Division Spotlight: Pediatric Cardiology

In the past 2 ½ years, the Joint Division of Pediatric Cardiology has expanded its clinical and academic footprint in a number of ways, strengthening its affiliation with UNMC and Creighton University. The cardiology division has continued its close partnership with the Division of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery to provide the best possible care for infants, children, adolescents, and adults with congenital heart and vascular disorders. High quality family-centered care transparent outcomes are goals of both divisions. Programmatic growth resulted in 325 cardiac surgeries, 486 cardiac catheterization / interventions and 8940 echo, MRI, CT, and exercise studies.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss foundation, the center of clinical operations has been remodeled and relocated to the Criss Heart Center at Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

An Adult Congenital Heart Disease program was created as a joint effort of Children's and UNMC. Dr. Shane Tsai, director, has been joined by Children's Specialty Physicians Drs. Jon Cramer and Anji Yetman to provide outstanding care for the growing, complex population of patients with congenital heart defects who have survived to adulthood. The collaborative effort creates the only ACHD care center of its kind in the region. Outpatient, inpatient, catheterization, and surgical-based services are provided with additional assistance of Drs. Christopher Erickson, Vince Thomas, John Kugler and Jeffrey Delaney.

In addition to Drs. Yetman and Cramer, electrophysiologist Vince Thomas and catheterization/intervention-specialist Christopher Curzon arrived in Omaha in 2015 to become vital members of the cardiology division.

Outreach activities of the division have grown to include ACHD outreach along with and increased presence in Lincoln. Cardiology division members continue to provide services to as far away as Rapid City.
South Dakota every other week; eight locations in Nebraska and a newly-opened clinic in Atlantic, Iowa.

The cardiology division is proud to be involved in the education of medical students and residents from Creighton University and the University of Nebraska. The teaching efforts of the faculty were rewarded in 2015 when Dr. Howard Hsu received the outstanding clinical teacher award and Dr. Robert Spicer was honored with the Hobart E. Wiltse Excellence in Medical Education Award. The cardiology fellowship program, which launched in July of 2013, will graduate its first trainee in 2016. In 2015, the division and Children's Foundation received an award of $150,000 from UNMC graduate and pediatrician Ben Rubin in honor of his brother, Sidney Rubin, to help fund the ACHD program at Children's. Sidney had congenital heart disease and died at 30 years of age.

Scholarly activity remains a vital effort of the division and in 2015 there were 27 abstracts and posters presented and 50 scholarly articles and chapters published by the division.

Cardiology is also proud of receiving accreditation of their Transesophageal Imaging program by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission and also honored this past year were Priscilla Phillips, cardiology office manager, with the Gold U Award and Jenny Strawn, RN, with the Daisy Award.

Cardiology Faculty and Staff

Faculty

- Jonathan W. Cramer, MD; Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Internal Medicine
- Christopher L. Curzon, DO; Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
- Christopher C. Erickson, MD; Professor, Pediatrics and Internal Medicine
- David Danford, MD; Professor, Pediatrics
- Jeffrey Delaney, MD; Associate Professor, Pediatrics
- Scott E. Fletcher, MD; Professor, Pediatrics - Creighton University
- Carl H. Gumbiner, MD; Professor, Pediatrics
- Hao "Howard" Hsu, MD; Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
- John D. Kugler, MD; Professor, Pediatrics
- Shelby Kutty, MD; Associate Professor Pediatrics, Physiology and Radiology
- Robert L. Spicer, MD; Professor, Pediatrics
- Vincent C. Thomas, MD; Associate Professor, Pediatrics
- Shane F. Tsai, MD; Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
- Jennifer A. Winter, MD; Assistant Professor, Pediatrics
- Anji T. Yetman, MD; Professor, Pediatrics and Internal Medicine

Allied Health Professionals:

- Britni L. Delva, PA-C

Grand Rounds

A complete schedule for the month is located at www.unmc.edu/Pediatrics

Contact Us

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402-559-7351

Newsletter Back Issues

Previous issues are available on the UNMC Pediatrics website (Link).

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Nurses & Certified Medical Assistants

• Venus Anderson, RN
• Cynthia Foster, RN, BSN
• Kris Houston, RN, BSD, MSN
• Joan O'Neill, RN, BSN
• Sara Roberge, RN, BSN
• Cynthia Scott, RN, BSN
• Jennifer Strawn, RN, BSN
• Raquel Torres, CMA

Cath Lab

• Stacey Froemming, MHA, RCIS
• Rebecca Reedy, RT (R)(VI) RCIS
• Steve Hromas, RN, BSN
• Janae Perdue, RN, BSN
• Heather Reese, RN, BSN
• Abbi Kirsch, RN, BSN

Cardiac Diagnostics

• April Bourn, RDGS,AS
• Denae Buel, RDGS
• Jamey Hertz, RDGS, BS
• Lori Kuss, RDGS, RDMS, AS
• Mora Link, RCDS, BS
• Brenda Norris, RDGS
• Amanda Polak, RDGS
• Sheila Urbach, RDGS
• Elizabeth Lafier, ATC
• Meg Weber, BA

Administrative Staff

• Shaun Custard, MHA, MBA, FACHE; Director, Criss Heart Center
• Priscilla Phillips, BAC - Administrator/Fellowship Program Coordinator
• Brandi Dirks, Medical Secretary III
• Melissa Goede, Medical Secretary III
• Lindsey Holmes, Medical Secretary III
• Jodi Remar, Medical Secretary III
• Lori Hueftle, Medical Secretary II
• Lisa Knapp, Transcriptionist
• Tameka Chunn, Patient Scheduler
• Dee Kiesel, Patient Scheduler
• Abby Pflueger, Patient Scheduler

Pediatric Cardiology Research
Grants

- Medically Handicapped Children's Program, providing patient services throughout the state of Nebraska. Sponsor: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
- Microbubble Enhanced Sonothrombolysis and Thromboprophylaxis of Pediatric Central Venous Catheters, Sponsor: American College of Cardiology Foundation/Pfizer
- Right Ventricular Energetics, Metabolism and Adaptation in Pulmonary Hypertension, Sponsor: Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation
- Development of a Blood Test for Marfan Syndrome: Shriner's Hospital Foundation

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology is actively involved in clinical trials at Children's Hospital & Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine.

Pediatric Cardiology Clinics

**Children's Hospital & Medical Center**
Specialty Pediatric Center
8200 Dodge Street - 1st Floor
Scheduling: 402-955-4339
Monday - Friday 8:00-4:30

**Nebraska Medicine**
Adult Congenital Heart Disease Clinic
Cardiovascular Center
989510 Nebraska Medicine Omaha, NE 68198
Scheduling: 402-559-8243
Monday - Friday 8:00-4:30

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology also has clinics throughout the state of Nebraska and in South Dakota. Use this link to see a list of locations and contact information:

Resident Faculty Awards

The Pediatric Residency Program would like to honor select faculty members for their dedication to the residency program and taking the additional time to teach residents. On a monthly basis residents vote for one community and one academic faculty member who they felt went above and beyond expectations to improve their education.

December 2015 recipients are:
Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to our program and bettering the future physicians of our community.