)	Juan Carlos Meneses Paz, MD Attending, Div of Hospitalist Services and/or Designee
Christie De La Vega, DO Attending, Pediatric Hospital Medicine	Anamaria Pulido, MD Attending, Pediatric Hospital Medicine
Pedro Pagan, MD Attending, Pediatric Endocrinology	Marisa Azaret, PsyD , Department of Psychology
TRAINEES	
Maria Rodriguez, MD Chief Resident, PGY4	Lucila Servitje Azcarraga, MD Chief Resident, PGY4
PGY1 Rep: Erick Delgado, MD Pediatric Resident - PGY1	PGY1 Rep: Daniel Torres Vega, MD Pediatric Resident - PGY1 PGY1 Rep: Alegria Lusinchi Delfino, MD Pediatric Resident - PGY1
PGY2 Rep: Nicolas Benelli, MD Pediatric Resident – PGY2 PGY2 Rep: Kimberly Baez Nicodemo, MD Pediatric Resident – PGY2	PGY2 Rep: Maria Valle-Nodal, MD Pediatric Resident – PGY2
PGY3 Rep: Alexia Perez, MD Pediatric Resident – PGY3	PGY3 Rep: Andres Vargas Espana, MD Pediatric Resident – PGY3 PGY3 Rep: Paola Torres, DO Pediatric Resident – PGY3
Fellows Rep: Maria Victoria Lorenzo, MD Pediatric Endocrinology Fellow – YEAR 1	Fellows Rep: Natalia Cardona Echeverri, MD Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow – YEAR 1
Fellows Rep: Dianelis Hernandez, MD Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellow – YEAR 2	Fellows Rep: Sushma Kakkerla, MD Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellow – YEAR 2
Fellows Rep: Trento Rivera, MD Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow – YEAR 3	Fellows Rep: Kara Gay-Simon, MD Pediatric Cardiology Fellow – YEAR 3
Dental Resident Rep: Carolina Gonzales, DDS Pediatric Dentistry Resident – Chief Resident	
VOTING COORDINATOR	
Elizabeth Menocal, CPMSM, CPCS Department Administrative Director, VP Clinical Affairs Institutional Coordinator	Randy Harmatz Matott VP/ Chief Quality Officer Alts: Janice Yanez, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, CPPS – Director of Patient Safety Frederick Trent Quality Resource Administrator
INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION (EX-OFFICIO, NON-VOTING)	
Marcos Mestre, MD, MBA Senior Vice President, Chief Clinical Operations Officer Nicklaus Children’s Health System	
Amea Hall, PhD Research Educator, Research Institute	- Legal Counsel (AdHoc)
NON-VOTING GUESTS	

Ana Otero, C-TAGME Institutional Coordinator, Medical Education	Alina Gonzalez, C-TAGME Lead Residency Coordinator; Medical Education
Brandy Bluett, C-TAGME Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education	Galia Huerta, C-TAGME Residency Coordinator; Medical Education
Gloria Montecelo, C-TAGME Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education	Adelynn Torres Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education
Jacqueline Vassallo Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education	Sary Soler Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education
Nitza Montenegro Fellowship Coordinator; Medical Education	Katherine Hernandez Coordinator; Medical Education
Catalina Dunoyer Coordinator, Neurology	Kelly Reardon Pediatric Dentistry Coordinator
Monica Martinez Coordinator, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	Kari Bollerman Coordinator, Pediatric Neurosurgery

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

Responsibilities of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC)

(Adapted from the ACGME Institutional Requirements)

The GMEC along with the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) have the authority and responsibility for the **oversight** and **administration** of the Sponsoring Institution's ACGME-accredited programs, as well as responsibility for **ensuring compliance** with the ACGME Institutional, Common, and Specialty/Subspecialty- Specific Program Requirements, and the Sponsoring Institution's Governing Body. The GMEC must meet a minimum of once every quarter during each academic year. Each meeting of the GMEC must include attendance by at least one resident/fellow peer-selected member.

The GMEC responsibilities must include:

A- Oversight of:

- The ACGME accreditation & recognition statuses of the Sponsoring Institution and its ACGME-accredited programs
- The quality of the GME learning and working environment within the Sponsoring Institution, each if its ACGME-accredited programs, and its participating sites
- The quality of educational experiences in each ACGME-accredited program that lead to measurable achievement of educational outcomes as identified in the ACGME Common and specialty/subspecialty-specific Program Requirements
- The ACGME-accredited programs' annual evaluation(s) and self-study(ies)
- ACGME-accredited programs' implementation of institutional policy(ies) for vacation and leaves of absence including medical, parental, and caregiver leaves of absence, at least annually.
- All processes related to reductions and closures of individual ACGME-accredited programs, major participating sites, and the Sponsoring Institution.

- The provision of summary information of patient safety reports to residents, fellows, faculty members, and other clinical staff members. At a minimum, this oversight must include verification that such summary information is being provided.

B- Review and approval of:

- The institutional GME policies and procedures
- GMEC subcommittee actions that address required GMEC responsibilities
- Annual recommendations to the Sponsoring Institution's administration regarding resident/fellow stipends and benefits
- Applications for ACGME accreditation of new programs
- Requests for permanent changes in resident/fellow complement
- Major changes in each in each of its ACGME-accredited programs' structure or duration of education, including any change in the designation of a program's primary clinical site
- Additions and deletions of each of its ACGME-accredited programs' participating sites
- Appointment of new program directors
- Progress reports requested by a Review Committee
- Responses to Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) reports
- Requests for exceptions to clinical and educational work hour requirements
- Voluntary withdrawal of ACGME program accreditation or recognition
- Requests for appeal of an adverse action by a Review Committee
- Appeal presentations to an ACGME Appeals Panel.
- Exceptionally qualified candidates for resident/fellow appointments who do not satisfy the Sponsoring Institution's resident/fellow eligibility policy and/or resident/fellow eligibility requirements in the Common Program requirements

C- Demonstrate effective oversight of the Sponsoring Institution's accreditation through an Annual Institutional Review (AIR)

- The GMEC must identify **institutional performance indicators** for the AIR to include, at a minimum:
 - The most recent ACGME institutional letter of notification
 - Results of ACGME surveys of residents/fellows and core faculty members
 - Each of its ACGME-accredited program's ACGME accreditation information, including accreditation & recognition statuses and citations.
- The DIO must submit annually a written executive summary of the AIR to the Sponsoring Institution's Governing Body. The written summary must include:
 - A summary of institutional performance indicators for the AIR
 - Action plans and performance monitoring procedures resulting from the AIR.

D- Demonstrate effective oversight of underperforming programs through a Special Review process.

- The Special Review process must include a protocol that:
 - Establishes a variety of criteria for identifying underperformance that includes, at a minimum, program accreditation statuses of Initial Accreditation with Warning, Continued Accreditation with Warning, and adverse accreditation statuses as described by ACGME policies

- Results in a timely report that describes the quality improvement goals, the corrective actions, and the process for GMEC monitoring of outcomes, including timeline.

As of July 2026

D. Statement of Institutional Support:



**Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital**

INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Nicklaus Children's Hospital (NCH) is a sponsoring institution and principal training site for several Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. NCH is committed to excellence in medical education, research, and patient care by providing the necessary educational, financial, and human resources to support GME, including GME administrative staff, residents' salaries and benefits, program leadership support, space, equipment, supplies, research, and protected time to allow for effective oversight of its programs.

As the Sponsoring Institution, NCHS / NCH, its Board of Directors, and Medical Executive Committee support an organized administrative system whereby the Department of Medical Education and its GME programs are under the direction of and accountable to the hospital senior leadership, as designated by the Board of Directors. The system implementation is led by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) in collaboration with the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) to oversee all residency programs. NCH Commits that all ACGME/CODA/APA/ASHP/ACPNF and other non-accredited programs will be in substantial compliance with institutional, common, specialty, and subspecialty-specific program requirements.

The commitment of NCH to GME is exhibited by the provision of leadership, organizational structure, and resources that enable residents to achieve personal and professional development under the guidance and careful supervision of the faculty and staff. This includes providing an ethical, professional, and educational environment in which the curricular requirements as well as the applicable requirements for scholarly activity, QI, research, general competencies, and milestones can be met and exceeded. The regular assessment of the quality of the GME programs, the performance of the residents, and the use of outcome assessment results for program improvement are essential components of this commitment.

The Board of Directors, the Medical Staff Leadership (MEC), the Administration, the teaching faculty and staff support this Statement of Commitment, developed and approved by the GMEC on this **9th day of March 2026**.

Amy Rosenbaum Charley, Esq.
Chair, Board of Directors
Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Leopoldo Malvezzi, MD
President of the Medical Staff
Nicklaus Children's Hospital

Matthew A. Love
President & Chief Executive Officer
Nicklaus Children's Health System

Rani S. Gereige, MD
Executive Director of Medical Education & DIO
Nicklaus Children's Hospital