



The pediatric cardiology and heart surgery programs at University of Florida Health Shands Children's Hospital are ranked among the nation's best, according to the 2023-24 U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals rankings. As the highest-ranked program in Florida, our Congenital Heart Center is one of the largest heart transplant programs in the southeastern United States and continues to offer patients outstanding outcomes and survival rates that exceed the national average.

At UF Health, our multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses and clinical staff believe in family- and patient-centered care. Located within the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, we strive to ensure that patients and their families are cared for with compassion throughout treatment. From unborn babies to adults, we provide comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for patients with congenital and acquired heart disease at all stages of life.



Contact Information:

1600 SW Archer Road
Gainesville, FL 32608

Request an Appointment:

Toll-Free: 1.866.696.2333
Direct Line: 352.273.7770
Fax: 352.392.0547

Kimberly Clawson, Business Development Manager, Pediatrics
Gainesville, Florida
Kimberly.Clawson@shands.ufl.edu • 352.316.7046

UFHEALTH.ORG/CHC

Top Highlights:

- 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 perform a heart-lung transplant on their youngest infant.
- 2013:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center becomes the first program in Florida to implant the Syncardia Total Artificial Heart® 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 defects.
- 2014:** UF Health opens its state-of-the-art Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.
- 2015:** 3D printing is introduced for patients with complex congenital heart disease.
- 2016:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center celebrates 10 years in operation.
- 2017:** The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients releases its biannual report showing UF Health Shands Hospital's pediatric heart transplant program experienced zero deaths within a two-and-a-half year period.

Our Specialized Team & Services

The UF Health Congenital Heart Center employs a specialized team of three pediatric cardiovascular surgeons, 14 pediatric cardiologists, five pediatric critical care specialists, four anesthesiologists, two adult congenital cardiologists, four pediatric cardiology fellows and a multidisciplinary group of 18 advanced practice providers.

Our services include:

- ▶ 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 PCICU is equipped with:

- ▶ Large, private patient rooms, each with its own 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 alcoves in corridors with state-of-the-art monitoring systems for patient observations

Inpatient support services are offered through Child Life, UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine and Streetlight programs, and include pet visitation, playrooms and social work services.