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Building an Advanced Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory for Congenital Heart Disease: Where to Start?

Jenny E. Zablah, MD, FSCAI, FACC, FPICS, FAAP

As congenital interventional cardiologists, we are creative problem solvers, working with the tools available to bring the best outcomes to our patients, who present unique clinical challenges and who vary in size and age, from newborns of just a few grams in weight to adults. At some point in our careers, many of us will have the opportunity to help design a new cath lab, and with that privilege comes the responsibility of making decisions that will shape the care patients will receive for the next 10 to 15 years. Designing that new cath lab is not without its challenges, requiring us to navigate regulatory requirements, budget constraints, and logistical complexities without compromising on quality or patient safety.

Where to Start?

1. Decide what are your institution's needs based on:

- **Patient Population:** Will the lab serve pediatric patients only or will it be used also for older congenital patients?
- **Operators and Intended Procedures:** Who will be performing procedures in this lab? Will it be solely interventional cardiologists, or will it also be electrophysiologists, interventional radiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, or vascular surgeons?

2. Discuss cath lab space utilization: Decide on the configuration based on the intended procedures and available space.

- **Procedure Area:** Includes the space of the cath lab with additional space for a mechanical room (cath lab components), control room, patient holding area, and recovery room.
- **Control Room:** Needs to be adjacent to the procedure room with all necessary monitoring and control equipment.
- **Equipment Storage:** Sufficient storage for catheters, guide wires, balloons, stents, and other supplies.

3. Imaging Equipment: Consider the different variables (it can get overwhelming):

- **Monoplane vs. Bi-plane Imaging:** Most congenital labs choose a bi-plane imaging as their primary system because it allows one to visualize anatomy in two planes at the same time, reducing the number of required contrast injections and allowing more accurate guidance in complex anatomy. Monoplane systems require less space and are more affordable than biplane systems, so they are often chosen to provide additional capacity, especially for hybrid procedures or in cath labs that are shared with structural/coronary interventionists.
- **Floor vs. Ceiling:** If you choose a monoplane system, the next decision is floor vs ceiling mounted. Ceiling mount systems typically provide more positioning flexibility, while consuming less floor space. Keeping space free at the head of the table for anesthesia is an important consideration that favors ceiling mounted systems.



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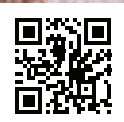
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- **Size of Flat Panel Detectors:** Smaller detectors can provide greater positioning flexibility and better image quality for smaller patients. Larger detectors provide a bigger field of view, which is useful for larger patients, but which may produce undesirable magnification on small patients.
- **Dose Management:** Minimizing radiation is critical for the safety of our sensitive patient population, as well as our own staff. Challenge vendors to provide you with detailed information of the dose savings features of their systems, including peer-reviewed evidence in real-life clinical practice.
- **Table Options:** Ensure the table supports a wide range of movements and has a high weight capacity. Decide if you will use a standard free-floating cath lab table or a surgical table that can be integrated with the cath lab system.
- **Advanced Imaging:**
 - **3D Rotational Angiography (3DRA)**
3DRA images can be used to create a roadmap to help guide complex interventions, improve our understanding of vascular relationships with other extracardiac structures, and allow for 3D assessment of complex anatomy. Use of 3DRA also helps us to decrease the overall radiation and contrast dose.⁶
 - **CT, MR and Echo Fusion**
Previously acquired imaging can be used to plan many of our procedures. Computed Tomography (CT)/Magnetic Resonance (MR) images can be fused with live x-ray, to provide real-time positioning guidance, reducing the need for contrast injections. Live echo imaging can also be fused with live x-ray, providing a real-time view of both soft tissue and devices and procedural guidance.

4. Room Design: It is important to also think beyond the interventional x-ray system and consider the other tools that aid in your desired workflow.

- Procedure room monitors and booms: Take the time to envision what you will need to see during procedures, (e.g. hemo, echo, PACS, etc.). You will also want to decide early in the planning process whether your monitors will be mounted on booms or on monitor ceiling suspension rails and incorporate this into your room design.
- Other equipment: Think through the other equipment needed for procedures and where that will be stored and/

or moved to/for each procedure (e.g. Anesthesia, Echo, ECMO, EP mapping, EP recording, etc.).

Once you have defined the above features, meet with various vendors to evaluate their current technology, equipment delivery times, pricing, customer support, warranties, service contracts, and more. Establishing partnerships is crucial, particularly in congenital heart disease, to develop specialized tools tailored to specific requirements. Visiting cath labs like your envisioned setup aids in making informed decisions. Moreover, gathering sufficient information enables you to identify innovations that best align with your needs and budget.

Including all relevant stakeholders who may use the cath lab helps uncover specific needs that might otherwise be overlooked. Engage these individuals in early discussions, including: interventionalists, electrophysiologists, surgeons, echocardiographers, nursing staff, anesthesiologists, IT personnel, risk management experts, and others.

Children’s Hospital Colorado – Our Experience

We will use our institution as an example, and for that we need to bring a perspective of the program size and characteristics. Children’s Hospital Colorado (CHC) is a top-ranked center for cardiology and heart surgery by US News & World Report, with outreach clinics spanning four states and over 20 locations. CHC is accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) in more fetal, pediatric, adolescent, and adult cardiovascular diagnostic testing and intervention-based procedural areas than any other children’s center. CHC performs more than 1,100 cath/EP procedures and over 700 congenital heart surgeries each



Cath Lab 1 – Philips Azurion 7 B12/12 (photo courtesy of Children’s Hospital Colorado)



Assistant / Associate / Professor of Clinical Pediatric Cardiology

Peoria, Illinois

The Department of Pediatrics of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria (UICOMP) seeks Pediatric Interventional Cardiology candidates for a pediatric cardiology faculty position. This cardiologist will work primarily at OSF Healthcare Children's Hospital of Illinois. The candidate must hold an MD/DO degree (or equivalent), be board-certified or board-eligible in pediatric cardiology, and hold or be eligible for an Illinois physician license. Candidates must have completed residency & fellowship training. Additional training and/or extensive experience in pediatric and congenital interventional catheterization is required.

The candidate will join a well-established team of 10 pediatric cardiologists, 2 pediatric cardiovascular surgeons, and 5 advanced practice providers. Professional efforts will be bolstered by state-of-the-art facilities. Excellent collaboration exists among pediatric subspecialists, radiologists, as well as adult cardiology colleagues. UICOMP supports a thriving education program with medical students, residents, and fellows.

Clinical activities will include cardiac catheterization lab, outpatient clinics, and inpatient rotation. Occasional travel to outreach clinics located in surrounding community cities is required. Cardiac catheterization and Inpatient care are provided at OSF Healthcare Children's Hospital of Illinois (CHOI). Clinical activities of this faculty member will be at the full-time assistant/associate/professor rank based on the experience of the candidate.

Malpractice insurance is provided by the University of Illinois system and an excellent benefits package available including vacation time, sick time, CME, health & life insurance and retirement plan.

Position Summary: The Department of Pediatrics of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) seeks an Interventional Pediatric Cardiologist to join the pediatric cardiology faculty.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Patient care duties including inpatient, outpatient, and cardiac catheterization lab
- Satellite clinics in the region
- On-call duties for pediatric & congenital cardiology and cardiac catheterization lab
- Teaching of medical students, residents, and fellows
- Academic efforts including original research and QI
- Perform other related duties and participate in special projects as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- MD/DO or foreign equivalent
- Eligible for licensure in Illinois
- BC/BE in Pediatric Cardiology
- 3 years pediatric residency/3years pediatric cardiology fellowship or equivalent
- Significant experience or formal training in Interventional Cardiology

About University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria (UICOMP) Department of Pediatrics and OSF Healthcare Children's Hospital of Illinois: UICOMP is one of the three regional campuses of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, one of the largest public medical schools in the country. UICOMP's educational programs include 244 medical students and 300 residents/fellows in 21 different post graduate programs. The Department of Pediatrics is one of the largest departments at UICOMP. In collaboration with the OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois, the Department has 19 divisions and over 145 faculty members providing general pediatrics and subspecialty services to the pediatric population in Central Illinois. The current research infrastructure within the Department includes an office of research, a dedicated biostatistician and an internal research funding mechanism to support our faculty.

About Children's Hospital of Illinois: The primary teaching hospital of UICOMP is Children's Hospital of Illinois, a tertiary care facility serving a 37-county region with a population base of over two million. Children's Hospital of Illinois provides comprehensive services to children, including Quaternary Care NICU and a state-designated Pediatric Critical Care Center. Children's Hospital of Illinois is a major medical facility with 136 beds and a 32-bed critical care unit and the only Level 1 trauma center in Illinois outside of Chicago. There are existing resources through UICOMP and Children's Hospital of Illinois for seeding research funding, quality and outcomes focused academic work and innovation in health education.

About Peoria, IL: One of the oldest communities in Illinois with a population of 111,021 Peoria is equal distance from Chicago and St. Louis. Here we have an enviable standard of living, exciting venues within a 15-20 minute drive from our homes, safe streets, quality and quantity shopping, our own symphony, our own ballet, Broadway Theater League, museums, art guilds, first-class medical facilities, the nation's oldest community theater and oldest Santa Claus parade.

Our vibrant riverfront showcases a multitude of festivals and celebrations that light up the summer nights much like our extraordinary Fourth of July Sky Concert fireworks show that draws well over 100,000 annually. Residents are flocking to live in the refurbished warehouses and lofts on Water Street that produce the perfect lifestyle for a 24/7 city.

We have many global businesses that allow Peoria to play all over the world through their products and services. Peoria has begun to diversify its economy with infotech industries as well. Thus our business community attracts some of the brightest graduates throughout the nation.

To apply, please visit this job listing on the UIC Job Board at, <https://uic.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/12013?c=uic>

Scroll towards the bottom of the page and click, "Apply Now"

You may be redirected to log into, or to create a new account.

For fullest consideration please apply by 10/17/2024.

The University of Illinois System is an equal opportunity employer, including but not limited to disability and/or veteran status, and complies with all applicable state and federal employment mandates. Please visit Required Employment Notices and Posters at <https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/cms/one.aspx?portalId=4292&pageId=5705> to view our non-discrimination statement and find additional information about required background checks, sexual harassment/misconduct disclosures, and employment eligibility review through E-Verify.

As an EOE/AA employer, the University of Illinois encourages applications from individuals regardless of an applicant's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, and Veteran or disability status.

The University of Illinois conducts background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer of employment.

Background checks will be performed in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

The university provides accommodations to applicants and employees. Request an accommodation at <https://jobs.uic.edu/request-and-accomodation/>.



year. CHC also hosts over 20,000 clinic visits and over 25,000 echocardiograms each year.

Each of our three cardiac catheterization laboratories at CHC has its own unique characteristics, providing insight into how procedure requirements impact design choices and vice versa:

- **Hybrid Cath Lab/OR – Philips Azurion 7 M20 with FlexArm:** This cath lab was built in 2023 and is used as a cath lab, for hybrid procedures, and as a CV operating room. It has a large detector measuring 47.2 cm x 36.0 cm.
 - This is our newest cath lab and the design was heavily influenced by our CV surgeons for when we perform hybrid procedures. This room was also designed to be a back-up surgical suite for open procedures.
 - The ceiling mounted FlexArm’s design supports various procedures including surgical, endovascular, cardiac, peripheral, and making it adaptable for multiple specialties.
 - The FlexArm allows full freedom for staff to choose the best working positions without moving the patient table. The C-arm has a 270-degree range of movement, enabling all imaging positions while keeping the anesthesia zone free of obstruction.
 - This system is versatile and can acquire 3D images from different positions. We can perform a 3DRA Prop scan (4.1 second rotation from the head position) or Roll scan (8 second rotation from 90-degree position from either side of the table), and roadmapping of a 3D rotation can be done at three different C-arm locations including 45 degrees.
 - The two large FlexVision monitors allow us to see up to eight inputs at any given time, and we have the ability to click and control inputs like room cameras, 3D workstations, or any other personalized inputs,

while remaining tableside via a mouse or touch screen.

- In the control room the Azurion FlexSpot monitors allow us to view and control the x-ray as well as the video inputs displayed in the procedure room. This allows us to work with fewer mice and keyboards than we do in our older lab.
- **Cath Lab 1 – Philips Azurion 7 B12/12:** This biplane cath lab was built in 2018 and has two smaller detectors measuring 28.8 cm x 28.3 cm.
 - This lab is very versatile, with adequate imaging quality that can be used for premature babies to adult-size patients.
 - The smaller detector configuration of this system makes 3DRA easy to perform and provides good image quality.
 - The AP detector can reach relatively steep cranial angles, but the small detector size limits the field of view, especially for larger patients.
 - The large FlexVision Pro monitor allows us to see up to eight inputs at any given time and we have the ability to click and control inputs very similar to the FlexArm room, while remaining tableside via a mouse or touch screen.
- **Cath Lab 2 – Philips Allura Xper FD20/10:** Built in 2012, this cath lab is due for an update soon. It has a large detector in the AP plane and a small detector in the lateral plane.
 - With the large AP detector, the field of view and image quality is better for larger patients. This is our primary EP room where we predominantly treat larger children and adolescents, and where we also treat older patients that come for cardiac catheterization.
 - The older FlexVision monitor on this system allows for up to eight inputs for visualization, but we do not have the ability to click and control those inputs.
 - The older style control room in this lab does not have the FlexSpot capabilities, so it is more crowded with dedicated monitors, mice and keyboards.

The three cath labs have fusion imaging tools that support our practice and allow us to keep overall radiation and contrast doses low.

1. **SmartCT Angio & SmartCT Roadmap:** These advanced tools allow acquisition of 3DRA images and 3D reconstruction of the heart and other intrathoracic structures for planning and for procedural guidance. Users are guided through the image acquisition process with on-screen prompts and can review and interact with the acquired CT-like 3D images on the system’s table-side touch screen module, viewing multiplanar reconstructions and utilizing measurement tools, such as straight-line measurements.



Hybrid Cath Lab/OR – Philips Azurion 7 M20 with FlexArm (photo courtesy of Children’s Hospital Colorado)



The Congenital Heart Collaborative

University Hospitals
Rainbow Babies & Children's
Nationwide Children's Hospital

Advanced Imager – Pediatric Cardiology

The **Congenital Heart Collaborative (TCHC)**, an affiliation between **University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital** (Cleveland, OH) and **Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH, Columbus, OH)** heart programs, seeks candidates in **Pediatric Cardiology** for an **Advanced Imaging** faculty position in our expanding group at **UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital**.

The successful candidate will join a group of physicians that model teamwork, collaboration and dedication to their patients and partners and be a part of an innovative clinical and educational program, representing the section in the community, nationally, and internationally. The Section consists of ten board-certified pediatric cardiologists including interventionalists, an electrophysiologist, advanced imaging cardiologists, fetal cardiologists, 2 general cardiologists, and 2 cardiovascular surgeons. Our growing fetal program performs over 1,000 fetal echocardiograms a year and has launched a highly successful fetal intervention team in conjunction with our maternal fetal medicine colleagues. The advanced imaging capabilities include echocardiography (trans-thoracic, trans-esophageal, fetal and 3D), cardiac MRI and CTA, cardiac stress MRI, fetal cardiac MRI, and 3D modeling/ printing. This position is to replace a vacancy created by a relocating faculty member. The candidate will have opportunities to participate in quality improvement initiatives, clinical research, and education of medical students, residents, and fellows, and clinical time devoted to advanced imaging, and outpatient and inpatient care inclusive of fetal echocardiography.

Qualified applicants must have an MD, DO or MD/PhD degree, be BE/BC in Pediatric Cardiology and experience training in echocardiography (transthoracic, trans-esophageal and fetal), and cardiac MRI/ CT and Echocardiography reads and interpretations. The rank and appointment will be commensurate with the candidate's credentials and experience. The successful candidate will be well-supported at a world-class children's hospital that has over 60 years of experience in the care of pediatric and ACHD patients; an outstanding educational and research enterprise at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and an internationally recognized program partner with the NCH Heart Center. TCHC is a dedicated service line with a common executive administration and functions as one program on two campuses with the commitment to expand access to high-quality comprehensive cardiac care along with a scholarly and educational mission. TCHC provides excellent comprehensive cardiothoracic surgical, interventional, electro-physiologic, and non-invasive services.

Please send letter and curriculum vitae to:

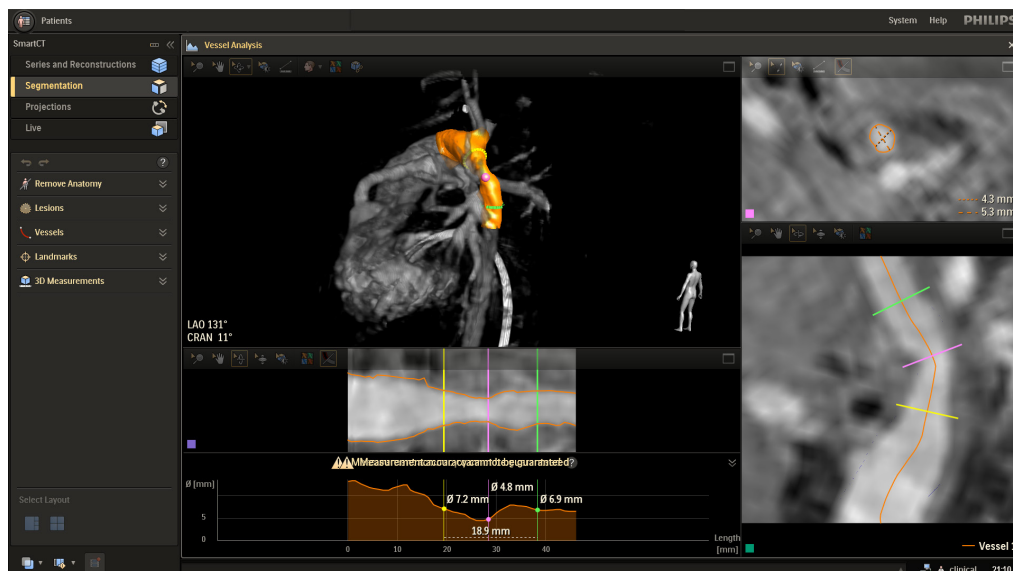
Harinder Singh, MD

Section Chief, Pediatric Cardiology
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

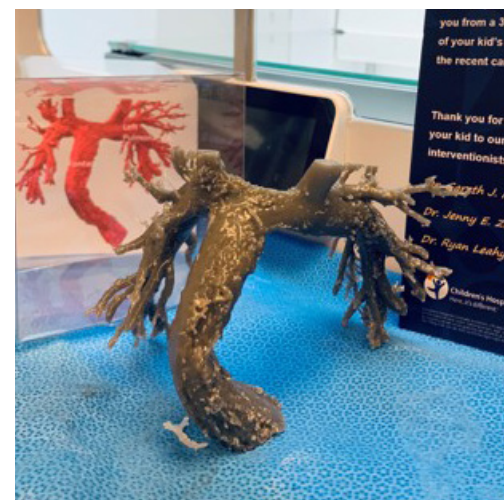
harinder.singh@uhhospitals.org

In employment, as in education, Case Western Reserve University is committed to equal opportunity and diversity. Women, veterans, members of underrepresented minority groups and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Among the nation's leading academic medical centers, University Hospitals Case Medical Center is the primary affiliate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, a nationally recognized leader in medical research and education.



SmartCT Angio allows acquisition of 3DRA images and 3D reconstruction of the heart and other intrathoracic structures for planning and for procedural guidance. (photo courtesy of Philips Healthcare)



Patient-specific anatomical 3D printed models using CTA, MRI, or 3DRA images⁵ are utilized to educate patients both pre- and post-procedure. (photo courtesy of Children's Hospital Colorado)

- **Fun Fact:** We perform 3DRA using our center's previously published protocols¹ and the images are used for procedural planning, guidance and 3D printing of the 3DRA when exported as DICOM files. 3DRA is used for single ventricle assessments, aortic arch evaluation post intervention, coronary assessment during balloon testing prior to percutaneous pulmonary valve implantation (PPVI), etc.
2. **VesselNavigator:** This tool provides 3D views of vasculature by combining live X-ray images with pre-acquired MRI or CT images. It is designed to offer real-time visual guidance and reduce the need for additional angiography. VesselNavigator adds the ability to overlay landing zones and bifurcations using centerline ring markers onto live fluoroscopy to support catheter navigation and device positioning.
 - **Fun Fact:** This tool is the most used by our team to overlay cross-section imaging with live fluoro and guide procedures like coarctation of the aorta, PPVI and pulmonary artery stent/angioplasty.
 3. **HeartNavigator:** Similar to VesselNavigator, HeartNavigator is used primarily for structural heart disease cases but can be adapted for Congenital Heart Disease. Previously acquired CT images can be used to segment and measure cardiac structures, which can be displayed as needed.
 - **Fun Fact:** This tool provides nice segmentation of the cardiac structures, which is useful for complex cases. It requires more time to segment small patients with Congenital Heart Disease, so we use it less often. In addition, just CT images can be used.
 4. **EchoNavigator:** This tool fuses live echo with X-ray imaging to provide real-time guidance for precise navigation and device placement during cardiac interventions. Echo images are acquired using Philips EPIQ CVxi ultrasound system and X8-2t transesophageal echo (TEE) transducer. A

new X11-4t Mini TEE is now available, which allows imaging on patients as small as 5 kgs.

- **Fun Fact:** Especially useful in structural cases (mitral clips, mitral or tricuspid valve replacement) and complex cases like Fontan fenestration creation/closure and atrial septal stents.

Our fluoroscopy settings have been personalized for our specific needs and to keep radiation doses intentionally low for patient and staff safety. Fluoroscopy is generally performed at 3.75 frames per second which, as needed, can be increased to 7.5 frames/sec or 15 frames/sec from the control panel. Cine is performed with 15 frames/sec and 3D rotational angiography at 30 frames/sec.

Our team has published clinical outcomes from our current setup, showcasing not only reductions in radiation and contrast doses through advanced imaging tools,^{2,3,4} but also innovative approaches to utilizing these images for patient education.

One of our most notable achievements is the establishment of an advanced imaging program aimed at enhancing patient education. This initiative has enabled us to create patient-specific anatomical 3D printed models using CTA, MRI, or 3DRA images,⁵ which are utilized to educate patients both pre- and post-procedure. These models are provided to families as cherished memories, and since 2018, we have produced anatomical prints for 65-100 patients annually, contingent upon imaging availability.⁶

Furthermore, we have developed 3DRA protocols tailored specifically for Congenital Heart Disease using the Philips systems. This effort aims to achieve optimal image quality and serves as a blueprint for other institutions interested in implementing similar technologies, providing guidance on utilizing vendor-specific equipment effectively.



Children's Hospital Colorado



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Follow Your Heart at Children's Hospital Colorado

The Children's Hospital Colorado Heart Institute's goal is simple: to improve the quality of life for all patients with congenital and childhood heart conditions. We do this by bringing together multidisciplinary experts, innovative research and advanced procedures. Join us in this work to help us make a meaningful difference for children and families through expert and compassionate care.

700+

Heart surgeries performed annually

90+

Cardiologists and advanced practice providers

20+

Outreach locations, spanning four states and 1000+ miles

OPEN POSITIONS

Medical Director, Cardiovascular Imaging

The Medical Director of Cardiovascular Imaging will provide overarching leadership for all noninvasive cardiovascular imaging activities. This position will be empowered to promote advancements in cardiac imaging techniques, provide mentorship and career development for faculty, and promote the education and training of fellows.

About our program:

- Imaging team that includes 14 faculty and 28 sonographers and technicians
- Advanced fellowship in cardiac imaging and cardiac echo research with core laboratory capability
- High-volume, multimodality imaging program (25,000+ echos, 1,700+ fetal echos and 600+ cardiac MRIs performed annually)
- Robust telehealth capabilities across referral region
- Faculty with expertise and research interests in 3D echo, strain imaging, cross-sectional imaging (including fetal cardiac MRI) and intracardiac echo

Medical Director, Single Ventricle Program

The inaugural Medical Director of the Single Ventricle Program will provide leadership of established single ventricle outpatient clinics and will be encouraged to develop a vision for how to optimize and advance the inpatient transition of single ventricle patients across all surgical stages.

About our program:

- Team includes six physicians, two advanced practice providers and a dedicated nurse coordinator
- Tied for the most Norwood procedures in the country in 2023
- Home to Complex Congenital Heart Disease Clinic for interstage patients with a home-monitoring program and Single Ventricle Continuity Clinic for patients stage 2 and beyond
- Fontan Multidisciplinary Clinic that includes expertise in pediatric and adult congenital heart disease cardiology, hepatology, pulmonology, neuropsychology and nutrition
- 96.6% Norwood survival

Medical Director, Fetal Cardiology

The Medical Director of Fetal Cardiology will provide critical leadership of strategic planning efforts and advancing medical education, research and quality improvement initiatives in both the Heart Institute and the Colorado Fetal Care Center.

About our program:

- Fetal cardiology team includes four cardiologists, two sonographers and a dedicated nurse coordinator
- 240+ deliveries with 105 attributed to cardiac abnormalities
- High-volume fetal echo telehealth program
- Membership in the Fetal Heart Society
- Regional referral center for fetoscopic laser photocoagulation treatment in twin-twin transfusion syndrome, fetal arrhythmias, heart block, cardiomyopathies, complex congenital heart disease and more

Medical Director, Heart Institute Quality And Safety

The Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety will provide overall leadership of quality improvement and patient safety initiatives in the Heart Institute. This strategic leadership role will collaborate with the Chief of Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery and hospital and quality/safety nursing leadership to create sustainable plans for inpatient and outpatient teams in clinical effectiveness and patient and team member safety.

About our program:

- Robust partnerships with the cardiothoracic surgical team
- Monthly, multidisciplinary morbidity and mortality conferences
- ELSO Platinum Center of Excellence and only ECMO program in the region
- Core site for the Pediatric Heart Network, together with Washington University

To apply, please contact:

SHELLEY MIYAMOTO, MD

Co-Director, Heart Institute, Children's Hospital Colorado
Chair, Pediatric Cardiology, University of Colorado School of Medicine



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Summary

Crafting an ideal cath lab demands a delicate balance of scientific precision and clinical insight, aimed at optimizing procedural efficacy and patient outcomes, particularly for those with Congenital Heart Disease. Each decision—from the layout of procedural spaces to the selection of imaging systems—must align seamlessly with clinical workflows, enhancing our ability to deliver personalized, patient-centered care.

In conclusion, as physicians involved in cath lab design, we embrace this journey with passion and purpose. We strive not only to create functional spaces, but also to cultivate environments that inspire collaboration, innovation, and, above all, superior patient care. Our efforts in shaping these environments underscore our commitment to advancing cardiovascular medicine and improving the lives of our patients with Congenital Heart Disease.

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Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a vibrant and collegial academic environment and work in a children's hospital ranked as one of the best in the U.S. The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine is seeking Pediatric Cardiologists with expertise in echocardiography and the cross-sectional imaging modalities of Cardiac MRI (CMR) and Cardiac CT (CCT). The pediatric cardiology division and imaging volume are growing significantly. Annually, division members read over 18,000 echocardiograms, over 1400 fetal echoes, over 350 cardiac MRIs, and over 400 CT angiograms.

The Pediatric Cardiologist will share in all clinical aspects, educational efforts, program development, and quality improvement initiatives associated with the echocardiography and cross-sectional imaging services. Physicians provide rotating coverage of the echo lab, and depending on qualifications, night and weekend call for emergency transesophageal echocardiograms or assistance with interpreting complex transthoracic studies. Physicians will provide rotating coverage of the CMR and CCT services with other faculty. Division members are expected to rotate in covering general cardiology night and weekend call with other Division members. Division members participate in general cardiology outpatient clinic and inpatient service, in addition to their duties in their areas of expertise. Clinical responsibilities may also include seeing patients in an outreach clinic setting. Clinical duties will be carried out at Primary Children's Hospitals and the Division's outreach sites. In addition to clinical service, there is both opportunity and expectation for academic work, including education, investigation/research and administration, as well as advocacy. There will be reserved time for these efforts with a well-established support structure, expected benchmarks, and both breadth and depth in mentoring available within the Division.

Qualified candidates must be Board Eligible/Board Certified in Pediatric Cardiology, with focused 4th year training and expertise in echocardiography, CMR and CCT. Level 3 CMR training is expected, and level 2 CCT with the option to further train to level 3 in CCT during the first year of practice. The selected candidate will receive a faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics on the Clinical or Tenure Track at the academic level commensurate with experience and qualifications. Leadership opportunities are available for qualified candidates.

The Department and University offers a competitive salary and an exceptional benefits program including non-contributory retirement contributions of 20.2% of annual salary that vest immediately. The Department offers a faculty development and mentoring program designed to foster success in translational or basic research, quality improvement engagement, and excellence as educators.

Salt Lake City is a rapidly growing, vibrant city in the Intermountain West, with a nationally recognized Broadway theater, ballet, symphony, and several professional sports teams. The newly renovated Salt Lake International Airport is a hub for Delta Airlines and has direct flights to many North American cities and daily direct flights to multiple European cities. Outdoor activities are unparalleled: the city is a ski destination and a gateway to the state's renowned red rock landscapes. In addition to its 15 ski resorts, Utah boasts five national parks (with five more within a half-day drive), a variety of golf courses allowing for year-round play, hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails, picturesque lakes, and numerous other outdoor activities.

Interested individuals can apply for the position at <https://utah.peopleadmin.com/postings/173556>.

Cover letter and curriculum vitae are required.

For additional information about the position, please contact:

Kelly Han, MD, Director of Non-Invasive Cardiac Imaging, at kelly.han@hsc.utah.edu.

The University of Utah Health (U of U Health) is a patient focused center distinguished by collaboration, excellence, leadership, and respect. The U of U Health values candidates who are committed to fostering and furthering the culture of compassion, collaboration, innovation, accountability, diversity, integrity, quality, and trust that is integral to our mission.

All qualified individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. Veterans' preference is extended to qualified applicants, upon request and consistent with University policy and Utah state law. Upon request, reasonable accommodations in the application process will be provided to individuals with disabilities.

The University of Utah is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, genetic information, or protected veteran's status. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and 34 CFR part 106. The requirement not to discriminate in education programs or activities extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, or both.



PICS Society 2024 Symposium Recap

Kamel Shibbani, MD; Damien Kenny, MD, FPICS; Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD, FPICS

This year's PICS Society meeting was a great success, thanks to each and every one of you! We could not be more thankful for your attendance and your thoughtful participation throughout another fantastic meeting. From the outstanding atmosphere to the live cases, the audience engagement, the plethora of learning opportunities, and the baseball game, it was all made possible by your attendance and participation and by the partnership with our industry sponsors.

This year's meeting covered a lot of ground. We had live cases broadcast from 10 different centers that spanned the North and South American continents. Cases tackled the smallest of our patient population, with premie PDA closure, to the growing and complex world of ACHD and everything in between. We had fantastic breakout sessions with excellent talks and outstanding presentations. To top this all off, we had our first PICS meeting for the inaugural class of the Early Career Academy, as well as the exceptionally well attended fellow's course.

Most importantly, there was ample opportunity to connect with colleagues, to network, to learn, and to engage with our industry sponsors in this rich academic environment amongst friends. As with every year, we end the PICS Society meeting already looking forward to the next one. The 2025 PICS Society meeting will take place in the windy city, and we cannot wait to see all of you in Chicago from August 25-28, 2025. In the interim, the PICS Society is honored to advocate on your behalf and on the behalf of our patient population!

See you all soon!

Kamel Shibbani, MD;
 Damien Kenny, MD, FPICS;
 Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD, FPICS
 On behalf of all the PICS Directors and Co-Directors





Adult Congenital Heart Disease and Non-Invasive Cardiologist Opportunity in Kansas City

The University of Kansas Health System, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, is seeking a full-time Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) cardiologist, pediatric or adult track, to support our growing team. This position will support the mission of delivering the highest quality of care, as well as satisfying teaching, research, and academic responsibilities. Academic rank commensurate with experience.

The University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City is an academic and regional referral center. Patients come from all over the Midwest Region for the advanced diagnosis and innovative treatments offered by our Joint Commission Certified Comprehensive Cardiac Center.

The KU Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program was born out of a longstanding collaboration between the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Ward Heart Center at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Adult patients with congenital heart disease thus benefit from collaborative expertise from both adult and pediatric cardiologists and surgeons. The ACHD clinic is staffed by two ACHD-boarded physicians, a dedicated ACHD nurse practitioner, and a dedicated team of clinical nurse specialists. We provide outpatient and inpatient consultative care, and the full suite of diagnostic testing and therapeutic procedures are offered, including echocardiography and advanced imaging such as MRI and CT, congenital cardiac catheterization and intervention, electrophysiology, cardiac surgery, and advanced heart failure therapy. Dedicated teams and services in transition from pediatric care, cardio-obstetrics, pulmonary hypertension, vascular medicine, hepatology, nephrology, adolescent and young adult palliative care, single ventricle/Fontan surveillance, and genetic testing and counseling are woven into the program. KU is the only ACHD center in the state of Kansas and has been experiencing exponential growth in recent years. Continued growth is anticipated for the foreseeable future, and the program enjoys unwavering institutional support with regards to infrastructure, nursing, and physician extender support.

About the Position

- Provide high-quality outpatient and inpatient care to ACHD patients
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to develop individualized treatment plans
- Engage in teaching medical students, residents, and cardiovascular fellows
- Ample opportunities to contribute to research initiatives
- Participate in statewide and nationwide ACHD advocacy efforts

Required Qualifications

- M.D. or equivalent degree
- Must be Board Certified/Eligible in Adult Congenital Heart Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine
- Must be Board Certified/Eligible in either cardiovascular medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine or in pediatric cardiology by the American Board of Pediatrics
- Expertise in the management of ACHD with 1-5 years of clinical experience
- Eligible for medical licensure in Kansas and Missouri

Preferred Qualifications

- Additional sub specialization, such as in advanced cardiac imaging, advanced heart failure, women's health/cardio-obstetrics, or pulmonary hypertension, is welcome

Benefits and Compensation include

- Relocation assistance, Health/dental/vision insurance
- CME allowance
- LTD/STD, Life insurance
- Professional liability insurance

Kansas City offers the diversity and excitement of a large city with the charm and convenience of Midwest living. It offers a high quality of life for its residents and attracts visitors from around the region and beyond. Residents enjoy safe, suburban neighborhoods, great restaurants and shopping, miles of bike paths, parks and lakes, and excellent schools (public, private, and universities for higher education).

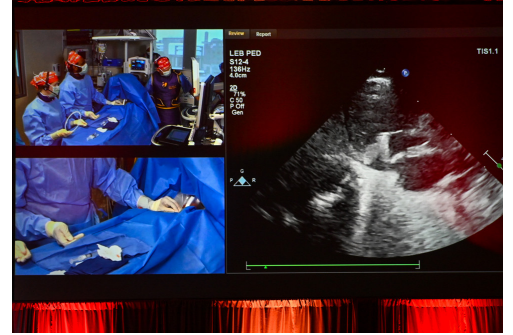
[Interested applicants should apply online via this link](#)

For additional information contact:

Darci Deskin, Senior Physician Recruiter, DDeskin@kumc.edu, 913-951-7748

The University of Kansas Hospital was recognized once again as one of the Best Hospitals from U.S. News & World Report in their 2024-25 rankings.

We are an equal employment opportunity employer without regard to a person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation), national origin, ancestry, age (40 or older), disability, veteran status or genetic information.





Pediatric Cardiologist Heart Transplant and Advanced Heart Failure

Phoenix Children's - Division of Cardiology, is actively seeking up to 3 full-time faculty to join the Advanced Heart Failure – Cardiac Transplant Team at the level of Instructor, Assistant, or Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Child Health. There is an opportunity for the right candidate to join as or develop into the role of Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support depending on experience. The program performs an average of 12-15 heart transplants annually, follows heart failure patients in both the inpatient and outpatient setting and supports a mechanical circulatory support program offering the full range of pediatric and adult devices. Applicants must have an M.D. or equivalent degree, be board certified or board eligible in Pediatric Cardiology by the American Board of Pediatrics and eligible for medical licensure in the State of Arizona. Candidates will have already completed an ACGME accredited 3-year fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology, with additional 1-2 years of advanced subspecialty training in pediatric advanced heart failure including management of cardiac transplant patients and mechanical circulatory support. This position is not currently accepting J1 visa candidates.

Candidates should demonstrate a rigorous academic focus preferably in clinical and/or translational research, however, basic science opportunities are also available. Academic clinical faculty appointments will be facilitated at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix and Tucson, Creighton University School of Medicine, and Mayo Clinic School of Medicine – Scottsdale. Additional research collaborations exist with the Translational Genomics Research Institute (tGen) and the Arizona State University, Department of Bioengineering.

The Division of Cardiology currently hosts a fellowship training program in general pediatric cardiology with 9 fellows distributed over 3 years. The Phoenix Children's Center for Heart Care also hosts subspecialty fellowships in pediatric cardiac critical care, advanced cardiac imaging, and interventional cardiac catheterization. The inpatient service includes a 48-bed CV intensive care unit and transition care unit. Patient care is interdisciplinary involving transplant cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, and dedicated cardiac NP and PA providers. The provision of both workplace based and didactic teaching to fellows, residents, medical students, and nurses is an expectation in this role. The successful candidate(s) will join our program with 24 cardiologists, 13 cardiac intensivists, 3 cardiovascular surgeons, and 25 advanced practice providers. Inpatient pediatric cardiac care is centered at the Phoenix Children's Hospital while adult congenital inpatient care and procedures are also provided at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. Ambulatory cardiac services are centered at the Center for Heart Care – Thomas Campus and satellite offices are located throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. Additional general cardiology outreach offices are in Tucson, Prescott, and Yuma AZ.

The Phoenix metropolitan area is the 5th largest metropolitan area in the United States with a population of ~1.6M and an estimated pediatric population of 1M in Maricopa county alone. Phoenix Children's is one of the largest freestanding children's hospitals in the nation with 433 licensed beds and a faculty of over 1200 employed / affiliated physicians. Phoenix is consistently ranked among the Best Places to live in the United States and boasts over 300 sunny days per year and convenient access to ocean and mountain attractions.

Interested candidates should send a curriculum vitae with a cover letter of introduction to:

David Blaha
Physician Talent Acquisition Partner
dblaha@phoenixchildrens.com

Interested candidates can also contact the program director directly:
Steve Zangwill, MD
szangwill@phoenixchildrens.com



Heart Institute Researchers Awarded Major Grants to Study Congenital Heart Defects

Shelley Miyamoto, MD and Stephanie Nakano, MD, were two of five research teams selected for a \$13 million grant to study biological mechanisms of rare congenital heart defects. The American Heart Association and Additional Ventures are funding the research and selected the teams for their forward-thinking approaches to research using innovative methods to challenge current knowledge and theories in search of cures for single ventricle disease. Both doctors already have extensive experience studying single ventricle heart disease as well as treating pediatric cardiology patients.

Dr. Miyamoto is leading a study called “The DEFEND Trial: Dapagliflozin or Empagliflozin for Fontan Exercise, QOL and Ketone Body Levels.” Her team includes Roni Jacobsen, MD, an expert in exercise and adult congenital heart disease, and cardiac psychologist Sarah Kelly, PsyD.

The team is studying the use of two sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors used to treat diabetes and heart failure in adults to determine if these medications may also help teenagers and young adults with single ventricle disease. They hope to determine if the medications improve quality of life and the ability to exercise. People with single ventricle disease are often left out of studies of new medicines, so the DEFEND study will help address this disparity.

“Our goal is to advocate for the interests of patients with congenital heart disease and make sure they are part of studies on new and important treatments,” says Dr. Miyamoto. “These patients need and deserve special focus, and we're honored to have the chance to represent their needs through this new research project.”

Dr. Nakano is leading a study called “Consequences of Impaired T Cell Homeostasis in Single Ventricle Congenital Heart Disease.” Her team includes pediatric cardiologist Anastacia Garcia, PhD, Jordan Abbott, MD, who specializes in pediatric allergy and immunology, and Julie Lang, PhD, who specializes in microbiology and immunology.

The team is seeking to learn more about the immune system of people with single ventricle disease. They theorize that children with single ventricle disease are born with abnormal immune cells, so they plan to study immune cells in patients and in animal models to learn if cell abnormalities contribute to heart failure in single ventricle patients. They hope to determine if it's

“To truly improve outcomes in single ventricle patients, we need to study their unique biology to determine personalized and effective approaches.”

–Stephanie Nakano, MD



Stephanie Nakano, MD and Shelley Miyamoto, MD, were two of five research teams selected for a \$13 million grant to study biological mechanisms of rare congenital heart defects

possible to predict which single ventricle patients are at risk for complications and which medications may be most helpful to improve patient outcomes.

“We are finding that single ventricle patients are a distinct group and their differences may extend beyond their heart,” says Dr. Nakano. “On multiple levels, we are seeing differences in the single ventricle immune system that may contribute to the development of other complications. To truly improve outcomes in single ventricle patients, we need to study their unique biology to determine personalized and effective approaches.”



Pediatric Cardiologist Specializing in Echocardiography and General Cardiology

Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a vibrant and collegial academic environment and work in a children's hospital ranked as one of the best in the U.S. The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine is seeking Pediatric Cardiologists with expertise in echocardiography (transthoracic, +/- transesophageal, +/-3D). Annually, division members read over 18,000 echocardiograms, over 1400 fetal echoes, over 350 cardiac MRIs, and over 400 CT angiograms.

The Pediatric Cardiologist will share in all clinical aspects, educational efforts, program development, and quality improvement initiatives associated with the echocardiography service. Physicians provide rotating coverage of the echo lab, and depending on qualifications, night and weekend call for emergency transesophageal echocardiograms or assistance with interpreting complex transthoracic studies. Division members are expected to rotate in covering general cardiology night and weekend call with other Division members. Division members participate in general cardiology outpatient clinic and inpatient service, in addition to their duties in their areas of expertise. Clinical responsibilities may also include seeing patients in an outreach clinic setting. Clinical duties will be carried out at Primary Children's Hospitals and the Division's outreach sites. In addition to clinical service, there is both opportunity and expectation for academic work, including education, investigation/research and administration, as well as advocacy. There will be reserved time for these efforts with a well-established support structure, expected benchmarks, and both breadth and depth in mentoring available within the Division.

Qualified candidates must be Board Eligible/Board Certified in Pediatric Cardiology, with focused training and expertise in echocardiography. This includes fourth-year trained physicians, graduates of a three-year fellowship with demonstrable interest and skill in the performance and interpretation of transthoracic echocardiography, or general cardiologists remote from training with significant exposure and experience with transthoracic echocardiography. The selected candidate will receive a faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics on the Clinical or Tenure Track at the academic level commensurate with experience and qualifications. Leadership opportunities are available for qualified candidates.

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Interested individuals can apply for the position at <https://utah.peopleadmin.com/postings/173549>.

Cover letter and curriculum vitae are required.

For additional information about the position, please contact:

John Colquitt, MD, Medical Director of Echocardiography, at john.colquitt@hsc.utah.edu.

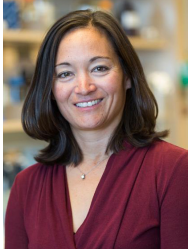
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Featured Researchers



Shelley Miyamoto, MD
Chair of Pediatric Cardiology,
Co-Director of the Heart Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado
Section Head of Cardiology,
Department of Pediatrics
Pediatric Cardiology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Stephanie Nakano, MD
Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant
Cardiologist
The Heart Institute, Children's Hospital
Colorado
Associate professor, Pediatrics-Cardiology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Roni Jacobsen, MD
Pediatric Cardiologist
The Heart Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado
Associate professor
Pediatrics-Cardiology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Sarah Kelly, PsyD
Director, Heart Institute Wellness Program
The Heart Institute
Children's Hospital Colorado
Associate Professor
Pediatrics-Cardiology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Anastacia Garcia, PhD
Pediatric Cardiologist
Pediatrics-Cardiology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Jordan Abbott, MD
Allergist and Immunologist
Allergy & Immunology
Children's Hospital Colorado
Associate Professor
Pediatrics-Allergy/Immunology
University of Colorado School of Medicine



Pediatric Cardiologist

THE OPPORTUNITY

This opportunity to join the Department of Pediatrics at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at the rank of Assistant Professor is an exciting one. Columbia University Irving Medical Center, one of the nation's foremost academic health science centers working together with one of the nation's premier health systems, New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian seeks a full-time pediatric general cardiologist to join our newest facility at the Center of Excellence in Westchester. The successful applicant will become a full-time faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at the academic rank of Assistant Professor. Proposed academic rank will be commensurate with training and experience. The desired candidate will have a passion to providing exceptional patient care and innovation alongside of our current General and Preventative Cardiologist. Candidates must be board certified or eligible in Pediatric Cardiology.

The New York Presbyterian Pediatric Heart Program (joint with Cornell University) is ranked among the nation's top cardiology & heart surgery programs by US News & World Report. Our training program includes 15 general cardiology fellows and 4 advanced training fellows. Our combined surgical program treats patients with the highest disease complexity.

The Pediatric General and Preventative Cardiology Program Columbia University Irving Medical center is one of the largest programs for children with congenital heart disease in the United States. We have 5 full-time pediatric general cardiologists. Activities include performing inpatient pediatric cardiology evaluation and testing at CHONY and outpatient pediatric cardiology evaluation and testing at our newest offsite location.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintain timely and complete EPIC chart notes, reports, and communication with primary care/referring physicians and other relevant subspecialty physicians. Participate in multidisciplinary clinical management initiatives with other subsections within Pediatric Cardiology. Participate in division and department quality improvement initiatives, including within the department. Maintains varied hours on a rotated schedule with other physicians to ensure that there is always a physician on-call during non-business hours. Comply with all billing, coding, documentation, and regulatory requirements. Participate in divisional conferences, Department of Pediatrics grand rounds, morbidity and mortality conferences, and faculty development education.

Additional clinical responsibilities will include outpatient and inpatient pediatric cardiology subspecialty care as well as conference preparation and on-call duties. Academic advancement along an investigator, educational and/or applied health care track is expected and supported depending on present rank.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have a MD or DO degree and an active NYS Medical License
- Must be Board certification in Pediatric Cardiology.
- The ability to serve on our Inpatient and Outpatient Offsite services.

COMPENSATION

Compensation arrangements are competitive and commensurate with both experience and achievement.

To apply, please visit: <http://apply.interfolio.com/159317>

COMMITMENT OF DIVERSITY

Columbia University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educator. The University is dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty and staff committed to teaching and working in a diverse environment, and strongly encourages applications from women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

Columbia University welcomes applications from individuals who may have had nontraditional career paths, or who may have taken time off for family reasons (e.g. children, caring for disabled or elderly family), or who have achieved excellence in careers outside of academia (e.g., in professional or industry service). The University is responsive to the needs of dual career couples and is committed to supporting the work-life balance of its faculty. We are interested in candidates who have a record of success advising and mentoring individuals from groups underrepresented in higher education and is particularly interested in candidates who have research interests in subjects that will contribute to the understanding of diversity and equal opportunity.



Adult Congenital Cardiologist Opportunity Northeast Ohio

Ohio-based Akron Children's Hospital seeks an additional **Adult Congenital Cardiologist** to join its expanding Heart Center. Akron Children's Hospital is the largest pediatric healthcare system in Northeast Ohio and is ranked among the best children's hospitals.

This integrated healthcare delivery system includes:

- Two free-standing pediatric hospitals
- More than 800 providers, who manage over 1.1 million patient visits annually
- A network of more than 50 primary and specialty care locations
- Robust research and innovation endeavors

The successful candidate will join a well-established group, expanding the services of the Heart Center team, and will treat ACHD patients. Our team includes 16 pediatric cardiologists, 7 advanced practice providers and 2 cardiothoracic surgeons who provide a complete spectrum of coordinated, compassionate, cardiac care to over 10,000 patients annually. Services include: advanced diagnostics, complex surgical procedures, an adult congenital heart disease program, a fetal imaging program and a cardiac MRI program.

This position offers opportunities for:

- Partnership with an established team of Cardiologists affording exceptional work-life balance
- Active involvement in medical student and resident education; academic appointment at Northeast Ohio Medical University is available and commensurate with experience
- An attractive compensation plan that includes bonus compensation

Requirements include board eligibility/certification in Adult Congenital Heart Disease and the ability to obtain an active medical license in the state of Ohio.

Akron Children's Hospital is set in the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley, just minutes south of Cleveland. From major league attractions to small-town appeal, the greater Akron area has something for everyone. The area is rich in history and cultural diversity, and provides a stimulating blend of outstanding educational, cultural and recreational resources. This four-season community offers outdoor enthusiasts more than 40,000 acres of parks for year-round enjoyment. Northeast Ohio has become a premier destination to work, live, play, shop and dine.

Interested candidates may contact Jane Hensley, Physician Recruiter at 330-543-3015 or jhensley@akronchildrens.org. To learn more, visit our website at www.akronchildrens.org.



Heart Defects Affect 40,000 US Babies Every Year — But Cutting Edge AI and Stem Cell Tech Will Save Lives and Even Cure Them in the Womb

Jeanette Settembre & Megan Palin, *New York Post*

Katie Blue-Pugh was just a few hours old when her lips turned blue and panic suddenly set in for her parents and staff in a California maternity ward.

Later that day, doctors discovered she had a major heart defect, born with a single ventricle. She was immediately sent by ambulance to a nearby hospital at University of California, San Francisco, for life-saving surgery.

By the time Katie was nine-years-old, she'd undergone multiple invasive procedures but still "couldn't run across a playground without stopping."

"My lips were blue, my nails were blue, my oxygen saturation was at 60%, it's supposed to be above 90%," Blue-Pugh told *The Post*.



Katie Blue-Pugh had childhood heart disease and underwent life-saving surgery at 10-years-old. However, she may one day need a full heart transplant. She is now 34 and lives in Durham, NC, with her husband, William Pugh. (Photos courtesy of Katie Blue-Pugh)



Professor Enzo Porrello, who is a one of MCRI's top researchers and is spearheading the "Decoding Broken Hearts" initiative. (Photo courtesy of Enzo Portillo)

The most common types of birth defects occur in the heart, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They affect around one in every 100 live births, which is equivalent to 40,000 babies born in the US each year, or one child born every 15 minutes, according to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI).

Blue-Pugh is now 34-years-old and thriving in Durham, North Carolina. While the Fontan procedure to "re-do the plumbing" in her heart has dramatically improved her quality of life, she still may need a heart transplant one day, according to doctors.

"Thinking of one's own mortality is scary," she said.

"I'm very grateful to be here. I live a pretty much normal life. But thinking I might one day need a transplant and that my body can reject it gives me a lot of anxiety."

Groundbreaking new research in stem cell and Artificial Intelligence

[AI] technology has raised hopes of eliminating all of these worries, and treat conditions like hers — even before birth.

Top health researchers from MCRI in Australia have teamed with those from the Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco on a new program to develop cutting-edge technologies to treat the underlying causes of childhood heart disease more effectively.

Current treatment options such as transplants are inadequate as donor heart supply is limited, patients have a lower medium-to-long-term chance of survival and they require lifelong immunosuppression, according to MCRI.

Professor Enzo Porrello at MCRI is spearheading the new research which focuses on developing personalized treatments to prevent the progression of the disease and, ultimately, to avoid the need for transplantation.

The initiative, dubbed "Decoding Broken Hearts," leverages MCRI's stem cell technologies and Gladstone Institutes' advanced AI capabilities to "understand human disease biology." "Transplantation is not a cure, it's really a last resort," Porrello said.

The partnership aims to be able to offer personalized treatments to young patients.

Porrello and his team pioneered the stem-cell field in 2017 when they created the most complex 3D mini-models of human heart tissue in the world. They can now mimic the human heart in a lab dish and perform breakthrough experiments to create treatments.

"We can produce thousands of these miniature human heart tissues from stem cells every week," Porrello explained.

"These types of studies generate enormous data sets. We need to be able to mine those data sets to pinpoint the underlying cause of the heart disease – this is where AI comes in."

"It allows us to predict how an individual patient might respond to a particular therapy."

"Potentially the approach we're developing can apply to all forms of heart disease, not only children, but adults."

MCRI's researchers are working with cardiologists and heart specialists to get to a point where they can eliminate defects before they even have time to develop.

"By going in and editing these genes early – first it'll be at birth – the way they use their AI is you can go in and snip these genes at different stages. (Then it'll be) going to the mother and preventing the diseases from happening in the first place," said MCRI Global Ambassador, Sarah Murdoch, who is the wife of Lachlan Murdoch, the Chairman of The



Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Cardiologist Opportunity

Join our dynamic team at Phoenix Children's and make a difference in the lives of ACHD patients. We are seeking a dedicated and passionate ACHD cardiologist to add to our growing program.

Responsibilities

- Provide high-quality outpatient and inpatient care to ACHD patients.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to develop individualized treatment plans.
- Engage in teaching medical students, residents, pediatric cardiology and adult cardiovascular disease fellows.
- Contribute to research initiatives.
- Participate in statewide and nationwide ACHD advocacy efforts.

Facility and Program Information

Phoenix Children's Center for Heart Care houses the largest ACHD program in Arizona and the state's only ACHA Accredited Comprehensive Care Center. Our program boasts 24 cardiologists, 13 cardiac intensivists, 3 cardiovascular surgeons, and 24 advanced practice providers. We offer ambulatory cardiac services across the Phoenix metropolitan area and have outreach clinics in greater Arizona. Phoenix Children's is one of the nation's largest pediatric health systems and a premier destination for pediatric care in the Southwest. Inpatient ACHD care takes place at Phoenix Children's and at our adult partner hospital, Dignity-St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, a large academic medical center that includes the world-renowned Norton Thoracic and Barrow Neurologic Institutes. The successful candidate will play a pivotal role working alongside the Heart Center teams at both institutions.

Community Information

Phoenix is the 5th largest city in the United States, known for its year-round temperate climate and abundant sunshine. With access to ocean and mountain attractions, it's consistently ranked among the Best Places to live in the United States.

Qualifications

- M.D. or equivalent degree.
- Board certified/eligible in Pediatric Cardiology by the American Board of Pediatrics.
- Board certified/eligible in Adult Congenital Heart Disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine.
- Eligible for medical licensure in the State of Arizona.

Affiliation and Academic Appointments

Phoenix Children's Hospital is affiliated with the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix. ACHD cardiologists will hold academic appointments within the divisions of Child Health and Internal Medicine.

At Phoenix Children's, our commitment to excellence extends beyond clinical care to include education, research, and advocacy. Join our supportive and collaborative team where healthcare professionals can thrive and make a meaningful impact on the lives of patients and families.

This position offers competitive compensation, excellent benefits, including employer retirement contribution, generous vacation/meeting time, CME funds, health and dental benefits, disability, and life insurance.

For questions and inquiries, please contact:

David Blaha
Physician Talent Acquisition Partner
dblaha@phoenixchildrens.com



Post's parent company, News Corp, and Chief Executive Officer of Fox Corporation.

They are carrying on the legacy started by world-leading philanthropist Dame Elisabeth Murdoch — the late mother of media mogul, Rupert Murdoch, who founded the original Murdoch Institute for Research in Birth Defects in 1986 alongside genetics pioneer Professor David Danks.

Since then it has grown from a genetics research institute to a global leader in children's health.

MCRI is now ranked among the top three best child health research institutes in the world for the quality and impact of its work.

A living example of the leaps forward in heart research by MCRI and Gladstone Institutes can be seen in the case of Ebony and Kyle Mallison.

Their daughter, Amelia, was 2-years-old when she suddenly suffered heart failure.

She was diagnosed with LVNC cardiomyopathy after waking up on Mother's Day 2015 with a "face was so swollen that she could barely open her eyes," Ebony said.

"She was in the ICU for a week and then on the cardiac ward for another week before she came home," Ebony, a 31-year-old receptionist in Melbourne, Australia, told The Post.

Later that year, an organ donor became available and Amelia had a heart transplant at just 3-years-old.

But the Decoding Broken Hearts' initiative's research will hopefully mean now 11-year-old Amelia's brother, Elijah — who has the same heart condition — will not have to undergo a transplant at all.

"Eli is currently stable, but our hope is, if he ever does become unwell, the work that MCRI is doing would be very beneficial in any treatment that he needed," Ebony said.

Sarah Murdoch has seen first-hand the heartbreaking reality of what children affected by heart disease and their families go through.

"I visited a child who was an 18-month-old toddler, who had the tubes coming out of her chest to a machine that pumps her blood for her. Bed bound," Murdoch told The Post.

"You think of a toddler — I'd never seen a child in that condition at that age. She just sat there. And she'll be sitting there waiting until she can have a heart."

"It's extra hard when you have young children yourself — that's what motivates us."

"Some months ago we pioneered being able to map an entire human genome of a child — a rapid diagnosis in three days. We're doing it in

four hours now. This is where we're going to be able to map an entire baby genome. Find the genetic problem, before it causes an issue." Another area where MCRI has excelled is in developing a life-saving vaccine for newborns to prevent rotavirus — a highly infectious virus which caused over 400,000 deaths per year in developing countries in the 90s and early 00s, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The World Health Organization (WHO) now recommends the vaccine for all children and it has been introduced to 114 countries, where it has been up to 90% effective in preventing severe rotavirus, according to the NIH.

Ebony says that the research and leaps forward made by MCRI make her whole family feel reassured and hopeful.

"It's good to know that there are people working on things that will help the lives of my kids and other kids around the country," she said.



DECEMBER

01ST-05TH

RSNA 2024

Chicago, Illinois, USA

<https://www.rsna.org/annual-meeting>

05TH-07TH

International Aortic Symposium

Orlando, Florida, USA

<https://floridaaorta.cme.ufl.edu/>

JANUARY

22ND-24TH

CSI America

Orlando, Florida, USA

<https://www.csi-congress.org/america>





Pediatric Cardiologist

Springfield, Missouri

The Ward Family Heart Center at Children's Mercy Kansas City seeks a candidate to join our team as a pediatric cardiologist based at our CMKC owned practice in Springfield, MO. The successful candidate would join an existing group of 38 cardiologists (33 in Kansas City, 2 in Springfield, MO, 2 in Wichita, KS, 1 in Topeka, KS), 4 CV surgeons, and over 30 APNs. Experience and interest in outpatient cardiology and outreach is a must. Trainees in their final year are welcome to apply.

Candidates must be board-certified or board-eligible in Pediatric Cardiology. Strong communication skills are key. Salary and academic rank are commensurate with experience.

Springfield, Missouri is located in Southwest Missouri and has a rich and diverse history. It was founded in 1829 and is the third most populous city in the State of Missouri. The city has a plentiful and growing job market, great schools, world-class health care, and all the entertainment and cultural options of a big city—but with far less stress and an abundance of character and friendliness. The Springfield, MO based practice is the only pediatric cardiology practice in southwest Missouri, servicing 4 states. This practice sees over 4000 outpatient visits each year across 7 locations.

The Children's Mercy Heart Center serves a population of over 5 million in the heart of the U.S.A. We perform over 500 cardiac operations, 600 cardiac catheterizations including over 200 invasive EP procedures, 18,000 outpatient visits, and more than 20,000 echocardiograms annually. Our two state-of the art catheterization labs are both hybrid labs and equipped with the latest 3D imaging and EP technology.

Our Kansas City-based super-specialty resources include Electrophysiology (which includes Clinical EP, pacing and Genetic Arrhythmia), Cardiac Transplantation / Heart Failure, Interventional Cardiology and Advanced Cardiac Imaging (fetal echo, 3D echo, trans-esophageal echo, CT, MRI and 3D printing). We also provide specialized, team-based care in Fetal Cardiology (with on-site delivery services for high-risk neonates in Kansas City), Interstage Monitoring (CHAMP), Preventive Cardiology, Cardiac Genetics, Cardio-oncology, Single Ventricle Survivorship, Pulmonary Hypertension, a dedicated POTS clinic and Cardiac Neurodevelopmental services.

For more information or to apply, submit CV and cover letter using link below, or send to: physicianjobs@cmh.edu
<https://faculty-childrensmercykc.icims.com/jobs/30486/physician/job>

Aliessa Barnes, MD
Co-Director, Ward Family Heart Center;
Chief, Section of Cardiology
816.983.6225, apbarnes@cmh.edu

Program Directory 2024-2025

Published Mid-August

Directory of Congenital & Pediatric
Cardiac Care Providers in North
America

Each program's contact information
for Chief of Pediatric Cardiology &
Fellowship Director

Lists each program's
Pediatric Cardiologists &
Cardiothoracic Surgeons

Lists Pediatric Cardiology
Fellowships

Distributed to
Division Chiefs by mail

Electronic version available on
CCT's website:

[CongenitalCardiologyToday.com/
Program-Directory](https://CongenitalCardiologyToday.com/Program-Directory)

Need to update your listing?
Contact Kate Baldwin
kate.f.baldwin@gmail.com



Pediatric Cardiologist Specializing in Noninvasive Imaging (Fetal Echocardiography)

Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah School of Medicine

This is an outstanding opportunity to join a vibrant and collegial academic environment and work in a children's hospital ranked as one of the best in the U.S. The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine is seeking Pediatric Cardiologists with expertise in Noninvasive Imaging (Fetal Echocardiography) whose clinical focus will be the provision of noninvasive imaging for children and adults with heart disease cared for by members of the division and for outside referring sites for whom the division provides interpretation of imaging studies. The ideal candidate will possess expertise in fetal echocardiography in addition to reading transthoracic echoes and performing/reading transesophageal studies. The Fetal Heart Program collaborates with the Grant Scott Bonham Fetal Center, a growing fetal center that performs fetal interventions including open surgical procedures (myelomeningocele repairs, sacrococcygeal teratoma resections), interventions for monochorionic twins (laser and radiofrequency ablation), and complex deliveries (EXIT procedures). Noninvasive imaging physicians rotate in covering night and weekend call for emergency TEEs or helping in interpreting complex transthoracic studies. Division members are expected to rotate in covering general cardiology night and weekend call, and will participate in general cardiology outpatient clinic and inpatient service, in addition to their duties in their areas of expertise. Clinical responsibilities may also include seeing patients in an outreach clinic setting. Clinical duties will be carried out at Primary Children's Hospitals and the Division's outreach sites. In addition to clinical service, there is both opportunity and expectation for academic work, including education, investigation/research, and administration, as well as advocacy. There will be reserved time for these efforts with a well-established support structure, expected benchmarks, and both breadth and depth in mentoring available within the Division.

The pediatric cardiology division and imaging volume are growing significantly. Annually, division members read over 18,000 echocardiograms, over 1400 fetal echoes, over 350 cardiac MRIs, and over 400 CT angiograms.

Qualified candidates must be Board Eligible/Board Certified in Pediatric Cardiology, with focused training in noninvasive imaging, with expertise in fetal echocardiography. The selected candidate will receive a faculty appointment in the Department of Pediatrics on the Clinical or Tenure Track at the academic level commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The Department and University offers a competitive salary and an exceptional benefits program including non-contributory retirement contributions of 20.2% of annual salary that vest immediately. The Department offers a faculty development and mentoring program designed to foster success in translational or basic research, quality improvement engagement, and excellence as educators.

Salt Lake City is a rapidly growing, vibrant city in the Intermountain West, with a nationally recognized Broadway theater, ballet, symphony, and several professional sports teams. The newly renovated Salt Lake International Airport is a hub for Delta Airlines and has direct flights to many North American cities and daily direct flights to multiple European cities. Outdoor activities are unparalleled: the city is a ski destination and a gateway to the state's renowned red rock landscapes. In addition to its 15 ski resorts, Utah boasts five national parks (with five more within a half-day drive), a variety of golf courses allowing for year-round play, hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails, picturesque lakes, and numerous other outdoor activities.

Interested individuals can apply for the position at <https://utah.peopleadmin.com/postings/173553>.

Cover letter and curriculum vitae are required.

For additional information about the position, please contact:

Whitnee Hogan, MD, Director, Fetal Heart Program, at whitnee.hogan@hsc.utah.edu.

The University of Utah Health (U of U Health) is a patient focused center distinguished by collaboration, excellence, leadership, and respect. The U of U Health values candidates who are committed to fostering and furthering the culture of compassion, collaboration, innovation, accountability, diversity, integrity, quality, and trust that is integral to our mission.

All qualified individuals are strongly encouraged to apply. Veterans' preference is extended to qualified applicants, upon request and consistent with University policy and Utah state law. Upon request, reasonable accommodations in the application process will be provided to individuals with disabilities.

The University of Utah is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and does not discriminate based upon race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, genetic information, or protected veteran's status. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and 34 CFR part 106. The requirement not to discriminate in education programs or activities extends to admission and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, or both.



Peyton Manning
Children's Hospital



Ascension St. Vincent

Pediatric Cardiology, Advanced Imaging

Indianapolis, Indiana

Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, in collaboration with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, is seeking a BE/BC Pediatric Cardiologist in Indianapolis with expertise in non-invasive imaging and clinical care. This cardiologist will support multiple facets of our cardiology program including advanced imaging, TEE, and echo, as well as cardiology clinic, maternal fetal medicine, hospital rounds, and outreach. Opportunities to participate in clinical, educational, and research projects with Cincinnati Children's Hospital will be available.

Practice Highlights

- Outpatient care including staffing our growing clinic sites
- Inpatient support for our new intensivist backed cardiac ICU
- Preoperative and postoperative imaging support
- Consult services to NICU, MFM, other hospital services
- Support our robust telemedicine service
- Collaboration with Cincinnati Children's Hospital provides unique opportunities for clinical care, education, and research
- Member of the largest nonprofit health system in the country, Ascension Health
- Schedule: Monday-Friday
- Call Schedule: Divided equally among all providers
- Practice Detail: Seeking a Pediatric Cardiologist Physician to join our elite team in Indianapolis!
- EMR System: Alterra SCM inpatient, Athena Outpatient
- Facility: Children's Heart Center, Peyton Manning Children's Hospital

Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at Ascension St. Vincent is part of Indiana's largest not-for-profit health system with 22 ministries and over 3000 physicians. Features include: An attached tertiary care pediatric hospital with 40 private inpatient beds and 8 short stay beds, staffed in-house 24/7 by our Pediatric Hospitalist group; a 23-bed PICU staffed 24/7 by Pediatric Intensivists; a 17-bed Pediatric Emergency department staffed 24/7 by Pediatric Emergency physicians; and Indiana's largest Level IV NICU with 96 beds staffed 24/7 by Neonatologists.

Ascension St. Vincent offers a very competitive compensation package that includes: Competitive base salaries, Relocation allowance, CME, Comprehensive health benefits, Retirement savings plan (403b) with match, Malpractice with tail coverage and generous paid time off.

Indianapolis is the 14th largest city in the nation and is the center of America's heartland. Indianapolis supports more than 200 arts organizations, including a world-class symphony, theater, opera, ballet, museums, art galleries and professional sports. Enjoy a relaxed lifestyle with numerous cultural offerings, change of seasons, and outstanding schools. Indiana's cost of living and unemployment rates remain below the national average. Physicians in Indiana enjoy low malpractice rates, making Indiana one of the top physician friendly states in which to practice medicine.

This job location is not currently located in a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) and/or Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P) Shortage Designation Type.

Licensure/Certification/Registration

Required Credential(s)

- Physician MD/DO credential from the Indiana Medical Licensing Board obtained prior to hire date or job transfer date required.
- Advanced Life Support credentialed from the American Heart Association (AHA) preferred.

Education

- Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) required.

Interested candidates should contact:

Adam Austin, Physician Recruiter

adam.austin@ascension.org



Pediatric Cardiologist Advanced Imaging with Cross-Sectional Focus

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology at MaineHealth Maine Medical Center is seeking a pediatric cardiologist with a subspecialty focus in cross-sectional imaging to join their group.

The Congenital Heart Program at Maine Medical Center provides comprehensive services including congenital heart surgery, interventional cardiology and invasive electrophysiology. Maine Medical Center has provided surgical care in the state for over 25 years and congenital interventional services for over 20 years. The Congenital Heart Program currently participates in STS, PC4, PAC3, CNOG, VPS, and IMPACT registries. Integrated across both the Pediatric and Cardiovascular Services Lines at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and Maine Medical Center, the Congenital Heart Program provides cohesive care across disciplines and collaborates closely with both pediatric and adult subspecialists.

This position offers:

- Responsibility in both inpatient and outpatient general pediatric cardiology attending services.
- Oversight of a growing cross sectional imaging program.
- Research, administrative, and educational time depending on the candidate, their experience, and their career goals.
- Complex, comprehensive care in a small group setting
- Competitive compensation package including relocation assistance, CME expense reimbursement, and malpractice insurance.

Qualifications:

- MD/DO from an accredited medical school.
- Board Certification/Board Eligible in Pediatric Cardiology.
- Preference will be given to candidates with strong imaging skills and ability to oversee and grow cardiac MRI and CT program.
- Should be comfortable in all aspects of general pediatric cardiology including performing TTE.

Interested candidates may submit a CV and cover letter to:

Gina Mallozzi, Physician Recruiter

gina.mallozzi@mainehealth.org

Portland, Maine, situated on the Maine coast, Portland offers the best of urban sophistication combined with small-town friendliness. The area provides four season recreational opportunities, such as skiing, hiking, sailing, and miles of beautiful beaches. Just two hours north of Boston, this is an exceptionally diverse and vibrant community.

MaineHealth is a not-for-profit integrated health system whose vision is, "Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America." MaineHealth consists of nine local health systems, a comprehensive behavioral health care network, diagnostic services, home health agencies, and 1,700 employed clinicians working together through the MaineHealth Medical Group. With approximately 22,000 care team members, MaineHealth provides preventive care, diagnosis and treatment to 1.1 million residents in Maine and New Hampshire. MaineHealth offers a Total Rewards package that includes comprehensive and competitive benefits, along with programs and resources to meet the diverse needs of our workforce.

To learn more about our system please visit www.mainehealth.org and our benefits page.



Yale University School of Medicine

Assistant / Associate Professor Adult Congenital Heart Disease

The Department of Pediatrics, Section of Pediatric Cardiology at the Yale School of Medicine is recruiting an individual with expertise in Adult Congenital Heart Disease to join our established ACHD program as an Assistant or Associate Professor in the Academic Clinician track, depending on interest and background.

The Yale Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program is one of the approximately 50 programs in the country accredited through the Adult Congenital Heart Association as a comprehensive care program. Our program is integrated into the Yale-New Haven Children's Heart Center and combines the resources of the Children's Hospital with the larger Yale-New Haven Health system to provide the full range of medical, surgical, and catheter-based therapies for adults with congenital heart disease including advanced heart failure management and cardiac transplantation. This integrated program currently has four ACHD board certified physicians; plans for initiation of an ACHD fellowship have been approved but not yet implemented.

The successful candidate will work with the ACHD program's Medical Director to further expand outpatient and inpatient services. Clinical duties will include consultative and direct management of ACHD patients in the cardiac intensive care unit and general cardiac units at the main Yale-New Haven Hospital campus as well as outpatient consultation and management in New Haven and at satellite locations throughout CT. If interested, there are also opportunities for in-patient and out-patient pediatric cardiac care. Active participation in the education of medical students, residents, and adult and pediatric cardiology fellows is expected.

Board certification or eligibility Adult Congenital Heart Disease is required. Ideal candidates will have demonstrated interest and abilities in clinical care, education, and scholarship, and will have excellent interpersonal skills and ability to function in teams.

The candidate will receive a competitive salary with incentive compensation in addition to a comprehensive benefits package. This is an excellent opportunity to practice academic ACHD medicine in beautiful coastal Connecticut while also joining a world-class academic medical center.

Interested applicants should submit Curriculum Vitae, Cover Letter and three Letters of Reference to:

apply.interfolio.com/147264

The position will remain open until filled.

*Yale University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer.
Women, minorities, persons with disabilities and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.*



**CONGENITAL
CARDIOLOGY
TODAY**

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