

2023–2024

Annual Report

Healthy and
hopeful futures



**YEAR IN
REVIEW**







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AT A GLANCE

Select highlights from UC Davis Children's Hospital

- For 2024–2025, **U.S. News & World Report** ranked UC Davis Children's Hospital among the nation's best in five pediatric specialties, including neonatology, nephrology, orthopedics, pediatric & adolescent behavioral health, and pulmonology & lung surgery. The orthopedics ranking was awarded in collaboration with Shriners Children's Northern California, our longstanding partner in caring for children with burns, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic disorders and urological issues.
- **UC Davis Health's pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology residency programs were each awarded \$125,000** from the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to enhance training and ensure a robust primary health care workforce in California. The pediatrics grant will support the development of a behavioral mental health rotation for residents, and the OBGYN grant will allow residents to work in geographical areas that have a shortage of women's health providers.
- The UC Davis Health Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and our Children's Surgery Center PACU received a **silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence** from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). We are the only PACU on the West Coast to receive this honor. The Beacon Award for Excellence — a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and healthy work environments — recognizes caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN's six Healthy Work Environment Standards. These standards are skilled communication, true collaboration, effective decision-making, appropriate staffing, meaningful recognition and authentic leadership.
- **Satyan Lakshminrusimha**, M.D., M.B.B.S., chair of the Department of Pediatrics and pediatrician-in-chief at UC Davis Children's Hospital, **Tiffani Johnson**, M.D., M.Sc., associate professor of emergency medicine, and **Heather McKnight**, M.D., division chief of pediatric hospital medicine, were among 60 pediatricians, subspecialists and trainees recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics for exemplary achievements in advocacy, practice and research.



- **Ulfat Shaikh, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.**, professor of pediatrics and medical director of health care quality at UC Davis Health, has been elected to the International Academy of Quality and Safety (IAQS). IAQS recognizes those who have made significant contributions to the field of quality and safety in health care and excellence of leadership within research, academia or service delivery.
- UC Davis Children's Hospital opened its **Panda Cares Center of Hope**, a dedicated space to promote healing and address the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health of children. Thanks to funding by Panda Express associates and guests, the center will include therapeutic play, art therapy, music therapy and academic enrichment, all designed to give children courage and strength through their hospitalization.

Proud to offer families a unique combination of personalized care and extraordinary medical expertise.



WELCOME

All of us at UC Davis Children's Hospital are proud that we've had yet another outstanding year, and we're thankful for the tremendous work that our talented faculty members and care teams have accomplished. From groundbreaking clinical studies to developing new innovations for our littlest patients, our pediatric academic medical center has been steadily going strong.

This past year, we've proudly opened many centers and established new programs that benefit our patients and communities. We relaunched the Sacramento region's only pediatric stem cell transplant (bone marrow transplant) program; unveiled our new Panda Cares Center of Hope, a dedicated space to promote healing and address the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health of children; and opened a new small baby unit located within our level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

We've also drawn more national recognition in patient care, research, and quality improvement initiatives. Recognition is important to our mission, but what we are most proud of is the world-class care and comfort we continue to provide to children and their families at our nationally ranked children's hospital.

Here are some of the reasons our care resonates both nationally and locally. We were ranked in five pediatric specialties and among the



As always, thank you for your support and partnership!

Best Children's Hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*. Our hospital was also re-verified as a level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons, the world standard bearer for surgical quality.

In addition, we continue to partner with outlying and community hospitals to provide care to rural and urban communities. Our new pediatric mobile clinic program, in partnership with local primary care networks and community agencies, provides services to historically marginalized populations in the Sacramento region and surrounding areas by leveraging expertise in primary care, specialty care, mental health care and more. Plus we've continued to keep families closer to home through telehealth and our Regional NICU Network, which is comprised of seven Northern California hospitals.

For referring providers and families in our 33-county, 65,000-square-mile service area, we hope these highlights and others in this report will continue to affirm the trust you place in us.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Satyan'.

Satyan Lakshminrusimha, M.D.

Pediatrician-in-Chief, UC Davis Children's Hospital

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shinjiro Hirose'.

Shinjiro Hirose, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Surgeon-in-Chief, UC Davis Children's Hospital

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Chagolla'.

Brenda Chagolla, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.S., FACHE

Associate Chief Nursing Officer, Patient Care Services,
UC Davis Children's Hospital



SACRAMENTO
Project ADAM
SAVES LIVES





CANCER

Stem cell transplant program revitalized

Pediatric patients and their families now have access to the Sacramento region's only pediatric stem cell transplant (bone marrow transplant) program, led by Lisa Madden, M.D., pediatric hematologist and oncologist at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. The program benefits from the expertise and resources developed by UC Davis Health's adult stem cell transplant program and the UC Davis Institute for Regenerative Cures.

The region's only NCI-designated center

UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center is the only National Cancer Institute-designated center serving the Central Valley and inland Northern California, a region of more than 6 million people. Our team includes experts such as chief of pediatric hematology and oncology Marcio Malogolowkin, M.D., an international leader in pediatric liver tumors and an authority on adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancers.

Pediatric surgeon receives Hartwell Foundation research award

Erin Brown, M.D., director of the pediatric surgical oncology program, was among ten scientists to receive the Individual Biomedical Research Award from The Hartwell Foundation. The Hartwell award funds early-stage, innovative and leading-edge biomedical research to benefit children in the U.S. Her honored research focuses specifically on neuroblastoma and developing a stem cell treatment to target this difficult-to-treat disease.



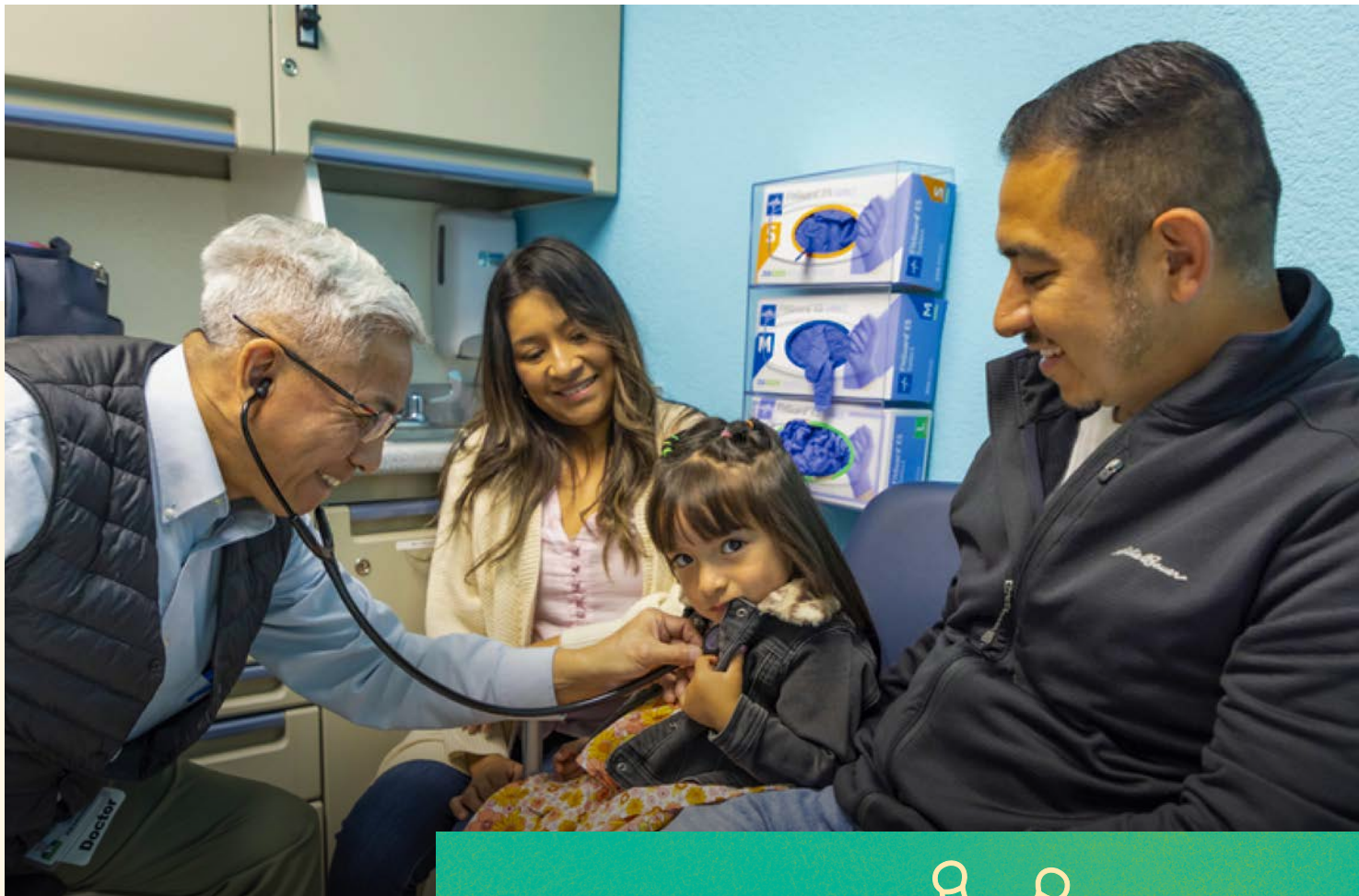


“I love how my daughter was treated. Peyton did wonderfully and I could not be happier or more confident in the level of care at UC Davis.”

DIANNA COOLEY, WHOSE DAUGHTER PEYTON RECEIVED TREATMENT AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (ALL).

The cancer center is one of only 72 in the nation with the designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in Sacramento, with more than 100,000 patients visiting annually.






**“We feel blessed.
We’re telling everyone
about UC Davis.”**

HUGO ROMERO, WHOSE DAUGHTER GRACE CAME TO UC DAVIS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AFTER HAVING PROBLEMS WITH HER PATENT DUCTUS ARTERIOSUS CLOSURE AT ANOTHER HOSPITAL.

Our Pediatric Heart Center is inland Northern California’s full-service cardiac care facility for infants, children and teens.



CARDIOLOGY AND HEART SURGERY



Nationally ranked

Our pediatric cardiology program ranked nationally in *Newsweek's* America's Best Children's Hospitals 2024 survey.

Pediatric Heart Center finds new home

A new jungle-themed clinic location for pediatric cardiology patients opened last summer in the Campus Commons neighborhood of Sacramento. Led by co-directors and physicians Frank Ing, M.D., and Gary Raff, M.D., the center offers pediatric cardiology, echocardiography, preoperative clearance, cardiac surgery pre-op/post-op care, pulmonary hypertension and the adult congenital heart disease program. The new location will also include onsite Holter monitoring services, a type of portable electrocardiogram, helping patients eliminate the need for hospital visits.

Chief of pediatric cardiology receives lifetime achievement award

Frank Ing, M.D., F.A.C.C., M.S.C.A.I., chief of pediatric cardiology at UC Davis Children's Hospital and co-director of the UC Davis Pediatric Heart Center, has received national recognition from the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI). Ing was honored with the organization's Helping Little Hearts Lifetime Service Award, which recognizes the work of interventional cardiologists specializing in the treatment of pediatric congenital heart disease.

Expert consensus statement outlines best practices for cardiac catheterization in children, adults

Ralf Holzer, M.D., director of pediatric and congenital cardiac catheterization, was the first author of the expert consensus statement on cardiac catheterization to provide best practices for pediatric patients and adults with congenital heart disease. The statement was published in the *Journal of American College of Cardiology (JACC): Cardiovascular Interventions*.



DIABETES AND ENDOCRINOLOGY



New division chief of pediatric endocrinology

Nicole Glaser, M.D., has been appointed division chief of pediatric endocrinology at UC Davis Children's Hospital. Glaser is an international expert in pediatric diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), and has been involved in the development of several national and international guidelines for DKA management that guide current practice worldwide.

Breaking down barriers for Spanish- speaking children with type 1 diabetes

In a study published in *JMIR Diabetes*, researchers at UC Davis Health found children with type 1 diabetes from predominantly Spanish-speaking households are less likely than other children to use insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors, and are more likely to experience barriers to using these technologies. As a result of these findings, our experts are working toward improving Spanish language educational processes and teaching materials, as well as increasing contact with peer groups using diabetes technology.

Strategies to improve telehealth operations

Researchers interviewed endocrinologists across four University of California academic medical centers to assess telehealth best practices and examine challenges that prevent a successful telehealth visit. Published in the *Journal of Clinical Diabetes*, the study found three strategies to improve telehealth operations including, having dedicated support staff obtain data from patients' devices (like remote glucose monitors) ahead of telehealth visits; creating efficient workflows around scheduling follow-ups to ensure patients don't experience lapses in care; and finding ways to facilitate team-based diabetes care.

**Our endocrinologists provide
the best evaluation and
treatment for children with
endocrine disorders.**

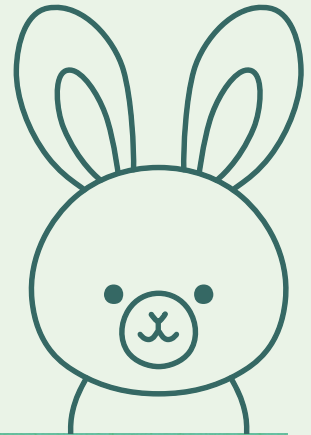


**“Everyone has been so great.
They really know how to take care
of your child. We trust them.”**

WENDI RAMIREZ, ON DAUGHTER ELENA'S
CARE AFTER SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH
TYPE I DIABETES. ELENA'S FATHER ERIK
RAMIREZ WAS ALSO DIAGNOSED AND
TREATED AT UC DAVIS HEALTH AS A CHILD.



Bringing together
expertise, research
and innovation to
improve patient
outcomes.



“Dr. Say and her GI team take great care of Faith. She always responds to MyChart messages quickly and is concerned about any health issues that arise with my daughter. She truly cares about her patients and their well-being.”

MEGHAN STEWART, ON 7-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER FAITH'S PEDIATRIC GI CARE. FAITH HAS BEEN A UC DAVIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PATIENT SINCE SHE WAS BORN AND ALSO RECEIVES CARE FROM OUR CARDIOLOGY, ORTHOPEDICS AND RESPIRATORY TEAMS.



GASTROENTEROLOGY/ GI SURGERY

Summer camp helps kids with liver disease build positive health habits

HealthyUs, designed by a team of UC Davis Children's Hospital pediatric gastroenterology physicians, YMCA certified group fitness instructors, personal trainers, nutritionists and YMCA summer camp professionals, provides life-changing tools, friendship and fun for pediatric patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Enriching activities include team-building summer sports, games, nutritious meals, and healthy living seminars.

Clinical nurse specialist receives Poster of Distinction

Amy Kuzmich, M.S., R.N., C.N.S., CPNP-PC, received a Poster of Distinction honor by the North American Society For Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at their 2024 annual meeting. Amy's poster detailed the role of the clinical nurse specialist in assisting an inpatient pediatric GI team to improve patient outcomes. Her work is supported by Children's Miracle Network at UC Davis.

Pediatric gastroenterologist receives Eli Gold Prize

Kelly Haas, M.D., received the 2024 Eli Gold Prize, an award given to faculty members who have achieved prominence in clinical, teaching, research and/or community service. Haas is recognized for her work and leadership in teaching; serving on several committees and advisory boards including as associate program director for the pediatric residency program; and rewriting several hospital protocols that cover total parenteral nutrition (TPN) for children, gastrostomy feeding for children and long-term management of patients with short bowel syndrome.

MATERNITY CARE

A *Newsweek* Best Maternity Hospital in U.S.

UC Davis Medical Center was named one of America's Best Maternity Hospitals by *Newsweek* magazine and the global market research and consumer data firm Statista. The distinction recognizes 404 hospitals that provide exceptional care to mothers, newborns and their families. It is the fifth consecutive year UC Davis Medical Center has been included on this list.

Stockton prenatal clinic opens new location

A new Stockton clinic location for patients with high-risk pregnancies has opened, housing the UC Davis Health Prenatal Diagnosis of Northern California and the UC Davis Fetal Cardiology Clinic. Both clinics are linked to the UC Davis Fetal Care and Treatment Center, the first comprehensive multidisciplinary fetal diagnosis and therapy center in inland Northern California. The new prenatal clinic provides comprehensive counseling, genetic screening and diagnostic testing for fetal anomalies, with multiple dedicated ultrasound machines, and has tripled patient capacity compared to the former location.

Telehealth program receives award

For the third consecutive year, UC Davis Health has received a Telehealth Equity Catalyst Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges for our efforts to advance health care equity and health technology. Ijeoma Uche, an ARC-MD honors pathway student at UC Davis and co-founder of Birth By Us, an app for Black people focused on pregnancy and postpartum care, and Jennifer Rosenthal, M.D., M.A.S., associate professor of pediatrics and faculty director of digital health equity and process improvement, were recognized for a new telehealth program that aims to reduce health disparities and improve perinatal outcomes for Black patients giving birth.

**Named a *Newsweek*
Best Maternity Hospital
five years in a row.**



“I was really scared. The team gave me courage and met my needs without even having to ask. My birthing experience was probably the best I’ve had.”

STEPHANIE DOVER, MOTHER OF SEVEN,
WHOSE SON TRAVIS WAS BORN AT
UC DAVIS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.





MENTAL HEALTH

Nationally ranked

Our pediatric and adolescent behavioral health program ranked among the nation's top 50 in the 2024–2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Children's Hospitals survey.

Patients gain more access to mental health services

Pediatric patients now have expanded access to mental health services and support through our Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health Services and outpatient child psychiatry clinics. Mental health therapists are available in the Pediatric Medically Complex Clinic, LGBTQ+ Mental Health Clinic, Mood Disorder Clinic, Early Psychosis Clinic, and within the UC Davis MIND Institute and the UC Davis CAARE (Child and Adolescent Abuse Resource and Evaluation) Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

Expanding our child and adolescent psychiatrist workforce

UC Davis Health's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Training Program has increased recruitment to six fellows per year to address the workforce shortage and expand mental health services for pediatric patients.

TEAM program offers mental health consultation services for foster kids

The UC Davis Health TEAM program (Team approach with Empathy for Assessment and Management) is the first multidisciplinary consultation service for foster care children and adolescents with developmental disorders and comorbid psychiatric disorders. Contracted with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and led by Anu Gupta, M.D., and Olivia Briceño Contreras, PsyD, the TEAM presented at the 2023 American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry annual meeting and at the Partnerships for Well-Being Institute Conference on the development and work of the program.

NEONATOLOGY

Nationally ranked

Our neonatology program ranked 26th nationally in the 2024–2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Children's Hospitals survey, and among the nation's best in *Newsweek's* America's Best Children's Hospitals 2024 survey.

New NICU unit cares for the smallest of preemies

Located within our level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), our new small baby unit — supported through a planned gift from local residents Victor and Phela Vesci through the Vesci Family Trust — is specifically equipped for babies who are born less than 27 weeks gestation or weigh less than 2.2 pounds. The unit provides care for up to six babies at one time, and includes dedicated equipment such as special breathing machines and beds to create a stable thermal microenvironment.



“We love UC Davis. They feel like family to us. Shine wouldn’t be where he is without this team. Right from the beginning everyone supported him and always made us feel like he was really cared for.”

JAMIE DUBY, WHOSE SON SHINE WAS BORN WITH POPLITEAL PTERYGIUM SYNDROME AND ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA.



NEPHROLOGY AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

Nationally ranked

Our pediatric nephrology program ranked 23rd nationally in the 2024–2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Children's Hospitals survey.

Toxoplasma donor kidneys don't increase risks for transplant patients

A new UC Davis Health study published in *Transplant International* found that transplant patients who receive kidneys infected with the parasite toxoplasma have virtually the same outcomes as those who receive toxoplasma-negative organs. The findings could help expand donor kidney supplies and shorten wait lists. UC Davis Health is currently writing new protocols for pediatric transplants and the authors hope this work will help transplant centers unify their toxoplasma antibody positive donors (TPDs) policies.

Review examines home dialysis procedure for chronic kidney disease

An educational review from UC Davis Health and Oregon Health & Science University outlines the advantages of tidal continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (TPD) and highlights several clinical nuances to help nephrologists embrace the procedure. Published in the journal *Pediatric Nephrology*, the authors hope this type of home dialysis becomes more familiar and nephrologists prescribe it more frequently, as appropriate, for their patients.

Helping clinicians treat nephrocalcinosis in newborns


In an effort to raise awareness of nephrocalcinosis in newborns, pediatric nephrologists Lavjay Butani, M.D., and Gia Oh, M.D., published a review in the journal *NeoReviews* about the disease's natural history and offered tips to help neonatologists identify and treat the condition successfully. They hope these tools will help prevent the most serious symptoms, such as high blood pressure and kidney failure.



“The care we received at UC Davis Children’s Hospital was amazing. The nurses were wonderful and understanding of our situation and we had all of our questions answered.”

HANNAH WILLIAMS, WHOSE DAUGHTER ADDISON WAS HOSPITALIZED AFTER KIDNEY SURGERY.

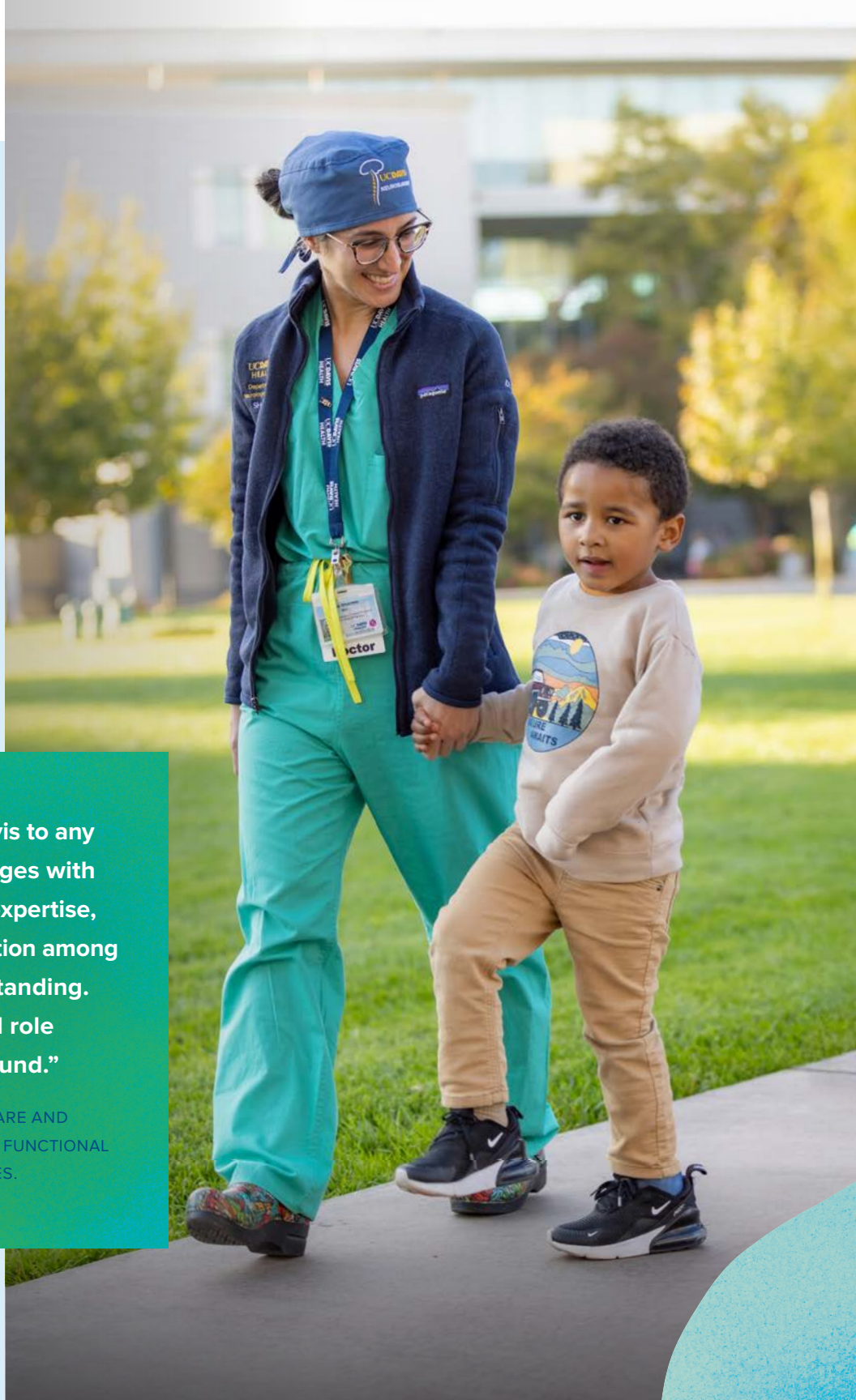
Our nationally ranked program continues to be the region’s only outpatient peritoneal dialysis service for patients under 10.



Leaders in quality
patient care
and innovators
in research.

“We highly recommend UC Davis to any families facing similar challenges with their loved ones. The level of expertise, professionalism, and collaboration among the medical staff is truly outstanding. UC Davis has played a pivotal role in turning our family’s life around.”

FRANCIS KAGECHE, ON SON SAVON'S CARE AND
TREATMENT AFTER UNDERGOING A RIGHT FUNCTIONAL
HEMISPHEROTOMY, ENDING HIS SEIZURES.



NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY

Nationally ranked

Our pediatric neurology program ranked nationally in *Newsweek's* America's Best Children's Hospitals 2024 survey.

New level 4 epilepsy unit targets uncontrolled seizures

The UC Davis Comprehensive Epilepsy Program has opened a new 11-bed epilepsy monitoring unit that specializes in diagnosing and guiding treatment for people whose seizures aren't controlled by medication. The unit is the largest in inland Northern California accredited by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers as level 4, a highest-level designation only given to facilities with the most sophisticated intensive neurodiagnostic monitoring technology and the full array of treatments for epilepsy and other seizure disorders.

Pediatric neurological surgery team expands

UC Davis Children's Hospital is now home to the region's first comprehensive neurosurgical care program. The Pediatric Neurological Surgery program has expanded to provide 24/7 neurosurgical care by three fellowship-trained specialist physicians and four specialized advance practice providers (APPs). By combining the subspecialty expertise of all three surgeons on the team, the hospital can offer treatment for the full breadth of pediatric neurosurgical disorders.

The surgical team includes Marike Zwienenberg, M.D., Julia Sharma, M.D., F.R.C.S.C., F.A.A.N.S., and Cameron Sadegh, M.D., Ph.D. The APPs, Teresa Gonzalez, N.P., Tram James, N.P., Max Caudle, P.A., and Peggy Jung, N.P., increase access to services and help with the transition from inpatient to outpatient care.





ORTHOPAEDICS

Nationally ranked

U.S. News & World Report ranked our pediatric orthopaedic program 32nd nationally in 2024–2025, in collaboration with Shriners Children’s Northern California, our long-standing partner on orthopedic disorders and spinal injuries.

Perry Initiative hosts workshop for prospective orthopedic surgeons

More than 30 teenage girls from local Sacramento high schools had the chance to explore careers in orthopedic surgery — specifically in the field of pediatrics — during a day-long event hosted by the Perry Initiative, a UC Davis Health and Shriners Children’s-sponsored program designed to encourage and empower young women to pursue careers in orthopedic surgery and engineering. Attendees engaged in six hands-on mock surgical exercises, from suturing to casting, and heard lectures from local women surgeons, gaining insights into their experiences and journeys in these fields.

Exceptionally rare procedure helps pediatric patient avoid amputation

R. Lor Randall, M.D., F.A.C.S., pediatric musculoskeletal surgical oncologist and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is one of few physicians who have performed the clavicle pro humero procedure. In this procedure, the clavicle of the young osteosarcoma patient was transposed with its blood supply off the central vessels to function as the upper arm and attachment to the rest of the body.

We’re key partners in the UC Davis Spine Center and UC Davis Trauma Center — one of the largest and most sophisticated interdisciplinary trauma programs in the nation.



“Thank you to all at UC Davis Children’s Hospital for going above and beyond. Everyone was super friendly and attentive. They made sure Julian was the most comfortable he could be while at the hospital.”

SARA SANDOVAL, WHOSE SON JULIAN HAD ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY AFTER SUFFERING A RADIAL HEAD FRACTURE TO HIS LEFT ARM. JULIAN IS A 49ERS FAN AND HIS SURGEON HOLLY LESHIKAR, M.D., DREW THE TEAM’S LOGO ON HIS CAST.





“Honestly, we love UC Davis. They’re so good with her and we are so proud of her progress. They have helped us through so much.”

KARINA RODRIGUEZ, ON DAUGHTER ALAINA’S CARE AFTER SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH RSV AND PUT ON A VENTILATOR.



PULMONOLOGY

Nationally ranked

Our pediatric pulmonology program ranked 36th nationally in the 2024–2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Children's Hospitals survey.

Asthma bootcamp educates patients on treatment plans, inhalers

A free, educational bootcamp was offered by the UC Davis Asthma Network (UCAN™) providing patients 12 years and older and their parents or caregivers strategies on asthma control, treatment plans, and inhaler trainings. UCAN™ was founded in 1996 and has become a nationally recognized clinic for its excellence in integrated patient care and patient safety outcomes.

Exploring neuromuscular conditions and sleep-disordered breathing

Sleep-disordered breathing is often the first sign of neuromuscular disease like Duchenne muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis and myotonic dystrophy. In a review published in the journal *Children*, UC Davis pulmonologists explored current diagnostic tools and treatments for pediatric patients with neuromuscular diseases and sleep-disordered breathing. The authors look forward to technological advances that will support home sleep studies for pediatric patients and emerging therapies that can treat neuromuscular conditions.

Our pediatric pulmonology team is comprised of board-certified pediatric pulmonologists, clinical nurses, respiratory therapists, clinical pharmacists, dietitians and social workers.

SURGERY

Re-verified as a level I Children's Surgery Center

UC Davis Children's Hospital was re-verified as a level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the world standard bearer for surgical quality. Level I centers have children's surgeons in every discipline, with pediatric anesthesiologists and dedicated operating rooms for children available 24 hours a day. They also train future leaders in education and research and participate in community outreach.

Robotic-assisted surgery now offered at UC Davis Children's Hospital

A robotic-assisted surgery program is now available at the UC Davis Children's Surgery Center. The program is directed by pediatric general surgeon Payam Saadai, M.D., who worked for the past year with the adult robotic surgery team to expand this minimally invasive approach to pediatric patients in the Sacramento region.

\$15 million grant awarded to UC Davis CuRe Trial

A team of UC Davis Health researchers, led by pioneering fetal surgeon Diana Farmer, M.D., and bioengineer Aijun Wang, Ph.D., have been awarded nearly \$15 million for groundbreaking work on a spina bifida treatment by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and Shriners Children's Northern California. The funding will allow the team to carry out phase 2 of the CuRe Trial (Cellular Therapy for In Utero Repair of Myelomeningocele) that tests the first stem cell treatment for the birth defect.

Launched in the spring of 2021, the CuRe Trial tests a one-of-a-kind treatment that uses placenta-derived stem cells to improve outcomes for children with spina bifida. The treatment, a stem cell patch, is delivered directly to the spinal opening of the fetus while still developing in the mother's womb.



CuRe
Cellular Therapy for In utero
Repair of Myelomeningocele

Home to the West Coast's
first level I Children's Surgery
Center as verified by the
American College of Surgeons.



**“We love UC Davis and being involved
in the community. I feel like my life has
come full circle and so has Annabelle’s.”**

KA YANG, WHOSE DAUGHTER ANNABELLE HAD
MULTIPLE HEART SURGERIES FOR AN AORTOPUL-
MONARY WINDOW AND SUPRAVALVULAR AORTIC
STENOSIS. AFTER HER DAUGHTER'S HEALTH
CHALLENGES, KA RETURNED TO SCHOOL TO BECOME
A NURSE AND NOW WORKS AT UC DAVIS HEALTH.





“I’m not sure how UC Davis finds their people, but whatever they’re doing, they need to keep doing it. You couldn’t be in a better place. Everyone has your best interest at heart.”

MEGAN PITTS, ON DAUGHTER JAELYN’S CARE AFTER SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED FOLLOWING A NEAR-FATAL CAR ACCIDENT.



Home to the only level I trauma center for both adults and children in inland Northern California.





TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY

Reducing exposure to radiation after cervical spine injury

Researchers in the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN) created a highly accurate cervical spine injury prediction rule, which decreases the use of CT by more than 50% without missing clinically significant injuries or increasing normal X-ray use. Published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, these rules provide clinicians an evidence-based protocol to increase the readiness of emergency departments and ensure that every child receives high-quality and safe emergency care.

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine honors two

Nathan Kuppermann, M.D., Bo Tomas Brofeldt endowed chair of emergency medicine, and James F. Holmes, M.D., executive vice chair of emergency medicine, received national awards from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM). Kuppermann was honored with the John Marx Leadership Award for his contributions to the field through leadership, and Holmes received the Excellence in Research Award for outstanding contributions through the creation and sharing of new knowledge.

Sacramento's first comprehensive trauma recovery center opens

UC Davis Health and the UC Davis CAARE (Child and Adolescent Abuse Resource and Evaluation) Diagnostic and Treatment Center opened the first comprehensive trauma recovery center in Sacramento, thanks to a nearly \$1.2 million grant from the California Victim Compensation Board. The CAARE Center will collaborate with UC Davis Health's Wraparound Program — a hospital-based violence intervention program — and the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program to provide trauma recovery services for victims of crime from infants to those age 30 years old. The center will make trauma-informed, culturally responsive and evidence-based mental health treatment available, and fill the gap in services for underserved and vulnerable young adults who experience violent crime.



NURSING

Prestigious Magnet Designation for third time

UC Davis Health has once again been ranked among the nation's elite institutions for valuing the nursing profession, earning its third Magnet Designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)'s Magnet Recognition Program®. The Magnet program is the nation's highest form of recognition for nursing excellence, and less than 10% of hospitals in the nation earn the designation. UC Davis Medical Center is the only hospital in Sacramento and one of 56 hospitals in California to earn a Magnet designation, earning its first Magnet designation almost 10 years ago, in 2014.

DAISY Foundation honors nurses

Four nurses were recipients of a 2024 DAISY Award for exemplifying the nursing values of extraordinary compassion, courage and integrity in every situation. Congratulations to:

- **Megan Brown**, B.S.N., R.N., Pediatric Specialty Clinic
- **Erin Dame-Lewis**, M.S.N., R.N., C.C.R.N., Davis 10 PICA/PCIC
- **Jennifer Sutherland**, B.S.N., R.N., C.P.N., Davis 7 Pediatrics
- **Capriel Fazzini**, B.S.N., R.N., Pediatric Infusion Center and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic (DAISY Nurse Leader Award)

At UC Davis Children's Hospital, patients are at the center of everything we do. And we're proud that our highly-trained pediatric nurses provide extraordinary love, compassion, courage, and integrity in every situation.

UC Davis Medical Center is one of 56 hospitals
in California to have earned Magnet® designation.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Transport team

UC Davis Children's Hospital transport team is available to a 33-county area — and sometimes beyond — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The team carries out more than 400 transports each year. It is comprised of dedicated and experienced physicians and advanced role nurses from the Pediatric and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Transport team members have extensive training and experience in specialized care and technology available for seriously injured or ill children, infants and newborns.

Pediatric mobile clinic program

UC Davis Health's Pediatric Mobile Clinic provides health care services to historically marginalized populations in the Sacramento region and surrounding areas by leveraging expertise in primary care, specialty care, mental health care, care coordination, and telemedicine. The program is organized around three service lines in primarily school-based settings:

- integrated mental health and primary care
- consultations for children with developmental, behavioral, or academic concerns
- asthma care and education

The mobile clinic is run in partnership with local primary care networks, schools, community health centers, faith-based organizations, refugee resettlement agencies and other community agencies.



Providing telemedicine and outreach for more than 20 years.



Every year, we participate in, partner with or sponsor over 200 community events and programs.

Seven NorCal community hospitals part of UC Davis' NICU network

We're keeping families closer to home through our Regional NICU Network, which is comprised of Barton Memorial Hospital, Adventist Health Lodi Memorial, Adventist Health and Rideout, Mercy Medical Center Redding, Mercy San Juan Medical Center, St. Joseph's Medical Center, and Methodist Hospital of Sacramento. The partnerships are designed to increase the level of neonatal care available locally while decreasing the need for transfers to UC Davis, home to a level IV NICU for the highest-acuity cases.

Public education through media outreach

The innovative UC Davis Children's Hospital Media and Child Health Education Program provides training and opportunities for pediatric residents to gain media experience and educate the public about important child health issues. This year, residents:

- published three editorials
- made three television appearances as content experts
- discussed child health topics on the Kids Considered™ podcast
- and hosted their own original resident educational podcast series called Pedia-gogy™



Popular players with Republic FC

UC Davis Health is a founding and ongoing season-presenting partner of the Republic FC, and serves as the official medical provider for the club's players. UC Davis Health's kit (jersey) sponsorship of the team helps to emphasize, model and normalize health and outdoor activity for area youth. The partnership also creates opportunities for players to interact with patients during special visits to our children's hospital. In 2024, players visited with patients and families bringing cheer and signing autographs.



Hospital staff puts together prom in 24 hours for 17-year-old cancer patient

When Addison Ryker was hospitalized right before her junior prom, UC Davis Children's Hospital care team members brought the prom to her. Dressed in a red strapless lace gown, Addison and her prom date (who is also her best friend) entered the teen lounge decorated with a casino theme, echoing the prom theme at Addison's high school. Santana Diaz, UC Davis Health's executive chef, also designed an elegant meal for Addison and her date to celebrate, complete with champagne flutes filled with sparkling apple cider to toast the event.



PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

Comfort Commitment optimizes care, assists with painful pediatric procedures

Our Comfort Commitment (CC) Initiative provides a standardized approach to help patients better cope with distressing procedures, decrease pain and anxiety, and build trust with care teams. Thanks to CC champions, we are consistently able to provide support, a calming environment and empower children and their families to customize a plan that uniquely meets their specific needs.

Telerobot enables virtual visits to California State Railroad Museum

With the help of an innovative UC Davis Health telerobot, people with disabilities, medical conditions or a lack of transportation can virtually visit the popular attraction, viewing displays and interacting with other people inside the museum. The robot provides access to anyone in the world, increasing human-to-human connections and a physical presence in our community events and public spaces.

Volunteer doula program

UC Davis Medical Center's free volunteer doula program offers laboring patients a dedicated doula who provides 1:1 emotional and physical support through labor and delivery.

New blood draw clinic meets needs of youth with autism, neurodevelopmental conditions

Neurodivergent patients can experience a comfortable and sensory-friendly blood draw through the Promoting Accessibility to Healthcare (PATH) Glassrock Blood Draw Clinic. Led by phlebotomy staff and child life specialists trained by UC Davis MIND Institute experts, the newly remodeled clinic helps patients cope with lab draws and offers a giant "I spy" sea life mural, sensory lamp and lights, weighted blankets, fidget devices, comfort positioning and more.



PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

CMN awards 19 new clinical, research grants

Nineteen grants totaling \$509,872 have been awarded by Children's Miracle Network at UC Davis in spring of 2024 to clinicians and researchers at UC Davis Children's Hospital. Eighteen grants will enhance the clinical care of children, while one grant was awarded for research directly improving the health and welfare of children.

Spirit Halloween donations top \$1 million for patients

Since 2011 funds have been raised for UC Davis Children's Hospital's Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department, which supports the emotional needs of pediatric patients and families. Annual donations from Spirit Halloween's Spirit of Children Foundation fund the UC Davis child life fellowship program, which provides additional training and supervision to aspiring certified child life specialists. Over the 13 year partnership, donations have made it possible for child life services to grow and expand into the Children's Surgery Center, Radiology Department and the Pediatric Infusion Center.

UC Davis Children's Hospital receives \$8 million estate gift

Thanks to a transformational gift through the estate of local residents Victor and Phela Vesci, four children's hospital programs will be supported with the philanthropic donation, including: the NICU's small baby unit; the Pediatric and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Heart Center; the division of pediatric gastroenterology to support the growth of its neurogastroenterology, motility, and inflammatory bowel disease programs; and the division of pediatric pulmonology to start comprehensive pulmonary function testing and sleep apnea testing programs.

Hospital playroom named after local Donut Dash fundraiser

This year, our playroom unveiled a new sign "Powered by Donut Dash" in honor of the work and dedication of Donut Dash founder, Zack Wandell. The Donut Dash fun run was created in 2016 and raises funds for the UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department. Each year, proceeds have helped purchase video games, iPads, art supplies, music instruments, games, toys and more for our hospitalized children.



Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Child Champion

UC Davis Children's Hospital is a proud member of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN), an international nonprofit dedicated to raising funds for, and awareness of, children's hospitals. Donations create miracles by funding medical care, research, equipment and programs that save and improve the lives of our children including this year's local Children's Miracle Network child champion Isaac Franco.

Isaac was a toddler when he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a common childhood cancer. He was hospitalized at UC Davis Children's Hospital and then began chemotherapy treatment at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center for three years. In November 2019, he completed his last treatment and is now cancer-free. Now 9-years-old, Isaac loves playing football, watching the NFL Raiders, and going to the ocean. Every year, 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals identify a "champion" in each of their communities to serve as the face for children treated at their local children's hospital.



BY THE



The Central Valley's only level I pediatric trauma center, with **55,393** clinic visits, **7,315** hospital admissions and **18,786** emergency department visits this year.

NUMBERS



The West Coast's **first level I Children's Surgery Center** as verified by the American College of Surgeons, with **6,259** children's surgeries this year.

Nationally ranked in 5 specialties: neonatology, nephrology, orthopedics, pediatric & adolescent behavioral health, and pulmonology & lung surgery.

Provides care for children in **33 counties**, covering **65,000-square-miles** with **485 transfers** accepted from referring institutions.

874 members of our all-R.N. nursing staff have been trained to care for children

- **Granted Magnet® recognition** status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center
- **95.4%** of UC Davis nurses hold a B.S.N. degree or higher
- **24%** hold advanced degrees
- **59%** of UC Davis nurses have obtained a specialty certification

OUR MISSION

UC Davis Children's Hospital is committed to ensuring the health and well-being of children by promoting wellness through patient care, education, research and community service and by providing a regionally and nationally recognized center for innovative children's health care, making available the very best care possible.

children.ucdavis.edu





children.ucdavis.edu



UC Davis Children's Hospital Contact Information

Referrals/Transfers 800-UCD-4-KIDS (800-823-4543)

Clinical Telehealth Program 877-430-5332

Regional Affiliations and Outreach 916-734-0558

Continuing Medical Education 916-734-5352

Center for Professional Practice of Nursing 916-734-9790

Giving and Donations 916-734-9400

24-Hour Hospital Operator 916-734-2011





UCDAVIS
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2023–2024

Annual Report

Healthy and
hopeful futures

YEAR IN REVIEW

