

Innovations in Pediatrics

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focused solely on children.*



PEOPLE

Dr. Haddad: Bringing research to the bedside



Gabriel G. Haddad, M.D., is physician-in-chief and chief scientific officer at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego, a member of the [Division of Respiratory Medicine](#) at Rady Children's and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UC San Diego. For more than 25 years, he has also been a world-renowned leader in respiratory research.

Through his leadership roles, Dr. Haddad aims to provide better patient care through research, bringing findings from the laboratory to the bedside. His own research focuses on hypoxia (low oxygen) and hypercapnia (too much carbon dioxide in the bloodstream) and determining their effects on cell function and development. Dr. Haddad is particularly interested in the genetic and molecular mechanisms of cell death and survival in low-oxygen environments, as well as how certain organisms can survive prolonged and severe oxygen deprivation.

Among his lab's discoveries is that the common fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) is quite tolerant to low-oxygen conditions. He is currently investigating the role of certain genes and genetic pathways in the fruit fly and applying this research to humans who live in high-altitude places. Additionally, using a mouse model, Dr. Haddad and his team have identified the mechanism of a gene involved in low-oxygen tolerance ([learn more](#)).

Along with serving on national committees in basic and clinical research, Dr. Haddad is a member of 18 medical societies, many in a leadership role. He has held multiple editorial appointments and is a reviewer for highly regarded medical journals. His work has been published extensively, with more than 350 articles and manuscripts, and he has authored numerous medical texts, including the landmark "Basic Mechanisms of Pediatric Respiratory Disease."

Among his awards and honors, Dr. Haddad was elected to the Association of American Physicians. He is a highly sought-after speaker at both national and international conferences.



RECOGNITION

Dr. Bower earns CSU palliative medicine award

[Kimberly Bower, M.D., FAAHPM, HMDC](#), chief of [palliative medicine](#) at Rady Children's Hospital, was recently honored with the California State University (CSU) Institute for Palliative Care's 2017 Doris A. Howell, M.D., Award for Advancing Palliative Care. Her husband, Gary Buckholz, M.D., FAAHPM, also received the award. Both were nominated by their colleagues, who cited their exemplary leadership skills, compassion and commitment to improving care for patients with serious or life-limiting illness.



innovation
belongs in every moment

Dr. Bower is an expert in pediatric palliative care who helped create the first home-based pediatric palliative program in Southern California. She began her fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine at San Diego Hospice and the Institute for Palliative Medicine (SDHIPM) in 2004, then served as SDHIPM's chief fellow. Her focus was on building skills in pediatric palliative medicine and working on international initiatives. She later became the agency's pediatric medical director before joining Rady Children's in March 2013.



Dr. Bower (second from left) celebrates her award with Rady Children's staff.

The award is named after Dr. Howell, a legendary physician and pioneer in pediatric hematology, oncology and community medicine who, in 1977, founded SDHIPM. A generous donation in Dr. Howell's honor by philanthropist Darlene Marcos Shiley accompanies the annual award and is bestowed on a local healthcare organization selected by each recipient. This year, the donation will go to [Rady Children's Hospital Foundation](#) and the UC San Diego Foundation.

INNOVATIONS

New community program fosters literacy, healthy habits

The [Center for Healthier Communities](#) at Rady Children's has partnered with several community organizations to launch Health Stars, an education program for low-income and homeless parents with children ages 0-5. These families may live in affordable housing complexes or homeless shelters.

Volunteer pediatric practitioners go to the communities where families live to hold a series of sessions aimed at promoting literacy and healthy habits. Engaging parents and children in their own neighborhoods helps the practitioners understand the challenges these families face in achieving a healthy lifestyle.



PROGRAMS

Perinatal services now available in South Bay, urgent care to follow

The San Diego Perinatal Center, the Maternal-Fetal Medicine division of [Rady Children's Specialists of San Diego](#), is offering a variety of services for pregnant women and their babies at a new location in Chula Vista. A Rady Children's urgent care is scheduled to open soon at the same location.



The center has been providing pregnancy care and consultation to families and physicians in San Diego, Imperial and Riverside counties since 1990. At the new location, the center provides perinatal consults, fetal assessments, fetal echo assessments, follow-up growth ultrasounds and first-trimester screenings. Women who have certain medical conditions, a history of pregnancy complications, a current pregnancy conceived by infertility treatment or a multiple pregnancy (such as twins) may benefit from these services. Current hours of operation are Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

"We at the San Diego Perinatal Center are very excited to be able to better serve patients and referring providers in the South Bay area with this new location," says Wade Schwendemann, M.D., chief of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. "Over time we anticipate that we will be able to further grow our presence in the area and improve access to high-quality prenatal diagnosis and consultative services for women and their babies."

The center's main location, which offers additional services, is adjacent to Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Rady Children's Hospital. Other locations are in Oceanside at [Rady Children's North Coastal Center](#), in Murrieta at Rancho Springs Medical Center, in Encinitas and at Sharp Grossmont Hospital's Women's Center.

[Learn more about the San Diego Perinatal Center.](#)

The program provides five hour-long sessions, each focusing on a specific health topic: oral health, sleep, discipline, nutrition and illness prevention. The sessions begin with the clinician reading a children's book, followed by fun, interactive discussions and activities. The goal is to build parents' trust as well as confidence in their parenting skills. To encourage daily reading with their child, parents are given children's books. They can also be connected with local health and social service resources through a partnership with 2-1-1 San Diego.

Health Stars was started by [Wendy Hunter, M.D.](#), a Rady Children's physician who serves as the program's medical director. "Treating disease in our hospitals and clinics is an important part of pediatric care, but we know that it is just as important to promote healthy family behaviors that make communities safer and help children grow to be healthy and successful," she says.

The program is currently supported by a \$450,000 grant from Kohl's Cares. [Learn more about Health Stars.](#)



Learn more at RCHSD.org