

# Partners

Creating a Healthier Future for Our Region's Children

Wolfson Children's Hospital  
800 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
904.202.KIDS (5437) or  
1.877.240.KIDS (5437)  
wolfsonchildrens.org



## Top Neuroscience Specialists Deliver Care for Children with Neurological Disorders

*Top-ranked pediatric physicians from these organizations provide Wolfson Children's patients with access to every specialty and subspecialty of children's medicine.*

**Nemours.**

**UF** UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

**MAYO CLINIC**

To provide the latest treatments for disorders of the brain, spine and nervous system in infants, children and teens, Wolfson Children's Hospital brings together neurologists from Nemours Children's Clinic Jacksonville, neurosurgeons from the University of Florida/Jacksonville and Mayo Clinic Florida and neuroradiologists from the University of Florida and Mayo Clinic Rochester.

The physician team collaborates with children's specialists in neuropsychology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, radiology, orthopaedic surgery, radiation oncology, craniofacial surgery, plastic surgery and otolaryngology.

"All of these disciplines come together to provide the most comprehensive neuroscience care, supported by specially trained nurses and other children's healthcare professionals," says Philipp Aldana, MD, FAAP, chief of Neurosurgery at Wolfson Children's. "Under this umbrella, we each focus on different programs that help children with neurological disorders."

*Continued on page 2*



*Continued from page 1*

As the region's leader in pediatric neurosciences, Wolfson Children's Hospital's specialized areas of care include:

- Brain and spinal cord tumors
- Minimally invasive craniofacial anomalies and skull base disorders
- Developmental delay
- Movement disorders
- Multidisciplinary evaluation of neurological conditions
- Neurodegenerative disease
- Stroke, cerebral aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations
- Prenatal diagnosis and counseling
- Sleep disorders
- Epilepsy Center
- MDA Clinic
- Headache Center
- Spinal Defects Clinic
- Spasticity Clinic
- Surgery, radiation treatment and neurointerventional procedures

**For a referral to or consultation with one of our pediatric neurosurgeons, call 904.633.0780. For more information, visit [www.childneurosurgery.com](http://www.childneurosurgery.com).**

## Save the Date

**February 4-5, 2011**

*18th Annual First Coast Infectious Disease/Clinical Microbiology Symposium*  
Sawgrass Marriott

Pre-registration is required:  
[www.firstcoastidcm.com](http://www.firstcoastidcm.com)

**March 8-9, 2011**

*Third Annual Autism Symposium*  
Including:

March 8 – *Physicians' Dinner Lecture*

March 9 – *Pediatric Grand Rounds*  
8-9 am duPont Auditorium  
Baptist Medical Center

March 9 – *All-Day Conference Events*  
UNF University Center

**Call Jennifer Bowden at 904.202.2080 for more information.**



More than  
**4,300**  
children in  
2010 received  
neurological care  
by Wolfson  
Children's Hospital  
and its partners.

# Comprehensive Epilepsy Care Eliminates Need to Travel for Medical Treatment

The neuroscience team at Wolfson Children's Hospital's Pediatric Epilepsy Center (PEC) in Jacksonville provides comprehensive care in the region for children with epilepsy, including monitoring, medical management, and advanced surgical treatments for the most severe cases.



Raj Sheth, MD

"The Pediatric Epilepsy Center offers children with intractable epilepsy surgical evaluation and treatment right here in Jacksonville instead of having to go to Miami or Atlanta," says Nemours Children's Clinic Chief of Pediatric Neurology and epileptologist Raj Sheth, MD, medical director of the PEC. Through collaboration with Nemours' Division of Pediatric Neurology, the PEC is a National Association of Epilepsy Centers-accredited program for advanced surgical treatment of severe childhood epilepsy.

## Causes and Symptoms

Epilepsy is a disorder with possible causes as varied as the children affected by its seizures. Patients may have a familial disposition to seizures, or they may have more severe forms of brain damage or abnormal brain development that can lead to seizures. When children have had two or more unprovoked seizures, they are considered to have epilepsy. They may experience strange sensations, emotions and behavior, or sometimes convulsions, muscle spasms and loss of consciousness.

For some children, it can be a temporary problem easily controlled with antiepileptic medication or diet therapies and outgrown after a few years. For others, it may be a lifelong challenge, affecting their development and quality of life.

## Focused Care Provided

Wolfson Children's team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, nurse specialists and neuropsychologists evaluate each child who is exhibiting epilepsy symptoms. After reviewing the patient's medical, psychological, social and educational issues, a diagnosis will be made and a subsequent plan of treatment will be established.

Neuroimaging tests offered at Wolfson Children's, including MRIs, MRS, PET and fMRI, help confirm the diagnosis. In addition, a specialized, four-bed inpatient unit uses video and computerized EEG monitoring equipment 24 hours a day to monitor seizures so that a proper diagnosis can be made.

In the most serious cases where seizures do not respond to medication, neurosurgeons may need to remove the tiny regions of the brain responsible for a child's seizures while protecting functionally important tissue. The types of epilepsy surgeries performed at Wolfson Children's include focal resectioning of the brain, vagus nerve stimulation, corpus callosotomy and hemispherectomy.

The Pediatric Epilepsy Center also works with multiple disciplines such as speech therapists and audiologists.

**To refer a patient for epilepsy evaluation or treatment, call the Nemours Division of Neurology at 904.697.3844. Hospital services are provided at Wolfson Children's Hospital.**

## HELPFUL INFO FOR YOUR PATIENTS' PARENTS:

For epilepsy basics, visit [KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org) and search for "epilepsy." Presented by Nemours.



*Philipp Aldana, MD, Hector James, MD, and Ian Heger, MD, with the Lucy Gooding Pediatric Neurosurgery Center at Wolfson Children's.*

## Telemedicine Will Connect Pediatric Neurosurgeons With Underserved Children in South Georgia

When pediatric neurosurgeons at Wolfson Children's identified a growing need in underserved areas of South Georgia, they developed a plan to expand their neurosurgical program via secure video conferencing to clinics funded by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

"Once we're connected to the CMS clinics in South Georgia, we'll be able to provide neurosurgical evaluations from a distance," says Dr. Aldana, chief of Neurosurgery at Wolfson Children's.

Beginning this spring, pediatric neurosurgeons with the University of Florida will be connected through video with the clinics in Georgia. Nurses will regularly present patient cases, including questions on follow-up treatment or a new evaluation for a child needing neurosurgery. If needed, patients would then come to Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville for their procedures.



**"In most cases, patients and their families would prefer personal contact with a doctor. But where that is not practical or possible, telemedicine can bridge the gap," Dr. Aldana says.**

As the regional referral center for infants, children and teens, Wolfson Children's Hospital may consider other telemedicine clinics in the future, Dr. Aldana says.

"Everyone wants to make a child better. Going into this field gives us the opportunity to make a big difference in the life of a child in need," he adds.



# Real-Time Molecular Testing Means Rapid Diagnosis, More Focused Care

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a new molecular testing method to extract, amplify, detect and identify the specific DNA or RNA sequence of a virus. By eliminating the need for culturing specimens, it cuts wait times for accurate laboratory diagnoses and represents leaps and bounds in reducing the spread of infectious diseases in children.

Traditional testing could take days of waiting for a culture to grow before a diagnosis was possible. With new molecular technology, all that has changed. Now results of specimens received at the Infectious Disease Lab by 10 am will be available the same day, seven days a week.

The revolutionary GeneXpert and other high-capacity testing tools in the expanded Infectious Disease Lab can run several samples at a time. This means the causes of illnesses such as whooping cough, herpes encephalitis, enterovirus meningitis and antibiotic resistant staph can be determined rapidly and accurately.

"Molecular is the way of the future," says Diane Halstead, PhD, director of the Infectious Disease Lab. "Real-time PCR gives us results in hours — not days. Physicians tell us it has made a huge impact on the management of their patients."



*Diane Halstead, PhD, and Carolyn Laing, technical specialist*

## PCR assays are available for the following:

- Influenza types A and B
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Enteroviruses
- Herpes simplex viruses
- Human cytomegalovirus and HIV viral load
- B. pertussis
- GC and chlamydia
- MRSA/ORSA surveillance

## PCR tests are on the horizon for the following:

- Adenoviruses
- Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV)
- Parainfluenza viruses 1-3
- Hepatitis C viral load

The faster a disease is positively diagnosed, the faster that patient can receive appropriate treatment and infection control practices, Dr. Halstead adds. This results in:

- Better outcomes for the patient
- Reduction in transmission of highly contagious diseases
- Avoidance of additional lab tests
- Elimination of unnecessary hospital stays
- Antibiotic stewardship in the community

Halstead's army of lab technologists are geared up to help doctors on the front lines of winter flu season with a three-pronged PCR test for rapid detection of influenzas A, B and RSV.

**Call 904.202.1112 to reach the Infectious Disease Lab. For specimen collection guidelines or more information, call Dr. Halstead at 904.202.2166.**



*Mary Lim, MD, director of Newborn Intensive Care Unit for Wolfson Children's, and Tori Sims, physician assistant, demonstrate an important new head cooling therapy for newborns in the hospital's NICU.*

## Advanced Head Cooling Therapy Improves Outlook for Oxygen-Deprived Newborns

Wolfson Children's is the only pediatric facility in Northeast Florida to use "head cooling" to improve long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes for oxygen-deprived newborns.

"When blood flow or oxygen delivery to the brain is interrupted, it can lead to abnormal neurological behavior or function," explains Mark Hudak, MD, section chief of Neonatology for Wolfson Children's.

In these cases, newborn asphyxia may have occurred as a result of fetal distress, insufficient uteroplacental circulation, abnormal stress of labor, prolonged cord compression, uterine rupture and other conditions.

Head cooling therapy takes place in Wolfson Children's Level III Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). A Cool-Cap® device is secured around the infant's head and cold water is circulated through it until the core body temperature

decreases to a hypothermic state. Treatment continues for 72 hours, during which time an amplitude EEG machine assesses brain waves for seizure or abnormally low activity. The baby's body is gradually rewarmed when treatment is complete.

"When used within the first six hours after birth, head cooling therapy can interrupt the secondary brain injury that can occur," says Dr. Hudak. "This therapy doesn't prevent permanent brain injury in all infants, but it certainly results in a substantial improvement in the average outcome for all the infants undergoing treatment."

**To refer a patient, call 904.202.KIDS (5437) OR 1.877.240.KIDS (5437) and press 2 for admission to the NICU, or press 5 to arrange transport by specially trained neonatal and pediatric intensive care-trained nurses and respiratory therapists.**



# Wound Care Program Benefits Patients With Chronic Conditions

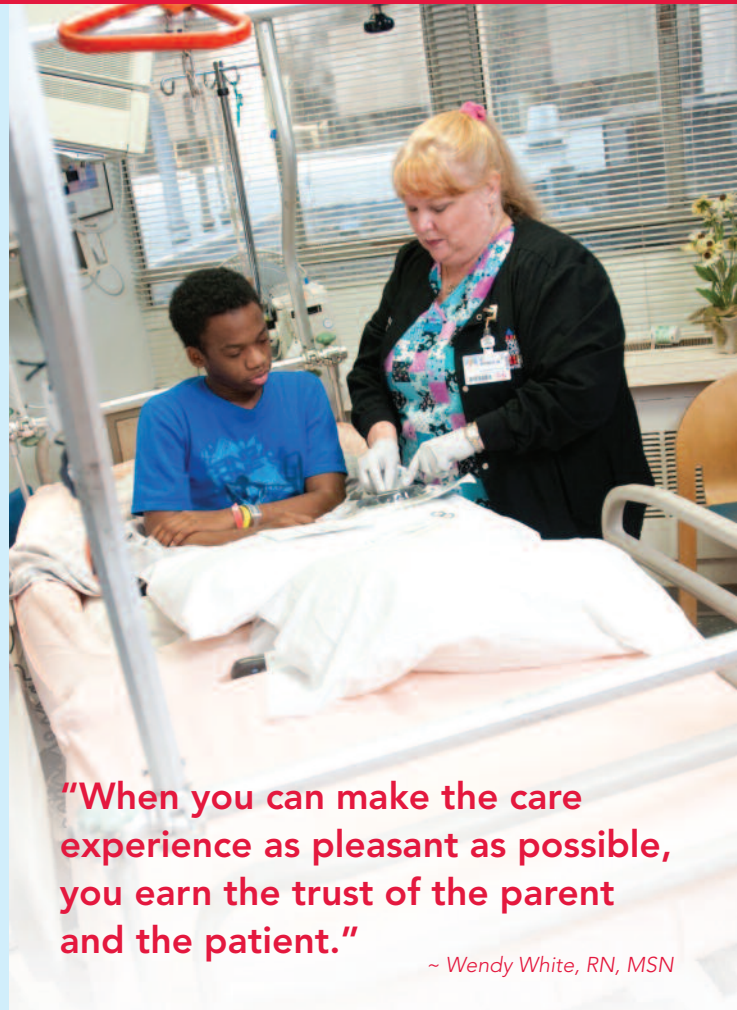
To fill an unmet need, Wolfson Children's Hospital last year began developing a wound care program specifically for infants and children. Today, this program meets diverse needs — from acute skin injuries and surgical wound healing, to ostomy teaching and support, to prevention of skin break-down in young patients with mobility or continence issues.

The special concerns of children, from higher incidence of skin sensitivities to medication management for minimizing pain and calming anxiety, have guided development of the program.

"When you can make the care experience as pleasant as possible, you earn the trust of the parent and the patient," says Wendy White, RN, MSN, Wound Care nurse at Wolfson Children's. White completed a graduate level wound, ostomy and continence program for nurses, making her eligible for national certification.

The program serves both inpatients and outpatients and aims to find evidence-based products and objective tools for early identification of risk. Preventing skin break-down from pressure and moisture is a constant goal resulting in positive changes throughout the hospital, including:

- New beds with the latest rotation capabilities
- Low air-loss mattresses to allow more air circulation under the skin
- Antimicrobial bandaging that requires less frequent changing
- Ultra-absorbent diaper material to prevent wound pressure
- Non-adhesive silicone bandages to prevent skin damage



**"When you can make the care experience as pleasant as possible, you earn the trust of the parent and the patient."**

*~ Wendy White, RN, MSN*

*Wendy White, RN, MSN, works with inpatients and outpatients to meet the diverse needs of children and teens in Wolfson Children's Wound Care Program.*

**Call 904.202.8805 to refer a patient to the Wound Care Program.**

## Key Contact Information

**Inpatient Referral Line 904.202.KIDS (5437) OR 1.877.240.KIDS (5437)**

*Press 1 for the Children's Emergency Department*

*Press 2 for admission to the NICU*

*Press 3 for admission to the PICU*

*Press 4 for general floor admission*

*Press 5 to arrange transport for a child by KidsKare, the Neonatal/Pediatric Transport program (local or regional transport), or Life Flight air ambulance*

**Kelley Shaw, Regional Outreach Coordinator • 904.202.5040 (office) • 904.652.8517 (cell)**



## Diabetes & Endocrinology

When you care about children,  
you care about quality.

Wolfson Children's Hospital in Northeast Florida and its pediatric partner, Nemours Children's Clinic, have received one of the top healthcare quality honors in the country: we have been ranked among *U.S. News & World Report's* "**Best Children's Hospitals 2010**," and as **one of the top 30 hospitals in the nation for pediatric diabetes and endocrinology**.

Wolfson Children's Hospital is home to a nationally known pediatric diabetes center and pediatric endocrinology program. Our endocrinologists are experts in their fields, working with skilled nurse practitioners, nurses and other staff to offer comprehensive care for children with all types of diabetes, hormonal issues, growth- and puberty-related conditions and more. Our pediatric subspecialists are involved in important clinical research that has yielded new treatments for children with endocrine disorders.

Find out more about Wolfson Children's Hospital at [wolfsonchildrens.org](http://wolfsonchildrens.org).

