UC Davis Children’s Hospital ranked among nation’s best in five pediatric specialties

U.S. News & World Report has ranked UC Davis Children’s Hospital in five pediatric specialties in the new 2017-18 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings.

UC Davis Children’s Hospital ranked 16th in neonatology, 23rd in nephrology and 41st in diabetes and endocrinology.

UC Davis Children’s Hospital also ranked 18th in orthopaedics and 26th in urology. These two specialties were received in collaboration with Shriners Hospital for Children – Northern California, its longstanding partner in caring for children with burns, spinal cord injuries, orthopaedic disorders and urological issues.

“We are thrilled to be recognized nationally in the U.S. News’ Children’s Hospital rankings,” said Ann Madden Rice, chief executive officer of UC Davis Medical Center and its children’s hospital. “Our physicians, nurses and our health care teams deserve this honor for the excellent care provided for children in the Sacramento region and beyond. It is our privilege to deliver world-class pediatric specialty care to the children in the 33-county area that we serve.”

Eighty-one hospitals across the country ranked in at least one specialty.

The U.S. News Best Children’s Hospitals rankings rely on clinical data and on an annual survey of pediatric specialists. Survival rates, adequacy of nurse staffing, procedure volume and much more can be viewed on here. The rankings will be published in the U.S. News “Best Hospitals 2018” guidebook, available on newsstands Sept. 12.
Making room
Pediatrics unit nurse manager Angie Marin presented her poster about “Making Room – Pediatric Patients on Adult Units” at the Society of Pediatric Nurses Conference that was held in West Palm Beach, Florida this year.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT
UC Davis study finds morning huddle improves patient flow
Patient flow improved after the implementation of a daily morning huddle, according to a UC Davis study published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing.

The study, led by Cheryl McBeth, interim nurse manager for the UC Davis pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), reviewed changes in patient flow before and after the implementation of a daily huddle, as measured by pediatric emergency department boarding times (time from admission orders to departure from the emergency department). The aim of the study was to assess if the addition of a daily morning huddle could improve interprofessional and interdepartmental communication and collaboration across UC Davis Children's Hospital departments.

“We noticed a positive change after children's hospital executives and leadership implemented a daily morning huddle in February of 2014,” said McBeth. “This daily, ten-minute meeting led to increased patient safety, staff and patient satisfaction and positive health outcomes. It also has provided opportunities for learning and information sharing, establishing accountability, and developing trust and mutual respect.”

The huddle is attended every morning by the charge nurse and attending physician from the PICU, the pediatric unit, the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and the pediatric emergency department, as well as the hospital nursing supervisor and the attending pediatric anesthesiologist. Each team member presents potential admissions, discharges and transfers from their respective unit.

The study found that emergency department boarding times were significantly shorter after the implementation of huddle, compared to pre-huddle, from admission orders in the emergency department to patient transfers to the PICU or general pediatric unit.

Further research is needed to determine what format and contexts the huddle can be utilized to facilitate efficient patient flow and improve patient outcomes.

Telehealth recognition
Congratulations to Ilana Sigal, who received the Judge’s Award for Outstanding Poster at this year’s Society for Education and the Advancement of Research in Connected Health (SEARCH) Telehealth Research Symposium.
Her poster presentation was entitled “Improving Access to Pediatric Subspecialty Care via Telemedicine: Delivery of Outpatient Pediatric Endocrinology Services to Remote California Communities.”
More MRIs performed without anesthesia

Fewer children are requiring general anesthesia for their MRI exams, following the new addition of a dedicated child life specialist in radiology and the availability of MRI goggles at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

The UC Davis Department of Radiology reported that 80 percent of MRIs are performed without anesthesia among children ages 6 to 11. For children ages 0 to 5, 63 percent of all MRIs are taking place without anesthesia. This number has increased 38.5 percent from the previous year.

Children now can watch a DVD while they are having an MRI, providing an enjoyable distraction during this often-noisy procedure which requires children to stay very still for 30 minutes to two hours at a time.

Carla Andalis, child life specialist in radiology, also talks with children about what to expect in language that they can understand and gives them the chance to play using Lego MRI toys or wooden MRI medical play toys before their procedure.

“It gives children a sense of accomplishment from the hospital experience! I love to see children hop off the table when the MRI is complete and be able to go on with their day,” said Andalis.

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“We are marking another achievement that solidifies UC Davis Medical Center as a national leader,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “You set the bar for hospitals nationwide. The level I children’s surgery verification is very special. It makes UC Davis the first hospital with that designation on the West Coast and only the fifth in the nation to receive this honor from the American College of Surgeons. You should be proud of it.”

Samantha Delfino received care at UC Davis Children’s Surgery Center twice when she was younger – once for surgery with Eric Kurzrock, a pediatric urology surgeon, and another time with Rolando Roberto, orthopaedic spine surgeon, to correct an aggressive form of scoliosis.

“I’m excited that this new facility will allow [the UC Davis team] to help even more kids just like they helped me,” said Delfino.

Children’s Surgery Center staff also led tours of the new space, which will include seven operating rooms and pre- and post-op bays, covering more than 33,000 square feet over two floors. The new center is scheduled to open in late 2018.

Linenberger named interim nurse educator

Congratulations to Michelle Linenberger, who has been appointed interim nurse educator at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

Linenberger joined the UC Davis Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) as a Clinical Nurse II in 1999 and also served as a flight nurse, transporting ill children to UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

Since 2004, Linenberger has been a Clinical Nurse III. In this role, she has presented podium and poster presentations at conferences and in-services and provided training to nurses at UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Linenberger is one of the creators of the highly successful PEER Support Program in the PICU, providing support to staff members in devastating situations.
Evidence indicates that the diagnosis rate is approximately 4 percent of hospitalized patients, yet the actual occurrence is closer to 30 to 50 percent of critically ill children. In 2012-2013, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) created consensus statements for the identification and documentation of adult and pediatric malnutrition.

The UC Davis Health Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) is a multidisciplinary team created to address malnutrition at UC Davis Health. The MQii group has utilized the AND/ASPEN malnutrition consensus statements to formulate guidelines for the identification of malnutrition among UC Davis Medical Center patients.

UC Davis Health clinical dietitians have been training in nutrition-focused physical exams to expand their skills to identify malnutrition, utilizing the new consensus criteria. In July 2017, clinical dietitians, trained in the malnutrition diagnosis criteria, will partner with physicians to improve the identification of malnourished patients. This will be an ongoing initiative, with the goal to optimize care across UC Davis Health with earlier diagnosis and nutrition interventions for malnutrition.

“Our are proud to collaborate with our team at UC Davis Children’s Hospital to diagnose and treat malnutrition,” said Stacy Garrison, registered pediatric dietitian at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

Addressing a silent threat: Malnutrition

Malnutrition is an underdiagnosed problem among hospitalized children, yet contributes to overall morbidity and mortality.

Our twins, Matthew and Morgan, were born at 26 weeks and were rushed to the UC Davis NICU. My first visit with them was like taking a breath of air after being underwater too long. Matthew’s APGARS were 1/1, 2/5, 7/9. Morgan was breathing on her own right away ... she was our little superstar!

Our first encounter with the NICU nursing staff was exceptional. Each nurse took time to carefully explain Matthew’s condition and then Morgan’s condition. They showed us the lines, tubes and equipment they were attached to and then slowly explained how the equipment was supporting their 2 lb. bodies. With each day, we watched the nurses care for our twins with compassion and tenderness. The first time we were able to hold them was a delicate orchestra of moving tubes, beeping monitors and gentle touches.

Our twins fought hard to survive. The medical interventions they received allowed them to survive. The love and minute-by-minute support that they received from the NICU nurses allowed them to thrive. We watched Matthew and Morgan meet small and big milestones. Weeks turned into months and before we knew it, the twins were 5 pounds, eating and breathing well and ready to head home with our family in February 2011. Our premature journey had finally come to an end.

Matthew returned to the children’s hospital in those early years for multiple surgeries that were all successful. Matthew was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Dr. Hansen in early 2012. He was enrolled in the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) early intervention program under the supervision of Dr. Rocha the summer of 2012.

Matthew and Morgan graduated from kindergarten and were accepted into MENSA on May 9, 2017.

Each of you helped them in so many ways. You have been called to your profession for a reason. The fact that they were introduced to each of you and received your support is astonishing to me.

Words will never fully express the gratitude we feel for the UC Davis Children’s Hospital and the MIND Institute staff.

As Matthew often asks, “What is more than infinity?” I tell him the answer is the love and gratitude we feel for people.

You are all more than “infinity.”

Sincerely,
The Williams Family
Upcoming events

**July 18-19: Miracle Treat Day at UC Davis Children’s Hospital.** Dairy Queen sells Blizzards in support of Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis. $5. July 18, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Lawrence J. Ellison Ambulatory Care Center courtyard, 4860 Y Street. July 19, pre-orders and delivery directly to departments. A portion of sales will go to UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Contact dmdecruz@ucdavis.edu for more information.

**July 21: Mikuni Scoop Scoot.** Ice cream event benefits UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Land Park, 7 p.m. [http://scoopscoot.org](http://scoopscoot.org)

**July 27: National Miracle Treat Day.** A portion of Blizzards sold in Sacramento area Dairy Queen stores benefit UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Contact dmdecruz@ucdavis.edu for more information.

The UC Davis Children’s Miracle Achievement Award top nominee applications will be forwarded on to the national Children’s Miracle Network to be reviewed against nominees from 170 other CMN hospitals. Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals will select one national award winner, who will be recognized during the Spring 2018 national CMN meeting in Orlando, Florida. The winner will receive two round-trip tickets and accommodations. Nominations should be submitted online by July 21.

UC Davis Health employees are encouraged to recognize caregivers who have significantly elevated the care of children and those who have specifically been impacted by Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals’ (CMNH) funds by nominating them for the UC Davis Children’s Miracle Achievement Award.

**Aug. 12: Duck Dash.** Adopt a rubber ducky for race and win a prize if it’s the fastest. Event benefits the Child Life program at UC Davis Children’s Hospital. 2 ducks = $15. 5 p.m. Raging Waters, Sacramento. [theduckdash.com](http://theduckdash.com)

**Aug. 17-19: Entravision Radiothon.** On-air event raises funds for Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis.

**Aug. 18: #Give4Kids ABC10 Mediathon.** Help create a miracle by supporting Children’s Miracle Network at UC Davis. 4:30 a.m.-11:35 p.m. 877-719-5437.

Giving back

Thank you to Sydney Oppenheim, Adrian Perez and their friends for making a donation to support pediatric cancer research at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. These Roseville High School students raised funds, as part of their school’s Global Citizenship Project.

Like, follow and share us!

Facebook.com/ucdavischildrenshospital has 11,382 likes!

Twitter.com/ucdavischildren has 2,654 followers

Instagram.com/ucdavischildren has 1,706 followers!

UC Davis Children’s Hospital in the news

UC Davis NICU Live Cam – Good Day Sacramento

Zika: What to Expect This Year – WebMD

Dangers of Children in Hot Cars – Sac&Co.

Narcotic-Affected Newborns Nearly Double in California, But ‘It’s Not the Mom You Expect’ – The Sacramento Bee

Study: California Newborns Addicted To Opioid Painkillers More Than Doubles – CBS13

UC Davis Tracks 18 Years of Telemedicine and Finds Benefits Beyond the Bottom Line – Healthcare IT News

Perfect Attendance Bike Winner – Good Day Sacramento

Rose Thorn Prick Led Woman to Emergency Room Visit – ABC10

Staying True to a Doctor’s Oath – The California Aggie

More than 1 in 5 Americans Have a Potentially Cancer-Causing HPV Infection – Huffington Post

The Next Generation of Telehealth – Huffington Post

10 Things Your Doctor Wants You To Know – Huffington Post

Students with Kerri Stuart, nurse manager in the Adult and Pediatric Infusion Centers and the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic at UC Davis.