



At the University of Florida Health Congenital Heart Center, the multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses and clinical staff believe in family and patient-centered care. Located within the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, the team strives to ensure that patients and their families are taken care of throughout the patient's treatment.

In addition to being ranked among the top 50 pediatric cardiology and heart surgery centers in the United States by U.S. News & World Report, UF Health is the only practice in north central Florida with pediatric and adult congenital heart specialists that offer a continuum of care for patients of all ages. From unborn babies to adults, the team provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for patients in all stages of life with congenital and acquired heart disease.

The UF Health Congenital Heart Center, part of the largest heart transplant programs in Florida and one of the largest in the southeastern United States, has outstanding outcomes and exceeds expected and national survival rates, as reported by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.



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Top Highlights over the Past Decade:

2006: The UF Health Congenital Heart Center opens and is led by its first director, Mark Bleiweis, MD.

2006: UF Health becomes the first in Florida to use the Berlin Heart implant as a bridge to transplant.

2011: The UF Health Congenital Heart Center is ranked among the top 50 pediatric cardiology and heart surgery centers by U.S. News & World Report for the first time.

2013: UF Health physicians complete a heart-lung transplant in its youngest infant.

2013: The UF Health Congenital Heart Center becomes the first program in Florida to have the Syncardia Total Artificial Heart(R) implanted in a 16-year-old patient.

2013: UF Health starts the Single Ventricle Home Monitoring Program and joins the NPC-QIC to decrease mortality of infants with single ventricle congenital heart disease.

2014: UF Health opens its state-of-the-art Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

2015: Introduction of 3D printing for patients with complex congenital heart disease.

2016: The UF Health Congenital Heart Center celebrates 10 years in operation.

Our Specialized Team & Services

The UF Health Congenital Heart Center employs a specialized team of four pediatric cardiovascular surgeons, 13 pediatric cardiologists, five pediatric critical care specialists, one pediatrician and a multidisciplinary group of dedicated faculty and staff.

The UF Health Congenital Heart Center specializes in:

- ▶ Treatment of congenital and acquired heart disease in neonates, infants, children and adults
- ▶ Fetal echocardiography and prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease
- ▶ Heart failure and cardiomyopathies
- ▶ Pediatric heart, lung and heart-lung transplantation
- ▶ Ventricular-assist devices, including the Berlin Heart, HeartWare® and SynCardia Total Artificial Heart®
- ▶ Melody transcatheter pulmonary hypertension valve placement
- ▶ Treatment of heart defects in patients with connective tissue disease, such as Marfan syndrome.
- ▶ Interventional and diagnostic cardiology
- ▶ Noninvasive cardiac imaging
- ▶ Invasive electrophysiology
- ▶ Adult congenital heart disease

UF Health Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

The Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, or PCICU, opened in January 2014 to better serve the most complex cases.

- ▶ In FY15, 336 unique patients were cared for in the PCICU.

The PCICU is equipped with:

- ▶ Large, private patient rooms, each with a private bathroom and shower
- ▶ Child-friendly décor and atmosphere
- ▶ Ceiling-mounted exam lights and ceiling-mounted patient-lifting systems
- ▶ In-unit gym as an option for physical, occupational and speech therapies
- ▶ Nurse's alcoves in corridors with state-of-the-art monitoring systems for patient observations

Inpatient services include Child Life, UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine, Streetlight, pet visitation, Bravery Beds, playrooms and social work services.