Summer 2011 issue
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Physician Connection Newsletter

Set to open in Spring 2013, the new tower will provide advanced programs and services, and feature the latest design and safety principles.

physician connection

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CHOC Children's

$30 million gift helps change CHOC

His original intention was to donate a computer to CHOC Children's. But after touring our hospital and meeting some of our patients, Robert L. Tidwell did more than that. The Garden Grove man decided to leave his entire estate to CHOC — at $30 million, the largest gift in the hospital's history.

Mr. Tidwell's transformative gift is accelerating CHOC's journey from a crucial regional pediatric care center to one of the nation's leading children's hospitals.

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CHOC announces new medical staff leadership

"As CHOC Children's embarks on its new phase of growth, I will work with the medical staff on advancing academics, education and research. We will ensure that the very best physicians are afforded the privilege to care for the children of Orange County, and will work on continued refinement of physician performance metrics. I will also make every effort to ensure that CHOC provides an optimal environment for the physicians to work in, securing both physician satisfaction and retention. Ultimately, all my efforts, and those of my colleagues on CHOC's medical staff, will remain directed at delivering the finest medical care to the children of Orange County."

GURPREET AHUJA , M.D., PRESIDENT
CHOC CHILDREN'S MEDICAL STAFF

Their leadership, dedication and commitment ensure Orange County's children and families continue receiving the best pediatric care in the region. Physicians at CHOC Children's and CHOC Children's at Mission Hospital were recently elected to serve two-year terms.

At both hospitals, physician leaders begin this multi-year commitment as Secretary/Treasurer and continue as President-Elect or Chief of Staff-Elect prior to being installed as President or Chief of Staff, respectively.

Gurpreet Ahuja, M.D.

CHOC Children's Medical Staff

President:
Gurpreet Ahuja, M.D.

President-Elect:
David Gibbs, M.D.

Secretary/Treasurer:
Antonio Arrieta, M.D.

Immediate Past President:
Vijay Dhar, M.D.

We are grateful to Vijay Dhar, M.D., and Gary Goodman, M.D., who recently completed their terms. CHOC is very fortunate to have such dedicated physicians who give so freely of their time and talents.

Stephen Hanten, M.D.

CHOC Children's at Mission Hospital Medical Staff

Chief of Staff:
Stephen Hanten, M.D.

Chief of Staff-Elect:
Mary Ann Wilkinson, M.D.

Secretary/Treasurer:
John Morris, M.D.

Past Chief of Staff:
Gary Goodman, M.D.

(continued from page 1)

$30 million gift helps change CHOC

This single, generous gift has put CHOC 80 percent of the way toward meeting the goal of raising $125 million for the "Change CHOC, Change the World" fundraising campaign.

Before passing away in 2009, Mr. Tidwell expressed his confidence in CHOC's ability to use his money well. His gift will be balanced between expansion needs and the future investment needed to make CHOC one of the safest and healthiest places for children in the nation:

- **$15 million will support the CHOC Master Campus Plan,** which includes construction of the state-of-the-art, seven-story patient care tower set to open in Spring 2013. CHOC will recognize Robert L. Tidwell by naming the surgery center in the new patient care tower in his honor.
- **$15 million for a Board-Restricted Fund will support CHOC's vision and priorities** by advancing pediatric medicine through clinical program development; recruiting leading pediatric experts, including physicians, clinicians and researchers; and funding the Robert L. Tidwell Endowment for Ophthalmology.

For more information about the "Change CHOC, Change the World" campaign, please visit **www.choc.org/giving**.

Tower Making Notable Progress

Construction of the new tower is 70 percent complete. Activation of new programs in the tower is underway, including detailed operational and staffing plans for new services, including radiology, ultrasound, CT scan, MRI, lab, pathology, blood bank, cath lab, emergency, and OR. The development of processes necessary to move toward an improved model of care delivery is also in progress.

In July 2011, the build-out of the new Emergency Department will begin and is scheduled for completion in September 2012. This work will have a significant impact to CHOC's current main lobby, which will become part of the future ED.

For construction updates and questions, please call the Expansion Hotline at 714-532-8710 or visit **www.choc.org/expansion**.

Enhanced family amenities and outdoor spaces will provide a serene, healing environment for children and their families.

Largest Corporate Gift In CHOC History

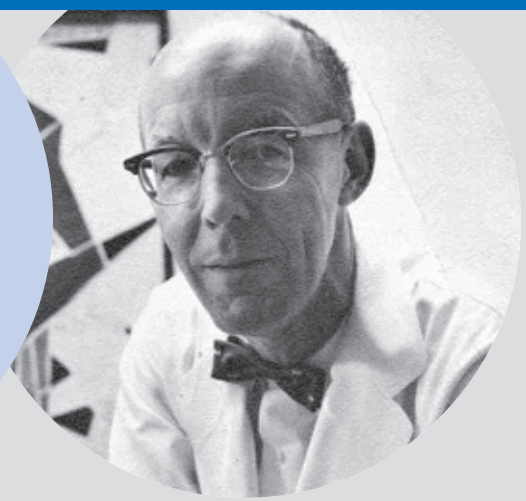
CHOC Children's recently received $10 million from Hyundai Motor America and its nonprofit organization, Hyundai Hope on Wheels. This is the largest corporate gift in hospital history and will be used to fund ground-breaking pediatric cancer research, including the latest advances in genomic medicine.

In recognition of this gift, the hospital's cancer center has been named the Hyundai Cancer Institute at CHOC Children's.

Dr. Leonard Sender, medical director of the Cancer Institute who will lead the research, was instrumental in cultivating the relationship with Hyundai that led to this remarkable gift.

in the spotlight:

Merl J. Carson, M.D.



"He was a pediatrician's pediatrician."

DONALD BENDIG, M.D., MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CHOC CHILDREN'S HOSPITALIST PROGRAM, WHO WAS THE LAST CHIEF RESIDENT TO SERVE WITH DR. CARSON.

It has been more than 30 years since his passing, yet Merl "Kit" Carson, M.D., CHOC Children's first medical director, is still remembered with deep respect and appreciation by the CHOC physicians who completed residency training under his tutelage. CHOC pediatrician Michael Cater, M.D., who served as chief resident and also took an elective with him, unveiled a bronze plaque honoring Dr. Carson during Doctors' Day festivities at CHOC on March 29.

"Dr. Carson was a polymathic physician, a legendary teacher and an extremely capable administrator," Dr. Cater said. "He had an incredible knowledge base and was extremely supportive of the practicing pediatricians in Orange County."

Maria Minon, M.D., the last CHOC chief resident selected by Dr. Carson, remembers him as an "incredible diagnostician" who taught her the importance of taking a good patient history and a thorough physical examination.

"Now with all the technology, it seems like that gets a little lost because it's so easy to do tests and ultrasound," said Dr. Minon, who is currently vice president of CHOC Children's medical affairs and chief medical officer. "It was amazing the kind of diagnoses Dr. Carson made from a meticulous history and physical exam."

A Superb Pediatrician

Born in 1913, Dr. Carson received his medical degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He completed an internship at Rochester General Hospital, in New York, and a residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital. In 1945, he joined the faculty of St. Louis Children's Hospital and directed the pediatric infectious diseases unit at the Washington School of Medicine. A few years later, Dr. Carson became medical director of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He left that position in 1957 to complete a pediatric neurology fellowship at UCLA, during which he spent a year at the Great Ormand Street Hospital for Children in London.

By the early 1960s, Dr. Carson was back in California directing pediatrics at what is now UC Irvine Medical Center. In 1964, he became the first CHOC medical director, a position he held until he died in 1978. At the time of his death, Dr. Carson was personally running most of the CHOC clinics and was professor of pediatrics at UC Irvine.

The plaque is not the only tribute to this inspiring physician's memory. For many years, the "Merl J. Carson Award" has been given annually to the most outstanding graduating CHOC resident.

"His skills as a bedside teacher were legendary," Dr. Cater said. "He could give a 20-minute extemporaneous lecture on just about any topic in pediatrics."

Dr. Maria Minon, vice president of CHOC Children's medical affairs and chief medical officer; Kimberly Cripe, president and CEO of CHOC Children's; and Michael Cater, CHOC pediatrician, unveiled a plaque which will be installed in the Wade Education Center, honoring Dr. Carson.

nationally recognized pediatric epileptologist

"If an antiepileptic medication has been well chosen, there is a 60 percent chance it will control the epilepsy. If it fails, however, there is less than a 10 percent chance the second medication will be effective. Patients who fail two antiepileptic medications should be referred to a comprehensive epilepsy center for further evaluation for possible epilepsy surgery."

MARY ZUPANC, M.D. , MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CHOC CHILDREN'S COMPREHENSIVE EPILEPSY PROGRAM AND DIVISION CHIEF, PSF CHILD NEUROLOGY

In February, a nationally recognized pediatric epileptologist who built comprehensive pediatric epilepsy programs at Mayo Clinic, Columbia University and the NYU School of Medicine became director of the CHOC Children's Comprehensive Epilepsy Program and Chief of the Division of Child Neurology. Previously, Mary Zupanc, M.D., was at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, in Milwaukee, where she'd held similar responsibilities since 2001.

Dr. Zupanc is well respected for her scholarship and contributions to the advancement of pediatric neurology. A highly sought-after speaker for national and international professional meetings, she has published 35 peer-reviewed articles and is a reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals. She has written 15 textbook chapters, including one published in *Pediatric Neurology: Principles and Practice,* the primary textbook for the specialty. Additionally, she has mentored many students, faculty, residents and fellows, and received numerous teaching and clinical awards.

Her focus at CHOC will primarily be in epilepsy and epilepsy surgery, an option she says should not be an avenue of last resort.

"Epilepsy surgery should not be delayed. The developing brain is a vulnerable brain," Dr. Zupanc said. "The consequences of continued epilepsy in the developing brain of a child can be catastrophic, more so than in an adolescent or an adult."

"Epilepsy requires a comprehensive evaluation in order to accurately diagnose and characterize the epilepsy syndrome. If the epilepsy syndrome is correctly diagnosed, this provides crucial information with respect to the choice of therapy/antiepileptic drugs and the prognosis."

To arrange a consultation, please contact the Patient Access Center at 714-532-7986.

Mary Zupanc, M.D.

Post-Fellowship Training

- Stanford University
- University of California, Los Angeles

Pediatric Neurology Fellowship:

- University of Wisconsin, Madison

Internship and Residencies:

- University of Washington
- Harbor-UCLA

Medical Degree:

- University of California, Los Angeles

Board Certifications:

- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry and Neurology
- Clinical Neurophysiology

Glenn Fowler, M.D., retires

Glenn Fowler, M.D.

Orange County's first board-certified, pediatric neurologist has retired. For several years, Glenn W. Fowler, M.D., was also the only pediatric neurologist at CHOC Children's. He joined the medical staff in 1970, and became director of the medical student and neurology programs in 1978. He also directed the neurology program at what is now UC Irvine Medical Center.

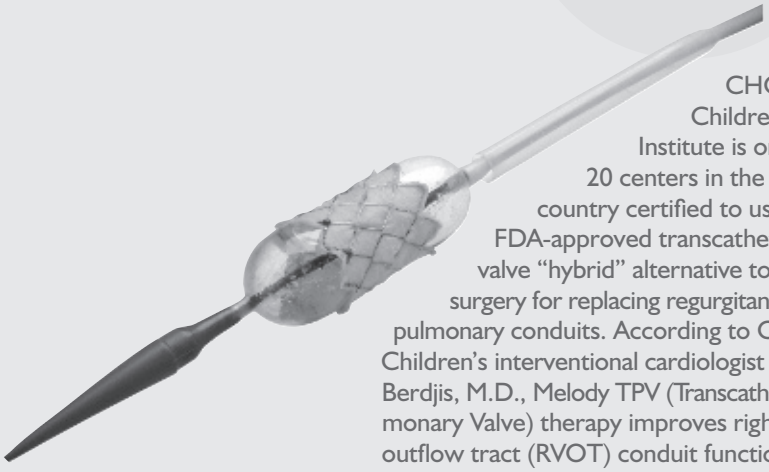
"Dr. Fowler is a superb clinical child neurologist, and has assisted in training a whole generation of child neurology fellows and pediatric residents," said Ira Lott, M.D., former medical director of CHOC Neurology. "Dr. Fowler has been an excellent clinician, teacher and colleague."

Dr. Fowler also conducted oral examinations for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology for more than 20 years.

He continues as an honorary medical staff member at both CHOC and UC Irvine. Future plans include teaching and writing about medical history, and spending time with his grandchildren.

On behalf of CHOC, we thank Dr. Fowler for his unwavering dedication and contributions to CHOC, and the patients and families we serve. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

"hybrid" Melody Valve therapy delays open heart surgery



A catheter is used to deliver the Melody valve – a bovine (cow) jugular vein valve – to the proper position in the heart through venous access in the leg.

CHOC Children's Heart Institute is one of only 20 centers in the entire country certified to use the first FDA-approved transcatheter heart valve "hybrid" alternative to open heart surgery for replacing regurgitant or stenotic pulmonary conduits. According to CHOC Children's interventional cardiologist Farhouch Berdjis, M.D., Melody TPV (Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve) therapy improves right ventricular outflow tract (RVOT) conduit function and lengthens the conduit's lifespan, delaying the patient's next open heart surgery.

"The patient receives the same pulmonary conduit as would be provided through conventional open heart surgery, but in a far more gentle manner," said Dr. Berdjis, who trained for several months to become certified in the Melody TPV procedure. "There is less scarring, less stress to the circulatory systems and faster recovery." He is performing this procedure in close collaboration with Richard Gates, M.D., director of cardiothoracic surgery at the CHOC Children's Heart Institute.

Dr. Berdjis said that Melody TPV may not ultimately be a patient's last procedure, but it will reduce the overall number of major surgeries.

"Melody TPV is an example of the groundbreaking therapies that make CHOC a leader in pediatric medicine, and we are extremely proud to be at the forefront of this technology," he said.

For more information about the Melody TPV therapy, please call 714-532-7827.

Major Indications

- Previous open heart surgery for RVOT obstruction and conditions, including tetralogy of Fallot and truncus arteriosis.
- Exercise intolerance, especially during athletics.

congenital cardiothoracic surgeon joins choc

About Dr. Starr

Medical Training Fellowships (Three):

New York Presbyterian, Columbia University:

- Cardiothoracic Surgical Research
- Cardiothoracic Surgery

Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, University of Washington:

- Pediatric Cardiac Surgery

Internship & Residencies:

- New York Presbyterian, Columbia University

Medical Degree:

- New York Medical College

An internationally respected congenital cardiothoracic surgeon with research interests in hybrid congenital heart surgery and myocardial protection has joined the CHOC Children's Heart Institute. Joanne P. Starr, M.D., has co-authored more than 50 abstracts and manuscripts that have been presented at national and international conferences. Several have focused on hybrid cardiac surgery, collaborative procedures involving interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons.

Additionally, she has served as co-investigator on multi-center studies, including evaluating Esmolol for treating hypertension after surgical repair of coarctation of the aorta, REPEL-CV for reducing post-operative adhesions following pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, and Clopidogrel to lower arterial thrombotic risk in neonates and infants. Most recently, she was co-investigator for an American Heart Association grant, "Human Factors and Patient Safety During Infant Cardiac Surgery."

Dr. Starr is board certified in both surgery and thoracic surgery. Previously, she was director of the cardiac surgery program at Children's Hospital of New Jersey and an associate professor at the New Jersey Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, in Newark.

Joanne P. Starr, M.D.

Dr. Starr is a founding member of the World Society for Pediatric and Congenital Heart Surgery. In recent years she has served as lead and associate surgeon on several international congenital heart surgery missions.

"Outcomes have markedly improved over the past 20 years. Our research is no longer focusing only on survival but on other important outcomes such as neurodevelopment," Dr. Starr said.

To arrange a referral, please contact Dr. Starr at 714-997-2224.

noted researcher in thrombosis and hemostasis

Thomas J. Kunicki, Ph.D.

Thomas J. Kunicki, Ph.D., has joined The CHOC Children's Research Institute where he is the principal investigator in a five-year, NIH-funded study of mouse genes that regulate hemostasis and thrombosis. A noted researcher in this field, Dr. Kunicki has worked with constant NIH funding since 1978. He received his doctorate from Marquette University and prior to joining CHOC had been an associate professor in the department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine at the Scripps Research Institute, in La Jolla, since 1992.

Dr. Kunicki remains at the forefront of the study of adhesion receptors on blood platelets and vascular cells, particularly those belonging to the *Integrin* family and those involved in adhesion to collagen. He has coauthored more than 130 peer-reviewed publications in several journals, including *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology*, *Blood*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Cell Biology, Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis* and *Journal of Clinical Investigation.* He has also written more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific reviews, editorials and chapters in major hematology textbooks. He is an active reviewer of NHLBI and NCI grant applications, and a regular participant in special review panels in the areas of genome-wide association studies, clinical and translational science awards and program projects.

Recently, Dr. Kunicki became founder and co-chairman of the ThromboGenomics Subcommittee of the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis.

first UC Irvine/CHOC combined residency program

Members of the first combined class begin arriving in late June, and CHOC Children's is looking forward to working with them. Despite this being the first recruitment year, highly qualified interns did not hesitate to apply to the newly combined University of California, Irvine/CHOC Children's residency program, said James Korb, M.D., vice chair of CHOC Children's Medical Education.

"We are very excited because we did exceedingly well," Dr. Korb said. "We had a very good rank and ended up with some great residents." Most of the new residents were recruited from the University of California, Irvine; UC Davis; University of Arizona; Drexel University; and Loma Linda University. The remaining are coming from 12 other medical schools across the country, including New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Nevada, Kansas and Iowa.

The UC Irvine/CHOC residents will receive 70 percent of their training at CHOC, 25 percent at Miller Children's Hospital and the remainder at UC Irvine Medical Center, primarily in the nursery and NICU. Dr. Korb said current second- and third-year residents at CHOC and UC Irvine will continue normal rotations and graduate from their respective classes. He will continue as program director for the CHOC Pediatric Residency Program until all current residents have graduated.

"We are very excited because we did exceedingly well," Dr. Korb said. "We had a very good rank and ended up with some great residents."

CHOC Children's

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Mission Viejo, CA 92691

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CHOC ranked among nation's top pediatric facilities

CHOC Children's was recognized for clinical excellence in eight specialties by *U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals!* These specialties include Cancer, Endocrinology/Diabetes, Gastroenterology, Neonatology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, and Urology.

Best Children's Hospitals pulls together clinical and operational data from a survey, completed by the majority of the nearly 180 hospitals asked to participate for the 2011–12 rankings. The survey asks hundreds of questions about survival rates, nurse staffing, subspecialist availability, and more.

CHOC's inclusion in *Best Children's Hospitals* places the organization among an elite group of the nation's top children's hospitals.