



# **Media Guide**

## **For Children's Health Issues**

**Fall 2008 Edition**

SUNY Upstate Medical University  
750 E. Adams Street - Syracuse, NY 13210

## Introduction

The Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate is central New York's premier referral center for children with complex health problems.

What many do not realize, however, is that many of the physicians at GCH are nationally known in their specialties. These doctors regularly publish research, serve on national committees, and maintain leadership positions in their fields.

All of these physicians are available to serve the needs of the children in our region. They are also available to the media and community groups to provide expert commentary on matters of current medical interest.

This guide is intended to showcase the specific areas of expertise of the GCH staff, and to describe the process by which they can be contacted when the need for expert commentary develops.

We hope to update this guide regularly. Please contact me at any time with suggestions and comments. Thanks for your support of the Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate.

Thomas R. Welch, MD

Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Pediatrician-in-chief, Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate

[welcht@upstate.edu](mailto:welcht@upstate.edu)

## Using this Guide

This guide includes a comprehensive list of topics in child health, with the names of GCH specialists with expertise in each of these. Following this list is a brief biographical sketch of each of the physicians. Keep in mind that the qualifier “pediatric” or “in children” should apply to all of the listed topics. For example, specialists listed for topics such as “cancer” or “diabetes” would only be appropriate for either of these conditions in children.

If your organization is in need of expert commentary on a topic, use this guide to identify one or more potential physicians from the list. Then, simply call the Public and Media Relations office at SUNY Upstate Medical University (464-4836) and ask to schedule an interview.

All of the physicians in this guide are committed to community education, and will do their best to be available for live or recorded interviews. Of course, as much advance planning as possible is appreciated, since they also have very busy schedules of patient care, teaching, and research. If the expert you request is not available, the Public Relations office will work with you to identify a suitable replacement.

If you have a topic or concern which is not included in this guide, we may still be able to help you. Simply contact Ms. Barbara Delaney, assistant to the Chair ([delaneyb@upstate.edu](mailto:delaneyb@upstate.edu); 315-464-7526) and describe your need. Barbara will work with the physician leaders of the hospital to identify someone for you.

## Physician Directory by Topics

Topic	Faculty Member
Abdominal pain	Beg, Mirza
ADHD	Olson, Bradley
ADHD	Pellegrino, Louis
Adolescence	Cavanaugh, Robert
Adolescent sexuality	Sills, Irene
Adoption	Blatt, Steven
Adoption	Meguid, Victoria
AIDS/HIV	Weiner, Leonard
Airway obstruction	Mortelliti, Anthony
Alcohol abuse	Fuller, Paul
Allergies	Kurlandsky, Lawrence
Arthritis	Hannan, William
Asthma	Kurlandsky, Lawrence
Asthma	Anbar, Ran
Asthma	Soultan, Zafer
Autism	Liptak, Gregory
Autoimmune disease (lupus)	Hannan, William
Bedwetting	Listman, James
Birth defects	Lebel, Robert
Blood clotting	Cherrick, Irene
Brain tumors	Kennedy, Gloria
Cancer	Cherrick, Irene
Cancer	Tavares, Trisha
Cancer	Cherrick, Irene
Cancer outcomes	Sima, Jody
Cancer research	Kerr, William
Cancer survivors	Sima, Jody
Cerebral palsy	Dosa, Nienke
Cerebral palsy	Liptak, Gregory
Cerebral palsy	Crosley, Carl
Child abuse	Botash, Ann
Child abuse	Pekarsky, Alicia
Child abuse	Meguid, Victoria
Child development	Dosa, Nienke
Child development	Pellegrino, Louis
Child development	Liptak, Gregory
Cleft lip	Tatum, Sherard
Cleft palate	Tatum, Sherard
Clubfoot	Katz, Danielle
Clubfoot	Palomino, Kathryn
Cochlear implantation	Woods, Charles
Computers in medicine	Seidberg, Neal
Congenital malformations	Lebel, Robert
Constipation	Karjoo, Manny

Critical care	Ragosta, Kevin
Critical care	Zuccaro, Jennifer
Cystic fibrosis	Anbar, Ran
Cystic fibrosis	Soultan, Zafer
Developmental delays	Liptak, Gregory
Developmental delays	Pellegrino, Louis
Diabetes	Izquierdo, Roberto
Diabetes	Lipeski, Lauren
Diabetes, transitioning older children	Sills, Irene
Dialysis	Listman, James
Drug abuse	Fuller, Paul
Drug abuse, prenatal	Meguid, Victoria
Eating disorders	Cavanaugh, Robert
Emergency preparedness	Kanter, Robert
Emergency transport	Ragosta, Kevin
End of life care	Cherrick, Irene
Endocrine disease	Lipeski, Lauren
Endocrine disease	Stred, Sue
Enuresis	Listman, James
Epilepsy	Crosley, Carl
Ethical issues	Lebel, Robert
Face, plastic surgery	Butts, Sydney
Face, plastic surgery	Tatum, Sherard
Facial deformities	Tatum, Sherard
Facial deformities	Butts, Sydney
Food allergy	Justinich, Christopher
Foreign bodies, airway	Soultan, Zafer
Foreign bodies, gut	Karjoo, Manny
Foster care	Blatt, Steven
Foster care	Meguid, Victoria
Fractures	Albanese, Stephen
Fractures	Katz, Danielle
Fractures	Palomino, Kathryn
General pediatrics	Chang, Katharine
General pediatrics	Greene, Mary
General pediatrics	Kressel, Tobey
General pediatrics	Schurman, Ellen
General pediatrics	Welch, Thomas
Genetic disorders	Lebel, Robert
Genetic disorders	Pellegrino, Joan
Growth problems	Stred, Sue
Headaches	Crosley, Carl
Health care delivery	Kanter, Robert
Health care delivery	Liptak, Gregory
Health care delivery	Welch, Thomas
Hearing loss, congenital, infant	Woods, Charles
Heart disease	Zuccaro, Jennifer
Hip dislocation, congenital	Katz, Danielle
Hip dislocation, congenital	Palomino, Kathryn
Home care	Ragosta, Kevin

Hospital care	Andrake, John
Hospital care	Bergstrom, Charles
Hospital safety	Welch, Thomas
Hypertension	Schurman, Scott
Hypnosis	Anbar, Ran
Infections, recurrent	Domachowske, Joseph
Infectious diseases	Shaw, Jana
Infectious diseases	Weiner, Leonard
Inflammatory bowel disease	Beg, Mirza
Intensive care	Kanter, Robert
International health	Domachowske, Joseph
International health	Olson, Bradley
International health	Shaw, Jana
Intestinal problems	Karjoo, Manny
Kidney disease	Schurman, Scott
Kidney disease	Welch, Thomas
Kidney transplantation	Schurman, Scott
Lead poisoning	Weinberger, Howard
Leukemia	Sills, Richard
Leukemia	Tavares, Trisha
Leukemia research	Kerr, William
Liver disease	Beg, Mirza
Lymphoma	Tavares, Trisha
Medical education	Andrake, John
Medical education	Botash, Ann
Medical education	Bergstrom, Charles
Medical records	Seidberg, Neal
Mental retardation	Pellegrino, Louis
Metabolic disorders	Pellegrino, Joan
Nephritis	Welch, Thomas
Neurofibromatosis	Crosley, Carl
Newborn follow up	Hingre, Robert
Newborn screening	Pellegrino, Joan
Newborn screening	Sills, Irene
Nutrition	Woodall-Ruff, Denise
Obesity	Woodall-Ruff, Denise
Orthopedic surgery	Albanese, Stephen
Orthopedic surgery	Katz, Danielle
Orthopedic surgery	Palomino, Kathryn
Osteoporosis	Schurman, Scott
Osteoporosis	Sills, Irene
Otitis media	Mortelliti, Anthony
Otolaryngology	Mortelliti, Anthony
Palliative care	Cherrick, Irene
Pharmaceutical companies	Bergstrom, Charles
Prenatal diagnosis	Lebel, Robert
Prenatal substance abuse	Meguid, Victoria
Puberty	Stred, Sue
Reading problems	Pellegrino, Louis
Refuge health	Olson, Bradley

Reproductive health	Sills, Irene
Research	Domachowske, Joseph
Research	Listman, James
Respiratory infections	Domachowske, Joseph
Scoliosis	Albanese, Stephen
Scoliosis	Katz, Danielle
Scoliosis	Palomino, Kathryn
Seizures	Crosley, Carl
Sexual abuse	Botash, Ann
Sexual abuse	Pekarsky, Alicia
Sexually transmitted diseases	Cavanaugh, Robert
Short stature	Stred, Sue
Sickle cell anemia	Sills, Richard
Sleep disorders	Soultan, Zafer
Spina bifida	Dosa, Nienke
Spina bifida	Liptak, Gregory
Spina bifida	Palomino, Kathryn
Spina bifida	Katz, Danielle
Sports	Schurman, Scott
Substance abuse	Fuller, Paul
Thyroid disease	Izquierdo, Roberto
Tobacco use	Bacchi, Donna
Tourette's syndrome	Crosley, Carl
Transgendered children	Sills, Irene
Transition to adult care	Dosa, Nienke
Urinary tract infection	Listman, James
Vaccines	Domachowske, Joseph
Vaccines	Weiner, Leonard
Wilderness medicine	Welch, Thomas

## Physician Profiles

**Stephen Albanese, MD** is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon and is chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Upstate Medical University. Dr. Albanese is nationally recognized in the specialty, currently serving on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He is particularly well-known for his work in the area of spinal disorders such as scoliosis in children.

**Ran Anbar, MD** is director of the GCH's pulmonary medicine division and also directs the Cystic Fibrosis Center. The CF center is nationally accredited and consistently ranks among the best-performing centers in the country in terms of outcomes. Dr. Anbar received his training in pediatric pulmonary medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Dr. Anbar is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**John Andrade, MD** directs the residency training program in pediatrics at the GCH, and is well-known as a clinical educator. He has presented workshops at a number of national meetings on topics related to the education of young physicians. He also is active as a pediatric hospitalist.

**Mirza Beg, MD** is a specialist in pediatric gastroenterology. He completed his fellowship at Hasboro Children's Hospital/Brown University, after a residency at Upstate Medical University. His particular areas of interest and expertise are in children with chronic abdominal pain and inflammatory bowel disease.

**Charles Bergstrom, MD** recently joined the GCH staff from the University of California at San Francisco. He directs the medical student education program in pediatrics, and works as a pediatric hospitalist. He serves on the board of the National Physicians' Alliance, an organization advocating for secure health care for all Americans.

**Steven Blatt, MD** directs the program in general pediatrics at the GCH. For several years, he has also directed a program providing care to children in the foster care system, and he has presented programs nationally on the health of these children. He completed a fellowship in academic general pediatrics at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital. Dr. Blatt has an adjunct appointment in the College of Law at Syracuse University, and is an expert on child health advocacy.

**Ann Botash, MD** is one of the nation's best-known specialists in the physical and sexual abuse of children. Dr. Botash has cared for hundreds of such children, and made major research contributions in the field. She largely developed the policies and procedures for certifying physicians in New York State in the recognition of abused children. She was recently elected President of the Helfer Society, the international organization of specialists in child abuse.

**Robert M. Cavanaugh, Jr., MD** is a highly regarded specialist in adolescent medicine. One of his particular areas of interest is screening for psychosocial issues in teenagers. He is the

program chairman for the Section on Adolescent Medicine of the American Academy of Pediatrics and authored many publications in the area of adolescent health. Dr. Cavanaugh is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Katharine Chang, MD** is an academic general pediatrician working in the GCH outpatient department. Her areas of interest include such general pediatric issues as care of newborns, nutrition, and behavior problems.

**Irene Cherrick, MD** is a pediatric oncologist in our division of hematology/oncology. She received her advanced training in children's cancer at Cornell. In addition to being board certified in pediatric hematology/oncology, Dr. Cherrick is board certified in palliative care. She directs our program in palliative and end of life care for children, and is a community resource in this very important field.

**Carl Crosley, MD** is a specialist in child neurology at the GCH. His particular areas of expertise include muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, headaches, as well as conditions such as neurofibromatosis, Tourette's syndrome, and cerebral palsy. Dr. Crosley is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Joseph Domachowske, MD** is a specialist in children's infectious diseases and immunology at the GCH. He is also an internationally known researcher in the field of respiratory virus infections and vaccines. Dr. Domachowske has received numerous awards and recognition for his research, and is a frequent contributor to national and international meetings on childhood infections. He is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Nienke Dosa, MD, MPH** is a specialist in child development who runs the clinic for children with spina bifida at the GCH. Dr. Dosa's special area of interest and expertise is in the transition of children with special health care needs to adult medical care. For this work, she has received significant grant support, and she directs the New York State Institute for Health Transitions.

**Paul Fuller, MD** is the medical director of GCH's general pediatric clinic. He is also board certified in addiction medicine, and is a recognized authority in alcohol and substance abuse in children. Dr. Fuller is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Mary Green, MD** is a general pediatrician working at the GCH's satellite outpatient practice, Upstate Pediatrics, in Baldwinsville.

**William Hannan, MD** has a unique background, being board certified in both pediatric critical care and rheumatology. In addition to working in the GCH's intensive care unit, he directs the rheumatology clinic. He is an expert in childhood arthritis, and autoimmune diseases such as lupus.

**Robert Hingre, MD** is a neonatologist by training who works in the GCH's pulmonary medicine division. Dr. Hingre is particularly interested in the care of premature infants who

have survived the newborn period but have been left with serious chronic lung disease. He is a frequent lecturer on this topic in our region.

**Roberto Izquierdo, MD** is an endocrinologist who is trained in both pediatrics and internal medicine. He directs the endocrinology program for the GCH, including our Joslin Diabetes Center. In addition to his expertise in childhood diabetes, he is a nationally known expert on thyroid disease in children and adults.

**Christopher Justinich, MD** is a pediatric gastroenterologist who operates our satellite pediatric gastroenterology clinic at Samaritan Hospital in Watertown. He is an internationally known authority on the subject of food allergy in children, and is an active researcher in this field.

**Robert Kanter, MD, MA** is a specialist in pediatric critical care who directs the GCH's intensive care unit. Additionally, he holds a degree in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. Dr. Kanter is an expert on the organization of specialized health care services for children, and has published research related to the care of children in the setting of mass disasters.

**Manoochehr Karjoo, MD** directs the gastroenterology division of the GCH, having been trained in this specialty at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. His clinical interests run the gamut from constipation to serious intestinal disorders. He is highly regarded for his skill in gastrointestinal endoscopy in children, having described some techniques used to extract foreign bodies.

**Danielle Katz, MD** is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon, who received her training at Upstate Medical University and the Boston Children's Hospital. Her interests include hip and leg disorders in children, cerebral palsy, and fractures.

**Gloria Kennedy, MD** is a pediatric oncologist in the GCH's division of hematology/oncology. Her particular area of interest is in the management of brain and nervous system tumors in children. She is the pediatric oncologist in our multi disciplinary brain tumor clinic.

**William Kerr, PhD** was recently named the Murphy Family Professor of Children's Oncology Research. He is an internationally recognized expert in the biology of a variety of cancers, including leukemia and lymphoma. He is a member of the GCH's hematology/oncology division, and directs a major research program funded by private industry and by the National Institutes of Health.

**Tobey Kresel, MD** is a general pediatrician working at the GCH's satellite outpatient practice, Upstate Pediatrics, in Baldwinsville. Her area of interest includes most general pediatric problems, such as behavior disorders, feeding and nutrition, and child safety.

**Lawrence Kurlandsky, MD** is a member of the GCH's pulmonary division, with training and certification in both pulmonary medicine and allergy/immunology.

**Robert Roger Lebel, MD** directs the genetics section for the GCH. His particular areas of expertise include birth defects, prenatal diagnosis, and the genetics of cancer. Additionally, he has formal training in philosophy and theology, and is an expert on medical ethics.

**Lauren Lipeski, MD** is a specialist in childhood endocrine disease and diabetes, working at the GCH's Joslin Center for Diabetes. In addition to general endocrine problems, she is interested in the importance of vitamin D in childhood.

**Gregory Liptak, MD, MPH** directs the Center for Behavior, Development, and Genetics of the GCH. He is a nationally-recognized expert in childhood developmental disorders, especially autism. Dr. Liptak serves on a number of national bodies developing guidelines for childhood disorders.

**James Listman, MD** is a specialist in children's urinary tract disorders, ranging from urinary tract infections to dialysis and kidney transplantation. He is also a biomedical researcher, undertaking basic research in the body's inflammatory response to some viral infections.

**Laura Lee McIntyre, PhD** is a clinical psychologist at Syracuse University who also does clinical work in the Center for Development, Behavior, and Genetics. She is an expert in the management of children with autistic spectrum disorders, specifically in the use of applied behavior analysis in their treatment. She received her training in this technique at the Kennedy Krieger Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

**Victoria Meguid, MD** is a general pediatrician in the GCH's Pediatric and Adolescent Center, and is co-director of our program for children in foster care. She is expert on the care of children in foster care as well as in the area of child abuse. Dr. Meguid has undertaken research in the effects of prenatal cocaine exposure on infants.

**Anthony Mortelliti, MD** is a pediatric otolaryngologist, who received his fellowship training at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He is particularly expert in the management of complicated airway problems in children.

**Bradley Olson, MD** is a general pediatrician in the GCH's Pediatric and Adolescent Center, and directs the program for refugee children. In addition to expertise in the health problems of the refugee population, he is known for his work on promoting the care of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in the primary care setting.

**Kathryn Palomino, MD** is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon with expertise in such areas as foot and leg disorders in children, athletic injuries, and spina bifida.

**Alicia Pekarsky, MD** is a general pediatrician who also works in the GCH's program for abused children ("CARE"). Dr. Pekarsky has researched the particular needs of boys who have been subjected to sexual abuse.

**Joan Pellegrino, MD** is a geneticist whose specialty is a complex group of conditions referred to as metabolic disorders. These are biochemical diseases which generally occur at birth, and can rapidly progress to irrecoverable brain damage and death. They are often detected by the New York State newborn screening programs. The treatment of these conditions involves complicated regimens of medications and diet.

**Louis Pellegrino, MD** is a specialist in child development in the Center for Development, Behavior, and Genetics. Dr. Pellegrino is an editor of the leading textbook of developmental pediatrics, *Children with Disabilities*.

**Kevin Ragosta, DO** is a specialist in critical care medicine, trained at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital and working in the GCH intensive care unit. He also directs the team which undertakes emergency transport of severely injured or ill children to Syracuse from our 22 county referral area.

**Ellen Schurman, MD** is a general pediatrician working at the GCH's satellite outpatient practice, Upstate Pediatrics, in Baldwinsville. Her area of interest includes most general pediatric problems, such as behavior disorders, feeding and nutrition, and child safety.

**Scott Schurman, MD** is a pediatric kidney specialist and a vice chair of the department of pediatrics. In addition to the broad area of children's kidney and urinary tract disorders, he has particular interest in childhood bone disease such as osteoporosis. Dr. Schurman is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Neal Seidberg, MD** is a specialist in critical care medicine in the GCH's intensive care unit. He is also an authority on the use of technology in medicine, electronic medical records, and computerized physician order entry.

**Jana Shaw, MD, MPH** is a specialist in infectious diseases, who received her training in this area at Johns Hopkins University. She is an expert in childhood infections and immunizations.

**Irene Sills, MD** is a specialist in childhood diabetes and other endocrine disorders. She is also nationally known as an expert on the management of transgendered children. Dr. Sills is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Richard Sills, MD** directs the hematology oncology program of the GCH. He is particularly well-known for his expertise in the care of children with sickle cell disease and similar blood disorders.

**Jody Sima, MD** recently joined the GCH from Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, and is a pediatric oncologist. Her particular area of expertise is the long term outcomes and later health problems of children with cancer.

**Zafer Saultan, MD** is a specialist in children's lung disorders, especially cystic fibrosis. He is an authority in the approach to children with cystic fibrosis detected by newborn screening. Additionally, he has an interest in children's sleep disorders.

**Sue Stred, MD** is a pediatric endocrinologist with particular interest in disorders of growth, puberty, and endocrine syndromes.

**Sherard Tatum, MD** is an otolaryngologist with extensive training and experience in the surgical care of children with deformities of the face. He is an important part of the GCH team caring for children with cleft lip and palate and other disfiguring craniofacial abnormalities.

**Trisha Tavares, MD** is an oncologist who recently joined the GCH's division of hematology and oncology from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She cares for the gamut of children's malignancies.

**Howard Weinberger, MD** is a general pediatrician at the GCH's Pediatric and Adolescent Center and a former chair of the department of pediatrics. He directs the regional center for lead poisoning, and is a national expert in this problem.

**Leonard Weiner, MD** is director of the GCH's infectious diseases division, and a vice chair of the department of pediatrics. He is an authority of childhood vaccines and in the care of children with HIV, directing the pediatric center of excellence for HIV care. He is a leading national figure in vaccine policy.

**Thomas Welch, MD** is chair of the department of pediatrics and medical director of the GCH. He is an expert in children's urinary tract disorders, and also works as a pediatric hospitalist. He is associate editor of the *Journal of Pediatrics* and also is included in the publication *Best Doctors in America*.

**Denise Woodall-Ruff, MD** is a general pediatrician at the GCH's Pediatric and Adolescent Center. She also directs our program for children challenged by obesity, the Center for Nutrition and Exercise. She is a well-known local advocate for health eating and exercise in children.

**Charles Woods III, MD** is an otolaryngologist in the Department of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences. His interests include congenital abnormalities of the hearing system. He provides cochlear implantation services for children with deafness.

