General and Thoracic Surgery Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT | CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Children's National

Released March 2026

Contents

A Message from the Chief of General and Thoracic Surgery

To our pediatric colleagues and referring providers,

Thank you for the trust you place in our team. The care you deliver in the community sets the foundation for everything that follows, and our partnership with you continues to elevate pediatric surgical care across the region.

Over the past year, our division has expanded clinical programs, advanced innovative techniques and deepened our commitment to education and research. From the growth of our minimally invasive and foregut services, to starting a robotic surgery program, to major strides in bariatric surgery, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) program and neonatal surgical care, our team has worked with purpose to deliver faster access, safer operations and better outcomes for our patients.

Beyond the operating room, we've strengthened our outreach to patients and families. Through disease-specific education, achalasia awareness efforts, community events, clearer communication pathways and our expanding SURGUCATION YouTube channel and podcast, we're making it easier for families to understand their surgical journey and stay connected with us before and after referral. Stronger outreach means fewer delays, more transparency and more seamless continuity of care.

In this report, you'll find updates on our clinical programs, publications, research initiatives, referral processes and new efforts designed to support you and your patients. You'll also see the expanding scope of our specialty services—from foregut and IBD to bariatrics, neonatal surgery and advanced endoscopy.

Our mission is straightforward: Provide safe, accessible, high-quality surgical care and be a partner you can rely on without hesitation. We're building momentum—and we're just getting started.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for entrusting us with the surgical care of your patients. We look forward to working even more closely with you in the months ahead.

With appreciation and commitment,

Mikael Petrosyan, MD, MBA, FACS, FAAP
Division Chief, General and Thoracic Pediatric Surgery
Children's National Hospital

Meet the Team

Click to learn more or click on individual headshots below

Andrea Badillo, MD. *Colorectal/Prenatal*

Andrea Badillo, MD, is the associate chief of the Division of Colorectal & Pelvic Reconstruction at Children's National Hospital and a professor of surgery and pediatrics at George Washington University. She directs the Prenatal General and Thoracic and Prenatal Colorectal Programs at the Zickler Family Prenatal Pediatrics Institute, specializing in prenatal diagnosis and surgical management of complex conditions such as fetal lung lesions, anorectal and cloacal malformations, Hirschsprung disease and fecal incontinence. A graduate of Wake Forest University and George Washington University, Dr. Badillo completed her pediatric surgery fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia before joining Children's National, where she co-developed a multidisciplinary colorectal program. Known for her compassionate care, she brings extensive expertise in minimally invasive and revisional surgeries for complex colorectal conditions.

Randall Burd, MD, PHD *Trauma*

Randall Burd, MD, PhD, is chief of the Division of Trauma Surgery at Children's National Hospital, where he leads both the Level I Pediatric Trauma Center and the Burn Program—key resources for injured children across the Washington, D.C., region. A professor of surgery and pediatrics at George Washington University, Dr. Burd specializes in neonatal and minimally invasive surgery, pediatric trauma and burn care. He earned his MD from Columbia University and PhD from the University of Minnesota, completing his pediatric surgery fellowship in Detroit. His NIH- and NSF-funded research focuses on improving trauma resuscitation through innovations in teamwork, computer vision and speech recognition. A founding member and past president of the Pediatric Trauma Society, Dr. Burd is nationally recognized for advancing care standards and multidisciplinary collaboration in pediatric trauma.

Christina Feng, MD *Colorectal/ Vascular Anomalies/Prenatal*

Christina Feng, MD, is a board-certified pediatric surgeon at Children's National Hospital, specializing in general and thoracic surgery for infants, children and adolescents. Her clinical focus includes minimally invasive and neonatal surgery, complex colorectal conditions like anorectal malformations and Hirschsprung disease and vascular anomalies. She is passionate about guiding families through prenatal diagnoses and treating congenital conditions such as lung lesions, abdominal masses and hernias. A graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, Dr. Feng completed her residency at Beth Israel Deaconess and a pediatric surgery fellowship at Cincinnati Children's. She is an assistant professor at George Washington University and actively contributes to research, quality improvement and surgical education.

Meet the Team

Click to learn more or click on individual headshots below

Timothy Kane, MD ***Thoracic and Foregut/Chest Wall/Prenatal/Bariatric***

Timothy Kane, MD, serves as emeritus chief of General and Thoracic Surgery and program director of the Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Program in the Joseph E. Robert, Jr., Center for Surgical Care. He is a principal investigator in the Minimally Invasive Therapy Program, which is part of the Bioengineering Initiative of the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation. Dr. Kane works to develop the center's minimally invasive surgery program through clinical practice, instruction and research, while improving minimally invasive surgical techniques and speed in standard pediatric clinical care. Dr. Kane is also a professor of surgery and pediatrics at the George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences. He is a general and thoracic pediatric surgeon specializing in minimally invasive surgery in infants, children and adolescents for many pediatric surgical conditions. He has specific interest and expertise in minimally invasive thoracic, gastrointestinal and neonatal surgery. His other interests include surgery for gastroesophageal reflux; chest wall deformities; palmar hyperhidrosis; and complex esophageal, intestinal, pancreatic and hepatobiliary problems in children.

Mark Kovler, MD ***Bariatric***

Mark L. Kovler, MD, is an assistant professor in Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery at Children's National Hospital, where he provides expert care using advanced minimally invasive techniques for conditions such as hernias, reflux, chest wall deformities, congenital anomalies and appendicitis. He also leads the hospital's Bariatric Surgery Program, offering innovative, personalized care for pediatric and adolescent patients with obesity-related health challenges. A graduate of Princeton University and George Washington University School of Medicine, Dr. Kovler trained at Johns Hopkins and completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at Children's National. His research focuses on improving pediatric surgical care and outcomes, and he is actively involved in surgical education and mentorship. A native of Washington, D.C., he is proud to serve children and families in his home community.

Jeffrey Lukish, MD ***Chest Wall***

Jeffrey Lukish, MD, is a board-certified pediatric surgeon at Children's National Hospital, recognized nationally for his expertise in advanced minimally invasive surgery and pediatric surgical innovation. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Jefferson Medical College, he completed his surgical training at Walter Reed and a pediatric surgery fellowship at Children's National. After serving as division chief of pediatric surgery in the military, he joined Johns Hopkins and later returned to Children's National. Dr. Lukish holds academic appointments at the Uniformed Services University and George Washington University and has authored over 100 abstracts, book chapters and publications. His research has earned numerous awards and grants, including support from the St. Baldrick's Foundation for ovarian cryopreservation in young cancer patients. A dedicated educator and humanitarian, he has led global surgical missions and was named the 2019 Health Policy Scholar by the American College of Surgeons and the American Pediatric Surgical Association.

Click to learn more or click on individual headshots below

Meet the Team

Mikael Petrosyan, MD, MBA ***Thoracic and Foregut /Chest Wall/Oncology/Bariatric***

Mikael Petrosyan, MD, MBA, is chief of the Division of General and Thoracic Surgery at Children's National Hospital, where he also serves as surgical director of Perioperative Services and program director of the Pediatric Surgery Fellowship. A professor at George Washington University, he is board-certified in general and pediatric surgery and is nationally recognized for his leadership in surgical innovation and multidisciplinary program development. His clinical interests include pediatric foregut and esophageal disorders, thoracic surgery, minimally invasive procedures, chest wall deformities, trauma, oncology, bariatric surgery, endoscopy and surgical education. Dr. Petrosyan is a prolific researcher and educator, founder of the SURGUCATION platform and a global surgical consultant whose expertise has been featured in NPR, BBC and The Washington Post.

Jacqueline Saito, MD, MSCI, MBA ***VP Quality and Safety***

Jacqueline M. Saito, MD, MSCI, MBA, is chief quality and safety officer and vice president of Medical Affairs at Children's National Hospital, where she also serves as an attending pediatric surgeon in the Division of General and Thoracic Surgery. A nationally recognized leader in pediatric surgical quality and safety, Dr. Saito oversees initiatives in infection control, accreditation, disaster preparedness and medical staff affairs. Her clinical expertise includes pediatric minimally invasive surgery. Her research focuses on surgical outcomes, antimicrobial stewardship and health equity. She has led national efforts through the American College of Surgeons and the Children's Hospitals Solutions for Patient Safety. Prior to joining Children's National, Dr. Saito spent 15 years at Washington University in St. Louis, where she held leadership roles in clinical excellence and supply stewardship. She holds academic appointments at George Washington University and has been principal investigator for multiple multicenter research studies aimed at improving pediatric surgical care.

Anthony Sandler, MD ***Oncology***

Anthony Sandler, MD, is senior vice president and surgeon-in-chief of the Joseph E. Robert Jr., Center for Surgical Care at Children's National Hospital, and holds professorships in surgery and pediatrics at George Washington University. He also directs the Sheikh Zayed Institute for Pediatric Surgical Innovation and leads its Immunology Initiative with research focused on tumor immunology, vaccine therapy and novel surgical technologies. Internationally recognized for his expertise in childhood solid tumors and congenital anomaly repair, Dr. Sandler has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and co-developed a surgical polymer sealant currently in pre-clinical trials. He serves on national pediatric surgery and oncology committees and previously served as a board examiner for the Pediatric Surgery Qualifying Exam.

Click to learn more or click on individual headshots below

Meet the Team

Manuel Torres, MD *Georgetown*

Manuel Torres, MD, is a general and thoracic pediatric surgeon at Children's National Hospital and Medstar Georgetown University Hospital. He holds an academic appointment as an assistant professor of surgery and pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine. He obtained his medical degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine and completed general surgery residency training at the University of Maryland/R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. He completed his pediatric surgery fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Before joining Children's National, Dr. Torres was a pediatric surgeon at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and assistant professor of surgery at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. Dr. Torres specializes in minimally invasive surgery in infants, children and adolescents for many pediatric surgical conditions. He has specific interests in neonatal conditions such as biliary atresia, anorectal malformations, Hirschsprung disease and tracheoesophageal fistula.

Kibileri Williams, MBBS *Inflammatory Bowel Disease /Oncology*

Kibileri Williams, MBBS, is a pediatric surgeon specializing in general and thoracic surgery in infants, children and adolescents. She is Guyanese by birth and obtained her medical degree at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad from which she graduated with honors in Medicine and Surgery. She then migrated to the United States for her residency training in general surgery which she completed at Howard University Hospital. Dr. Williams also obtained a master of science degree in Health Services and Outcomes Research from Northwestern University. She received many awards during her training including induction to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. She went on to complete her fellowship in pediatric surgery here at Children's National Hospital. Dr. Williams then joined the faculty as an attending surgeon. She has specific interests in minimally invasive surgical techniques, inflammatory bowel disease and surgical oncology. As an assistant professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences, she also has an interest in global outreach and building the surgical workforce as well as clinical outcomes research and quality improvement.

Advanced Practice Providers and Nurse Practitioners

- Caitlin Coogan Sherman NP, CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC (Lead APP, Bariatric Program)
- Rebecca Chavez, FNP (Surgery NP, Thoracic and Foregut Program)
- Tanya Payne, NP, CPNP-AC (Surgery NP, Pectus Program)
- Alexandra Dennery Parkinson, PA-C (Surgery PA, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program)
- Natalie Lagares, FNP (Surgery NP)
- Mariella Cheris Guillermo Medina, PA-C (Surgery PA)
- Jill Rafie, MSN, RN, CPN (Program Manager, Thoracic and Foregut Program)
- Elytia Quander-Toney, RN, CPN (Nurse Clinical Coordinator, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program)

Referral Information

We are committed to providing timely, high-quality care for your patients requiring General Surgery services. Our team offers excellent appointment availability, with typical wait times of only 3–7 days. Referrals may be submitted directly via fax or email

- Fax: 202-476-4174
- gensurgery@childrensnational.org.

If an appointment is urgent or you need to consult with a member of our team, please contact us at gensurgery@childrensnational.org for the fastest response. Families may also call our scheduling line to arrange appointments proactively.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Nursing Phone: 202-476-5221

Fax: 202-476-4174

Email: gensurgery@childrensnational.org

Appointment Scheduling Line: 202-476-2150

Click or scan the QR code to view our referral guidelines

Surgery Clinic Locations

Maryland

- **Annapolis:**1730 West St., Suite 100, Annapolis, MD 21401
- **Frederick:** 5285 Westview Dr., Suite 103, Frederick, MD 21703
- **Howard County:** 7625 Maple Lawn Blvd., Suite 230, Fulton, MD 20759
- **Prince George's County:** 2900 North Campus Way, Lanham, MD 20706
- **Rockville:** 9850 Key West Ave., Rockville, MD 20850
- **Towson:** 7600 Osler Dr., Suite 311, Towson, MD 21204

Virginia

- **Ashburn:** 22850 Brambleton Plaza, Suite 300, Ashburn, VA 20148
- **Fairfax:** 3023 Hamaker Ct., Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22031

Washington, D.C.

- **Main Campus:** 111 Michigan Ave. NW, Suite 4400, Washington, DC 20010
- **Friendship Heights:** 5028 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suites 250 & 310, Washington, DC 20016
- **Georgetown Hospital*:** 3800 Reservoir Rd. NW, PHC, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20007

Dr. Torres patients only

General, Thoracic and Burn Surgery Program Highlights

Click to learn more

Bariatric Surgery Program

Program Overview

The Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program at Children's National is the most experienced pediatric bariatric surgery program in the United States, offering unmatched expertise in caring for youth with severe obesity. Our program provides comprehensive, individualized metabolic and surgical care for adolescents, teenagers and young adults, delivering treatment that is safe, evidence-based and aligned with AAP guidelines.

We work closely with the pediatric obesity specialists of the IDEAL Clinic, ensuring every patient receives a customized care plan tailored to their medical, psychological and developmental needs. This integrated model allows for seamless coordination from initial evaluation through long-term postoperative follow-up. With a strong multidisciplinary team, extensive institutional experience and excellent surgical outcomes, our program continues to lead the nation in providing safe, effective and compassionate care for patients suffering from severe obesity and weight-related comorbidities.

Meet the Team

Our program is led by a multidisciplinary team of pediatric bariatric specialists—including surgeons, advanced practice providers and a dedicated psychologist—who work closely with the IDEAL Clinic's medical obesity experts to deliver comprehensive, coordinated care.

Bariatric Surgeons

- Mark L. Kovler, MD – Director, Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery
- Mikael Petrosyan, MD – Division Chief, Division of General and Thoracic Surgery
- Timothy D. Kane, MD – Chief Emeritus, Division of General and Thoracic Surgery

Advanced Practice Provider and Program Coordination

- Caitlin Coogan Sherman, NP, CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC, Program Coordinator, Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program

Psychology

- Eleanor Mackey, PhD – Director of Mental Health Services, Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program

When to Refer

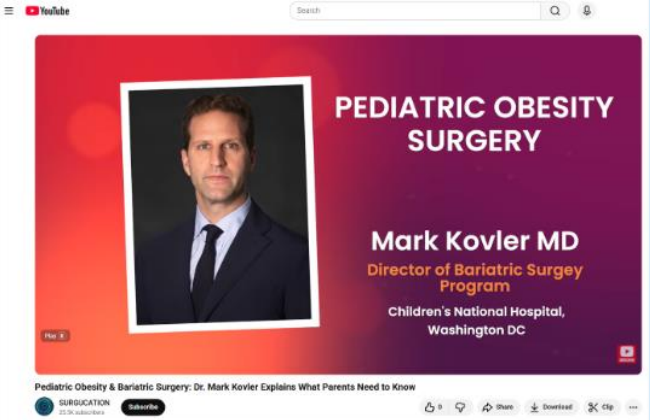
- Severe obesity (Class 2 and Class 3 obesity)
- Type 2 diabetes and insulin resistance
- Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease / MASLD
- Severe obstructive sleep apnea
- Hypertension, dyslipidemia
- PCOS and obesity-related menstrual disorders
- Obesity-related orthopedic/mobility issues
- Genetic or syndromic
- Post-bariatric complications and complex referrals

Bariatric Surgery Program

Educating and Empowering Our Colleagues and Families

This year, Dr. Mark Kovler served as a featured speaker at the Future of Pediatrics Conference, where he partnered with regional pediatricians to share the latest evidence, best practices and collaborative strategies in pediatric bariatric surgery. The session focused on strengthening partnerships between primary care providers and surgical specialists to improve care pathways for adolescents with severe obesity.

Dr. Kovler was also invited as a guest on the SURGUCATION Podcast, where he discussed pediatric obesity and bariatric surgery in a patient-friendly format designed to support, inform and empower families navigating the challenges of severe pediatric obesity.



Program Expansion: Meeting Patients Where They Live

To improve access and reduce barriers to care, the Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program has expanded its footprint across the region. We now offer bariatric surgery consultations and follow-up care at four outpatient locations, allowing families to choose the site most convenient for them:

- Children's National Hospital – Sheikh Zayed Main Campus
- Children's National Friendship Heights (Northwest Washington, D.C.)
- Children's National Northern Virginia – Fairfax, Virginia
- Children's National Prince George's County– Lanham, Maryland

By growing our clinical reach, we can meet patients closer to home, decrease travel burdens and ensure more timely access to preoperative evaluation and postoperative support. This expansion strengthens our ability to care for a diverse patient population across the entire Washington metropolitan region and reflects our commitment to offering high-quality, equitable obesity care to every patient who needs it.

Bariatric Surgery Program

Advancing Pediatric Obesity Policy

Our team engaged with national lawmakers on Capitol Hill to advocate for equitable access to evidence-based obesity treatment, improved insurance coverage for adolescents who qualify for bariatric surgery and broader support for children living with severe obesity.

Research and Innovation: Advancing the Future of Pediatric Bariatric Care

This year, Dr. Eleanor Mackey, Dr. Mark Kovler and research collaborator, Syed Anwar, PhD, from the Sheikh Zayed Center for Surgical Innovation at Children's National, were awarded a $100,000 research grant to explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in predicting outcomes after pediatric bariatric surgery.

This project represents an exciting new horizon for the field. By applying advanced machine learning models to clinical, behavioral and operative data, the team aims to:

- Identify predictors of postoperative success
- Improve individualized treatment planning
- Enhance long-term support strategies
- Refine patient selection in ways that are more precise, equitable and evidence-driven.

With this work, Children's National continues to stand at the cutting edge of pediatric bariatric surgery, leading the nation not only in clinical experience but also in innovation and the pursuit of data-driven approaches to improve outcomes for children and adolescents living with severe obesity.

Bariatric Surgery

Milestones

This year marked several major milestones for the Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program. We proudly treated our 850th patient since the program's inception more than a decade ago—a reflection of our continued growth and longstanding commitment to adolescents living with severe obesity.

We remain the highest-volume pediatric bariatric surgery program in the United States, with fellowship-trained pediatric surgeons **performing more than 75 bariatric procedures each year**. Our clinical outcomes remain excellent, with durable weight loss, significant improvement in obesity-related comorbidities and a strong safety profile.

In close partnership with the IDEAL Clinic, we continue to expand access to comprehensive metabolic care. Together, we treated a record number of patients this year through both medical and surgical pathways, ensuring that each patient receives an individualized, evidence-based treatment plan that supports long-term success.

These milestones highlight not only our program's leadership and experience, but also our dedication to helping young people achieve better health, improved quality of life and sustainable long-term outcomes.

Children's National is the highest volume pediatric bariatric surgery program in the United States

Click to learn more

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Program

Program Overview

The surgical Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Program at Children's National provides advanced, minimally invasive surgical care for children and adolescents with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The program integrates surgery, gastroenterology, nutrition, psychiatry and care coordination to ensure optimized patient outcomes.

Clinic Structure and Services

• Dedicated surgical IBD clinics: First Tuesday and third Monday mornings
• Multidisciplinary IBD clinic: First and third Thursdays, including surgery, gastroenterology, dietetics, psychiatry and research support
• Intake process for external referrals, weekly program meetings and inpatient consults

Common Surgical Procedures

- Laparoscopic ileocecectomy for Crohn's disease
- Total proctocolectomy with J-pouch reconstruction for ulcerative colitis
- Surgical treatment of perianal disease including fistulas and abscesses

Why Choose Us

- Multidisciplinary IBD clinic for comprehensive, one-stop evaluation
- Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols for improved outcomes and shorter recovery times
- Pediatric surgical expertise tailored to children and adolescents with IBD

Meet the Team

IBD Surgeon

- Kibileri Williams, MD, MS, FACS, FAAP – Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program

Advanced Practice Provider & Program Coordination

- Alexandra Parkinson MPAS, PA-C – Surgical IBD Physician Assistant
- Elytia Quander-Toney RN – Surgical IBD Nursing Clinical Coordinator

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Program

Research and Academic Contributions

- Pre-Operative Nutritional Status But Not Steroid Use Affects Outcomes in Children with Crohn's Disease Undergoing Laparoscopic Ileocecectomy — Abstract presented at ACS Clinical Congress, Chicago 2025, manuscript in progress
- Earlier Ileocecectomy in Pediatric Crohn's Disease Is Associated with Improved Postoperative Growth Recovery – Abstract submitted to APSA
- A Multi-Institutional Analysis of Factors Associated With Early Ileocecectomy in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease – Abstract submitted to APSA
- Institutional outcomes assessment pre- and post-ERAS implementation – data collection ongoing
- ERAS Protocols for Pediatric IBD – Speaking engagement at 34th Annual APSNA Scientific Conference

Collaborations with Gastroenterology

- Pediatric IBD Research Day Annual Meetings (2024, 2025)
- Scholarly Oversight Committee for GI Fellows: Ongoing research projects include readmission risk factors and racial/ethnic variations in perioperative outcomes

Community Engagement and Outreach

- Website updated to integrate directly with the GI IBD Program
- Patient education booklets including ERAS guide, ileocecectomy and IPAA handouts

Future Directions

- Launch of robotics program within General Surgery with first cases in December 2025
- Colorectal partnership with adult institution to facilitate transition of care program

When to Refer

- Medically refractory IBD
- Strictures, perianal disease or intractable bleeding
- Growth delay associated with IBD

Contact Information

- 202-476-2150
- IBDsurgery@childrensnational.org

Surgical Oncology Program

Why Choose Us

The Surgical Oncology Program at Children's National provides comprehensive, high-level care for infants, children and adolescents with solid tumors and oncologic conditions requiring surgical management. Our team delivers precise, multidisciplinary and family-centered care, ensuring each patient receives the safest and most effective surgical plan integrated into their overall cancer treatment.

Our program includes

- High-volume pediatric oncology surgery experience across a broad range of tumor types
- Minimally invasive and advanced surgical approaches when appropriate
- Coordinated, multidisciplinary care involving oncology, radiology, pathology, anesthesiology and rehabilitation
- Rapid access to evaluation for new diagnoses and urgent oncologic concerns
- Family-focused communication and continuity throughout diagnosis, treatment and long-term follow-up

Conditions Treated

The program evaluates and surgically manages a wide spectrum of pediatric oncologic diseases, including:

- Abdominal and retroperitoneal tumors
- Thoracic and chest tumors
- Liver and kidney tumors
- Soft-tissue tumors and sarcomas
- Complex or recurrent tumors requiring coordinated multidisciplinary care
- Solid tumors requiring biopsy, staging procedures, or definitive resection

Meet the Surgical Oncology Team

- Mikael Petrosyan, MD
- Anthony Sandler, MD
- Kibileri Williams, MD

Connecting With the Program

Our team offers seamless access for consultations, urgent evaluations and coordinated care discussions. Pediatricians can refer patients through their standard Children's National referral contacts and the surgical oncology team remains available for direct communication regarding complex or time-sensitive cases

When to Refer

- A child presents with a new mass or an enlarging lesion
- Imaging suggests a tumor of the abdomen, chest or soft tissues
- Diagnostic biopsy or staging procedure is needed
- A known cancer patient requires surgical evaluation
- A family seeks a second opinion for surgical planning

Click to learn more

Chest Wall Defects Program

Overview

The Chest Wall Defects Program at Children's National provides comprehensive care for infants, children and adolescents with congenital or acquired chest-wall abnormalities.

Meet the Team

- Timothy Kane, MD
- Mark Kovler, MD
- Jeffrey Lukish, MD
- Mikael Petrosyan, MD, MBA
- Tanya Payne MSN, CPNP-AC

Conditions Treated

- Pectus excavatum ("sunken" or "funnel" chest)
- Pectus carinatum ("protruding" or "pigeon" chest)
- Rib flare/slipping ribs

Why Choose Us

- Internationally recognized pediatric surgeons experienced in advanced chest-wall procedures
- Thorough evaluation to determine the best treatment plan
- Access to more than 40 pediatric subspecialties for coordinated care
- Pectus Carinatum bracing services through our pectus clinics
- Family-centered, long-term follow-up and support

Program Locations

Children's National Main Campus (all surgeries)
111 Michigan Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20010

Outpatient and & Specialty Locations (clinic visits and follow up)
•**Maryland**: Annapolis, Frederick, Howard County, Lanham, Rockville, Towson
•**Virginia**: Ashburn, Fairfax

Treatment Options for Pectus Excavatum

Nuss Procedure (minimally invasive)

- A curved titanium bar is inserted under the sternum to correct the sunken chest
- Bar remains in place for 2-3 years and is removed as an outpatient procedure
- Generally excellent long-term results with low recurrence
- Cryoablation of intercostal nerves during the Nuss procedure significantly reduces post-operative pain, decreases length of pain medicine use, and shortens hospital length of stay (average 2 days)
- Typically, shorter recovery time than open procedures
- We evaluate more than150 children of all ages each year with pectus excavatum
- Adult patients are welcome for evaluation on case-by-case basis (usually up to age 38)
- The Nuss procedure has been performed by our surgeons 36 -60 times each year for more than 20 years

Ravitch Procedure for Excavatum or Carinatum (open surgery)

- Removal of deformed cartilage as open procedure
- May include temporary placement of a support bar
- Cartilage regrows in a corrected position
- Used for more complex or severe chest asymmetry or where bracing has failed
- Perform only 1-2 cases per year since bracing is so effective and Nuss is the mainstay of pectus excavatum surgery

Treatment Options for Pectus Carinatum (or rib flare)

Compressive Bracing Therapy

- Non-surgical chest/sternal bracing
- Over 90% success in flattening carinatum asymmetry with dedicated use
- Ideal ages are 14-17 years of age. Less effective when over age 17
- Typically requires several months of treatment for correction
- We have a bracing clinic to help families obtain and get fitted for the emBrace (photo below)

Slipping Rib Syndrome

- Anesthesia pain block initially may be effective
- Physical therapy may be effective
- Surgical removal of rib/cartilage may be necessary

Prenatal Surgery Program

Program Overview

The Children's National Prenatal Surgery Program provides comprehensive, family-centered care for pregnancies affected by fetal surgical conditions. We routinely evaluate and counsel families with suspected diagnoses such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, congenital lung lesions, abdominal wall defects (including gastroschisis and omphalocele), intestinal atresias and obstructions and anorectal malformations, among others. The program evaluates 100+ prenatal pediatric surgical cases each year.

Our model is intentionally collaborative and designed to ensure an accurate diagnosis, deliver condition-specific information and develop a coordinated plan of care that spans the remainder of the pregnancy, delivery and postnatal management. Each family meets with a multidisciplinary team led by pediatric surgery and supported by experts in radiology, neonatology, genetics, cardiology, psychology and social work. Our radiologists are national leaders in fetal imaging and interpretation.

During each visit, the team reviews imaging together, clarifies the diagnosis and outlines anticipated delivery considerations and postnatal surgical needs. Counseling emphasizes clear communication, shared decision-making and ample time for questions. Families leave with a realistic understanding of the diagnosis, prognosis and available treatment options. Our goal is to provide accurate information, compassionate guidance and continuous support to help families navigate the full continuum of care for surgical conditions before and after birth.

Meet the Team

- **Andrea Badillo, MD,** Program Director of Prenatal Pediatrics Institute Surgical Care, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
- **Timothy Kane, MD,** Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
- **Christina Feng, MD,** Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics

Our goal is to provide accurate information, compassionate guidance and continuous support to help families navigate the full continuum of care for surgical conditions before and after birth.

Click to learn more

Esophageal and Thoracic Surgery Program

Program Overview

Our pediatric general and thoracic surgery experts provide comprehensive care for children with esophageal, foregut and thoracic conditions. With extensive experience in both traditional and minimally invasive techniques, our team performs operations involving the chest, esophagus, stomach and upper gastrointestinal tract.

We treat a wide range of conditions, including achalasia, congenital lung lesions (CPAM, pulmonary sequestration), TEF/EA, mediastinal masses, bronchogenic cysts, tracheomalacia, esophageal cysts, strictures, or foreign bodies, choledochal cysts, palmar hyperhidrosis, diaphragmatic and hiatal hernias, and GERD. In addition, we routinely perform chest wall reconstruction and esophageal replacement operations.

Meet the Team

- Timothy Kane, MD
- Mikael Petrosyan, MD
- Rebecca Chavez MSN, FNP-C
- Jill Rafie MSN, RN, CPN

Program Highlights

- Performed over 100 POEM procedures for achalasia
- Achalasia Awareness Night September 2025 and POEM Round Table events
- Expertise in hyperhidrosis (sweaty palms) treatment
- First ever endoscopic leiomyoma removal in a child
- Expertise in diaphragmatic pacer implantation for central hypoventilation syndrome

Click to learn more

Vascular Anomalies Clinic (VAC)

Program Overview

The Vascular Anomalies Program at Children's National is a multidisciplinary, nationally recognized team dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of vascular tumors and malformations in infants, children and adolescents. Our mission is to provide comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate care for children with even the most complex vascular anomalies. This collaborative structure ensures that each patient receives a unified, individualized care plan informed by the latest evidence and input from all relevant specialties.

Meet the Team

- Nancy Bauman, MD (ENT)
- Anna Yasmine Kirkorian, MD (Dermatology)
- Christina Feng, MD (Pediatric Surgery)
- Natasha Shur, MD (Genetics)
- Heather Hain, MD (Genetic Counselor)
- Yaser Diab, MD (Hematology)
- Bhupender Yadav, MD (IR)
- Anna Hyunh, (Program Coordinator)

We bring together experts from

- Pediatric Surgery
- Interventional Radiology
- Dermatology
- Hematology/Oncology
- Otolaryngology (ENT)
- Genetics
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) and specialized nurses
- Social Work and Child Life

Our program manages the full spectrum of vascular anomalies, including:

- Infantile hemangiomas
- Congenital hemangiomas
- Venous malformations
- Lymphatic malformations
- Arteriovenous malformations (AVMs)
- Capillary malformations
- Combined and syndromic vascular anomalies (e.g., Klippel-Trénaunay syndrome, CLOVES, PHACE, PIK3CA-related disorders)

Click to learn more

Burn Care Program

Program Overview

Children's National Hospital, in collaboration with the Burn Center at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, delivers state-of-the-art burn care for infants, children, and adolescents throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. This partnership combines Children's National's nationally recognized pediatric surgical expertise with MedStar Health's Burn Center— the only verified burn center in the Washington metropolitan area, with over 50 years of experience treating burn injuries.

Through this collaboration, our pediatric patients have access to the full spectrum of burn care, from initial evaluation and acute surgical treatment to reconstructive surgery, laser scar revision, and long-term rehabilitation — all delivered with a child-centered, family-focused approach. Our multidisciplinary team ensures that every child receives comprehensive, age-appropriate care tailored to their unique medical, psychological, and developmental needs.

Why Choose Children's National for burn care?

- ✓ Access to the region's only ABA-verified burn center through our partnership with MedStar Health, combining adult and pediatric burn expertise under one collaborative model
- ✓ Fellowship-trained burn surgeons and pediatric specialists working together to deliver the highest level of care
- ✓ Comprehensive, multidisciplinary team approach — including pediatric surgeons, advanced practice providers, burn-trained nurses, occupational and physical therapists, dietitians, psychologists, and social workers
- ✓ Advanced surgical capabilities including the full spectrum of grafting and wound closure techniques, and reconstructive surgery
- ✓ Cutting-edge laser scar revision therapy for pain, itching, tightness, and discoloration for acute injuries or children presenting with scars from previous injury or surgery
- ✓ Dedicated psychosocial program with specialized treatment for acute stress, post-traumatic stress, and nonpharmacologic pain management strategies for children and their families
- ✓ Pediatric-focused rehabilitation to help children regain function and relearn daily living skills in a supportive, child-friendly environment

When to Refer

- Second- and third-degree burns (any burn with blistering)
- Burns larger than the palm of the child's hand
- Burns to the face, hands, feet, genitalia, or major joints
- Electrical or chemical burns
- Inhalation injuries
- Burns in children with pre-existing medical conditions
- Any burn requiring specialized wound care or surgical intervention
- Scar revision needs from previous burn or traumatic injuries

Burn Care Program

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Meet the Team: Surgeons

Jamie G. Oh, MD
Burn and Critical Care Surgeon

Shawn Tejiram, MD, FACS, FABA
Burn Surgery Fellowship Program Director
Burn and Critical Care Surgeon

Jeffrey W. Shupp, MD, FACS, FABA
Burn and Critical Care Surgeon
Burn Center Director

Taryn E. Travis, MD, FACS, FABA
Burn and Critical Care Surgeon
Burn Reconstruction Lead

Meet the Team: Advanced Practice Providers & Program Coordination

Catherine Holohan, MSN, CPNP-AC
Advance Practice Provider

Kaitlyn Norton, MSN, CPNP-AC
Advance Practice Provider

Joanny Sanchez, MSN, CPNP-AC/PC
Lead Advance Practice Provider

Elizabeth Waibel, MSN, CPNP-AC
Advance Practice Provider
Quality Improvement Coordinator

Brad Garmon, DNP, MSN, CCRN, CNL, CPHQ
Burn Program Manager

Margaret Gill, BSN, RN
Care Coordinator

Carrie Tully, PhD
Burn Psychologist

Marie Ritzo, MSW, LICSW
Clinical Social Worker

Kandace Younger, MPH, CCLS
Child Life Clinical Coordinator

Program Location

Children's National Main Campus (consultations and follow-ups)
111 Michigan Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20010

For referrals and appointments, call 202-476-2150

BY THE NUMBERS

5,000+
clinic visits

3,000+
surgical patients

10+
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40+
publications

12+
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Dr. Petrosyan and Dr. Kovler on the ***SURGUCATION*** podcast

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

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