

2024–2025  
Annual Report



# HEALTHY and HOPEFUL FUTURES



**UCDAVIS**  
**HEALTH**

**CHILDREN'S**  
**HOSPITAL**







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## Serving our region and beyond

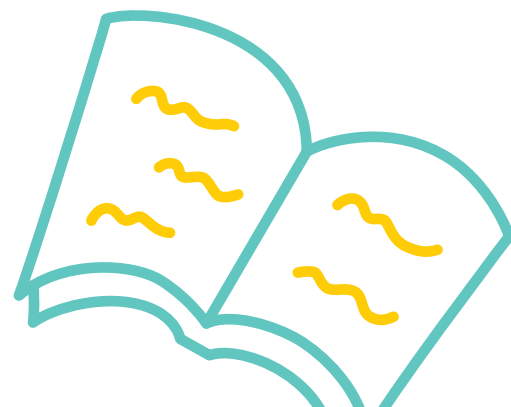
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# at a GLance



## Select highlights from UC Davis Children's Hospital

- UC Davis Medical Center has received the Gold Level ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support from the non-profit Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). The award signifies a commitment to exceptional care and demonstrates an assurance of high quality standards, specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, and advanced education of all staff members.
- For 2025–2026, U.S. News & World Report ranked UC Davis Children's Hospital among the nation's best in three pediatric specialties, including nephrology, orthopedics, 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 Medical Center has been officially redesignated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital, following a rigorous review by Baby-Friendly USA. The honor demonstrates continued adherence to the highest breastfeeding standards of care, built on practices consistent with the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and compliant with the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.
- Satyan Lakshminrusimha, M.D., M.B.B.S., chair of the Department of Pediatrics and pediatrician-in-chief at UC Davis Children's Hospital, and Érik Fernández y García, M.D., M.P.H., professor of clinical pediatrics, were among 90 pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists and trainees recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics for exemplary achievements in advocacy, practice and research.







- Newsweek magazine and Statista included UC Davis Children's Hospital in their top 50 ranking of America's Best Children's Hospitals for 2025. The children's hospital was ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in neonatology, 34<sup>th</sup> in cardiology and cardiac surgery, and 34<sup>th</sup> in neurology and neurosurgery. We were also the only hospital in Sacramento to be recognized.

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 enormously proud that we've had yet another outstanding year, and we want to share our gratitude to our faculty members and care teams who continue to go above and beyond for our pediatric patients and families.**

During this past year, we've hit many milestones and established innovative programs that benefit our patients and communities. We delivered 1,990 babies during fiscal year 2024–2025, the highest number of deliveries since 2010; our pediatric bone marrow transplant program received accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), its first since the program was revitalized in 2023; and we pioneered a first-in-the-nation program called PATH (Promoting Accessibility To Healthcare) to improve health care and surgical experiences for neurodiverse patients and their families. Plus, we've expanded our leadership team and are honored to welcome UC Davis pediatric

gastroenterologist David Kawatu, M.D., as the associate chief medical officer for children's health at UC Davis Medical Center.

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 for children and their families at our nationally ranked, academic children's hospital.

Here are some of the reasons our care resonates both nationally and locally. We were ranked in three pediatric specialties and among the Best Children's Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report and



IMPROVECARENOW™



As always, thank you  
for your support  
and partnership!



Newsweek magazine. Our hospital was also re-verified as a level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons, and redesignated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital by Baby-Friendly USA.

In addition, we continue to partner with community and outlying hospitals to provide care locally and even globally. Our pediatric mobile clinic continues to provide health care services to historically marginalized populations in the Sacramento region and surrounding areas, and we've continued to keep families closer to home through telehealth and our Regional Network, which is comprised of seven Northern California hospitals. Plus our experts participate in dozens of medical trainings across the globe in countries with critical shortages.

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.



**Satyan Lakshminrusimha, M.D.**

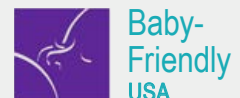
Pediatrician-in-Chief, UC Davis Children's Hospital

**Diana Farmer, M.D.**

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

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

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



# cancer

## **Making cancer less stressful for patients, families**

In partnership with Keaton's Child Cancer Alliance, our pediatric patients and their families have access to resources and family navigators to help ease stress during cancer treatment. Keaton's provides direct financial support to families to assist with basic needs and other essential expenses, delivers culturally familiar, nutritionally appropriate food to patients in the hospital, and recently opened an expanded center in Roseville where patients and their siblings can engage in healing through art and play therapy.

The cancer center is one of only 57 in the nation with the designation, and is the only NCI-designated center in Sacramento, with more than 100,000 patients visiting annually.

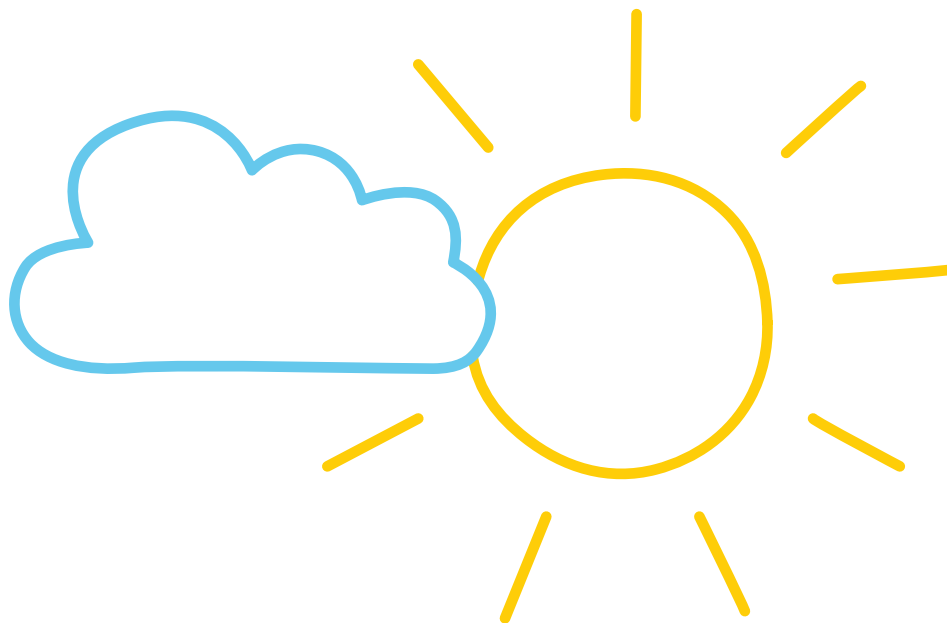
## **FACT accreditation for adult, pediatric stem cell transplant programs**

The Stem Cell Transplant Program and Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program at UC Davis Health have received reaccreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). The dual reaccreditation affirms that UC Davis Health continuously meets or exceeds international standards for stem cell collections, processing and complete care during the patient's entire transplant journey. This is the first year the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program has received FACT accreditation since the program was revitalized by pediatric hematologist and oncologist Lisa Madden, M.D., in 2023.

## **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.





**“Landing on the doorstep  
of UC Davis was probably  
one of the biggest blessings  
throughout all of this.”**

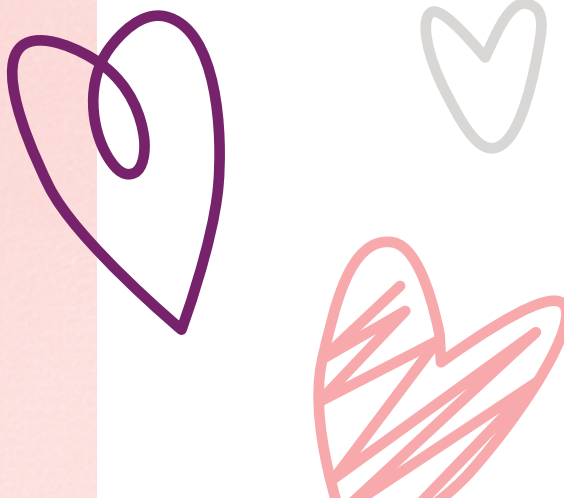
CHRISTINA MORENO, WHOSE SON  
AJ RECEIVED TREATMENT AFTER BEING  
DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE IV WILMS  
TUMOR, A RARE KIDNEY CANCER.





**“This team at UC Davis has been so amazing. This was probably one of the scariest things that has ever happened to us, but the UC Davis team has done amazing things for Lillian.”**

AMANDA HODGKIN, WHOSE DAUGHTER LILLIAN WAS THE FIRST CHILD IN THE REGION TO RECEIVE AN INNOVATIVE STENT THAT WILL GROW WITH HER INTO ADULTHOOD.





# CARDIOLOGY and Heart Surgery



## **World's first to implant a dual chamber leadless pacemaker into a child**

UC Davis Director of Pediatric Electrophysiology Dan Cortez, M.D., Ph.D., is the first to implant a dual chamber leadless pacemaker in a child. In this minimally invasive procedure, the pacemaker was implanted via the right internal jugular vein (instead of the femoral vein), so the patient could move easily and resume exercise and sports sooner. The device, called the AVEIR dual chamber leadless pacemaker, is different from traditional pacemakers because it has no leads or cords and is absorbed by the heart.

## **Pediatric cardiology team treats rare adult congenital heart defect**

Gita had lived her whole life unaware of a rare congenital heart defect known as atrial septal defect (ASD) with partial anomalous venous return (PAPVR). When she began feeling unusually exhausted, she turned to UC Davis Health. By exploring her anatomy through a VR headset, Frank Ing, M.D., chief of pediatric cardiology, pinpointed the issue and implanted a specialized covered stent, closing the defect and restoring proper blood flow from the pulmonary veins to the heart.

## **UC Davis Pediatric Heart Center re-accredited by national organization**

In 2024 our Pediatric Heart Center's Pediatric Echocardiography Laboratory was the only site in Sacramento to be re-accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) in pediatric and congenital transthoracic, pediatric and congenital transesophageal and fetal echocardiography. The accreditation showcases our center's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality care for children and pregnant women.

## **Nationally ranked**

Our pediatric cardiology program ranked 34<sup>th</sup> nationally in Newsweek's America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025 survey.

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

# DIABETES and ENDOCRINOLOGY



## **Studying cognition in patients with type 1 diabetes**

UC Davis Children's Hospital was awarded a NIDDK U01 grant to study cognition in young children with type 1 diabetes. Nicole Glaser, M.D., division chief of pediatric endocrinology, Stephanie Crossen, M.D., pediatric endocrinologist, and Simona Ghetti, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Psychology, will collaborate on the study along with 11 other large pediatric diabetes centers throughout the U.S. The study will assess brain development using sophisticated MRI techniques and detailed cognitive testing to determine how brain development and cognition are influenced by variations in blood glucose levels, diabetic ketoacidosis and other factors.

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

The DREAM (Device use Reimagined through Education And Mentorship) project at UC Davis, led by pediatric endocrinologist Stephanie Crossen, M.D., in collaboration with UCSF and Children's Hospital LA, connects Latinx adolescents with type 1 diabetes and their families to bilingual virtual peer groups, in-person educational events on diabetes-based topics and technology, and community-building activities. The multi-site collaboration has improved Spanish language educational processes, and participants have stated they value connecting with others in their community who face similar challenges.

## **New diabetes management website launches**

A new educational website — designed specifically for UC Davis pediatric patients and their families — provides information on diabetes management, new technologies, resources for social and emotional support, seasonal health tips and more. Families receive notifications via MyUCDavisHealth when new information or other time-sensitive items are posted which can help improve experiences and outcomes for children with diabetes.





Melina with care team members  
Shelli Beck, RN, BSN, CDCES,  
and Alex Nella, PA-C, RD, CDCES.

“UC Davis has provided outstanding care for my daughter. Their personalized approach and constant availability have made a meaningful difference. Most importantly, they’ve made us feel truly seen and cared for — something that’s had a profound impact on our small family.”

JASI GILL, ON DAUGHTER MELINA’S CARE AFTER SHE WAS TREATED FOR PEDIATRIC DIABETES.

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





# GASTROENTEROLOGY / GI SURGERY

## **New chief of pediatric gastroenterology**

Daphne Say, M.D., was appointed the new chief of pediatric gastroenterology at UC Davis Children's Hospital. Her clinical interests focus on digestive disorders, including Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, eosinophilic esophagitis, and functional gastrointestinal diseases. She also serves as the director of the UC Davis Children's Hospital Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program.

## **New associate chief medical officer of children's health**

Pediatric gastroenterologist David Kawatu, M.D., was selected as the associate chief medical officer for children's health at UC Davis Medical Center. In his new role, he oversees day-to-day operations of the children's hospital and works closely with the children's hospital medical directors and physician advisors.

## **Unique intervention helps reduce abdominal pain**

Our pediatric gastroenterology patients now have access to IB-Stim, a non-surgical device that sends gentle electrical impulses into cranial nerve bundles located in the ear. This stimulation targets brain areas involved in processing pain and reduces functional abdominal pain associated with irritable bowel syndrome.

## **New colorectal and GI motility programs**

Our nationally-renowned multidisciplinary pediatric colorectal program led by surgeon Payam Saadai, M.D., and GI motility specialist Maheen Hassan, M.D., is growing to provide fully comprehensive care for children and families — all on one campus at UC Davis Health. This integrated approach allows us to offer seamless coordination between surgery, urology and gastroenterology for the most complex patients with anorectal malformations, complex cloacal anomalies, and Hirschsprung disease.

# Maternal-Fetal care

## **Celebrating 1,990 baby births**

UC Davis Health's Labor and Delivery team delivered their highest number of babies born at UC Davis Children's Hospital during fiscal year 2024–2025. This achievement marks the most deliveries since 2010.

## **Medical Center redesignated Baby-Friendly Hospital**

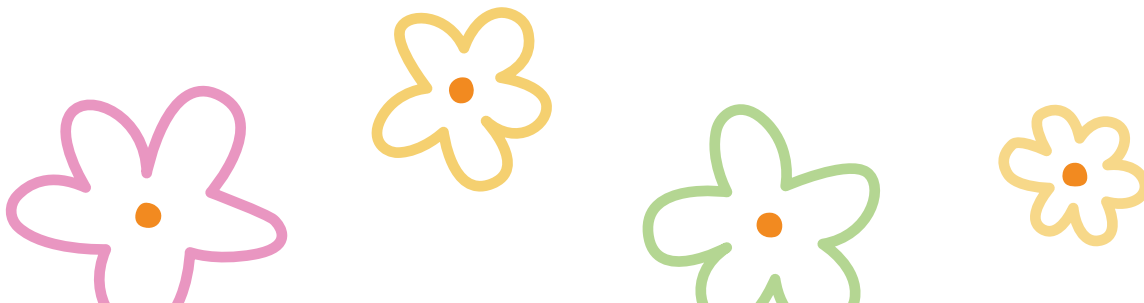
UC Davis Medical Center has been officially redesignated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital, following a rigorous review by Baby-Friendly USA. The honor demonstrates continued adherence to the highest breastfeeding standards of care, built on practices consistent with the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and compliant with the World Health Organization's International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

## **Volunteer doula program**

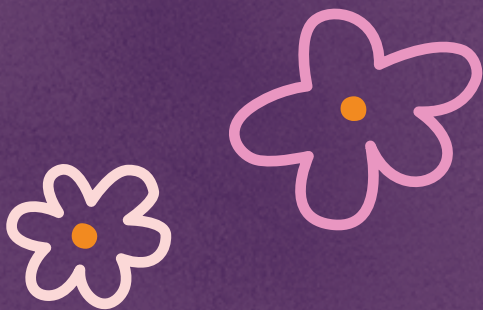
UC Davis Medical Center's free volunteer doula program offers laboring patients a dedicated doula who provides 1:1 emotional support and non-pharmacologic pain interventions through labor and delivery.

## **Unique Fetal Care and Treatment Center**

The UC Davis Fetal Care and Treatment Center, led by Payam Saadai, M.D., and Amelia McLennan, M.D., offers prenatal diagnosis, fetoscopic and open fetal surgery to treat conditions before birth. We are currently our region's only center for on-site fetal surgery, and are proud to be one of a limited number of U.S. hospitals to offer these services for families facing conditions such as twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and spina bifida.

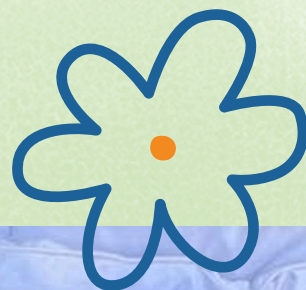






**“We couldn’t have asked for a better outcome. UC Davis took great care of us. We are blessed and grateful.”**

KAYLEEN DELGADO, WHO DELIVERED  
NATURALLY CONCEIVED QUADRUPLTS.





# Mental Health

## **Sacramento's first comprehensive trauma recovery center opens**

UC Davis Health opened the first comprehensive trauma recovery center in Sacramento. The UC Davis CAARE (Child and Adolescent Abuse Resource and Evaluation) Diagnostic and Treatment Center established the new center, thanks to a nearly \$1.2 million grant from the California Victim Compensation Board. The CAARE Center collaborates with the UC Davis Health Wraparound Program, a hospital-based violence intervention program, and the UC Davis Violence Prevention Research Program to provide trauma-informed, culturally responsive and evidenced-based mental health treatments for victims of crime from infants to those age 30 years old.

## **CAARE'ing for youth trauma survivors**

The CAARE (Child and Adolescent Abuse Resource and Evaluation) Diagnostic and Treatment Center, led by Michele Ornelas Knight, Psy.D., is a nationally recognized program for the evaluation and treatment of child maltreatment and offers high-risk children and young adults up to 21 years of age clinical assessments, case management, psychological testing, consultation and trauma treatment.

## **CIRCLE clinic improves health for foster care children**

In partnership with the Sacramento County Health Center, the Comprehensive Integration of Resilience into Child Life Experiences (CIRCLE) clinic address the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in foster care children. The multidisciplinary clinic offers comprehensive, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive care by UC Davis pediatricians; mental health services in partnership with the UC Davis CAARE Center; connections to community resources; and more.



UC Davis volunteer clinical faculty member and pediatrician Katy Carlsen, left, with CIRCLE Clinic medical director Hannah Snitzer.



# neonatology



## **Pioneering Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) program launches**

Led by internationally recognized neonatologist Yogen Singh, M.D., our Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) program located in our level IV NICU, provides portable ultrasound diagnostic imaging and guidance for procedures right at the bedside. The technology helps assess cardiac function, lung status, and central line placement quickly in critically ill newborns.

## **Nationally ranked**

Our neonatology program ranked 39<sup>th</sup> nationally in Newsweek's America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025 survey.

## **Neonatologist receives prestigious American Academy of Pediatrics award**

Satyan Lakshminrusimha, M.D., pediatrician-in-chief and the Dennis and Nancy Marks Endowed Chair in Pediatrics at UC Davis Children's Hospital, was awarded the prestigious Virginia Apgar Award by the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. The award honors an individual whose career has had a sustained and profound influence on the welfare of newborn infants.

## **Small baby unit cares for the smallest of preemies**

Located within our level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), our small baby unit is specifically equipped for babies who are born less than 27 weeks gestation or weigh less than 2.2 pounds. We have a 7-year survival rate of 46% at 22 weeks and 55% at 23 weeks, which are both well above the national average.



**“Not all family are blood relatives. There is the family that you make, and these doctors and nurses are my family.”**

JAZMIN QUIJANO, WHOSE BABY DALEYZA WAS BORN AT 22 WEEKS AND STAYED IN THE NICU FOR MORE THAN 146 DAYS.

# NEPHROLOGY and KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

## **Nationally ranked**

Our pediatric nephrology program ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> nationally in the 2025–2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Children’s Hospitals survey.

## **UNOS-certified pediatric transplant program**

Our UNOS-certified pediatric transplant program is proud to offer a multidisciplinary team of transplant surgeons, pediatric nephrologists, intensive care unit physicians, transplant pharmacists, social workers and nurses. Our team has seen exceptional outcomes, even in the youngest of children, and continues to perform research on outcomes in children who have received kidney transplants using the large national transplant database.

## **Clinical research leaders**

Our children’s hospital is a member of some of the largest research and QI networks and collaboratives, including the North American Pediatric Renal Trials and Collaborative Studies (NAPRTCS), Standardized Care to Improve Outcomes in Pediatric End-stage Renal Disease (SCOPE), and the Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium. We are also engaged in clinical trials with industry partners pertaining to the care of children with acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease.

## **Expanded kidney care services**

Our nephrology team recently joined the bi-monthly multidisciplinary clinic at Shriners Children’s Northern California to treat kidney-related health conditions for children with spina bifida.

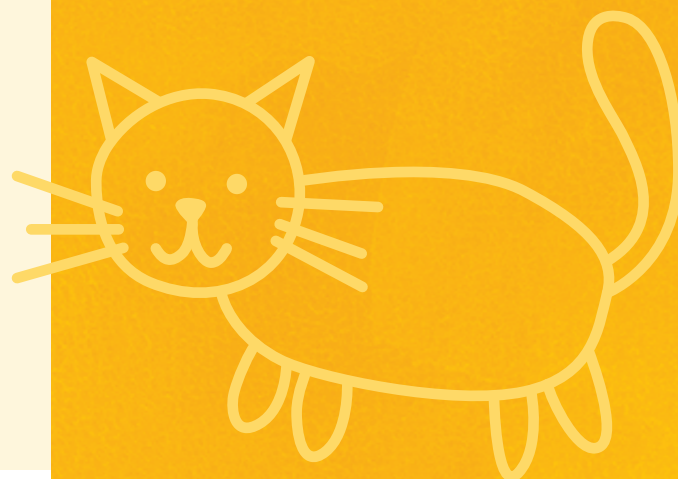
**Our nationally ranked program continues to be the region’s only outpatient peritoneal dialysis service for patients under 10.**





**“I was so relieved that we were at UC Davis. The staff are really great, so I felt comfortable being there.”**

MELIZA RAMIREZ, WHOSE SON JUSTIN RECEIVED A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT AFTER UNDERGOING DIALYSIS FOR 7 YEARS.



Leaders in quality patient care,  
the latest technologies, and  
neurological research.



**“Everyone was so wonderful, from our doctors and nurses to our therapists and child life specialists. We did make a few requests of the care team, and they were very good at listening and accommodating our requests.”**

ELIZABETH DEXTER,  
ON DAUGHTER RYLEIGH'S  
CARE AFTER SHE WAS  
HOSPITALIZED WITH ACUTE  
CEREBELLAR ATAXIA.





# neurology and neurosurgery

## **Nationally ranked**

Our pediatric neurology and neurosurgery program ranked 34<sup>th</sup> nationally in Newsweek's America's Best Children's Hospitals 2025 survey.

## **New LITT therapy now offered for epilepsy patients**

The UC Davis Comprehensive Epilepsy Program now offers pediatric patients laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), a minimally invasive technique that can treat epilepsy by destroying seizure foci. It is also a new option for treating brain tumors. The leading-edge intervention has improved patient outcomes resulting in minimal hospital stays and seizure freedom.

## **Hartwell award for hydrocephalus research**

Pediatric neurosurgeon Cameron Sadegh, M.D., Ph.D., was selected to receive a 2024 Hartwell Individual Biomedical Research Award from The Hartwell Foundation. The award funds early-stage, innovative biomedical research that benefits children in the United States. Sadegh, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery, is developing a gene therapy that might improve quality of life for babies with hydrocephalus and other brain fluid disorders. Sadegh is one of only ten scientists nationwide to receive the prestigious award this year.



# ORTHOPAEDICS



## **Shingle Springs Subaru helps with race for a sarcoma cure**

Last July, R. Lor Randall, M.D., sarcoma surgeon, researcher, and chair of the UC Davis Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, headed to the Sierra Nevada foothills to present Shingle Springs Subaru with a symbol of UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center gratitude: a race car-style trophy. Since 2021, the El Dorado County dealership has leveraged Subaru's annual Share the Love Event to raise nearly \$400,000 to help with Randall's research into sarcoma.



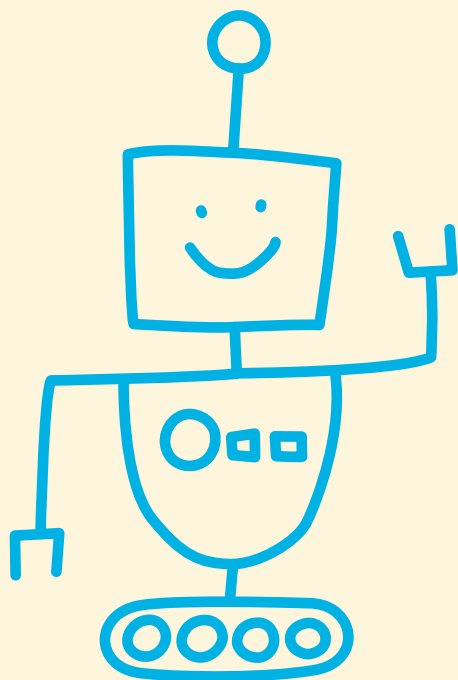
## **National study on pediatric meniscus tear treatment**

Thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, pediatric orthopaedic surgeon Brian Haus, M.D., is spearheading a North American registry to determine the best treatment for meniscus tears in young athletes. The study aims to improve outcomes and reduce long-term disability from these increasingly common injuries.

## **Nationally ranked**

U.S. News & World Report ranked our pediatric orthopaedic program 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally in 2025–2026, in collaboration with Shriners Children's Northern California, our longstanding partner on orthopaedic disorders and spinal injuries.



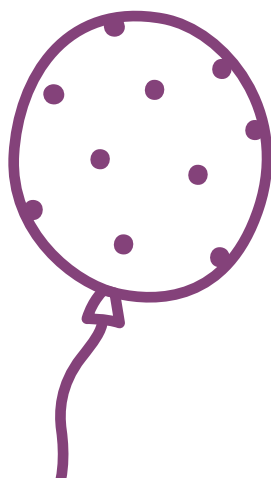


In conjunction with Shriners Children's Northern California, our team has earned national recognition for excellent pediatric care.

**“Ryder is healthy and back to doing the things he loves, and we have Dr. Randall and UC Davis Children’s Hospital to thank for that.”**

JENNIFER PHIPPIN, WHOSE SON RYDER WAS DIAGNOSED WITH OSTEOID OSTEOMA, A BENIGN BONE TUMOR.





**“I’m very blessed to have UC Davis in our lives. They’ve always been there for my son at every turn. They’ve helped us maneuver through his health and his life. I absolutely love them.”**

SHANNON VALLEJO, WHOSE SON EMILIO WAS TREATED FOR SLEEP APNEA.







# PULMONOLOGY

## **Nationally ranked**

Our pediatric pulmonology program ranked 41<sup>st</sup> nationally in the 2025–2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals survey.

## **First pediatric home sleep study program**

With funding support from Children's Miracle Network (CMN), our pediatric pulmonary and sleep medicine clinic established the first pediatric home sleep study program for children ages 3 to 18 years. The program improves availability to home sleep studies to patients with suspected sleep disordered breathing, including obstructive sleep apnea, and can help with timely access to appropriate treatments.

## **New cryotherapy used to retrieve foreign body in child**

UC Davis Health pediatric and interventional pulmonologists successfully removed a stick from a pediatric patient's airway, with the innovative use of cryotherapy. The technique is used to remove mucous plugs, blood clots and foreign bodies in the airway, and can prevent life threatening and chronic complications.

## **Disposable bronchoscopes help critical pulmonary patients**

Thanks to disposable bronchoscope equipment funded by Children's Miracle Network (CMN), we are able to perform emergency bronchoscopies in our pediatric and neonatal intensive care units. Unlike reusable bronchoscopes, the disposable equipment is readily available and easy to transport and assemble.

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

# surgery



## **New program improves surgery experience for neurodiverse kids**

To make surgical procedures less scary, UC Davis Health has pioneered a first-in-the-nation program called PATH (Promoting Accessibility To Healthcare) to improve health care experiences for neurodiverse patients and their families. To create a safe and healing environment, the PATH program helps families identify their child's likes and dislikes, sensory needs, and how they prefer to communicate with providers. This patient-centered approach helps inform the way health care teams interact with patients each time they come for care.

## **New interim co-chiefs in pediatric general, thoracic and fetal surgery**

Payam Saadai, M.D., associate professor and fellowship-trained pediatric and fetal surgeon, and Jonathan Kohler, M.D., professor and medical director of pediatric trauma, have been appointed interim co-chiefs of the Division of Pediatric General, Thoracic and Fetal Surgery in the UC Davis Department of Surgery. Saadai leads the UC Davis Fetal Care and Treatment Center as well as the Center for Complex Colorectal Care in Children, and Kohler leads the level I Children's Surgery Verification Program.

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

## **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.





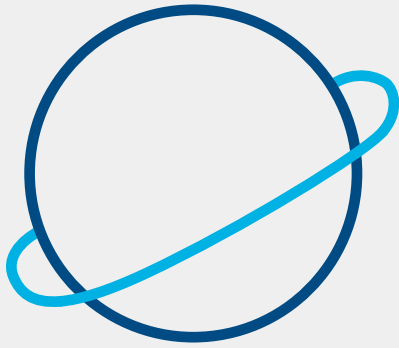


**“We have the utmost gratitude for the UC Davis care team, they gave our child a chance to live a normal life.”**

KATIE HUNTER, ON SON RYDER’S CARE AFTER HE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ROBIN SEQUENCE, A RARE CONDITION IN WHICH AN INFANT HAS A SMALLER THAN NORMAL LOWER JAW AND A TONGUE THAT FALLS BACK IN THE THROAT.

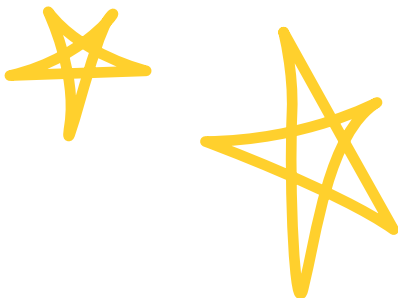
### **Farmer awarded for spina bifida research**

The Association for Clinical and Translational Science awarded UC Davis Distinguished Professor Diana Farmer, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., the prestigious Edward H. Ahrens, Jr. Award for Outstanding Achievement in Patient-Oriented Research. The award recognizes her first-of-its-kind work, which combines fetal surgery with stem cells to treat spina bifida. It also honors her excellence in moving basic research from laboratory to patients. Farmer is an internationally renowned fetal and neonatal surgeon, the Pearl Stamps Stewart Endowed Chair and the chairperson of the UC Davis Department of Surgery, and founder and co-director of the Center for Surgical Bioengineering.



**“As someone who worked in emergency departments for many years, I was frankly wary about what we might experience in terms of patient care and had low expectations, given the late hour and the high patient demand that is so common in EDs. Boy, was I wrong. From the moment we checked Shea in, every staff member we encountered was absolutely exceptional!”**

LIZ COLLENTINE-COLE, WHOSE DAUGHTER SHEA WAS TREATED IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM AFTER SHE HAD DIFFICULTY BREATHING.





# Trauma and emergency

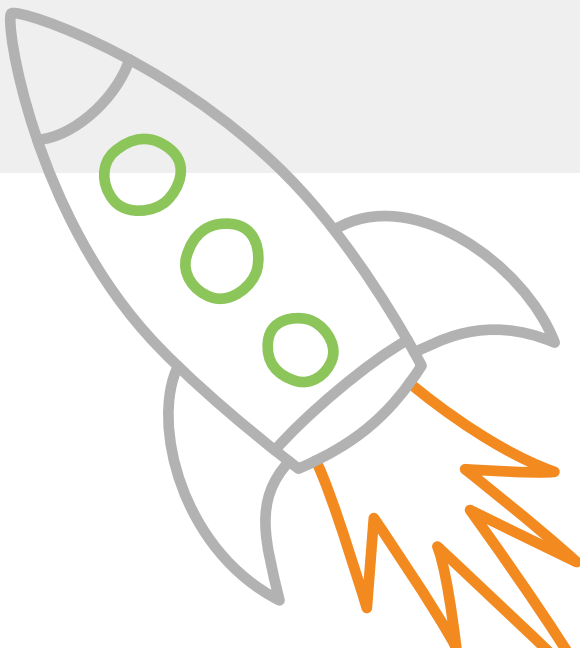


## **Level I pediatric trauma center for 65,000 miles**

UC Davis Medical Center is a level I trauma center, the highest level possible, as verified by the American College of Surgeons and is the only level I trauma center for children in inland Northern California. Jonathan Kohler, M.D., director of pediatric trauma, leads our level I pediatric trauma team.

## **Holmes appointed chair of emergency medicine**

Emergency medicine physician James F. Holmes, M.D., M.P.H., has been appointed the chair and Bo Tomas Brofeldt Endowed Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine. With more than three decades of service at UC Davis Health, Holmes is a distinguished clinical epidemiologist whose research focuses on the initial evaluation and care of injured patients — particularly children — and his work has significantly advanced understanding of CT utilization following trauma.



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

# 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 59 hospitals in California to earn a Magnet designation.

## **DAISY Foundation honors nurses**

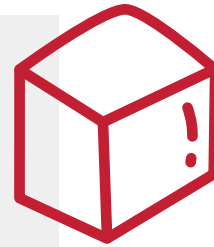
Six nurses received a 2025 DAISY Award for exemplifying the nursing values of extraordinary compassion, courage and integrity in every situation. Congratulations to:

- **Lauren Saint**, BSN, RN, Davis 7 Pediatrics
- **Kristan Kovach**, ADN, RN, Davis 5 NICU
- **PJ Maniquis**, BSN, RN, Davis 10 PICU/PCICU
- **Shannon Schraeder**, MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, Davis 3 University Birthing Suites
- **Melissa Barbato**, BS, RN, Fetal Care and Treatment Center
- **Twila Ong**, MSN, NNP-BC, PNP, Davis 5 NICU

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 59 hospitals  
in California to have earned Magnet® designation.



# COMMUNITY OUTreach

## **Seven NorCal community hospitals part of UC Davis' regional network**

We're keeping families closer to home through our regional 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 maternal and pediatric care available locally while decreasing the need for transfers to UC Davis, home to a level IV NICU and PICU 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 two editorials
- made radio and television appearances as content experts
- and discussed child health topics on three podcast episodes.



## **Training pediatric anesthesiologists in country with critical shortage**

Last fall, pediatric anesthesiologist Niroop Ravula, M.B.B.S., traveled to Lusaka in Zambia to train local anesthesiologists at the Lusaka Eye Hospital. He educated colleagues on current anesthesiology tools that are standard in the U.S., and shared his expertise on safety principles, crisis management in pediatric anesthesia and syringe labeling to reduce drug errors. Ravula's trip was organized by Orbis International, a nonprofit that works around the world to prevent blindness and restore sight in places where eye care is out of reach. More than 25 patients were treated during his stay and local teams were also trained so that they could continue offering surgeries at the hospital.



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



### **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. 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.

### **Youth heart event screens more than 500 kids and young adults**

For the fifth year, we collaborated with the Kyle J. Taylor Foundation and Project ADAM Sacramento to provide free heart screenings to more than 500 children and young adults to identify youth with undiagnosed heart conditions. Participants received a cardiac risk assessment, an EKG, a physician review and CPR training. Some received follow-up echocardiograms on-site and many were referred to their primary care physician for follow-up care.

### **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 general pediatrics, mental health, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, and asthma. 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.

### **Project ADAM helps prepare park staff for cardiac emergencies**

With a grant from the Arden-Arcade, Marysville and Elk Grove Rotary Clubs, the Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District is now able to respond to sudden cardiac arrest emergencies thanks to the installation of new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Project ADAM Sacramento, a UC Davis Children's Hospital cardiac emergency preparedness program, will provide staff with training on the AEDs and advise on how to implement a public access defibrillator program.



### **SeaWorld brings rescued animals to visit hospitalized children**

In collaboration with SeaWorld San Diego, pediatric patients and their families experienced a rare opportunity to meet rescued and rehabilitated “animal ambassadors” including a sloth, an alligator, a porcupine, and more. SeaWorld representatives, alongside other wildlife experts, accompanied the animal ambassadors and shared their stories of rescue, rehabilitation and conservation. Experiences like these foster meaningful connections with the natural world, inspiring greater care for wild species and the habitats they call home.



# Patient-centered care

## Patients shine at Creative Arts Festival

The UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Therapy Department's continued partnership with Baykids Studios allows pediatric patients to express their imaginations through art, music and filmmaking. At this year's Creative Arts Festival, the event showcased live musical performances, a fashion show, a gallery of artwork, and a screening of films, made by children during their hospitalization. At the end of the show, each artist received a Greatest Davis award, which included a certificate and gold statuette.



## Popular players with Sacramento Republic FC

UC Davis Health is a founding and ongoing season-presenting partner of the Sacramento 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 2025, players visited with patients and families bringing cheer and signing autographs.

# PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

## **CMN awards 24 new clinical, research grants**

Twenty-four grants totaling more than \$2 million have been awarded by Children's Miracle Network at UC Davis to clinicians and researchers at UC Davis Children's Hospital. Eighteen grants will enhance the clinical care of children, while six grants were awarded for research directly improving the health and welfare of children.

## **Spirit Halloween store raises over \$100,000 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 14-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. Annual donations from the foundation topped the \$1 million mark last year.

Children's Miracle Network  
for the Sacramento region,  
raising more than \$4 million  
in 2025.







### Children's Miracle Network Child Champion

UC Davis Children's Hospital is a proud member of the Children's Miracle Network (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 Shine Arslanian.

Shine arrived five weeks early at a small hospital near his home. He weighed just 4.5 pounds. He was immediately transported to UC Davis Children's Hospital. Doctors noticed that Shine's jaws and eyes couldn't open, his knees wouldn't extend completely, and his fingers and toes were

joined together. He was diagnosed with Popliteal Pterygium Syndrome (PPS) Bartsocas-Papas type, a rare condition, and with a complicated disorder known as ectodermal dysplasia. Shine has had 22 surgeries to date, including the amputation of his legs above the knee at 2 years old. Now in first grade, he hopes to be a Paralympic athlete, and he's taking his role as Champion seriously. His larger-than-life image already appears on the sides of two Knight Transportation and Swift Transportation semitrucks which will drive across the country. 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

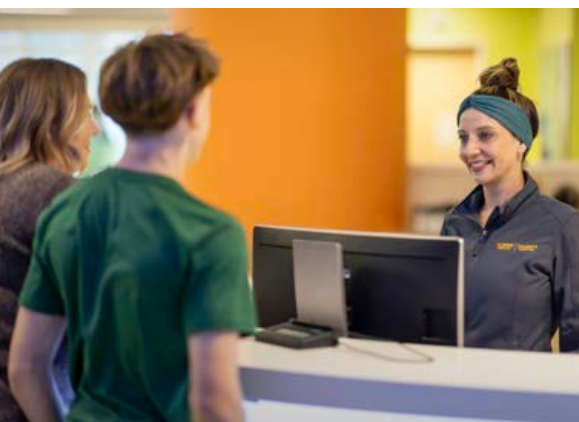


The Central Valley's  
only level I pediatric  
trauma center, with  
**55,724** clinic visits  
and **18,448** emergency  
department visits  
this year.





# NUMBERS



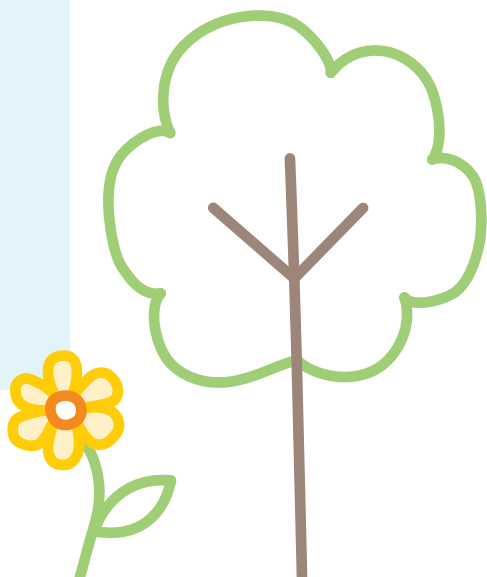
The West Coast's **first level I Children's Surgery Center** as verified by the American College of Surgeons, with **6,548** children's surgeries this year.

## **Nationally ranked in 3 specialties**

Provides care for children in **33 counties**, covering **65,000-square-miles** with **363 transports** to our hospital this year.

**1,011 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
- **63%** of UC Davis nurses hold a B.S.N. degree or higher
- **12%** hold advanced degrees
- **40%** of UC Davis nurses have obtained a specialty certification





## UC Davis Children's Hospital Contact Information

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

**Fetal Care and Treatment Center** 916-794-BABY (916-794-2229)

**Clinical Telehealth Program** 877-430-5332

**Pediatric Education and Outreach Request** (Patient Care Services) 916-734-8513

**Giving and Donations** 916-734-9400

**24-Hour Hospital Operator** 916-734-2011

[children.ucdavis.edu](https://children.ucdavis.edu)