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. Our Pediatric Surgery residents develop a unique expertise in the clinical approach to the surgical problems of childhood, as well as a critical and analytical approach to the evidence-based practice of Pediatric Surgery.

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!
**Message from the Chair of the Department of 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.

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**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.

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**Meet the Faculty**

- **Melissa Danko, MD**
  - Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Joseph Fusco, MD**
  - Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Maggie Gallagher, MD**
  - Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatrics
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Eunice Huang, MD, MS**
  - Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - Associate Program Director
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Gretchen Jackson, MD, PhD**
  - Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Biomedical Informatics
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Harold Lovvorn, III, MD**
  - Professor Pediatric Surgery
  - Program Director
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Walter Morgan, III, MD**
  - Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatrics
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Jamie Robinson, MD**
  - Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Irving Zamora, MD, MPH**
  - Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - [Profile link](#)

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**Meet your Pediatric Surgery Residency, Associate Program Manager**

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

- **Monica Lopez, MD**
  - Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery
  - Vice Chair for Surgical Quality and Evidence-based Programs
  - [Profile link](#)

- **Jeffrey Upperman, MD**
  - Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatric Surgery
  - Surgeon-in-Chief, Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
  - [Profile link](#)
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
- 2020 opened Postpartum/NICU unit opening
- 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://victrvumc.org
Residents and Program Directors of the Department of Pediatric Surgery

Resident graduate gallery from L to R 2007 to 2021

Former Pediatric Surgery Residents:

2007-09, Barry R. Berch - University of Mississippi Medical Center
2008-10, Joshua B. Glenn - Navicent Health Children’s Hospital and Mercer University School of Medicine
2009-11, Thomas P. Rauth - Tristar Centennial Medical Center
2010-12, Colin A. Martin - University of Alabama School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Alabama
2011-13, Nathan M. Novotny - Beaumont Children’s, Oakland University
2012-14, Melissa E. Danko - Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt University Medical Center
2013-15, Brian T. Bucher - University of Utah School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital
2014-16, Syamal Dave Bhattacharya - Children’s Hospital at Erlanger, University of Tennessee
2015-17, Adam S. Brinkman - University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Children’s Hospital
2016-18, Kyle Van Arendonk - Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin
2017-19, Margaret Gallagher - Monroe Carell Jr., Children’s Hospital and Fort Campbell Medical Center
2018-20, Lauren A. Gillory - UT Southwestern Medical Center
2019-21, Laura Y. Martin - NYU Langone Health
2020-22, Jacob K. Olson - Riley Children’s Hospital, Indiana University

Current Pediatric Surgery Residents:

2021-23, Laura Stafman - Chief Pediatric Surgery Resident
2022-24, Maren Shipe - Junior Pediatric Surgery Resident
2023-25, Roshan D’Cruz - Incoming Pediatric Surgery Resident

Program Directors

2007-11, Wallace “Skip” W. Neblett, Jr.
2011-18, Dai H. Chung
2018 - present Harold “Bo” N. Lovvorn, III

Pediatric Surgery Educational Curriculum and Conference Schedule

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 the Section of Surgical Sciences M&M. Pediatric Surgery Grand Rounds and Journal Club are also held in this 2-hour block on recurring Wednesdays. We also participate in a monthly teleconference solid tumor board with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN and Prince's Maxima, Utrecht, Netherlands to share and discuss complex and challenging cancer cases.
### Department of Pediatric Surgery Residents
### Cases by Volume

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Cases During Two Year Fellowship</th>
<th>Number of Index Cases Required</th>
<th>Gallagher Year 1</th>
<th>Gallagher Year 2</th>
<th>Gallagher Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronchoscopy/Esophagoscopy</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal Atresia/TE Fistula</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Reflux (Fundoplication)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung Resection</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital Diaphragmatic Hemia Repair</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pyloric Stenosis</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malrotation/Intussusception</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intestinal atresia/duodenal atresia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendectomy</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirschprung (Pull Through)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anorectal Malformation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biliary Atresia/Choledochal Cyst</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal Wall Defect Closure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inguinal hernia &lt; 6 months</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptorchid Testis (Orchiopexy)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrenal operations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney/Neuroblastoma Resection</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head/Neck</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal cases</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumors</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operative trauma</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Required Cases During Two Year Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Cases During Two Year Fellowship</th>
<th>Number of Index Cases Required</th>
<th>Gallagher Year 1</th>
<th>Gallagher Year 2</th>
<th>Gallagher Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal/GI</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoracic</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endoscopy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operative trauma/critical care</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-operative trauma/critical care</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICU</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICU</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oncology</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head &amp; Neck/Endocrine, GU, and ARM</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Didactic Conference
### Academic Year 2022-2023

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

### Resident, Faculty Scrapbook

**Legends of Pediatric Surgery – Holcomb Lecture with Dr. Hayes**
Vanderbilt Pediatric Surgery fully endorses and is committed to growing diversity within our precious specialty. We pledge to increase diversity, emphasize equity, and promote an inclusive culture within the pipeline of learners pursuing or considering Pediatric Surgery. Partnering with the Office of Diversity Affairs, our Department has participated in numerous exercises to mitigate bias when considering applicants to Pediatric Surgery.

We deeply value applicants who derive from unique backgrounds and aspire to exceptional careers. Our Department seeks to train Pediatric Surgeons from all races, ethnicities, genders and self-identity, sexual orientation, disabilities, geographic origins, and socioeconomic status.

For additional information, please visit: Vanderbilt School Medicine Diversity Website and Section of Surgical Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Website.
Wallace W. Neblett, III, MD
Professor of Pediatric Surgery, Emeritus

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

Barry R. Berch - 2007-2009
Joshua B. Glenn - 2008-2010
Thomas P. Rauth - 2009-2011
Colin A. Martin - 2010-2012
Nathan M. Novotny - 2011-2013
Melissa E. Danko - 2012-2014
Brian T. Bucher - 2013-2015
Syamal Dave Bhattacharya - 2014-2016
Adam S. Brinkman - 2015-2017
Kyle Van Arendonk - 2016-2018
Margaret E. Gallagher - 2017-2019
Lauren A Gillory - 2018-2020
Laura Y. Martin - 2019-2021
Jacob Olson - 2020-2022
Laura Stafman - 2021-2023
Maren Shipe - 2022-2024
Dr. Jacob Olson and Dr. Laura Stafman publications


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, and Alfred Blalock, his first Chief Resident, managed that child and the bulk of pediatric surgical conditions in that era.

Other giants in American Surgery while faculty at Vanderbilt also made original and significant contributions to Pediatric Surgery before board approval as its own specialty. Specifically, Rollin A. Daniel, Jr. reported in Annals of Surgery (1944) his first successful primary repair of esophageal atresia and tracheoesophageal fistula (EATEF) in a newborn. However, Cameron Haight of Ann Arbor, MI had reported a month earlier in Annals his successful repair of EATEF, preferring a left thoracotomy. Although these cases occurred independently and almost simultaneously in date, Haight was credited historically with this coincidental accomplishment, yet Daniel would popularize the right chest, retropleural approach. Similarly, James A. Kirtley, Jr. published the first successful portoenterostomy for the “uncorrectable” form of biliary atresia in the American Surgeon (1954) 5 years ahead of 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.

Dr. Scott influenced many Surgery residents at Vanderbilt to pursue Pediatric Surgery, including such titans as James A. O’Neill, Jr. and Wallace W. Neblett, 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.

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.