

# The Day

**Spend any 24-hour period at Cedars-Sinai’s Maxine Dunitz Children’s Health Center and you will**

witness anxious parents in the waiting room, the nimble response of the Neonatal Transport team, the joy of families reunited after a successful surgery, and, occasionally, the heartbreaking delivery of bad news. You will see children ranging from the tiniest premature newborns to adolescents on the cusp of adulthood. And you will observe the compassion and proficiency of the Center’s dedicated staff.

One of the nation’s most comprehensive and technologically advanced units for the care of children, the Maxine Dunitz Children’s Health Center treats conditions ranging from in-utero emergencies to every disease, condition, and injury that may occur before a child becomes an adult. The Center also offers a host of programs aimed at preventing trauma and illness. Rather than a single physical space, the Center comprises an interconnected series of departments and experts linked by a shared vision—a focus on healing children as quickly and happily as possible—and a deeply held philosophy that every child deserves the best care available.

The diversity of the Center’s patients reflects that of greater Los Angeles—one of the world’s most culturally diverse cities. The services provided to children and their families are similarly wide-ranging, from child life specialists adept at addressing the psychosocial needs of hospitalized children to expert physicians, researchers, and surgeons in a broad spectrum of specialties. Other leading local hospitals, as well as many healthcare institutions throughout the region, rely on Cedars-Sinai for some of the most complex neonatal and pediatric cases.

The following photo essay provides just a glimpse of a day in the life of the busy pediatrics program at Cedars-Sinai’s Maxine Dunitz Children’s Health Center.

# Is Young.



**LEFT** Nurse Lora F. Schallert tends to a preterm infant. The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Cedars-Sinai is one of the largest in Southern California and admits nearly 700 infants per year. Its nursing staff manages both simple and complex tasks—from comforting a newborn to stabilizing or providing critical care to infants.



**BELOW LEFT** Nine-year-old Jonathan Castillo plays with his teddy bear before going into surgery for ventral hernia repair. The Shari and Ed Glazer bears, appropriately dressed in scrubs, are given to every pediatric patient upon admission.

**BELOW** Jonathan has a severe latex allergy, so pediatric surgeon Philip K. Frykman, MD, PhD, and his team use non-latex gloves and tools. Dr. Frykman specializes in laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures for infants and children.





**RIGHT** Charles F. Simmons, Jr., MD, chair of the Department of Pediatrics and an expert in neonatology, checks on a premature baby receiving LED light phototherapy to prevent jaundice. The infant's oxygen level is being monitored by INVOS®, a noninvasive and highly efficient system to help prevent devastating brain injury from oxygen deprivation—which otherwise can often go undetected.

**BELOW** Using simple strength tests, Moise Danielpour, MD, director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, evaluates the progress of patient Jack McGrath, age 12, following the removal of a brain tumor that caused the boy's epilepsy. Since his surgery one year ago, Jack has not suffered a single seizure.



**RIGHT** Rupa Shah, PharmD, a pharmacist for the Department of Pediatrics, oversees the complex medication regimens of dozens of patients each day. Here, Shah (right) and a colleague prepare IV drips for a young patient.

**BELOW** Physicians, residents, and the rest of the healthcare team meet twice daily to ensure they are up to date on every patient under their care. In this photo, rounds take place in the Pediatric Acute Care Unit, which is underwritten by the Fashion Industries Guild, a philanthropic supporter of the Medical Center for more than 50 years.



**ABOVE** John Vandervort takes his first steps in a week, with physical therapist Gene Liang by his side. John was hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai after suffering from inflammation of the brain and the sudden loss of all major motor functions. Ryan Kotton, MD, director of Pediatric Rehabilitation and the High Risk Infant Progress Clinic, oversees the session of inpatient rehabilitation, gaining greater insight into John's unusual condition: He suspects this is a severe case of Lyme disease.

**LEFT** Volunteer and certified massage therapist Patrick Callahan gives Madeline Bernstein Heart Touch® Massage Therapy. Cedars-Sinai has been training volunteers for a decade in this unique form of healing, which offers medically fragile infants and children compassionate and caring touch to help them cope with serious illness or trauma.



**RIGHT** Born prematurely, Valentina Aguirre receives "kangaroo care" from her mother, Brandee. The skin-to-skin approach helps babies bond with their mothers, a first step toward breast-feeding. Many mothers find their milk production increases after kangaroo care, which can begin as soon as the infant is stable.





**RIGHT** The Cedars-Sinai Neonatal Transport team prepares for flight with members (left to right) William Binder, MD, a neonatologist; Sharlyn Santa Romana, RNC; Kimberlee Stacey, RCP/respiratory therapist; and (both in black) pilot Mike Ingles and chief flight nurse Patty Murphy. This specialized critical-care-centered team oversees neonatal patients who need emergency intensive care and must travel by air to the Medical Center's NICU.



**BELOW** Dr. Kotton and Mary Miller, a pediatric occupational therapist, assess Jonah Windisch for possible disabilities, such as autism, cerebral palsy, or motor incoordination. A patient at Cedars-Sinai since his premature birth 20 months earlier, Jonah is tested periodically by the multidisciplinary Infant Progress Clinic team to evaluate his progress, to uncover any developmental conditions, and to facilitate appropriate early interventions, if needed.



**BELOW RIGHT** Rita Rizer is told her 5-week-old son, William, has a small dermoid cyst on his skull, but that the growth is probably benign.



**LEFT** Michele Fuscaldo cares for a preterm baby girl in the NICU. An occupational therapist, Michele helps premature infants learn to suck and swallow during lactation through delicate exercises that stimulate the muscles around the mouth.

**BELOW LEFT** Child life specialist Sandie Sternberg leads patient Joshua Pineda through role play to help him understand and cope with his upcoming surgery. This method also gives children a chance to ask questions about their procedures and gain a sense of control over their care.

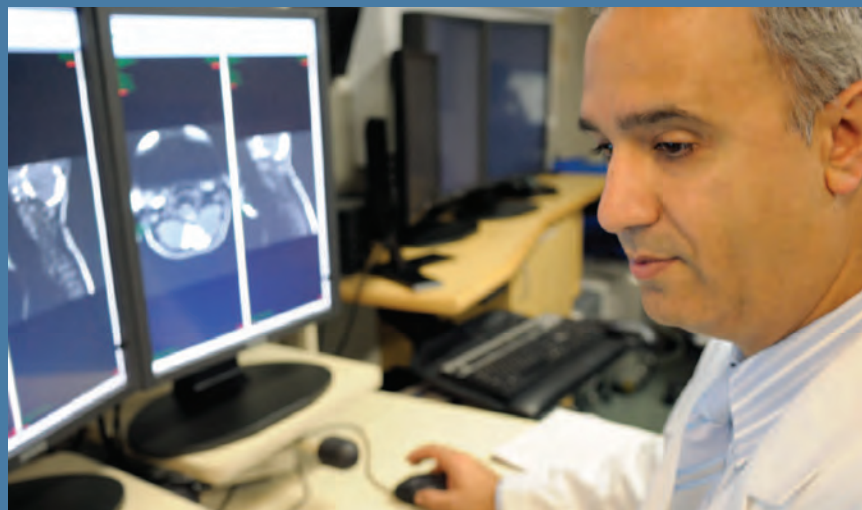
**BELOW** Dr. Simmons uses the RetCam™ imaging system to assess the risk of blindness in a premature infant. Babies born too early can develop abnormal blood vessels in their retinas, leading to sight problems. Dr. Simmons was recently awarded a grant subcontract from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to pursue further research with the RetCam.







**LEFT AND ABOVE** Marla Dubinsky, MD, director of the Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Program, visits with patient Jonah Goldman, while Danielle Zakett receives her bimonthly GI infusion to treat her condition. Dr. Dubinsky, an expert on immune and genetic factors in early onset IBD, has found a colleague in Boston who will collaborate on Danielle's care when she begins college there this fall.



**ABOVE** Lactation consultant Karen Clark helps new mother Athitaya find a comfortable and efficient method to nurse her twin babies, born in the NICU. Good Beginnings, a support group for NICU families and staff, helps mothers like Athitaya with a wide array of outreach services and programs tailored specifically to parents during their stay, and after discharge.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Dr. Danielpour reviews brain imaging for a 2-year-old patient referred to Cedars-Sinai from Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The X-rays suggest the presence of a tumor.

**RIGHT** The Fair family's three children have all been born at Cedars-Sinai and cared for by Alan H. Klein, MD, the current clinical chief of Pediatrics. A fourth child is on the way. Dr. Klein specializes in pediatric medicine, endocrinology, and neonatal-perinatal medicine. Here, Ellington, Ella, and London gather to feel their new baby brother kick inside mom's belly.



**ABOVE** Tesfaye Bayu holds his daughters Imnet, Tselot, and Ilita for the first time since their birth.

**RIGHT** Tzepah Zarmi holds her healthy 1-day-old baby, Leebea. With her are dad David and brother Juda, who was also born at Cedars-Sinai. More than 7,000 babies are delivered at Cedars-Sinai each year.



*"I created and endowed the Children's Health Center to let the community know that Cedars-Sinai is a hub for pediatrics in Los Angeles. It has the expertise, range of services, and infrastructure to care for infants, children, and their parents. All who benefit from this special care become part of the Cedars-Sinai family, now and for the future."*

—MAXINE DUNITZ



**LEFT** After a stay in the NICU, preemie Louis London Claboux is going home in the Cedars-Sinai pram. Babies traditionally leave the NICU in style to celebrate their homecoming.