



Giving children the care  
they deserve.



# The crossroads of caring and science.

## A culture of caring

Making kids better is at the heart of our mission, so we create a culture of care for children and their families that comes from the heart. That means making a child's experience as pain-free and kid-friendly as possible. Our staff understands when and how much to communicate with a child. We understand that how a child feels about her surroundings can dramatically affect the outcome of even simple medical procedures.

Children differ from adults in so many ways – from unique symptoms, to how they metabolize medication, to the simple need to play. Our skilled and compassionate pediatric specialists and subspecialists treat only children, so they have the experience and specialized training to treat both the physical and emotional aspects of a sick child.

## Research at the leading edge

While we are proud of the work we do each day to make kids and their families better, it is just as important to look ahead.

Our talented medical professionals are on the leading edge of research and clinical trials, scientific inquiries that will change – indeed, are changing – the future of children's healthcare. From fundamental molecular science that helps us understand diseases at the most basic level, to motion studies designed to discover new ways for



young athletes to avoid injuries, to clinical trials establishing the most effective and efficient protocols for treating children, Connecticut Children's is at the forefront.

Yes, kids are different. And they deserve the kind of specialized care available at Connecticut's only free standing pediatric medical center, Connecticut Children's.

To Dr Weiss & staff  
Thank you so much  
for fixing my arm after I  
got bit by a horse. It was  
scary to see the insides of  
my arm so I'm glad you  
stitched it up. It feels O.K.  
now and I have a cool

Scar!  
From Luke  
age 6



“We are at the leading edge of research and technology, but often our success hinges on gaining the trust of a child.”

*William Zempsky, MD*



## Care focused on the needs of a child.

Connecticut Children's is the only academic medical center in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to children. We have 115 pediatric sub-specialists and the largest, busiest children's primary care center between New York and Boston. Connecticut Children's Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center receives referrals from more than thirty hospitals. From simple sprains to complex reconstructive surgery, Connecticut Children's team of professionals is committed to caring only for kids.

At Connecticut Children's, we always keep in mind, the mind of a child. With each patient interaction we make every effort to minimize fear, reduce pain and preserve the precious gift of childhood.

Our diagnostics and treatments are routinely modified for the individual needs of a child. For example, since a five-year-old would find it extremely difficult to remain still for a 45 minute radiology scan, we specialize in sedated scans, with different approaches tailored to each child.

Our state-of-the-art technology allows us to provide the most advanced care in the most compassionate way. Minimally invasive and robotic procedures enable our surgeons to perform procedures with smaller incisions – which means quicker recoveries and less pain medication. In addition scars, both physical and emotional, are also much smaller allowing the child's life to return to normal much sooner.

Child Life Specialists help children and families cope with the realities of being in a



At Connecticut Children's, understanding the mind of a child and making a child's experience as comforting as possible are our highest priorities.

hospital. They inform and educate children about their illness and treatments. They encourage children, including siblings, to express fears and concerns. Our ArtReach and Pet Therapy programs provide creative ways to improve a child's experience.

Families play an integral role in helping to create and maintain an environment of love and caring. Our family-centered care model includes families throughout the entire process – from initial diagnosis, to discussing options, to agreeing on the best course of treatment. This approach helps families be more committed to a course of treatment and better prepared when their child returns home. And that contributes to a better overall experience and outcome for the child.

“Our gait analysis is a sophisticated means to evaluate the complexities of a child’s movement and identify a child specific treatment plan that may include complex multilevel orthopaedic surgery.”

Sylvia Ounpuu, MSc,  
Director of Research, Center for Motion Analysis



## Innovative new treatments start with a commitment to research and technology.

Our commitment to the well-being of our patients doesn’t stop at the bedside. The medical staff of Connecticut Children’s are continually seeking to improve and define standards of pediatric care, identify new and better treatments, and find cures for children’s health problems.

Our Division of Hematology and Oncology is engaged in conducting 173 active clinical trials through the Children’s Oncology Group, which ranks in the top one percent worldwide among their peers for number of open protocols. Additionally, they are in the top third percentile for total pediatric cancer patients enrolled. This is especially impressive since Connecticut Children’s is one of the smaller free-standing children’s hospitals in the country.

Connecticut Children’s commitment to research attracts some of the best talent in pediatrics. Research currently underway includes:

- **Dr. Fernando Ferrer**, Surgeon-in-Chief, is pursuing groundbreaking research that he hopes will one day prevent the development and spread of the solid tumors he now surgically removes from children with cancer.
- **Dr. Christine Finck** is working to save more lives of premature infants by finding a way to engineer lung tissue. Compromised lungs (which Dr. Finck must now repair surgically) are the chief problem for premature infants.
- **Dr. Juan Salazar**, Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases, is reducing rates of congenital syphilis in Haiti and Columbia by

creating a program that performs rapid testing and treatment of pregnant women.

- **Dr. Francisco Sylvester** is conducting studies to improve bone development in young patients suffering with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

Connecticut Children’s is also advancing pediatric surgical care. In 2005 Connecticut Children’s performed the state’s first robotic surgery on a child. The hospital has since greatly expanded its volume of minimally invasive and robotic surgeries using a state-of-the-art operating suite that is completely dedicated to these procedures. The hospital recently acquired a CereTom Portable CT Scanner which allows surgeons to verify outcomes of surgery while the patient is still in the operating suite. Once again, improving outcomes while increasing the comfort of the child.



Even the most advanced medical technologies are kid friendly at Connecticut Children’s.

“Using life-size mannequins and computer simulations, we are able to create realistic delivery room scenarios as we train teams of professionals from around the region in the latest life-saving protocols for seriously sick or injured newborns.”

*Adam Matson, MD*



## Educating the next generation of pediatric healthcare providers.

Connecticut Children’s is home to the University of Connecticut School of Medicine faculty in Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery, contributing to our vibrancy in research and defining our commitment to training the next generation of pediatric healthcare professionals.

At the heart of the program is our nationally-competitive residency program. This partnership with the UConn School of Medicine provides clinical and educational experiences that promote the development of knowledgeable, skilled and compassionate pediatricians dedicated to the care of children.

Medical students, nursing students, and other allied health professionals rotate through specialty departments for elective class work and training.

The hospital is also involved in ongoing training of experienced professionals. With the involvement and feedback of nineteen area birthing hospitals, Connecticut Children’s created a new simulation center. The center helps train teams of professionals from around the region in the latest life-saving protocols for seriously sick or injured newborns. Using both life-size mannequins and computer simulations, nursing students, medical students and practicing professionals are immersed in realistic delivery room scenarios requiring pre-delivery preparation, newborn assessment and active interventions. Resuscitations are recorded in a classroom adjacent to the simulated delivery room enabling other learners to view the events “live” and the whole team to subsequently debrief.

Whether it is teaching the next generation of pediatricians and surgeons, developing the next medical protocol for treatment of serious childhood diseases, or basic laboratory research looking for hidden connections that will lead to the next leaps forward — at Connecticut Children’s we are always looking ahead.

Connecticut Children’s places a premium on its commitment to share our expertise with others through our pediatric residency program, pediatric-related rotations of medical, nursing and allied health students and continued training of experienced professionals.



# Promoting healthy kids through legislative action, and public awareness.

Sometimes the best thing we can do for a child is to keep him from needing the hospital at all. Too often, children don't have a voice in the decisions that directly affect them and their families. Connecticut Children's is a critical resource for advocacy efforts aimed at making sure that kids' concerns are always conveyed and considered when public policy is made.



The Pagano family of Torrington, along with representatives of Connecticut Children's, traveled to Washington, DC to speak with federal lawmakers about the fate of children's health care.

This may be as straightforward as supporting laws and policies that are good for children and opposing ones that aren't.

In this regard, Brendan Campbell, MD, MPH, Director of Pediatric Trauma at Connecticut Children's was selected to serve on the Governor's Teen Driving Task Force. Their evidence-based recommendations led to improvements in Connecticut's graduated driver licensing system.

Safe Kids Connecticut, a statewide network of people and organizations working together to prevent childhood injury, is part of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Safe Kids Connecticut and its partners have distributed child safety materials and educational materials to raise awareness regarding unintentional injury – the number one threat to children. A variety of safety issues are covered with this program including car seat and

motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, water, poison, and sports.

Our Easy Breathing program is changing pediatric asthma management across the state. The program was designed by Michelle M. Cloutier, MD, Director of the Asthma Center at Connecticut Children's to help busy, primary care providers more quickly recognize asthma, improve classification of asthma severity, and assist in developing

strategies to care for children with asthma. Through the hospital's advocacy, the state has funded implementation in key communities across Connecticut.

Help Me Grow, a program developed with the help and guidance of Dr. Paul Dworkin, Connecticut Children's Physician-in-Chief, has gained national recognition as a model for connecting children with developmental or behavioral issues to the appropriate resources. "Quality programs exist, but we need to remove barriers that keep kids from getting the help they need. The Help Me Grow model is currently used in fifteen states," says Dr. Dworkin.

Our work with schools, community leaders, government agencies, service providers, business leaders and legislators, helps make Connecticut a healthier, safer and better informed place for children and their families.



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