



A Note from the Medical Director



Margot Ahronovich, MD

Our Fetal Care team has had the great opportunity to serve over 300 families through the Fetal Care Center in 2018. The goal is to connect these families with the pediatric resources they will need once their

baby is born and to offer the support new parents often need when facing a fetal diagnosis or difference.

As Medical Director, I have the good fortune to work with a wonderful team and have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know families prior to their deliveries and to interact further with my OB colleagues and pediatric subspecialists. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or further details on a specific case. I am often found in the NICU or can be reached through the Fetal Care Center.

Welcome

Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Center provides a supportive team approach to pregnant women who are at risk or suspected of carrying a baby with a fetal concern. The goal of the Fetal Care Center is to provide accurate diagnosis and a coordinated delivery plan to meet the individualized needs of each patient. In addition, families are referred to specific pediatric providers who will be involved in the care of the baby after birth. Our center provides a full continuum of care by combining the expertise of Inova Women's Hospital with the highly specialized neonatologists and pediatric subspecialists of Inova Children's Hospital.

What sets this program apart from other area hospitals is the continuity of care the family receives, as Inova Women's Hospital and Inova Children's Hospital are in the same location. Therefore, after delivery, mother and baby remain in the same facility close together.

The Patient Experience

A pregnant woman suspected of carrying a high-risk baby will be referred to the Fetal Care Center by her obstetrician or maternal fetal medicine specialist. Once the specifics of each case are identified, the care team will facilitate recommended consultations and any further diagnostic testing to appropriately prepare for the birth of the baby. Throughout the pregnancy, the Fetal Care team will provide ongoing support and education regarding the baby's diagnosis. We prepare parents for all the expected ups and downs of having a newborn with special needs. Parents will learn what to expect in the delivery room, while breastfeeding and breast pumping, and during a prolonged hospitalization. If an Intense Care Unit stay is anticipated, tours will be provided to those parents. As the delivery day approaches, the Fetal Care team will ensure that all specialists are coordinated to be ready for the arrival of your baby.

Learn more about
Inova Children's Hospital
Fetal Care Center

inovachildrens.org/fetal-care-program

Refer a patient:
703.776.6371



A Mother's Perspective on the Fetal Care Center

"I came to Inova Fairfax Antenatal Testing Center (ATC) in January 2018. This was my second pregnancy and because of my age, I was considered high risk. It was discovered during my first ultrasound that our baby may be born with a birth defect. My husband and I were in total shock.

"I was then introduced to Melissa and Erin after this appointment. They were truly God-sent. They assisted me with getting my appointments scheduled, as this can sometimes be difficult when scheduling to see a specialist the very next week on such short notice. They were always responsive to my emails and phone calls. They were very encouraging and provided the best support during every interaction. I recall meeting them for the first time in person for the hospital tour, and I felt like I had known them for years. They are truly professional, genuine and amazing at their job.

"Around week 16 of my pregnancy, I was referred to a cardiologist, Dr. Sharon Karr, who followed me throughout my pregnancy. She was very thorough during my appointments and I never felt rushed during my visit. I always left feeling knowledgeable about what was going on with my baby and the possibility of what to expect after birth. Dr. Karr draws the best chambers of the heart in three dimensions.

"Overall, I had a wonderful experience with the staff. I had the best sonographers in the ATC. The maternal-fetal doctors and nurses were also wonderful to work with. I recall at my first appointment being devastated at the news we received, but in the end, I had the best pregnancy. I truly believe it was because of the genuine care I received from the Inova Fairfax Maternal-Fetal Care team. Many thanks to everyone for doing their job exceptionally well."

- K.J., January 2019

Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Team



Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care team (L to R): Margot Ahronovich, MD, Erin Caulfield, RN, IBCLC and Melissa Eatherly, FNP-BC

Margot Ahronovich, MD

Margot Ahronovich, MD, is the medical director of the Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Center. In addition to her leadership role at the Fetal Care Center, Dr. Ahronovich is a neonatologist in Inova Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Dr. Ahronovich completed her residency and fellowship at Children's National Medical Center.

Erin Caulfield, BSN, IBCLC

Erin Caulfield, BSN, IBCLC, is a registered nurse who serves as a patient navigator at the Fetal Care Center. She provides patient care coordination, support and education for families. Erin is a board-certified lactation consultant with over 20 years of experience in the fields of maternal and neonatal intensive care nursing. She co-founded and developed the NICU Lactation Program at Inova Children's Hospital.

Melissa Eatherly, MSN, FNP-BC

Melissa Eatherly, MSN, FNP-BC, is a board-certified nurse practitioner who leads the Fetal Care Center. She provides support, patient care coordination and education for families. Before earning her master's degree at George Washington University, Melissa worked as a neonatal nurse and a charge nurse at the Inova Children's Hospital Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Inova Children's Hospital Lobby

Inova Children's Hospital

- Largest and most comprehensive subspecialty Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the region
- First in the nation to receive The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ for Prematurity
- Nationally ranked by *U.S. News and World Report*
- Complete range of children's services in more than 35 medical specialties
- 108-bed Level IV NICU
- 26-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- 8-bed Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU)
- Private rooms
- 24-hour visitation
- Round-the-clock multidisciplinary NICU/PICU/CICU specialists
- Specialized registered dietitians and lactation consultants for high risk infants
- March of Dimes parent support program
- Ronald McDonald House availability
- Child Life resources for siblings



Antenatal Testing Waiting Room

If you do not wish to receive future mailings from Inova, please contact us at **703.972.2044**, or visit inova.org/unsubscribe.

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Giving to Inova Children's Hospital

Inova Children's Hospital is Northern Virginia's only pediatric tertiary care center housing a Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and a Cardiac Intensive Care Unit in the same location.

Inova is Northern Virginia's leading nonprofit healthcare provider and relies on community support to keep this exceptional level of pediatric care close to home.

If you would like to support the Inova Children's Fetal Care Center, please contact Kirstin McArthur, Director of Leadership Giving, at **703.776.6081** or kirstin.mcarthur@inova.org.

