



Physician News

Neonatologist

Amar Siddique, MD

Dr. Amar Siddique joined Children's Hospital in September as a neonatologist. He completed his pediatric residency at John Stroger Hospital of Cook County in Chicago and a fellowship in neonatology at University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

Pediatric Endocrinologist

Marjan Haghi, MD

Dr. Marjam Haghi will join Children's Hospital in November. Board certified in pediatric endocrinology by the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Haghi has been a faculty member in pediatrics since 2002 at University of California Irvine Medical Center.

Pediatric Hospitalist

Homeira Izadi, MD

Board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Homeira Izadi joined Children's Hospital in September. A pediatric hospitalist, Dr. Izadi comes to us from Delano Regional Medical Center. She provides pediatric services at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock through our partnership with the hospital.

Pediatrician

Michele M. Tamse, DO

Dr. Michele Tamse will join Children's Hospital in October as a pediatrician at the Charlie Mitchell Children's Center. A recent graduate, Dr. Tamse completed her medical degree at Des Moines University, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and pediatric residency at University of Nevada, School of Medicine.

Orthopaedic Surgery Steps It Up

The only practice of its kind in Central California, Children's Hospital's Orthopaedic Surgery Department has added two physicians, making it better prepared to handle your urgent and complex pediatric patient needs.

With three physicians for the past year to manage 20,000 outpatient visits, the department has been working overtime to keep up with your referrals. Knowing they could not sustain the demanding pace indefinitely, the practice increased their staff to ensure high quality treatment and quick access to care without cutting their caseload.

Orthopaedic subspecialists Dr. Jon Oda and Dr. Dan Ruggles join the group's other surgeons – Dr. Joseph Gerardi, Chief of Surgery and Medical Director; Dr. Michael Elliott; and Dr. Monthakan Ratnarathorn. Four nurse practitioners and two physician assistants round out the well-coordinated team.

From infants to adolescents, the department treats all aspects of children's orthopaedic conditions. Consultations are also available at the Hospital's Modesto and Merced Pediatric Subspecialty Centers. The team specializes in treating congenital deformities of the upper and lower extremities, spinal disorders, sports-related injuries and neuromuscular diseases. Children's bones are still developing and the orthopaedic subspecialists are experts at treating young patients whose growth plates are not yet closed.

Traumatic injuries from simple falls on the playground to major motor vehicle collisions make up the majority of the department's cases. Based on experience, the



Dr. Monthakan Ratnarathorn is one of five surgeons in Children's Orthopaedic Surgery Department.

practice developed the concept that they could predict – and therefore better prepare for – increases in patients who require immediate attention.

“We realized we can plot traumatic injuries, and that we don't have to be surprised by the predictable,” said Dr. Gerardi, noting the newly expanded staff will enable the department to treat more urgent cases. “When the weather is nice and kids are playing outside more, or it's the day after a long holiday weekend, we know our waiting room is going to be especially full.”

As a result, about 10 years ago the practice implemented an “urgent clinic,” meaning it allots more time and resources as needed to handle anticipated influxes in pediatrician referrals and unscheduled appointments.

“We are the first children's hospital that we know of to introduce this concept,” said Dr. Gerardi. “It's popular with our referring physicians and we've presented it at national meetings to share what we've learned.”

Imaging Department Handles Unique Pediatric Needs

Medical imaging needs for children can be very different than adults. Some children, for example, are very anxious or developmentally delayed, potentially affecting the technician's ability to take a high quality exam. Others have a disease seen only in childhood.

Children's Hospital's pediatric imaging subspecialists have the expertise and latest technology – from a 64-slice multi-detector computed tomography scanner to digital radiography – to put your young patient at ease while getting an accurate result. They use noninvasive and minimally invasive procedures when possible, and pediatric sedation and anesthesiology teams are always available.

A successful exam also reduces repeat tests, which helps ensure the lowest radiation dose possible for the patient. "Children's focuses on getting the medical image right the



Dr. Charles Smith

first time," said Dr. Charles Smith, Medical Director, Medical Imaging Department.

Your expectant mother patients may also access imaging services through the Hospital's Prenatal Diagnostic Center, including a first trimester risk assessment for fetal or congenital abnormalities. Children's is the only hospital in Central California with both AIUM and ACR ultrasound accreditation.

Additionally, the Hospital offers pediatric imaging services at its satellite Neonatal Intensive Care Units at Saint Agnes Medical Center, Fresno; Mercy Medical Center, Merced; and Central Valley General Hospital, Hanford.

Referring a Patient

For urgent referrals, or to transfer a patient, call the Children's Access Center toll free at **866.353.KIDS (5437)**. Or go online to **childrenscentralcal.org** for a complete list of physician office numbers and information.

Direct link:

www.childrenscentralcal.org/services/medicaloffice/refer

Outreach Centers:

Merced Subspecialty Pediatric Center
209.726.0199

Modesto Subspecialty Pediatric Center
209.572.3880

Sierra Vista Pediatric Specialty Service Line
805.546.7692



For a copy of Children's Quick Reference Telephone Guide, call 559.353.6621.

CME Highlights

Children's Pediatric Symposium Series

Free registration includes all symposium materials, continental breakfast, plenary session and lunch.

Madera - Children's Hospital Central California

Saturday, October 10th
8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Modesto - Doubletree Hotel

1150 9th Street, Modesto, CA
Saturday, October 24th
8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For a complete list of monthly CME topics, visit www.childrenscentralcal.org.

Children's Hospital is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

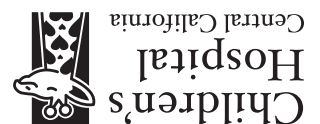
For questions about our CME program, contact Norma Barajas, PhD, at 559.353.7230 or email nbarajas@childrenscentralcal.org.



Children's Physician Liaison David Chuhlantseff is available to answer any questions or assist you in any way. He can be reached at (559) 353-7229 or emailed at physicianrelations@childrenscentralcal.org.

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