UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals: Collaborations

UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals in San Francisco and Oakland have a long history of collaboration in clinical care, education and research.

Some of the major ongoing collaborations are outlined below.

**Urology**
UCSF pediatric urologists, led by Dr. Larry Baskin, have worked at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland for 20 years, the longest-standing formal collaboration between the two hospitals. The Pediatric Urology Fellowship at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco consists of one year of clinical pediatric urology and one to two years of basic research. Dr. James Betts, a pediatric surgeon and urologist at Oakland, leads the Pediatric Urology Fellowship component in Oakland.

**Orthopedics**
The two hospitals partner to provide comprehensive care for Bay Area pediatric orthopedic needs. The team consists of board-certified and fellowship-trained physicians from multiple disciplines, including orthopedic surgery, sports medicine, and physical medicine and rehabilitation, making it the most comprehensive pediatric orthopedic group in the region. UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland’s new 6,000 square-foot Sports Medicine Center for Young Athletes in Walnut Creek includes state-of-the-art technology in its motion analysis lab. Two San Francisco-based UCSF faculty members, Dr. Colleen Sabatini and Dr. Nirav Pandya, work full time in the East Bay. The Oakland and Walnut Creek locations are actively recruiting to bring two more pediatric orthopedic surgeons into the East Bay.

**Rheumatology**
There is a new pediatric rheumatology practice at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland, headed by UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco’s Dr. Geraldina Lionetti. While working primarily in Oakland and Walnut Creek, Dr. Lionetti also works in San Francisco, as well as at outreach clinics throughout Northern California, helping provide a cohesive Northern California network of care to children with rheumatologic conditions.
**Dermatology**
UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland recently added its newest subspecialist in Dermatology. Dr. Sonal Shah works primarily at the Oakland hospital and in the Walnut Creek outpatient center. She is part of the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco’s pediatric dermatology staff, and offers unique expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of common skin conditions, as well as rare and challenging skin disorders in infants, children and young adults.

**Pediatric Critical Care Medicine**
The two hospitals offer a unique academic, clinical, and research experience through the joint Fellowship Program in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. Through interaction with a wide diversity of subspecialists at both institutions, the trainee learns multiple different approaches to diagnosis and management. At the Oakland location’s 23-bed PICU, the trainee is involved in the management of general medical and surgical patients, as well as a wide range of subspecialty patients, and is an integral member of the trauma team. Their active transport program reaches north to the Oregon border, south to the Central Valley, and east to Nevada. Subspecialty services frequenting the PICU include neurosurgery orthopedics, general surgery, cardiology, pulmonary, hematology, oncology, and bone marrow transplant.

At the San Francisco location’s 22-bed PICU (8 bed Cardiac Unit and 14 bed Med/Surg Unit), the trainee is primarily involved in the management of tertiary care patients, as the unit supports large, active cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, transplant (liver, kidney, and bone marrow), neurology, oncology, and immunology programs, in addition to a general medical PICU service.

The Trauma Care Center at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland is the Bay Area’s only California state-designated Level 1 trauma center designed exclusively for kids. Staffed with board-certified pediatric emergency medicine specialists, the Trauma Care Center provides immediate highly specialized pediatric emergency services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An average of 700 trauma patients per year require their trauma team activation, making them one of the most experienced in the Bay Area.

**Research (Clinical & Translational Science Institute - CTSI)**
The two hospitals have a long-standing history of research collaboration, aimed at improving the care for children with a wide range of conditions. The NIH-funded CTSI supports doctors at both sites who are working new therapies for infants and children with pulmonary, endocrine, metabolic, neurologic, hematologic, and other diseases.

**Quality and Safety**
Providing the highest level of care to patients is a shared goal of both hospitals. The two institutions have recently started work comparing their quality and safety data as a means of continuously improving the level of care across both hospitals.

**BayChildren’s Physicians (BCP)**
BCP is a physician foundation, jointly operated by both hospitals, that supports both pediatric sub-specialists and general pediatricians throughout the Bay Area.
Asthma Research
Researchers at UCSF Medical Center and the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals are enrolling patients as part of an NIH-funded multicenter trial to assess how different drug regimens can impact treatment response for asthma therapy for African Americans. The Bay Area generally and the East Bay specifically have been epicenters of asthma in the nation, especially with regards to African Americans diagnosed with asthma. As a result, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland has become a center for excellence in the management of childhood asthma and a leading site in the nation for enrollment of African Americans into NIH clinical trials for asthma. There are high hopes enrollment into the newly opened Best African American Response to Asthma Drugs (BARD) study will contribute to a better understanding of how to manage asthma in diverse populations.

Hospital Medicine
UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco’s two-year fellowship in pediatric hospital medicine accepts one fellow per year, and includes a clinical collaboration with UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland. The fellowship offers a balanced training program with approximately half of the training period dedicated to developing clinical expertise and half dedicated to research, learning to teach, and personal/professional development.

Oncology and Neurology
UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco’s neurosurgery and neurology services are ranked by US News & World Report as among the best in the nation. The pediatric neurosurgery program is based at both the San Francisco and Oakland hospitals, and the pediatric tumor board at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco includes doctors from Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute.

Both sites are also part of the Pacific Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Consortium, a network of eight children’s hospitals that conduct clinical trials of new therapies for children with brain tumors.