The Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgery Residency seeks exceptional candidates from a diverse background who are eager to pursue a career in academic Pediatric Surgery and to make unique and life-long contributions to our specialty. The Department of Pediatric Surgery promotes excellence in the comprehensive surgical care of children. Our highly-accomplished group of pediatric surgeons is committed to the practice and teaching of excellence in clinical care and to the discovery of innovative therapies through clinical outcomes and basic laboratory research. The education of Pediatric Surgery residents and categorical Surgery residents is fundamental to our mission. We also cherish teaching undergraduates, medical students, and nursing students on the wonders of Pediatric Surgery. Our nationally renowned Department of Pediatric Surgery and comprehensive hospital offer a stimulating environment and opportunity for the clinical and investigative training of academic Pediatric Surgeons. The resident finishing the Pediatric Surgery Residency at Vanderbilt will be competent in the full spectrum of this broad specialty. Our faculty perform the full scope of Pediatric Surgical procedures, from routine to the most complex, and among all ages through early adulthood.

Altogether, our Department of Pediatric Surgery is comprised of diverse faculty who study unique aspects of our precious specialty, which makes training at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt special. The finishing resident is truly prepared for any career trajectory in Pediatric Surgery!

L-R: Dr. O’Neill, Dr. Morgan, Dr. Zamora, Dr. Fusco (back), Dr. Danko, Ann Ramsey (APP), Dr. Upperman (back), Dr. Stafman (fellow), Monica Milovancev (APP), Melissa Matthews (APP), Dr. Olson (fellow), Dr. Lovvorn, Dr. Blakely

**Message from the Program Director**

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The resident finishing the Pediatric Surgery Residency at Vanderbilt will be competent in the full spectrum of this broad specialty. Our faculty perform the full scope of Pediatric Surgical procedures, from routine to the most complex, and among all ages through early adulthood.

The Vanderbilt Department of Pediatric Surgery is historically one of the most well-rounded academic groups nationwide and produces a high volume of impactful manuscripts and scientific presentations annually. Our Department also has a strong history of securing extramural NIH funding. The Pediatric Surgery resident is encouraged to participate in any research endeavor s/he wishes during fellowship. Support for Pediatric Surgery resident-initiated research and travel to meetings is available through several resources (see research opportunities on back). The Pediatric Surgery resident at Vanderbilt should consider themselves an ambassador for our service and an advocate for the sick child, and in this role, to recruit top medical students into Surgery and Surgery residents into Pediatric Surgery. For the Pediatric Surgery resident interested in International Humanitarian work, the opportunity to rotate through Bethany Kids Hospital in Kijabe, Kenya during this two-year fellowship is available.

Altogether, our Department of Pediatric Surgery is comprised of diverse faculty who study unique aspects of our precious specialty, which makes training at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt special. The finishing resident is truly prepared for any career trajectory in Pediatric Surgery!
The Department of Pediatric Surgery at Vanderbilt operates within one of the largest, most respected, and fastest growing medical centers in the country. Our department serves one of the largest free-standing children’s hospitals in the country, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. Our hospital faculty surgeons, nurses, and staff provide care designed specifically for the needs of children and their families. Patients originate from the entire state of Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Virginia.

The Department of Pediatric Surgery is committed to providing and promoting excellence in surgical care. Our surgeons and nurses are specially trained to treat fetal patients, newborns, infants, toddlers, children and young adults.

We perform the full scope of Pediatric Surgery procedures at two campuses, with the inpatient volume exclusively at Monroe Carell while the outpatient procedures are shared with a new, state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center in nearby Murfreesboro, TN.

Meet the Faculty

Jeffrey Upperman, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatric Surgery
Surgical-in-Chief, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Profile link

Christine Hamby
Pediatric Surgery Residency Associate Program Manager
(615) 936-1612
Christine.Hamby@VUMC.org

Vanderbilt Department of Pediatric Surgery – Our Mission –

Our mission is to provide and promote excellence in the surgical care of children. This comprehensive care extends from fetal patients to young adults. Our unified group commitment to excellence includes clinical care, both clinical and laboratory research, and the education of students, nurses, residents and fellows.

Meet your Pediatric Surgery Residency, Associate Program Manager

Patterns and demographics of patients referred for VNSS

Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital by the Numbers

• Total Inpatient Beds: 343
• Emergency Department Rooms: 42 (including 2 trauma bays and 7 fast track bays)
• Operating Rooms: 18 (onsite)
• Inpatient Discharges: 16,232
• Clinic Visits: 360,314
• ER Visits: 47,446
• The only Level 1-designated Trauma Unit and dedicated Burn Unit in the region
• The only Level 4-designated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the region
• More than 400 physicians trained in 30 pediatric and surgical specialties
• 10th Floor Expansion opened in June 2019 (Pediatric Heart Institute – 38 beds)
• 11th Floor Expansion opened in March 2020 (NICU, Cardiology and Transplant – 38 beds)

Other expansions

• 2021 New Cath Lab coming
• 2021 New Cath Lab coming
• The total footprint will be approximately 1 million square feet with 12 floors after the expansion of the four new floors

Research Opportunities

Pediatric Surgery clinical research programs offer a vast and diverse exposure to pediatric surgical research. The topics are broad and open to the resident and include:

• ongoing prospective clinical studies evaluating surgical treatments for common conditions such as Hernia Repair and Necrotizing Enterocolitis in infants
• biomedical informatics to enhance online patient care portal for optimal communication
• Wilms tumor, or nephroblastoma, a common renal malignancy of the embryonic kidney and how racial disparities affect the treatment and outcomes.
• assessment of Body Composition in Children with Cancer or while on ECMO
• truly any topic in Pediatric Surgery

Resources

• Surgical Outcomes Center for Kids (SOCKs) https://www.vumc.org/socks/home
• Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (VICTR) https://victr.vumc.org
The Pediatric Surgery educational curriculum at Vanderbilt includes multidisciplinary conferences held from 07:00-09:00 each Wednesday, as well as a case-based Didactic Seminar held on the third Thursday of each month. The multidisciplinary conferences are conducted on specified days of the month with Pediatric Radiology, Pediatric Pathology, Pediatric Gastroenterology, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and Pediatric Trauma. Other conferences include a Department Morbidity and Mortality review and then a quarterly presentation at 1500 on specified days of the month with Pediatric Radiology.

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### Required Cases During Two Year Fellowship

#### Fellowship Year 2017-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Required</th>
<th>Gallager Year 1</th>
<th>Gallager Year 2</th>
<th>Gallager Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal/GI</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal/Atresia/TE Fistula</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GI Reflux (Participation)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Esophageal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Repair</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyloric Stenosis</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malrotation/Intussusception</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal atresia/obstruction anemia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendectomy</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirschsprung (Pull Through)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anorectal Malformations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladder Atresia/Omphalocele Fistula</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal Wall Defect Closure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impalpable hernia &lt; 8 months</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cystic Adenomas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrenal operations</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney/Neuroblastoma Resection</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head/Neck</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal cases</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumors</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operative trauma</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>117</td>
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#### Fellowship Year 2018-2020

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<tr>
<td>Abdominal/GI</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esophageal</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>38</td>
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### Cases by Volume

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<tr>
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<td>36</td>
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<td>66</td>
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<td>21</td>
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### TOPICS

- Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)
- Spontaneous Intestinal Perforate
- Intestinal Atresias, Intestinal Duplication, Intussusception, and Meconium ileus
- Pectus
- Ovarian Cysts/Masses/Torsion
- Umbilical Abnormalities
- Liver Tumors
- Neck Lesions
- Vaginal Atresia/Hydronephrosis
- Anorectal Malformations
- Renal Tumors
- Sacrococcygeal Teratoma
- Parapneumonic Effusion/ Empyema/Spontaneous Pneumothorax
- Intestinal Atresias
- Gastrochisis/Omphalocele
- Hirschsprungs/Neonatal Obstruction
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC)/Spontaneous Intestinal Perforation (SIP)
Annual Endowed Holcomb Lecture

The George W. Holcomb, Jr. Lecture in Pediatric Surgery is presented by the Department of Pediatric Surgery in honor of George W. Holcomb, Jr., Clinical Professor of Surgery, Emeritus (June 19th, 1922 – June 29th, 2019).

Dr. Holcomb served as resident in Surgery at Vanderbilt from 1946 to 1949 and subsequently completed his training in Pediatric Surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital in 1952.

This named lecture attracts sought after nationally renowned surgeons and surgeon scientists who consistently present innovative, cutting-edge procedures, methods and theory to surgical faculty and trainees.

Past Holcomb Guest Lecturers

1990 - Judson G. Randolph, MD
1991 - James A. O’Neill, Jr., MD
1992 - Lester W. Martin, MD
1993 - J. Alex Haller, Jr., MD
1994 - Thomas M. Holder, MD
1995 - Edwin Ide Smith, MD
1996 - Alfred A. de Lorimier, MD
1997 - R. Peter Altman, MD
1998 - Eric W. Fonkalsrud, MD
1999 - Robert J. Touloukian, MD
2000 - Mark M. Ziegler, MD
2001 - H. Beimann Othersen, MD
2002 - George W. Holcomb, III, MD
2003 - Thomas F. Tracy, Jr., MD
2004 - Kevin P. Lally, MD
2005 - Marshall Z. Schwartz, MD
2006 - Frederick J. Rescorla, MD
2007 - Anthony D. Sandler, MD
2008 - Daniel von Allmen, MD
2009 - Diana L. Farmer, MD
2010 - Andrea Hayes, MD
2011 - Jessica J. Kandel, MD
2012 - Kyle V. Arendonk, MD
2013 - Margaret E. Gallagher, MD
2014 - Barry R. Berch, MD
2015 - Joshua B. Glenn, MD
2016 - Thomas P. Rauth, MD
2017 - Nathan M. Novotny, MD
2018 - Melissa E. Danco, MD
2019 - Brian T. Bucher, MD
2020 - Syamal Dave Bhatacharya, MD
2021 - Laura Stafman, MD
2022 - Lauren A. Gillory, MD
2023 - Maren Shipe, MD

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Founding Members

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Joshua B. Glenn - 2008-2010
Thomas P. Rauth - 2009-2011
Colin A. Martin - 2010-2012
Nathan M. Novotny - 2011-2013
Melissa E. Danco - 2012-2014
Brian T. Bucher - 2013-2015
Syamal Dave Bhatacharya - 2014-2016
Adam S. Brinkman - 2015-2017

Inaugural Neblett Society meeting

Dr. Neblett joined the Vanderbilt Faculty in 1980 as a Clinical Instructor in Surgery. Just four years later he accepted the appointment as Chair of the Department of Pediatric Surgery, a position held for the next 27 years. In 2011 he stepped down from his duties as Chair of the Department and Program Director of Fellowship Training but continued to practice pediatric surgery. He has dedicated 42 years to caring for sick children at Vanderbilt, supporting families, and teaching surgical residents.

Founding Members

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Colin A. Martin - 2010-2012
Nathan M. Novotny - 2011-2013
Melissa E. Danco - 2012-2014
Brian T. Bucher - 2013-2015
Syamal Dave Bhatacharya - 2014-2016
Adam S. Brinkman - 2015-2017
**View the Full CORE RESEARCH REPORT**

Residency training in pediatric surgical diseases at Vanderbilt has its origins dating back to 1925. The first patient evaluated in the newly opened Vanderbilt University Hospital emergency department (1925) was a child presenting with advanced appendicitis. Operative logs show that Barney Brooks, the first Chair of Surgery at Vanderbilt, performed the first successful, complete repair of tetralogy of fallot in 1925. Scott had received three years of pediatric surgical training under Drs. Ladd and Gross at Boston Children’s Hospital, which set the stage for sustained emphasis in the surgical care of children at Vanderbilt and nationally across his illustrious career.

Dr. Scott influenced many Surgery residents at Vanderbilt to pursue Pediatric Surgery, including such titans as James A. O’Neill, Jr. and Wallace W. Nebbett, Jr., who with George Holcomb, Jr. (also a trainee of Drs. Ladd and Gross) grew the Department of Pediatric Surgery. With this esteemed foundation and history, Lovvorn, O’Neill, and Neblett established in 2007 a comprehensive residency training program in Pediatric Surgery.

**CORE RESEARCH REPORT – Department of Pediatric Surgery**

**Dr. Jacob Olson and Dr. Laura Stafman publications**


Vanderbilt has a rich history in Pediatric Surgical training since 1925. Today, we are a children’s hospital ranked in all 10 disciplines evaluated by U.S. News & World Report and attracts top-flight pediatric surgical resident candidates.

**Resident, Faculty Scrapbook**

- Attendings holding hooks for the chief fellow – bedside CDH
- Fellows excising a choledochal cyst together
- Old dogs (left) teaching new dogs (right) about choledochal cysts
- Dr. Morgan – master teacher
- VATS EATEF
- VATS CDH

Morio Kasai’s description. Remarkably, Kirtley’s patient lived 39 years with her native liver, bearing 3 children, before dying during an attempt at liver transplantation. H. William Scott, Jr., Chair of Surgery from 1952-1982, performed the first successful, complete repair of tetralogy of fallot in 1955. Scott had received three years of pediatric surgical training under Drs. Ladd and Gross at Boston Children’s Hospital, which set the stage for sustained emphasis in the surgical care of children at Vanderbilt and nationally across his illustrious career.

**Department of Pediatric Surgery**

Doctors’ Office Tower, Suite 7100 • 2200 Children’s Way, Nashville, TN 37232 • 615 936-1050