

Innovations in Pediatrics



*Rady Children's - A comprehensive system
focused solely on children.*



PEOPLE

Dr. Starling named medical director of Chadwick Center



Suzanne Starling, M.D., FAAP, an expert in child abuse pediatrics, has joined the Chadwick Center for Children & Families at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego as its new medical director and associate program director. She is also a clinical professor of pediatrics at UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Dr. Starling comes to Rady Children's from Norfolk, Va., where she served as the medical director of the Child Abuse Program at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, as well as director of the Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Program and chief of the Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Previously, she served as director of the Child Abuse & Neglect Program at Vanderbilt University.

Her clinical practice is complemented by extensive research in the field of child abuse, which has been published in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Starling also edited a well-respected textbook in the field. She has given more than 350 lectures to medical, investigative and legal audiences, presenting at national and international conferences.

Dr. Starling's professional society memberships include the Ray E. Helfer Society, the international professional organization for child abuse physicians; the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; and the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect. She is a longstanding member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, where she also has served as chair of the Section on Child Abuse and Neglect. She was a founding member of the American Board of Pediatrics subboard on child abuse pediatrics and served as its second chairperson.

Among her honors and awards, she received the Liberty Bell Award from the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association, given to a non-legal professional whose work has strengthened the effectiveness of the justice system; was named an "Outstanding Professional" by the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; and was selected as a "Hometown Hero" for excellence in child abuse prevention and treatment by the Stihl Corporation and the Norfolk Tides baseball team.



RECOGNITION

Helen Bernardy Center receives highest possible rating

For the ninth consecutive year, the Helen Bernardy Center for Medically Fragile Children at Rady Children's Hospital



has received the highest possible overall rating of five stars in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017-2018 Best Nursing Homes, available at <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes>.

The Best Nursing Homes 2017 ratings highlight the top nursing homes in each city and state, out of nearly 16,000 facilities nationwide. Only 15 percent of facilities that U.S. News rated achieved "Top Performing" status by earning a rating of at least 4.5.



"We are thrilled to once again be ranked among the nation's best," says Pamela Castle, director of the Bernardy Center. "This honor would not be possible without our highly skilled interdisciplinary team of caregivers. They work diligently to provide effective, individualized care to each of our residents every day."

Registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, licensed respiratory therapists and certified nursing assistants provide 24-hour nursing care to all residents at the Bernardy Center. Attending physicians monitor all residents regularly, at which time the resident's treatment plan and any specialist recommendations are reviewed.

U.S. News assigned each facility a rating ranging from 1.0 to 5.0, using its own analysis of data posted by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Best Nursing Homes has several enhancements designed to make the ratings more meaningful to consumers than CMS's star ratings - including evaluating a nursing home's performance over time by averaging the CMS star ratings over a 12-month period, plus greater emphasis on medical quality measures and on providing rehabilitation services.

Additional information about each home and about the methodology is available at <http://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes>.

INNOVATIONS

Rady Children's to be certified as CAR T-cell treatment center

Rady Children's Hospital will be one of 32 certified treatment centers to provide the first Food and Drug Administration-approved chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell treatment to cancer patients. The gene therapy uses modified versions of a patient's own blood cells to target and destroy cancer cells.

Tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah) is specifically approved for the treatment of patients up to 25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse, based on phase II results from the international ELIANA trial; the overall remission rate within three months of treatment was 83 percent.



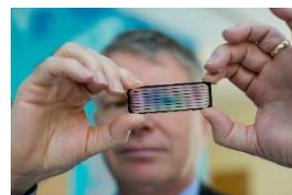
innovation
belongs in every moment

PROGRAMS

Genomic institute now offering clinical-grade rapid whole genome sequencing

[Rady Children's Institute for Genomic Medicine \(RCIGM\)](#) is now licensed and certified to perform clinical-grade diagnostic testing to decode the DNA of babies and children with rare genetic disorders.

Rapid whole genome sequencing (rWGS) is being deployed under clinical



research studies being conducted by scientists at the Institute's [Clinical Genome Center](#). Receiving the clinical grade certification allows RCIGM scientists to rapidly sequence, interpret and deliver the results directly to doctors to speed diagnosis and targeted medical treatment.

"Our laboratory processes are engineered to reveal disease-causing gene variations in as little as three days, compared with the weeks required to obtain results with traditional testing methods," says Shimul Chowdhury, director of the Clinical Genome Center. "Speed is especially important for those newborns who are struggling to survive." RCIGM has pioneered the use of rWGS in newborns. Currently, rWGS is being offered only to patients receiving intensive care at Rady Children's Hospital and patients at children's hospitals participating in RCIGM's research studies.

RCIGM's Clinical Genome Center became one of the few laboratories in the country licensed and certified to perform clinical-grade whole exome and whole genome sequencing following stringent review and inspections from multiple agencies. It has been awarded accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), certification via the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) by the Centers for

Approximately 3,100 patients age 20 and younger are diagnosed with ALL each year, according to the National Cancer Institute. In an estimated 15-20 percent of patients, the cancer has not responded to or has returned after initial treatment.

The therapy will be used by Rady Children's [Blood and Bone Marrow Transplantation Program](#). [Deborah Schiff, M.D.](#), a member of this team and a clinical professor of pediatrics at UC San Diego School of Medicine, will oversee the treatment.

Tisagenlecleucel does present a risk of serious, potentially life-threatening side effects, which include high fever, flu-like symptoms, infections and low blood pressure. The FDA requires special certification for all sites offering the treatment to confirm that the institution is qualified to handle serious adverse reactions, should they occur.



Learn more at RCHSD.org

Medicare and Medicaid Services, and a Clinical Laboratory License from the State of California.

The Institute began genomic sequencing in July 2016 and has since completed testing and interpretation of the genomes of more than 225 children enrolled in its research studies. More than one-third of the patients have received a genomic diagnosis, with more than 60 percent of those benefiting from an immediate change in clinical care.

"Our ultimate goal is that genomic sequencing in pediatric intensive care becomes routine," says Chowdhury. "We've seen the benefits of this testing at Rady Children's Hospital and we are working to extend our capabilities to other children's hospitals. We feel very strongly that genetic testing offers a lot of benefit for patients and families."

