



Physician News



Ruetima Titapiwatanakun, MD
**Hematology/
Oncology**

Dr. Titapiwatanakun joined Children's in August. She earned her MD with honors from Mahidol University in Bangkok. She completed her Pediatric Residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in Jersey City and a Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Mayo School of GME in Rochester, MN.

Robert Chilcote, MD **Pediatrics**

Dr. Chilcote joined Children's Hospital Central California in September as an outreach pediatrician. He comes to us from Clinicas de Salud in Southern California. Dr. Chilcote received his MD and Pediatric Residency at The University of Rochester. He completed a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship at Riley Children's Hospital.

Jairo Torres, MD **Otolaryngology**

Dr. Torres joined Children's Hospital Central California in September. Dr. Torres earned his Medical Degree from Universidad del Valle Facultad de Medicina in Cali Columbia. He recently completed his Otolaryngology training at the University Hospital of Cleveland. Dr. Torres is fluent in English and Spanish.

Advanced Endocrinology Options

Doctors Swati Banerjee, Renee Kinman, Lawrence Wetterau, and Jil Huong Nguyen make up Children's team of pediatric endocrinology specialists, offering comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for children with non-diabetes related endocrine disorders. These doctors all have extensive academic and research backgrounds (see their profiles at www.childrenscentralcal.org).

Children's endocrinologists take full advantage of a proliferation of diagnostic and treatment options made available in recent years. An example is the development of an implantable gonadotropin releasing hormone agonist that can be inserted into the forearm of a child with precocious puberty to deliver the drug for an entire year. This enables the child to avoid the monthly injections, a treatment previously used for this condition.

The insertion is accomplished with help from Children's Pediatric Surgery practice, providing an example of the Hospital's multidisciplinary focus. All of Children's subspecialists work together under one roof, enhancing the endocrinologists' ability to take advantage of these types of treatments.

Other endocrine disorders treated include early pubertal development, delayed puberty, intersex disorders, disorders of growth, short stature, thyroid disorders (both hypo and hyper thyroidism), disorders of the adrenal

gland, disorders of the pituitary gland, calcium disorders (including regulation, hyper and hypocalcemic disorders) and hormonal control of fluid and electrolytes.

In addition to their clinical practice, each of the physicians participates in research that is expanding our ability to identify and treat endocrine disorders. Among the topics receiving research scrutiny in the practice are

precocious puberty and disorders producing short stature.

Specialists also provide service to the community with participation in the state newborn screening program (Children's Hospital Central California administers the state's newborn screening program for all of Northern California), their support of the pediatric residency program, their memberships in numerous Endocrine Societies, and their frequent publication in peer reviewed journals.



Dr. Swati Banerjee, Medical Director of Endocrinology

Specialists are supported by Annette Taber, RN and Lynn Wake, RN, providing sophisticated hormone testing procedures in the office as well as educating parents and patients. These nurses are backed up by Children's Ambulatory Treatment Center, another site of hormone testing. Having tests available, either on the day of a visit or within several days following a visit, allows for more rapid identification of abnormalities and initiation of treatment. All of these elements add up to provide you and your patients with greater access and better care.

Enriching the Inpatient Experience



The American Academy of Pediatrics states that Child Life services are “an essential component of quality pediatric health care.” Child Life specialists work as members of the interdisciplinary team that includes physicians, nurses, social workers, teachers, parents, and others. They are child development experts working within the inpatient and outpatient environments to promote effective coping through play, preparation, education, and self-expression. They also provide emotional support for families, and encourage optimum development of children facing the challenging experiences of hospitalization.

Child Life specialists focus on the psychosocial needs of children to ease fear, encourage understanding, provide preparation for children undergoing tests, surgeries, and other procedures. If you’ve ever seen one of our Child Life specialists explain a surgery to a six year-old using a teddy bear, you’d know why this team is so important to a good hospital experience.

Physician Focus

Joseph A. Gerardi, DO - Medical Director, Orthopaedic Surgery

With expertise in pediatric orthopaedics, scoliosis, fracture care, clubfoot, cerebral palsy and athletic injuries, Dr. Gerardi serves as Children’s Medical Director of Orthopaedics and Chair of the Department of Surgery. He is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and an active member of professional societies including the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. His research has been published in medical journals including the Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics and the American Journal of Orthopedics.

Dr. Gerardi’s internship and residency took place in the Departments of Surgery and Orthopaedics at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego and he served as Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam from 1988-1990. He is fellowship trained in pediatric orthopaedic and scoliosis surgery by Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children in Dallas and has been with Children’s Hospital Central California since 1991.



CME Highlights

Pediatric Clinical Symposium at Children’s Hospital Central California

November 1, 2008
7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Objectives: This course will provide state-of-the-art information pertinent to the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of the most prevalent conditions encountered in a pediatric practice. This program will focus on advances in pediatric practice including Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology and Urology. Register by calling (559) 353-6621 or e-mail programs@childrenscentralcal.org

Every Tuesday & Thursday: Pediatric Consulting & Subspecialty Lectures.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
October Series: Surgery
November Series: Nephrology

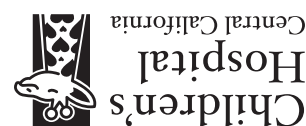
Children’s Hospital is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

For a complete list of monthly CME’s visit www.childrenscentralcal.org

For questions about our CME program, contact Norma Barajas, PhD at (559) 353-7230 or email nbarajas@childrenscentralcal.org

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