



**MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

THE MARY ANN KNIGHT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PEDIATRICS  
FOUNDED AS VARIETY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

We're here for the children

# CHILDREN'S HEALTH TALK

*A Miami Children's Hospital Community Update, February 2006*

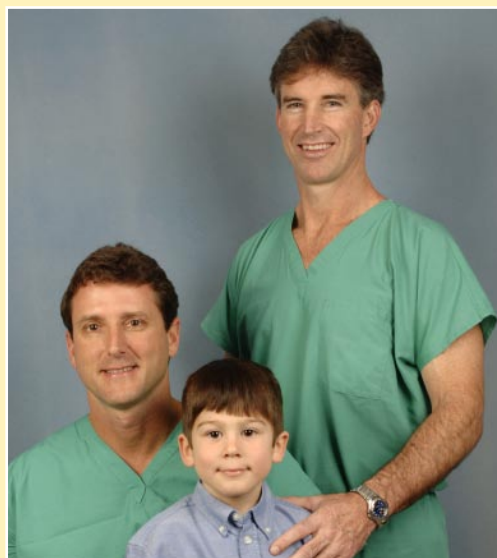
## CONGENITAL HEART INSTITUTE: WORKING WONDERS EVERY DAY

Michele Moser was sleeping in a Boca Raton area hospital following the birth of her second son in 2000, when a doctor entered her room with some alarming news.

Newborn Zane had a life-threatening heart condition and needed to be flown right away to Miami Children's Hospital for care. Within hours, Zane and his father Brandt touched down at Miami Children's, home to the Congenital Heart Institute, a world leader in the care of children with heart defects.

Zane was delivered into good hands. The Congenital Heart Institute (CHI) provides care for more children with congenital heart disorders than any other hospital in Florida and has clinical results that are second to none. The survival rate among Congenital Heart Institute patients is better than 98 percent – among the best in the world.

The institute maintains its remarkable success rate even as it cares for children from all over the world with some of the most complex congenital heart anomalies. Under the leadership of Dr. Redmond P. Burke, Director of the Division of Cardiac Surgery, and Dr. Evan M. Zahn, Director of the Division of Cardiology, the institute offers the most innovative, least invasive approaches to treatment, including many first-in-the-world procedures that



*Dr. Redmond P. Burke and Dr. Evan M. Zahn with their patient, Zane Moser*

were pioneered by the program's own internationally renowned cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons.

In 2002, Miami Children's Hospital joined forces with Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children to form the CHI. Through the CHI, world-renowned physicians located in both Orlando and Miami provide unparalleled care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for children with heart defects.

A highlight of the program is Miami Children's Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, which is one of the few pediatric CICUs in the nation and the first dedicated pediatric cardiac

unit in the Southeast. The unit provides highly specialized pre-operative and post-operative care for children undergoing cardiac surgery and interventional catheterization.

All of this means better care for children like Zane. Within hours of his birth, tiny Zane underwent a minimally invasive hybrid procedure (a technique utilizing the best of cardiac surgery and interventional catheterization) to open up his badly deformed aortic valve. Complex open-heart surgery was ultimately required days later to replace his aortic valve with his own pulmonary valve and replace his pulmonary valve with donor tissue. Most recently Zane underwent a successful interventional catheterization to treat a narrowing that developed within the donor valve. He was back home within 24 hours and back on the soccer field within a week!

In time, an additional procedure will be needed to replace Zane's pulmonary valve. Fortunately, his doctors believe this can be performed with a minimally invasive catheterization procedure rather than more open-heart surgery, as CHI will be among *the first centers in the world* to perform this new technique.

Meanwhile, Zane is enjoying the life of a typical 6-year-old. "Aside from the scar on his chest you'd never know anything was unusual about him," said Michele. The happy kindergartner leads an active life, participating in soccer and other sports.

"We feel fortunate that the doctors and team at Miami Children's have been there for us when we needed them," said Michele.

For more information on the Congenital Heart Institute, call 1-800-666-HART (4278).

## NATION'S FIRST VACC CAMP CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Imagine a childhood spent without ever having the opportunity to run and play, experience the joy of a cool swimming pool on a warm day or share an overnight adventure with friends.

Dr. Moises Simpser of Miami Children's Hospital can well conceive of such circumstances. As Director of the hospital's Division of Pulmonology, he provides care for children with chronic lung diseases, post-traumatic paralysis, muscular dystrophy and many other illnesses that impede a child's ability to



*Dr. Simpser and VACC Camp participant*

breathe independently. A common thread connects the most seriously ill children in his care – their lives are dependent on ventilator technology. Most use wheelchairs and require constant medical monitoring.

Motivated by a desire to touch and enrich the lives of these children, Dr. Simpser in 1986 launched the nation's first recreational camp for children who are ventilator dependent and their families. The free, week-long Ventilator-Assisted Children's Center (VACC) Camp, which is offered each spring, draws families from throughout the nation and has inspired the creation of similar camps in Central Florida, Colorado, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

For the hundreds of individuals who have taken part in VACC Camp over the years, the week-long adventure is usually described as the highlight of their year and an event that brings about life-altering change for the better. Activities include pool time, special nightly theme celebrations, wildlife and magic shows, carnival night, sailing, a trip to the beach and a visit to Bayside.

"A key element of VACC Camp is helping families learn to sweep away barriers for ventilator-assisted children," said Dr. Simpser. "Often the children's lives are severely restricted due to the complexities of leaving the house or medical care setting with the large amount of equipment that must travel with them combined with the necessity of constant monitoring.

"The camp offers a safe, medically supervised environment that entices families to make the trip, either from across town or across the country, and inspires many to take on new adventures on their own," he said.

*For a referral to a Miami Children's Hospital physician, please call 888-MCH-DOCS (624-3627).*

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION CALENDAR

### Parenting Boot Camp

**Saturday, March 11; 10 am to 1 pm**

Parenting Boot Camp is a creative and interactive class for parents and soon to be parents. Our goal is to help new parents learn the value and importance of interacting with their babies in ways that will foster an attached and bonded relationship. Highlights of this program include diaper changing, bathing, appropriate dress, crying, how to recognize when a baby is sick, feeding, developmental stages and child development activities. For more information, please call 305-662-8282.

### Safe Sitter Class

**Saturday, March 18 & 25**

This class teaches 11 - to 15 - year olds how to baby sit safely. The class provides developmentally appropriate activities, feeding and bedtime routines to help teens and preteens care for babies and young children. For more information call 305-662-8282.

### Child Passenger Safety

Child safety is our priority. Child passenger safety technicians will check your child's seat for defects, recalls, installation and fit. Please contact the Division of Preventive Medicine at 305-663-6800.

### CPR Class

**Monday, March 27; 6 pm to 8 pm**

This course in Pediatric CPR teaches parents, grandparents and caregivers how to administer CPR to infants and children. Please call 305-662-8282 for further information

### Sibsops

Monthly fun-filled sessions for siblings of children with special needs. The program provides opportunities for children to share personal feelings, experiences and concerns, while taking part in fun activities. For more information please call 305-669-7142.

### Adolescent Depression/Anxiety Group

**Mondays; 4 pm to 5 pm**

Goal is to foster coping skills to alleviate and prevent feelings of anxiety and depression. This group is open to adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17. Please contact 305-666-6511 ext. 2450 for further information.

### Emergent Language Group for Children with Autism

**Thursdays; 4 pm to 4:45 pm**

Music therapy is used to promote language development in children with autism. For more information call 305-666-6511 ext. 2450.

## BECAUSE YOUR CHILD MEANS THE WORLD TO YOU, CHOOSE ONE OF THE BEST PEDIATRIC CARDIAC TEAMS IN THE WORLD.

No hospital in the Southeast knows more about treating congenital heart defects than the physicians at the Congenital Heart Institute at Miami Children's Hospital and Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. They perform more pediatric heart procedures than any other team in Florida with one of the highest success rates in the world. Where true expertise of the heart, comes from the heart. No one knows children like Miami Children's.



Miami Children's Hospital is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
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