



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, November 2006

COMPREHENSIVE CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH RENAL DISEASE

If the basic ingredients of a successful medical practice include highly acclaimed patient care, educational leadership and participation in clinical research, the Division of Nephrology at Miami Children's Hospital has it all.

"Clinical services, education and research are fundamental components of our program," said Felix Ramirez-Seijas, MD, Director of Pediatric Nephrology, who is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric nephrology.

Dr. Ramirez-Seijas launched the hospital's pediatric nephrology program in 1982 so that South Florida children with renal disease could receive diagnostic and treatment services in their own community. Today, the division is the largest provider of pediatric nephrology services in Florida and one of the largest in the nation, with an annual volume of more than 12,000 patient visits.

A Network of Clinics and Dialysis Care

To ensure convenient access to specialized care, Dr. Ramirez-Seijas offers outpatient renal clinics in Weston and West Palm Beach and provides clinics through Children's Medical Services (CMS) in Naples and Marathon.

At the renal clinics, diagnostic examinations and testing can usually be completed in one day, to minimize the need for return visits. "Parents want to know the results as soon as possible," Dr. Ramirez-Seijas said. "We support the families, and coordinate our specialized services in accordance with the



Dr. Felix Ramirez-Seijas, Director of Pediatric Nephrology at Miami Children's Hospital, with Emily, 10, who has been his patient since birth.

desires of our referring pediatricians."

To further serve renal patients, MCH operates the largest pediatric dialysis unit in the state. Services feature dialysis modalities, including hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and continuous arteriovenous hemofiltration. In addition, physicians from the Division of Pediatric Nephrology conduct eight to 10 pediatric kidney transplants per year in collaboration with the local renal transplant facility.

Help for Children with Enuresis

The division's Center for Enuresis and Urinary Disorders, under the direction of Anselmo Cepero-Akselrad, MD, a board-certified pediatric nephrologist, provides care for children with a wide range of dysfunctional urinary disorders including enuresis (bed wetting). The center's specialized programs for children include urodynamic studies, biofeedback and management of urinary incontinence.

Since the late 1990s, the division has also been involved in basic scientific and clinical research, including studies of new medications for various renal diseases. Ana L. Paredes, MD, who is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric nephrology, is Director of Renal Research, and guides the Metabolic Bone Disease Center, which examines the impact of renal failure on growth and bone diseases.

The division has been conducting the nation's first study of osteoporosis in a pediatric population, using a pQCT® scanner to test bone density. Investigators have observed that approximately 20 percent of at-risk participants have osteoporosis and an additional 35 percent have mildly weak bones.

Since it was founded, the Division of Pediatric Nephrology has committed itself to advancing medical education, and has received numerous awards and recognition for its contributions. "Over the years we have been proud to provide training for hundreds of medical students, residents, nurses, fellows and pediatricians. It has been an honor to extend our knowledge to others," said Dr. Ramirez-Seijas.

For a referral to a nephrologist, please contact the MCH Physician Referral Service at 305-624-4543.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CALENDAR

CPR Class MCH South Dade Center 17615 SW 97 Avenue

Monday, December 4, 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.

Child Life Community Field Trips

A tour is conducted by the Child Life Department for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. The tour is designed to increase awareness of the hospital experience. Please contact 305-666-6511, ext. 3845 for further information.

Sibshops

These monthly, fun-filled sessions are 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, call 305-669-7142.

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 for more information.

Adolescent Depression/Anxiety Support Group

Mondays, 4 pm to 5 pm

The goal of this program is to foster coping skills to alleviate and prevent feelings of anxiety and depression. The 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

Wednesdays, 5 pm to 6 pm

Music therapy is used to promote language development in children with autism. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2434.

Social Skills Group for Children with Autism

Wednesdays, 4 pm to 5 pm

Music therapy is used to enhance social skills in children with autism. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2434.

Social Skills Group for Children with Asperger Syndrome

Wednesdays, 4 pm to 5 pm

Music therapy is used to enhance social skills in children with Asperger syndrome. For more information, call 305-666-6511, ext. 2434.

MCH CANCER CENTER ACHIEVES RECOGNITION

The Miami Children's Hospital Cancer Center has been awarded approved cancer program status following an in-depth survey by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Commission on Cancer. The center was granted a full three-year designation and received seven commendations.

"I congratulate the Cancer Center for this significant achievement. This designation brings great credit to Dr. Enrique Escalon, Division Director, and the outstanding team of physicians and staff of the Cancer Center," said Thomas M. Rozek, President and CEO of MCH.

MCH is one of only 12 children's hospitals nationwide and second in Florida to achieve this distinction. It was the first to be recognized under new pediatric standards developed by the ACS.

"I'm proud that we have been recognized as a model for organizing and managing our cancer program that ensures multidisciplinary, integrated, and comprehensive oncology services," said Dr. Enrique Escalon.

The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC) Approvals Program sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the programs to ensure they conform to those standards. Approval by the CoC is given only to those facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. An on-site review is conducted every three years to maintain CoC designation.

SOUTH FLORIDA'S LEADING CHILDREN'S DOCTORS ARE RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS-(305) 624-4543.

The doctors at Miami Children's Hospital are not only among the best in South Florida, they are among the finest in the nation and the world. We have renowned specialists in every facet of pediatric medicine.

MCH is South Florida's one and only hospital exclusively for children. No other physicians have more access to advanced pediatric specific technology, supported by a nationally recognized nursing staff and highly trained professionals.

For an annual physical, or treatment of a pediatric illness or injury, call the Miami Children's Physician Referral Service at 305-624-4543 or log on to www.mch.com.



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