



Lifesaving Cardiac Care for Nemo

The day 3-week-old Nemo stopped breathing at Children's National Hospital, "the nurse hit the code blue button and the whole team flew through the doors to save his life," recalls his mom, Tiffany. When Nemo was born, his heart had only one ventricle (the right) that was large or strong enough to pump effectively. Within two weeks, he had heart surgery.

“ One nurse in particular, Kathleen Reid, was at my side the whole time,” Tiffany says. “I was terrified, and she told me everything would be OK when I needed to hear it most. She called my husband and made sure he knew what was going on. ”

Nemo, now 4, has been back to our hospital for three more surgeries. The cardiac team's care has helped him grow into what his mom calls "a full-blown rambunctious boy who loves to smile and laugh." He is named for the main character of the family's favorite movie, *Finding Nemo*. Nemo has a similar physical defect – his right fin is smaller than his left.

"Children's National gave my son his life," Tiffany says. "They keep doing everything they can to keep him happy, healthy and living a normal life."

Your generous support for our specialized care at Children's National makes stories like Nemo's possible. It ensures that every child receives exceptional, compassionate care to heal their mind, body and spirit.

#1

for newborn care and top-10 overall in U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals



240,390 unique patients



17,985 surgical cases



118,912

diagnostic imaging procedures



683,855 outpatient visits



\$67 million in uncompensated care



Telehealth is a Bridge to Care During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may have shut down our region in the spring, but families still needed the essential health care they rely on every day. In 2020, our telehealth program served as a bridge for many families in our community and beyond. **More than 600 clinicians conducted appointments via**

video conference across our specialties – from annual wellness visits in cardiology to diabetes check-ups and even art therapy for cancer patients. Our telehealth services jumped from 80 per month in February to 800 per day by the end of May. Thanks to your support, thousands of children have continued to receive world-class care during the public health crisis.

Expansion of Surgical Excellence

Last fall, Children's National recruited **Dr. Marc Levitt, an internationally recognized pediatric colorectal surgeon,** to establish the Division of Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery. It is the first in the mid-Atlantic region to fully integrate surgery, urology, gynecology and gastroenterology into a cohesive pediatric program. It provides leading-edge diagnosis, treatment and exceptional care for colorectal disorders.

Dr. Levitt has performed more than **10,000 complex pediatric colorectal and pelvic reconstructive surgeries** – more than any other full-time practicing surgeon in the world.

In its first year, the program fielded requests for treatment from more than **400 patients in 33 states and 21 countries.**

Experts from more than **12 specialties collaborate to provide seamless, comprehensive care.** This integrated approach can minimize the number of surgeries a child requires.

The division treats conditions such as **Hirschsprung disease (a birth defect that affects nerve cells in the colon), spinal anomalies, motility disorders, perineal trauma and cloaca** – a rare anorectal malformation in which urinary, gynecology and colorectal systems are fused and require separation.

Division team members **conducted virtual sessions on surgical techniques and bowel management for clinicians** in North America, South America, Asia, Africa and Europe.

The team has advanced surgical techniques, including an innovative type of colostomy for newborn anorectal malformations, new approaches to repair fistulas and re-operative surgeries that can restore continence.



Dr. Marc Levitt

A Champion for Families and Future Nurses

Modupeola "Tosin" Hinga, BSN, RN, CPN, has made a career of helping children and families through difficult times. She serves as a nurse navigator at Children's National and helps young patients and their families solve problems. She advocates for them and coordinates care.

On a typical day, Tosin connects with doctors and social workers, comforts families after a difficult diagnosis and discusses next steps of a child's treatment plan with parents. "We often meet families during some of their worst moments and work with them for months," says Tosin. She also has served as an acute care float nurse and surgical care shift coordinator during her 7 years at Children's National. "We create strong bonds with them because of that."

Tosin has ordered a favorite tea for a mother because she couldn't find it in the hospital cafeteria. She has coordinated hotel stays and cheered up a patient with a new Hot Wheels car.

She channels her passion for nursing as a Conway Nursing Pathway Program mentor. Generous support from Bill and Joanne Conway allowed Children's National to create this program. It funds a work-study program for rising high school seniors interested in the profession, scholarships for college students and stipends for Children's National nurses to pursue



advanced degrees. Tosin is pursuing a master's degree in nursing administration and mentors a student at Catholic University.

"I remember how meaningful it was to have mentors who encouraged and guided me when I began my career," Tosin says. "I love when my mentee has that 'a-ha' moment and I can help build confidence."

“Coming to the hospital can be scary and overwhelming,” Tosin says. “It’s comforting to have someone to answer questions and facilitate their child’s care.”



Enhanced Care Through Artificial Intelligence

Our Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to improve bedside care and help patients thrive. The CICU team treated nearly 760

patients in the last year with the help of a virtual command center and Dr. Bear Bot, a robot liaison.

Dr. Bear Bot connects CICU patients and clinicians with our telemedicine leaders. Dr. Ricardo Muñoz is executive director of the telemedicine program and division chief of critical cardiac care, and Dr. Alejandro Lopez-Magallon is medical director of the telemedicine program.

Drs. Muñoz and Lopez-Magallon monitor vitals from a 12-screen virtual command center on a different floor. The command center enables them to track multiple patients simultaneously. This is especially crucial for children who are recovering from surgery, had a heart or kidney transplant or were flown in for an emergency procedure.

If they need to examine a patient, they remotely navigate Dr. Bear Bot from its parking space near the nurse's station to a patient's room. An attending clinician often accompanies Dr. Bear Bot whose screen displays one of the telemedicine physicians.

These high-tech tools enhance the doctors' ability to diagnose and intervene during critical events – and sometimes head off complications before they worsen.

Forever Thankful

For three and a half years, Children's National was Lucas' second home. He battled cancer, along with the difficult side effects, illnesses and feelings of loneliness. He missed school, sports and holidays with family. He says one of the best things was when of his nurses brought him a video game! Today, he is an energetic 13-year-old who loves playing video games, skateboarding and hiking.

“ I am so grateful for all that Children's National has done to save Lucas' life. I felt that each of his doctors cared just as much about saving my son as I did. ”

– Jackie, Lucas' mom



Our Gratitude

As Children's National marks 150 years of caring for our community, we are deeply grateful for your commitment that provides hope and healing for families. Your generosity allows us to connect care, community and discovery to help every child grow up stronger.

 **Children's National.**

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