

and so we  
**FIGHT**

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**TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER CENTER®**



**Texas Children's  
Hospital®**

# table of contents

## 3 AND SO WE FIGHT

*Tracing the history of our war on pediatric cancer*

## 6 ON THE FRONT LINES

*Offering unparalleled expertise and experience  
treating all forms of pediatric cancer*

## 24 SUPPORTING THE WARRIORS

*Providing innovative and comprehensive support  
for patients' and families' holistic needs*

## 32 IN GOOD COMPANY

*Bringing together the largest concentration of  
pediatric cancer experts and dedicated staff*

## 40 MARCHING FORWARD

*Uncovering the secrets of pediatric cancer cells  
and finding new ways to defeat them*

## 44 REFERRALS

*Getting in touch*

# “The Warrior is a Child”

*by Terra Phillips, Texas Children's Cancer Center patient*

Gazing in the mirror  
I see a warrior's face.  
Fully clothed in armor  
No fear and no disgrace.

A tear it never offers  
A smile it always gives  
No sadness does it show  
But what a life it lives.

Needles going in  
As blood is taken out  
But still no sign of pain  
No cries to make you doubt.

Each day you see this person  
And think that they're so brave  
Each day you see us laughing  
The tears are ours to save.

So when you see our armor  
And think we're calm and mild  
Remember this one thing  
The warrior is a child.

A close-up, profile view of a young child's face, looking upwards with a hand near their mouth. The lighting is soft and natural, highlighting the child's features. The background is a blurred, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric.

# and so we fight

*At Texas Children's Cancer Center, we are proud to say we help children fight and defeat cancer every single day. When we opened in 1954, only one in every 10 children with cancer survived. We've made considerable progress in improving outcomes for children with cancer since then. Today, more than 80 percent of children who are diagnosed with cancer will successfully fight the battle and be cured. However, the war with cancer will not be over until we have a cure for each and every child who is impacted by this disease.*

*The good news is, tremendous progress has been made. With powerful new weapons in our arsenal and incredible breakthroughs in technology, immunology and cancer genetics, every day we uncover more information about what causes cancer and how to beat it, because losing even one child to cancer is still one too many.*



# the war on pediatric cancer

*Since the 1950s, Texas Children's has waged war on childhood cancer. In six decades, we went from having no cures, no specialists and little knowledge about the disease to possessing a staggering amount of knowledge about what causes pediatric cancer and how to treat it.*

*In the early days, one of the primary difficulties facing researchers and physicians was that there weren't enough children with the same type of cancer at any one center to perform meaningful clinical trials. To combat this, regional and national cooperative research groups, such as the Children's Oncology Group, were formed.*

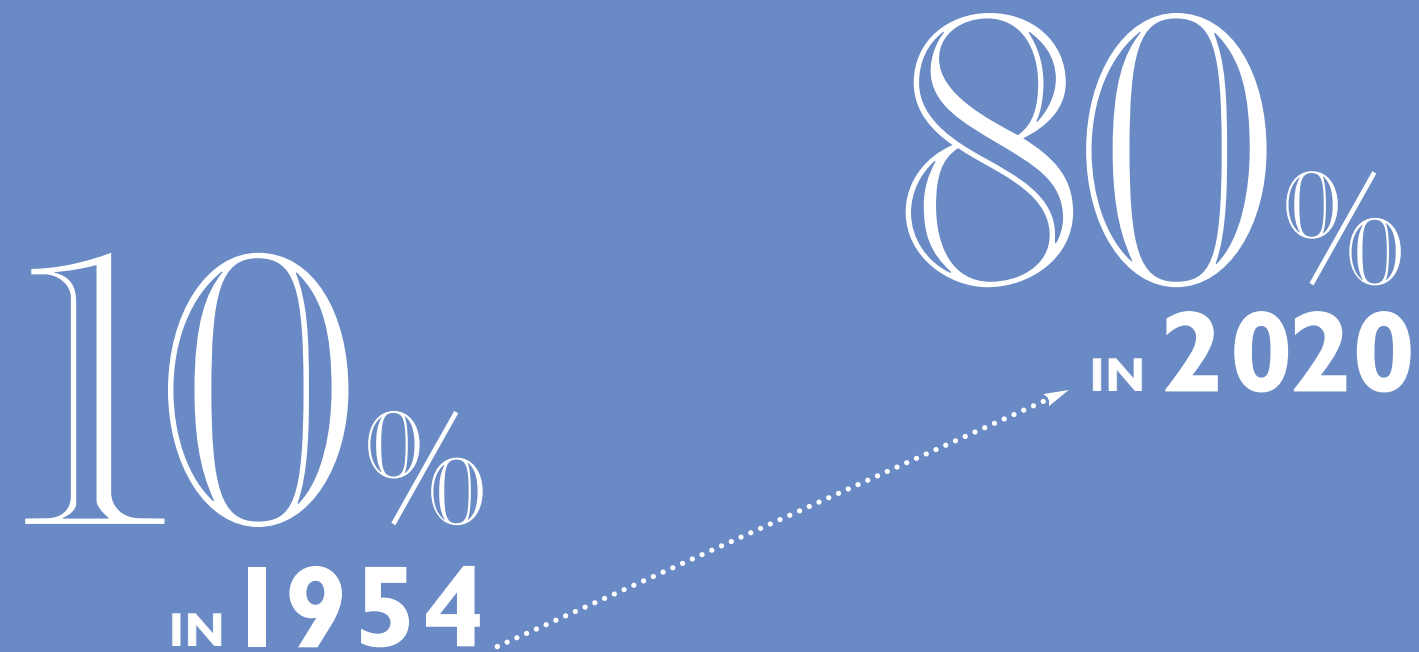
*By pooling resources, adopting common standards and enrolling patients in large enough numbers to develop the necessary anticancer drugs and treatment protocols, the overall pediatric cancer survival rate increased dramatically over just a few decades. This unprecedented story of collaboration is considered one of the greatest feats in modern medicine.*

*At Texas Children's Cancer Center, we're proud of the many contributions our team and our leaders have made over the past 65+ years that have helped push the science – and the survival rates – of pediatric oncology to new heights.*

## PEDIATRIC CANCER SURVIVAL RATE in the U.S.

10%  
IN 1954

80%  
IN 2020



### DR. SUSAN BLANEY

*Dr. Susan Blaney is director of Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers and section chief of Hematology/Oncology for BCM. She is also the vice chair of the Children's Oncology Group, a National Cancer Institute (NCI) supported clinical trials group and the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to pediatric cancer research.*

*Dr. Blaney is a board-certified pediatric hematologist-oncologist whose career over the past 25 years has focused on the development of new agents and therapeutic strategies for children with recurrent or refractory cancer. She has played a leadership role in the development of numerous clinical trials of novel agents for the treatment of childhood cancer.*

*Dr. Blaney has served as a mentor to many pediatric medical students, residents, fellows and faculty who are current or developing leaders in the field of pediatric oncology. Her influence in the field also extends to numerous national and local advisory and leadership roles. She has published more than 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals, has authored numerous book chapters, and is a co-editor for the leading textbook in pediatrics, Rudolph's Pediatrics, as well as editor of the leading textbook in pediatric oncology, Pizzo and Poplack's Principles and Practice of Pediatric Oncology.*

### DR. DONALD WILLIAMS (WILL) PARSONS

*Dr. Donald Williams (Will) Parsons is deputy director of Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers. He is a board-certified pediatric hematologist-oncologist who also serves as co-director of the Brain Tumor, Cancer Genetics and Genomics programs and director of the Center for Precision Oncology within Texas Children's Cancer Center. Dr. Parsons has distinguished himself as one of the country's leaders in the field of cancer genomics and the use of precision oncology approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of children with high-risk and relapsed cancers.*

*In addition to conducting innovative translational research in pediatric cancer genomics, Dr. Parsons and his team are making important contributions to the clinical care of childhood cancer patient. He established the Precision Oncology Consultation Service at Texas Children's Cancer Center to provide recommendations for the use and interpretation of clinical genomic testing for pediatric cancer patients nationwide. He also plays leadership roles within NCI-funded Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium and the Children's Oncology Group.*





# on the front lines

*“Nothing can prepare you for the moment you’re told your child has cancer. First comes the longing for survival – then an unspeakable fear. Fear for your child’s future. Fear for their pain and suffering. Fear for your potential future without your child.”*

– Laurie DeClaire, mom of patient

*Receiving a diagnosis of cancer for a child is one of the worst moments in any parent’s life. There are a million questions that come to mind, a fear of the unknown and many other mixed emotions. Families want to know that their child is being cared for by the best experts in the field and receiving the most advanced therapies available.*

*At Texas Children’s Cancer Center, we offer every child state-of-the-art treatment, honesty, transparency, compassion and guidance through each step of the journey – based on a wealth of knowledge and experience.*

*As one of the best pediatric cancer centers in the world, with access to the most innovative treatments, research and clinical trial networks in the world, we’re uniquely equipped to provide this kind of care.*

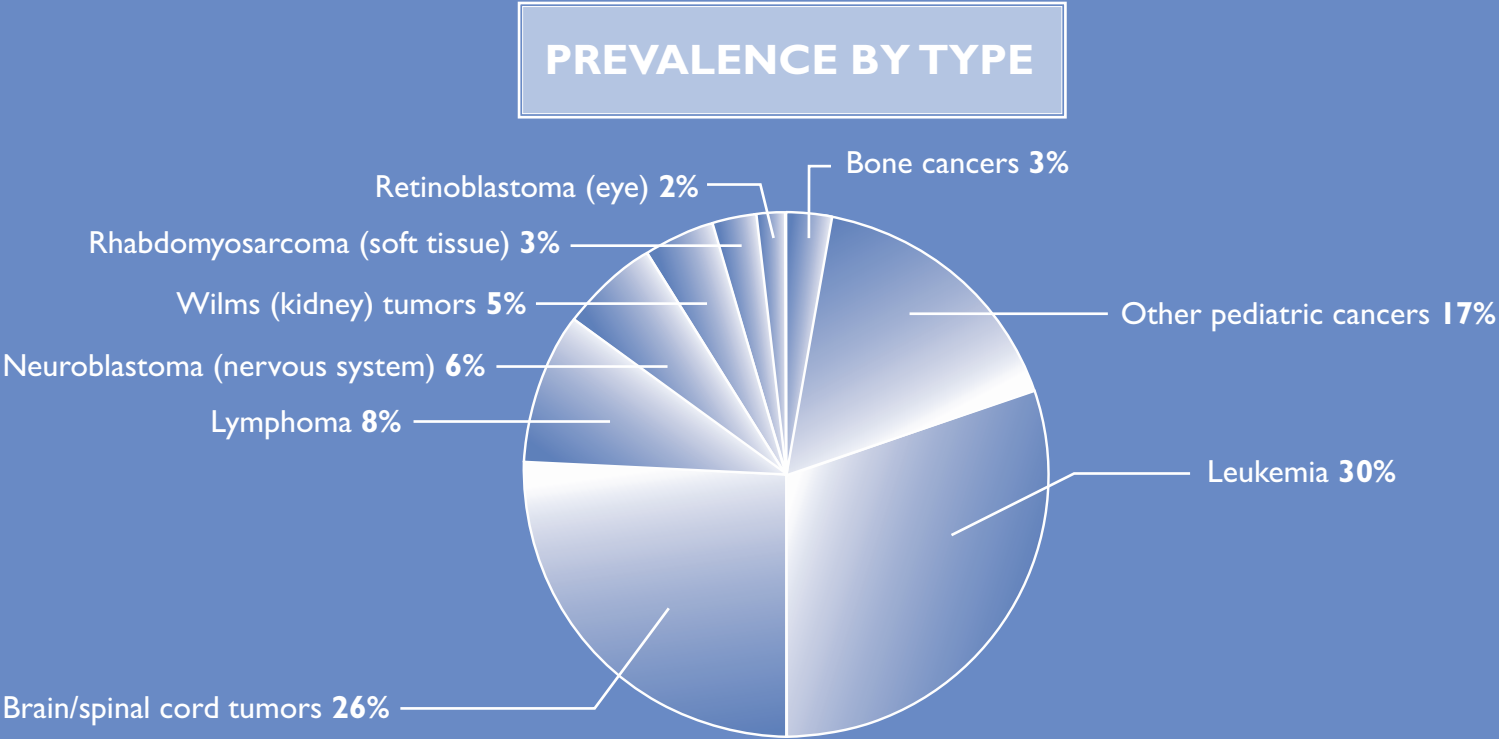
*If there’s anything our patients need, we’ll get it for them. It’s all part of our promise to be there, fighting this battle with our patients and their families as if it were our own.*

*So, to the parents who are in the grips of that unspeakable fear, we can honestly say: “There’s no better place for your child than right here.”*





PEDIATRIC CANCER by the numbers



**46** children and adolescents in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer daily<sup>1</sup>  
**16,850** children and adolescents in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer annually<sup>1</sup>  
**>40,000** children and adolescents in the U.S. undergo cancer treatment annually<sup>2</sup>  
**6** is the average age of a child at cancer diagnosis<sup>2</sup>

CAUSES OF NON-ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS<sup>3</sup>

22% Cancer 12% Congenital Anomalies 10% Heart disease  
6% Respiratory Disease 4% Flu/pneumonia 46% Other

<sup>1</sup>NCI SEER, 2018  
<sup>2</sup>COG, CureSearch  
<sup>3</sup>CDC Wonder, Underlying Causes of Death, 2018



# all in

At Texas Children's Cancer Center, our mission is to provide personalized, high quality, family-centered care. We strive always for the safest, most effective and least toxic path to a cure, and we provide individualized treatment plans and specialized programs and services to help meet the needs of every patient and family.

Treatment is organized around diagnosis-specific multidisciplinary care teams, and patients are seen by the same doctors, nurses and social workers on an ongoing basis to provide continuity, trust, safety and comfort as they deliver state-of-the-art therapy according to the individualized treatment plan.

It often surprises parents to learn that world-renowned experts from multiple specialties and subspecialties are sitting together in the same room discussing their child's case. All major decisions regarding a child's course of care involve the entire team. It's like getting second, third and fourth opinions from a diverse set of experts at every critical point.

This approach ensures that our patients receive the best possible recommendations at every stage of their care and maximizes their chance of achieving a cure.

*“There is a multidisciplinary approach that brings in a village to take care of the patient and even the family. Taking care of a cancer patient can be complicated, and you have to have all these specialists working together as a team with one singular purpose: caring for your child.”*

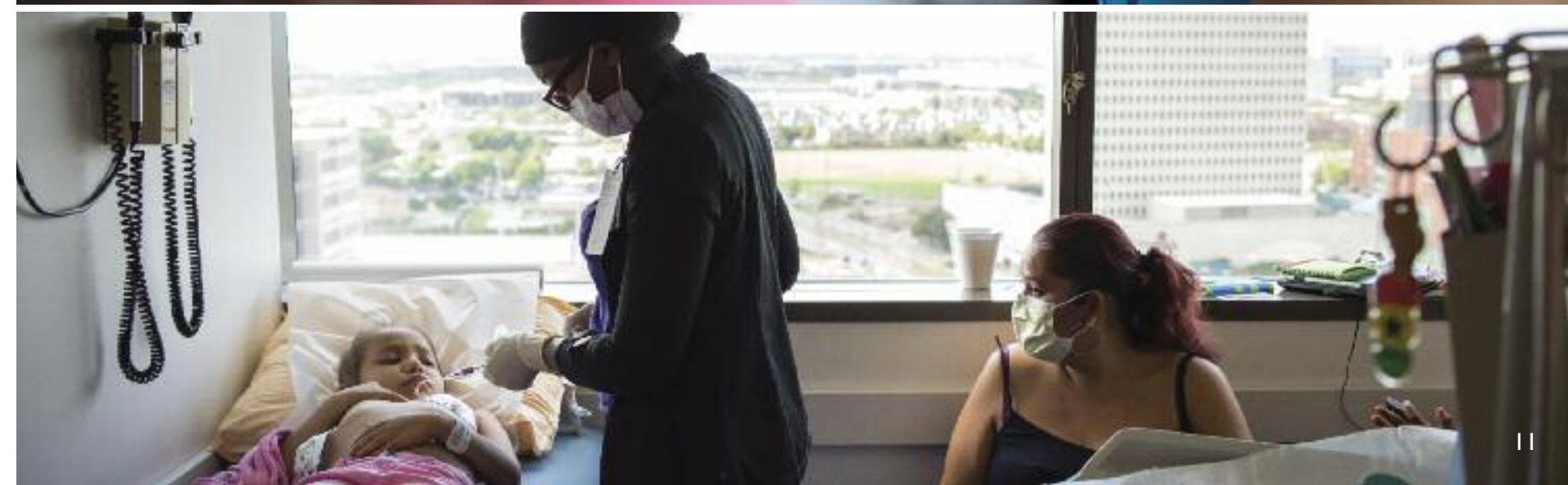
—Asha Virani, mom of patient

## just for kids

Children experience cancer differently from adults, and their outcomes are better when they're treated in a center dedicated to their unique needs.

For one, they need to be in an environment that provides family-centered care. Texas Children's offers a full complement of pediatric subspecialty programs and services that focus on family-centered care and emotional support for both the child and the family during treatment as well as throughout follow-up.

Because cancer affects many parts of a child's health and can quickly escalate into a life-threatening crisis, it's important that children receive treatment at a high-quality, full-service pediatric hospital. Texas Children's offers a world-class Emergency Center, Transport Team, Intensive Care Unit, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, Department of Surgery, Anesthesia and Pain Management Service, Diagnostic Imaging Department and Pathology Department, as well as top-ranked programs in Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Hepatology and more.







# about Texas Children's Hospital

Located in Houston, Texas, in the largest medical center in the world, Texas Children's Hospital is consistently ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation.

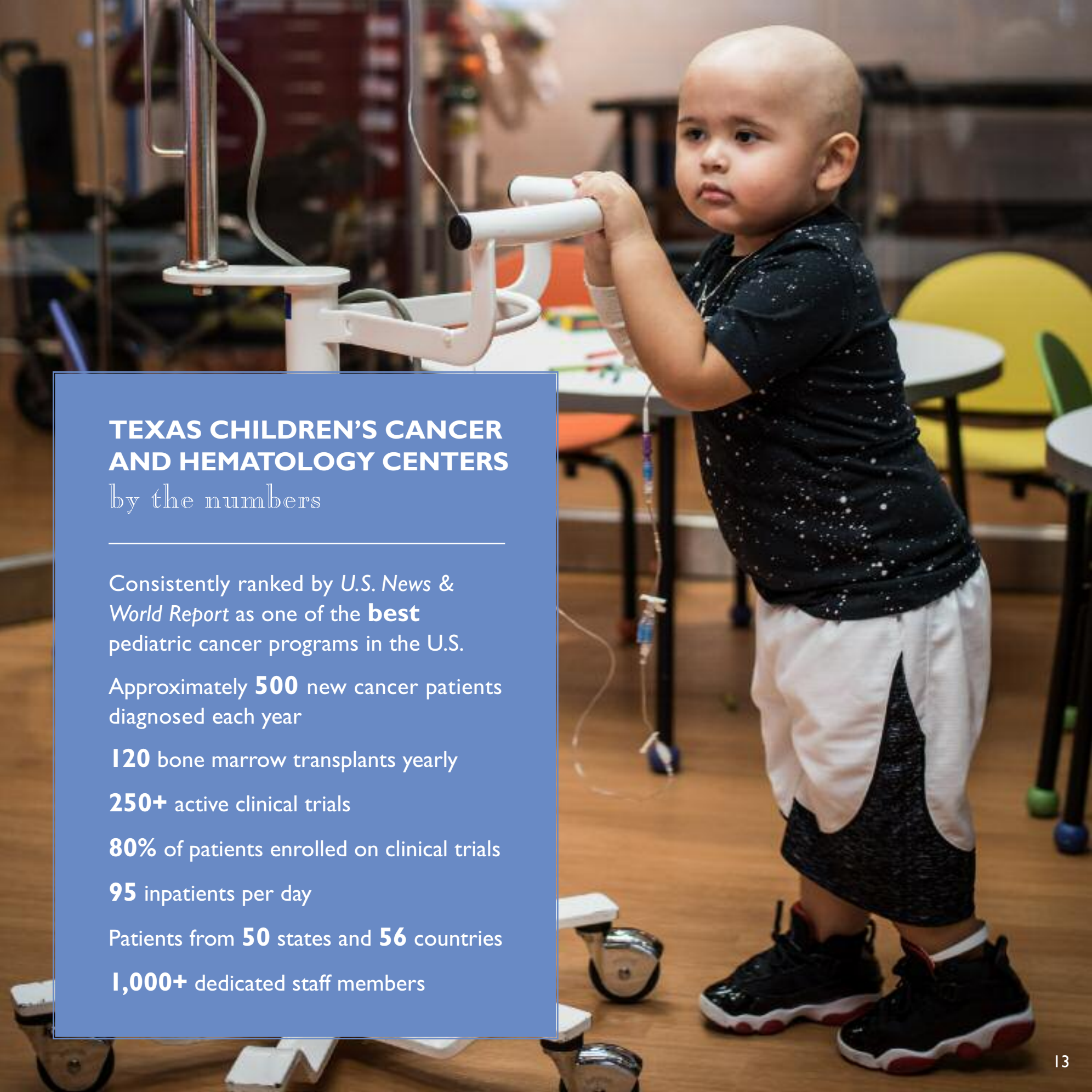
For over 60 years, Texas Children's has garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthroughs in pediatric and women's health. As a regional, national and international referral center, the hospital is equipped to provide the highest level of care to patients with the most complex diagnostic and medical issues.

With more than 970 licensed pediatric beds, 2,000 physicians, 14,000 staff members, 40 pediatric subspecialties and 4.7 million patient encounters annually, it is the largest children's hospital in the United States.

Texas Children's Hospital is affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine, one of the top-ranked medical schools in the country.

*“We have the best and the most innovative scientists, clinicians and educators who have brought forward to the clinic countless new treatments and treatment approaches for children with all forms of childhood cancer – even the rarest.”*

– Dr. Susan Blaney, Director,  
Texas Children's Cancer Center



**TEXAS CHILDREN'S CANCER  
AND HEMATOLOGY CENTERS**  
by the numbers

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Consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the **best** pediatric cancer programs in the U.S.

Approximately **500** new cancer patients diagnosed each year

**120** bone marrow transplants yearly

**250+** active clinical trials

**80%** of patients enrolled on clinical trials

**95** inpatients per day

Patients from **50** states and **56** countries

**1,000+** dedicated staff members



# our programs

*With expertise in every type of pediatric cancer, we have developed a wide array of programs and centers aimed at treating and curing children who come to us for help.*

## BRAIN TUMOR PROGRAM

Brain tumors cause more childhood cancer deaths than any other pediatric solid tumor. Our researchers are actively investigating ways to overcome the significant challenges in treating complex, high-grade tumors of the brain and central nervous system. They have developed and characterized at the molecular level the most comprehensive preclinical model system of pediatric brain tumors in the world. These models are used to investigate promising new therapeutics, including cellular and other immune-based approaches, with the goal of developing more effective, less toxic treatments for children with brain and spinal cord tumors.

## THE RUSSELL AND GLENDA GORDY CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE THERAPIES

The Gordy Center is dedicated to the development of innovative new therapeutic approaches for childhood cancers. The Center uses genomic technologies to identify unique molecular abnormalities in children's cancers to subsequently develop molecular or cell based immune therapies to specifically target these abnormalities.

## EPIGENETICS PROGRAM

Childhood cancers are frequently characterized by alterations that disrupt the timing and level of cancer causing genes; an emerging field called cancer epigenetics. Texas Children's Hospital is a leader in developing new technologies to study epigenetic alterations across many pediatric cancer types. Our basic research discoveries have led to new approaches to tackling aggressive childhood tumors using drugs that disrupt specific epigenetic pathways.

## HISTIOCYTOSIS PROGRAM

As the largest histiocytosis treatment program in the world, we see approximately 150 new patients per year and follow more than 1,000 active patients, including patients from five continents. With the dramatic growth of our program, we have developed and expanded the number of clinical trials of innovative therapies to treat histiocytosis. Subsequently, we have the opportunity to establish clinical and biologic correlations that are not possible anywhere else in the world.

## LEUKEMIA PROGRAM

Texas Children's has one of the largest leukemia programs in the country, with physicians and researchers who are nationally and internationally recognized leaders in the field. The program is focused on developing new therapeutics for the treatment of leukemia, including drugs, immunotherapies and cellular therapies, based on laboratory-based research discoveries. Our program leaders develop and conduct clinical trials of the most promising new treatments for childhood leukemia.

## FAYEZ SAROFIM LYMPHOMA CENTER

Although the outcome for lymphoma has improved tremendously, a subset of patients will relapse, often the result of tumor drug resistance. As the only program in the country dedicated to childhood lymphoma and lymphoproliferative disorders, we are leading the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to combat the challenges associated with the treatment of this disease, including multiple cell-based therapies that have shown very promising clinical results.

## THE SKY HIGH KIDS CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY CENTER

The Sky High Immunotherapy Center focuses on pre-clinical and clinical research strategies to discover and develop new immunotherapeutic approaches for the treatment of the most challenging childhood cancers. These novel therapeutics, which harness the patient's own immune system to fight cancer, are specifically developed to kill cancer cells and spare non-cancerous normal tissues. The ultimate goal of these novel therapies is to improve cure rates without long-term side effects.

## SOLID TUMOR PROGRAMS

Solid tumors are much rarer – and often much more complex – in children than adults. Many solid tumors require margin-free surgical resection to achieve a cure, and incomplete attempts can have significant negative effects. These cases require extraordinarily precise timing, diagnostic insight, surgical talent and teamwork, which patients from around the world come to Texas Children's Hospital to receive. Our leading programs in solid tumors include:

## BONE TUMOR PROGRAM

The Bone Tumor Program at Texas Children's is one of the largest multidisciplinary programs in the country. We offer care to children and adolescents with bone tumors, including highly aggressive and difficult-to-treat tumors. Our bone tumor research team is focused on finding more effective treatments and improving quality of life. Our center was one of the first in the country to offer magnetic leg lengthening for young patients with bone tumors, sparing the removal of the affected limb as well as the need for numerous future prosthesis extension surgeries.

## FARIS D. VIRANI EWING SARCOMA CENTER

Ewing sarcoma is a rare cancer characterized by tumors that affect bones or soft tissue in children and young adults. The Faris D. Virani Ewing Sarcoma Center is dedicated to researching and solving the therapeutic challenges of treating this cancer including metastasis at diagnosis, relapse following a favorable response to frontline chemotherapy, and lack of new chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of Ewing sarcoma.

## LIVER TUMOR CENTER

As the only dedicated pediatric liver tumor center in the southwest, we have assembled a team of world-renowned specialists in the treatment of liver tumors that includes preeminent researchers and experts in the pathology and biology of liver tumors, oncologists, surgical oncologists and transplant surgeons. This team collaborates with numerous other subspecialists to deliver the best care for children with liver tumors.

## NEUROBLASTOMA PROGRAM

Advanced neuroblastoma remains one of the most difficult childhood cancers to treat and cure. We offer treatments for all stages of neuroblastoma, including MIBG therapy, which is a targeted radiotherapeutic agent. As one of the top referral centers in the country, we are also leading innovations in less invasive diagnostic techniques to help identify those children who can effectively be treated and cured with less intensive therapy. Our team's overall goal is to find more effective and less toxic treatment options to improve cure rates and quality of life for children with neuroblastoma.

## RARE TUMORS PROGRAM

As the largest rare tumor program in the country, we work closely with our precision medicine program to use cutting-edge molecular techniques to facilitate timely and accurate diagnoses and develop standardized treatment regimens where none exist. We are leading the development of the first national registries for rare cancers including pediatric neuroendocrine tumors, inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, BCOR-mutated sarcoma and undifferentiated embryonal sarcoma.

## RETINOBLASTOMA CENTER OF HOUSTON

Retinoblastoma is a cancer of the eye affecting infants and children. Although it is usually successfully treated, cure may require the loss of the child's eye. Our Retinoblastoma Center, which brings together clinicians and researchers from Texas Children's Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Methodist Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine, is working to develop new treatments and treatment strategies that can successfully achieve cure without removing the eye.

## SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA PROGRAM

Soft tissue sarcomas, a rare group of solid tumors diagnosed in children, adolescents and young adults arising in muscles and tendons, can be found anywhere in the body. Soft tissue sarcomas, such as rhabdomyosarcoma and synovial sarcoma, require complex treatments by a multidisciplinary team including oncologists, surgical oncologists, pathologists and precision oncology specialists. Our comprehensive clinical care and research program, comprised of renowned experts, includes a national referral center for diagnostics and second opinions.

## THYROID CANCER PROGRAM

Malignant thyroid tumors in children and adolescents are rare, but slightly increasing in incidence. Texas Children's first-of-its-kind program for pediatric thyroid cancer combines the expertise of a dedicated team of specialists in surgery, endocrinology and oncology to provide state-of-the-art care.





### BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant also known as bone marrow transplant, has long been the treatment of choice for relapsed leukemia patients. Its use has now expanded to include children with difficult-to-treat solid tumors, including neuroblastoma and brain tumors. We have been successful in finding donors for almost every patient who needs a stem cell transplant. If a perfect match is unavailable, we are able to perform cord blood transplants or use donors other than perfectly matched siblings, such as parents. Our award-winning Bone Marrow Transplant Unit provides a safe and developmentally positive environment for immunocompromised patients during recovery.

### LONG-TERM SURVIVOR PROGRAM

Our Long-Term Survivor Program monitors more than 1,800 patients for delayed side effects and complications caused by their previous cancer therapies. Our program is one of only a few pediatric programs in the U.S. to provide care throughout a patient's entire life. We have also designed and implemented an innovative web-based program, Passport for Care®, that serves nearly 40,000 survivors and their physicians through provision of information on health concerns and recommended screening tests and schedules based on their treatment history.

### PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative care focuses on reducing suffering and improving the quality of life for those with life-threatening illnesses. Texas Children's Hospital is a leader in palliative care, with board-certified pediatric palliative care physicians, nurse practitioners and specialists who address symptoms such as pain, fatigue, nausea, anxiety and depression. Palliative care can be integrated into any phase of treatment and has positive physical and emotional benefits for patients and their families.



As a leading research institution in the field of pediatric oncology, we translate breakthrough findings from the laboratory into the clinic. Our vast expertise in the development of new therapeutics means our patients have ready access to the most advanced therapies.

Since our physicians are national and international leaders in their respective areas, they often lead or co-lead the clinical trials for these innovative therapies. This means that they are among a select number of physicians in the field who best understand the treatment and potential complications.

### CANCER PREVENTION AND SCREENING CLINIC

Our first-of-its-kind clinic focuses on the genetic predisposition to childhood cancer. A comprehensive evaluation, which may include DNA diagnostic studies and screening tests, as well as genetic counseling services, is provided for at-risk families. We follow children who have an increased risk for developing cancer so we can identify tumors sooner, which may allow us to treat with less intensive therapy and ultimately improve quality of life and survival rates. Over time, the data we collect will allow us to better assess the effectiveness of current screening methods and help us compare new tests and technologies as they are developed.

### CELL AND GENE THERAPY

Our Cell and Gene Therapy Program helps rapidly translate laboratory discoveries to develop novel cell and gene therapy products. Our faculty are leaders in the discovery and development of CART and natural killer T (NKT) cell therapies, which use the patient's own immune system to kill cancer cells instead of (or in addition to) chemotherapy, radiation and other treatments. Our researchers are also leading cutting-edge translational research studies to understand the role of NKT cells in tumor immunity and their interactions with the tumor microenvironment. Their research has led to the development of novel strategies to use CART and NKT cells for many childhood cancers.

### DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPEUTICS

Our Developmental Therapeutics Program is internationally renowned in the development of new anticancer drugs with a particular focus on targeted therapies or specific molecules that interfere with cancer cell growth and survival. As such, they work closely with our Precision Oncology team, which evaluates the tumor for genetic mutations so that personalized therapies can be identified. Texas Children's participates in every major pediatric oncology and pharmacology cooperative group, providing our patients access to cutting-edge therapy for their underlying cancer.

### PRECISION ONCOLOGY

Texas Children's Cancer Center is a leader in the use of precision oncology strategies for the care of children with rare, relapsed, refractory or high-risk cancers – patients with limited treatment options who are most in need of novel therapeutic approaches. Pediatric cancer researchers have learned that each child's tumor is unique, with different underlying genetic mutations and sequences. Our physician scientists are leading cutting-edge studies to understand how genome sequencing can be used to identify tumor mutations and implement patient-specific treatments to improve outcomes for each childhood cancer patient. We are one of only a few centers in the U.S. with the capacity to analyze patient tumor samples with state-of-the-art genomic sequencing.





# gaining ground

*Our size and scope, as well as our depth and breadth of expertise, allows us to offer the best of both worlds, with highly specialized teams focused entirely on one type of pediatric cancer and highly versatile teams capable of treating even the rarest forms of pediatric cancer.*

*Our physician scientists have pioneered many pediatric cancer treatments. They have developed innovations in hematopoietic stem cell transplants and led local and national clinical trials to identify the optimal drugs, therapies, dosages and delivery methods for the treatment of childhood cancers. They have also led studies to show that less invasive diagnostic procedures and therapies can be used for some patients while more aggressive frontline therapies are required for others. Such studies are vital to minimizing treatment-associated toxicities while simultaneously increasing cure rates.*

*Today, we're working relentlessly to create the most effective, least toxic treatments for tomorrow and provide our patients and their families access to all of the newest and most innovative therapies, many of which are only available at Texas Children's Cancer Center.*

## advanced technologies

- Advanced bioinformatics facility
- Cell and gene therapy
- Interventional radiology and radiofrequency ablation
- Proton and MIBG radiation
- Robotic, laparoscopic and MRI-guided surgery
- Tumor, tissue and stem cell banking
- Whole exome DNA and tumor sequencing
- Xenograft production facility





Photo courtesy of Barcode Media.

## expanding the front

*In the United States, more than 80 percent of children with cancer survive. Worldwide, the survival is not nearly that high. An estimated 175,000 children under the age of 15 get cancer each year, and more than 100,000 of them will die because they don't have access to adequate care.*

*In Sub-Saharan Africa, the childhood cancer mortality rate is estimated to be as high as 90 percent. In some countries, there's essentially no available care for children with cancer. No diagnoses, no chemotherapy and no palliative measures.*

*This is due in large part to an inadequate health care infrastructure and a paucity of physicians, nurses and other health care workers trained to provide the complex care childhood cancer patients need.*

*At Texas Children's, we believe our responsibility to care for children doesn't begin and end with those who are able to come here. We have an obligation to seek out the children and future clinicians who are least likely to come to us, because that's where we can have the greatest impact.*

*“It’s our obligation to take what we do so successfully to the overwhelming number of children around the world who have little or no access to cancer treatment. We are putting our medical boots on the ground and treating children in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as training their health professionals to care for children with cancer.”*

— Dr. David Poplack, Director, Texas Children’s Global Hematology-Oncology Pediatric Excellence (HOPE)

### GLOBAL HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY PEDIATRIC EXCELLENCE (HOPE)

*In 2006, at the request of the Government of Botswana, Texas Children’s Cancer Center sent the first pediatric oncologist to The Princess Marina National Referral Hospital in Gaborone, Botswana. This marked a new era for Texas Children’s Cancer Center and would provide an opportunity to expand across the continent to provide quality pediatric cancer treatment to thousands of children, while training a cadre of local healthcare professionals.*

*Launched in 2017, as a program of Texas Children’s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine and, supported by a \$50 million foundational investment from Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Global HOPE is a transformational initiative that is improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with cancer and blood diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. Work is already underway in Uganda, Botswana, and Malawi and plans for expansion are underway to other African nations including, Eswatini, Lesotho, Rwanda, and Tanzania.*

*Since its inception, Global HOPE has treated over 12,000 patients and trained over 4,000 healthcare professionals with remarkable success. Pediatric cancer survival rates have dramatically improved with over 85% of patients surviving the first month. In Uganda, Global HOPE established the first ever Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Program in 2015 to build a critical mass of African pediatric hematology-oncology specialists. Eight clinical fellows have graduated from the fellowship and are all working as trained pediatric hematologist-oncologists (PHO) in sub-Saharan Africa, and an additional 12 PHO fellows are currently enrolled in the program.*



## The Vannie E. Cook, Jr. Children’s Cancer and Hematology Clinic

*In addition to our global program, Texas Children’s Cancer Center addresses critical gaps in care that occur even closer to home. The Vannie Cook Clinic in McAllen, Texas, offers advanced treatments, diagnostics and genetic counseling from Texas Children’s/Baylor College of Medicine physicians and staff in the only comprehensive pediatric cancer center in South Texas.*

*Prior to the creation of this program, families in the Rio Grande Valley were forced to drive either to San Antonio (five hours away) or to Houston (six hours away) to receive cancer treatment for their child. Since treatments can be necessary one or more times a week, the commute was a serious burden for families, often with dire consequences for the family or the child’s care.*

*Since 2001, more than 9,500 families have found the care they need right where they need it most, in their own backyard.*







# supporting the warriors



*“When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family is affected. Our goal is to have a healthy, psychologically strong, optimistic child. We’re truly successful if we can keep the whole family unit that way.”*

– Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer, Co-Director, Texas Children’s Long-Term Survivor Program

*Children who are battling cancer need every bit of strength and support their families can provide. But parents and family members are also under enormous stress and strain.*

*Our model of care puts the patient and family at the center of everything we do and surrounds them with the layers of support that they need.*

*Beyond the physicians and staff who take care of the patient’s medical needs, our care teams are comprised of highly trained specialists who provide for the child’s holistic needs.*

*Team members include social workers, child life specialists, psychologists, financial counselors, teachers, chaplains and other support staff.*

*In addition, everything about our facilities, from the layout of our outpatient center to our innovative inpatient care units, are designed with the patient and family’s comfort, safety and convenience in mind.*



“Our goal is to make sure children are able to continue being children throughout their cancer journey.”

– Quinn Franklin, Assistant Director, Texas Children’s Cancer Center Psychosocial Division

At Texas Children’s Cancer Center, we provide comprehensive psychosocial care that targets the social and emotional needs of our patients, their siblings and their families. Once a child receives a cancer diagnosis, the entire family’s stress and anxiety increases to new levels and their lives are forever changed.

Our trained specialists work alongside the medical team to support the patients and their families as they adjust and cope with cancer. The services provided are not only comprehensive but also individualized to meet the child and family’s needs throughout their journey – from diagnosis to survivorship, and for some families through end-of-life.

In addition to the clinical services provided, Texas Children’s Cancer Center offers an extensive array of programming, camps and special events to provide opportunities for play, creativity, self-expression and normalization, as well as memory-making, thus allowing a child to still be a child.

psychosocial support

- Adolescents and Young Adults
- Animal-Assisted Therapy
- Art Therapy
- Arts in Medicine
- Camps and Retreats
- Caregiver, Patient and Sibling Groups
- Child Life
- Education and Learning
- Grief and Bereavement
- Psychology
- Ronald McDonald House Houston
- Social Work
- Survivors’ Celebrations







## our programs

### ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

*The Adolescent and Young Adult Program brings teens, young adults and long-term survivors of all diagnoses together to facilitate friendships, provide support, answer questions and talk about their experiences. Throughout the year, participants enjoy a variety of social events, retreats and an annual Celebration of Life.*

### ARTS IN MEDICINE

*The Periwinkle Arts in Medicine Program provides fun and educational children's art experiences to help patients develop coping skills. These experiences, which occur in both the inpatient and outpatient clinical settings, are often led by visiting community artists. By reducing stress, loneliness and helping patients express their fears and emotions, arts in medicine programs have been shown to improve the patient experience and have a positive impact on health outcomes.*

*Every year, the artwork and poetry produced by Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers' patients and siblings are exhibited and presented to the community by The Periwinkle Foundation. The extraordinary display then travels around the world for the rest of the year, raising awareness and providing unique insight into the inner lives of children touched by cancer and blood disorders.*

*Purple Songs Can Fly is a unique program for our patients and their siblings that provides a musical outlet for expressing their thoughts and feelings. Children work with professional composers to write and record their own songs in an in-house studio or at the bedside. They are then able to share their music within the form of individual purple CDs that are flown by participating passengers, pilots and astronauts to different places on earth and in space.*

### CAMPS AND RETREATS

*We offer several free camps for all patient families: Camp Periwinkle, a weeklong summer camp for patients and their siblings; Family Camp, a weekend retreat for the whole family; and Camp YOLO, a weekend retreat for teens. With a full medical staff on duty 24 hours a day, children on therapy can continue their treatment while experiencing the joys of camp. We also offer Camp Periwinkle Days, which brings the camp experience to Texas Children's Cancer Center for the patients who are unable to get away.*

### CHILD LIFE

*Evidence-based research shows that child life specialists can help reduce the stress and anxiety that many children and adolescents experience in hospital and health care settings while simultaneously enhancing their ability to cope with stressful situations. Child life specialists provide age-appropriate therapeutic medical and diversional play and educate patients about their diagnoses and the medical tests and procedures they will undergo. They partner with parents and members of the child's treatment team to help improve their overall experience. In addition, as a part of Texas Children's Pawsitive Play Program, our animal-assisted therapy dog works alongside a child life specialist to provide goal-oriented, therapeutic interventions and emotional support for the patients and families.*

### RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE HOUSTON

*The Ronald McDonald House Houston, a home away from home for families, is located approximately one-half mile from the hospital and has 70 private bedrooms and van transportation to the hospital. Volunteers provide frequent meals and family activities. The House has a Houston Independent School District school room for patients and school bus transportation for siblings. Additionally, Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are located in Texas Children's Cancer Center.*

### SOCIAL WORK

*Having a child with cancer can produce an extraordinary strain on a household. Because we want families to be entirely focused on helping their child get better, we do everything we can to help improve and relieve the strain. Social workers assist patients and their families with nonmedical and emotional needs. In addition, social workers can help families locate community resources and address concerns about financial issues, transportation, lodging or educational needs. All of our social workers are Licensed Master Social Workers, specially trained to be part of the patient's treatment team.*







*“This is a very special place to work because of the people who surround us and the passion they bring to their jobs. We have strong and effective leadership whose vision extends across the nation and the globe. Our workplace culture greatly values collaboration, bringing a talented and powerful team together towards our goal of advancing cures.”*

– Dr. Rajkumar Venkatramani, Director, Clinical Division,  
Texas Children’s Cancer Center

*At Texas Children’s Cancer Center, we pride ourselves on our extraordinary staff. There’s something in the atmosphere here – whether it’s the bond between patients and staff, the effortless teamwork or the thrill of scientific discovery – that helps us attract the best, brightest and most caring people.*

*Although our nationally recognized programs and strong culture, vision and leadership have a lot to do with it, ultimately it’s the patients who capture the hearts of our team.*

*Cancer patients and their families often have close relationships with their care teams that last long after treatment is completed. It’s an honor and privilege to be their partners on this journey, to celebrate their triumphs and to have them show us – day in and day out – the precious value of life.*



in good  
company



## our team

*At Texas Children's Cancer Center, we're dedicated to providing the best possible care and service to the patients and families who entrust us with their lives. In this ongoing pursuit, the key to success is our people. We've assembled an incredible team of talented, driven individuals who put compassion at the heart of everything they do.*

*The saying "it takes a village" is especially true in pediatric cancer care. It takes immense scientific and medical expertise combined with a host of people and programs working together to support children with cancer and their families.*

*With more than 1,000 staff members, we provide unparalleled support to our patients and families.*

*"As a clinician and educator, I am proud to know that our patients receive the best care possible in one of the best pediatric hospitals in the country. There is no better care available anywhere. I am also proud that we are training the next generation of pediatric oncologists who will continue our mission."*

— Dr. Philip Steuber, Director, Professional Education Division, Texas Children's Cancer Center







## our training

*As a teaching hospital, in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine, our mission is to provide world-class training and education for current and future leaders in the field.*

*We offer the largest accredited fellowship program in the nation, with 24 board-eligible/board-certified pediatricians training to become subspecialists in pediatric hematology-oncology each year.*

*The large clinical service and advanced research programs at Texas Children's and Baylor College of Medicine provide uniquely fertile training grounds.*

*With a focus on creating physician leaders in clinical, research and educational settings, the core areas of our program include patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism and systems-based practice.*

*Trainees who complete our program acquire an outstanding clinical experience and are firmly grounded in the intricacies of their specialty areas. In addition, fellows receive specialized laboratory or clinical research experience and are trained to become leaders in their field.*







*“Our physician-scientists are working hard to improve the outcome for all our patients and to develop and perfect new treatment approaches that stem from some of their most extraordinary scientific insights and discoveries. Often, therapies for our patients are developed here and many are available only at our center.”*

– Dr. Donald Williams (Will) Parsons, Deputy Director,  
Texas Children’s Cancer Center

*Texas Children’s Cancer Center’s treatment mission has always been indistinguishable from its research mission. Because our founders believed it was important for our clinicians to also be elite researchers, we created a four-year fellowship program with three full years dedicated to research, a model that quickly became the national standard.*

*Later, as Baylor College of Medicine grew into a global powerhouse for genetic research, the Cancer Center seized the opportunity to create a preeminent pediatric cell and gene therapy program by recruiting top researchers like Dr. Malcolm Brenner, a member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine, and Dr. Helen Heslop, a Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist who now directs the program, to help lead us into uncharted but promising new territory.*

*Today, Texas Children’s Cancer Center is at the forefront of pediatric cancer research, with more than 350 researchers in 47 laboratories, total external peer-reviewed funding of approximately \$40 million per year and over 250 active clinical trials. We are global leaders in the fields of precision oncology and immunotherapy; we currently have 16 investigational new drug applications with 26 associated studies; and we have one of the most robust early phase clinical trial programs in the world, offering all of the new, targeted therapies for children who have recurrent or difficult-to-treat cancers.*

*We’re working to improve the outcome for all children afflicted with cancer, and to develop and perfect new treatment approaches that are the result of the most extraordinary insights and discoveries. The impact of our work has worldwide significance, not just for children today, but for generations to come.*



marching  
forward





*“Thank you for loving our children like they were your own. Thank you for smiling through your tears, because we know you cry for our children too. Thank you for being their biggest advocates and giving them the best treatments you’ve got until the day you stand with us in the lobby and triumphantly ring that big golden bell. Thank you for making us laugh, even on the days when we thought we’d never laugh again.”*

– Carrie Richardson, mom of patient

## celebrating victory

*The ringing of a bell can mean many things, but at Texas Children’s Cancer Center it symbolizes victory. Ringing the end of treatment bell is a huge milestone for patients and their families.*

*The sound of the bell tells the patient ringing it that their journey with treatment is over and that they have conquered it courageously. It also has the ability to bring people together, to celebrate the patient’s success and give hope to others going through the same thing that one day it will be their turn.*

*The end of treatment bell is placed next to a plaque that reads: “Let your strength and courage be felt by all, as this bell’s song fills this hall. For every time we hear this note, another life be filled with hope. Stay strong!”*



*“Texas Children’s Cancer Center is a national jewel and exemplar of excellence in research, education and clinical care. The work it has done – and which it stands poised to do in the future – has and will continue to change the landscape of childhood cancer – moving it ever closer to a cure for every child.”*

– Dr. Philip Pizzo, Stanford University School of Medicine

referrals

**ONCOLOGY**  
Physicians and families: **832-822-4242** or **1-800-CANCER9 (1-800-226-2379)**

**INTERNATIONAL REFERRALS**  
Appointments for patients from outside the United States are made through Texas Children’s International Services.

International Services will connect the referring provider with one of the physicians at Texas Children’s Cancer Center; then the family will be asked to call Texas Children’s International Services at **832-824-1138** or **1-888-240-8244**.

**TEXAS CHILDREN’S  
CANCER CENTER**

Wallace Tower, Level 14  
6701 Fannin St.  
Houston, TX 77030-2399

Website: [texaschildrens.org/cancer](https://texaschildrens.org/cancer)  
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