

A Note from the Medical Director



Margot
Ahrönovich, MD

The Fetal Care Center continues to grow and serve more families. In addition, the pediatric subspecialty services have become more robust so as to better serve our patients, their families and the referring physicians in our community. We have welcomed a new medical director to support our Pediatric Cardiology Intensive Care Unit and are better supported to provide the best care for our most fragile newborn heart patients. We have increased our pediatric urology and orthopedic support and we are refining our processes to continue to best serve our families.

The Antenatal Testing Center at Inova Women's Hospital has started providing intrauterine transfusions for at-risk babies in utero. We are proud of the services we can provide for infants, children and their families in our community.

Please feel free to contact our team for general information and/or to refer a patient and family.

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.

Inova Fetal Care Center Annual CME 2019

Inova Fetal Care Center hosted our annual CME dinner event at 2941 Restaurant on October 22. This year we had two very well respected speakers: Dana Block-Abraham, DO, and Ben Solomon, MD. Dr. Dana Block-Abraham provided an update on intrauterine transfusions performed at Inova Women's Hospital. Dr. Ben Solomon provided a thought-provoking lecture on prenatal genomics, including current and future diagnostics with therapeutic possibilities. Obstetricians, maternal fetal medicine specialists, neonatologists, various pediatric specialists, geneticists and ethicists were in attendance. The evening offered a great opportunity for professional networking outside of the hospital setting. This event takes place each fall in effort to collaborate and provide interesting topics for discussion and learning.

If you would like to attend next year's event, please contact Erin Caulfield at the Inova Fetal Care Center at erin.caufield@inova.org.



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* (2018 - 2019)
- 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



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

Meet the Team: Pediatric Genetic Counseling



Sonia Thomas is a board-certified, licensed senior genetic counselor at Inova Health System. The Inova genetics team works closely with the Fetal Care Center team to ensure continuity of care for our patients. Expectant mothers who are carrying a fetus with abnormal ultrasound findings or have a personal or family history of a genetic condition are referred to our genetic counselors. Genetic counselors meet with patients at their maternal fetal medicine appointments early in the pregnancy to provide information on diagnosis and possible genetic links, as well as testing options. They meet again post-delivery to examine the baby and offer more specific testing, as recommended. Counselors are happy to help provide the support and education these new mothers need in preparing for what to expect once their baby is born.

Pediatric Genetic Case Study

We recently had a 31-year-old G3 P0020 with abnormal ultrasound findings of short long bones, concerning for skeletal dysplasia. Previous pregnancy was terminated at 23 weeks due to Dandy Walker anomaly findings and a cardiac defect. I met with the parents prenatally and introduced the role of the genetics team. We discussed that the genetics team will evaluate the baby postnatally for signs of a genetic syndrome, after which we would recommend the appropriate genetic testing for the baby. We discussed the potential benefits of genetic testing. Parents decided to wait until the baby was born since it was not going to change the pregnancy management. We respected and supported their decision.

In the neonatal period, the baby boy was found to have absent radii bilaterally with bowed ulna and thrombocytopenia, consistent with a clinical diagnosis of thrombocytopenia-absent radius (TAR) syndrome. The thrombocytopenia usually appears during infancy and becomes less severe over time. In some cases the platelet levels become normal.

Postnatal genetic testing confirmed the clinical diagnosis. Mutations in the RBM8A gene cause TAR syndrome, which is inherited in an autosomal recessive (AR) pattern. An AR pattern means that the symptoms will usually only be present if both copies of the genes have mutations and are nonfunctional. Parents are usually carriers, and they typically do not show any symptoms.

We were able to support this family throughout the pregnancy and help them by providing the recurrence risk of one in four chance for decision making regarding future pregnancies.

Our pediatric genetics team at Inova Children's Hospital is happy to provide consults as needed. Call us at **703.776.2822** or **703.776.6274**.

Intrauterine Transfusions



The fetal care team is excited to announce our expanded fetal intervention services with the additional expertise of Dana Block-Abraham, DO. Dr. Block-Abraham is a board-certified maternal-fetal medicine specialist who completed an additional two years of dedicated training in fetal intervention at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. We performed our first intrauterine transfusion procedure at Inova Women's Hospital in April of 2019, and the program rapidly grew thereafter. In fact, this September we welcomed the safe arrival of our third baby who received intrauterine transfusions at Inova!

The most common indication for intrauterine transfusion is red blood cell alloimmunization (determined by a positive maternal antibody screen outside of RhoGam administration). Parvovirus infection can also result in fetal anemia. Other rarer conditions, such as alpha thalassemia and non-immune hydrops, may be indications for cordocentesis and/or intrauterine transfusion.

To request a consultation with Dr. Block-Abraham, please call **703.776.6654**. We also offer a range of fetal diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, including CVS, amniocentesis, cordocentesis and fetal shunt placements for pleural effusions and lower urinary tract obstructions.

New Director of Cardiac ICU

Keith Kocis, MD, FAAP, FACC, FCCM

Director, Pediatric Cardiac ICU, Inova Children's Hospital



It is with great pleasure that we announce that Keith Kocis, MD has joined our team as Director of the Pediatric Cardiac ICU at Inova Children's Hospital. Dr. Kocis is a graduate of SUNY Upstate Medical University. He completed his pediatric residency at Children's National Medical Center, followed by a pediatric cardiology fellowship at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, University of Michigan and a pediatric critical care medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Kocis is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP), American College of Cardiology (FACC) and American College of Critical Care Medicine (FCCM).

Dr. Kocis comes to Inova with more than 30 years of expertise as a pediatric cardiac intensivist at the University of Southern California, University of North Carolina and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, caring for infants, children and adolescents with critical heart disease.

Dr. Kocis is bringing Big Data and AI to Inova Children's Hospital by integrating the EPIC clinical data warehouse with the STS Database, Virtual PICU and the Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Consortium (PC⁴) to benchmark Inova's quality initiatives and outcomes to others in the country while building real time continuously updated predictive models for mortality in critically ill and hospitalized neonates, infants, children and young adults.

Inova Children's Hospital Pediatric Subspecialists

Cardiac Surgery

Lucas Collazo, MD
Marcelo Cardarelli, MD

Fetal Cardiology

Annette Ansong, MD
Patrick Callahan, MD
Sarah Chambers, MD
Sharon Karr, MD
Jared Hershenson, MD
Jennifer Lindsey, MD
Jennifer O'Neil, MD
Jin Park, MD
Harish Rudra, MD

Electrophysiology

Mitchell Cohen, MD

Pediatric Surgery

Joseph Hartwich, MD
Stephen Kim, MD
Bharath Nath, MD

Pediatric Neurosurgery

Leon Moores, MD

Craniofacial and Plastic Surgery

Stephen Baker, DDS, MD
Christopher Chang, MD
Jenny Chen, MD
Lora Hindenburg, RN

Genetics

Ryan Hartman, MS, CGC
Natalie Hauser, MD
Sonia Thomas, CGC
Becca Miller, MS, CGC

Orthopedics

George Gantsoudes, MD
Candice Holden, MD
Laura Gill Sealy, MD
Emily Hattwick, MD
Benjamin Martin, MD
Meryl Ludwig, MD

Urology

Daniel Casella, MD
Hans Pohl, MD
Rachel Selekman, MD

Social Work

Christine Tran, MSW, LSW

Child Life

Ashley Richards, CCLS



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A photograph of a pregnant woman from the waist up. She is wearing a light-colored, ribbed, short-sleeved top. Her hands are gently holding a printed ultrasound image of a fetus. The image shows a grayscale ultrasound scan with various anatomical structures visible. The woman's left hand rests on her abdomen, just above the image. The background is a plain, light color.

Inova Children's Hospital
Fetal Care Center
UPDATES

Inova Children's Hospital

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