

Our Mission

The mission of the Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery Service is to provide state-of-the-art, evidence-based surgical care to children in a friendly, compassionate, and family-centered care environment, to train the physicians and surgeons of tomorrow, and to conduct cutting-edge-research.

Patients are at the heart of our mission

Our team of surgeons, nurses, and other staff, understands that surgery can be stressful for a child and for the family. We consider it a privilege to be entrusted with the care of every child. We respect every patient's needs and we work together to optimize the child's well-being, and to ensure the best possible result for every intervention.

Our pledge

In fulfilling our mission, we pledge to:

- Treat every child and family with dignity, compassion, and respect
- Provide highly skilled medical and surgical care
- Draw on the expertise of the entire team and other hospital services to provide the best care
- Advocate for each child within the health care system
- Communicate in an open and transparent manner
- Listen to your concerns and address them to your satisfaction

We consider children and families the heart of our team. Please share with us your experience and suggestions at any time during or after your child's care.



A full range of pediatric surgical services

The Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery team at The Montreal Children's Hospital and the Shriners Hospital provides consultation, evaluation, surgical care, and follow-up for the entire range of pediatric surgical conditions from before birth to early adulthood, including...

Fetal consultation and counseling

- We work as a team with obstetricians, neonatologists, geneticist, and others to counsel parents expecting a child with a congenital anomaly, provide the best care for unborn patients, and optimize care after birth
- Our new hospital allows parents to stay close to their children when they require care immediately after birth

Congenital anomalies

- Correction of a wide range of birth defects in the neck, chest, abdomen, and pelvis

Solid tumours of childhood

- Conditions such as kidney tumors (Wilms), neuroblastoma, liver tumours, and soft tissue tumors

Chest and chest wall conditions

- Lung resections for congenital and acquired diseases
- Correction of chest wall deformities like pectus excavatum (funnel chest) and pectus carinatum (pigeon chest)

Head and neck conditions

- Thyroid and parathyroid masses
- Lymphatic and vascular masses
- Sinuses, cysts, acquired masses, lymph node disorders

Minimally invasive surgery

- The latest and most advanced surgical techniques using laparoscopy and thoracoscopy to optimize patient recovery and minimize post-operative pain and scarring

Inguinal and genitourinary

- Undescended testes, circumcision, inguinal hernias, hydroceles
- Vaginal anomalies, ovarian and tubal cysts and masses

Same-day surgery

- Efficient and effective treatments for many of the common conditions of childhood
- Telephone follow-up for non-complicated cases to save the parents time and decrease unnecessary hospital visits

Acute surgical care

- We care for conditions such as trauma, appendicitis, intestinal obstruction and complicated pneumonia

Some of our unique programs

Parent Present Induction

Allows a parent to accompany their child into the operating room for induction of anesthesia.

Chest Wall Anomalies Center

The only multidisciplinary center in Canada specializing in the surgical and non-surgical treatment of deformities of the rib cage.

Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Clinic

One of the few clinics in Canada that facilitates follow-up of children with diaphragmatic hernia by combining many visits into one.

Esophageal Atresia Clinic

A multidisciplinary clinic that optimizes care and follow-up of all children treated for all forms of esophageal atresia.

Complex Colorectal Disorder Clinic

Specializes in the care of children with difficult anorectal anomalies, Hirschsprung's disease, and severe functional constipation.



Referring patients

To schedule an appointment at The Montreal Children's Hospital Pediatric Surgery Clinic, please contact the appointment center at **514-412-4040** and fax your consultation to **514-412-4288**

Appointments for the Chest Wall Anomalies Center can be obtained by calling the Shriners Hospital at **514-282-7223**.

Our mission of clinical care, teaching, and research is strengthened by support from our partners. If you would like to support our mission, please contact the Division Director, Dr. Sherif Emil, at **514 412 4497** or sherif.emil@mcgill.ca



What to expect when your child needs surgery

For most families, the first visit with a pediatric surgeon will be a referral from their child's general practitioner or pediatrician. Parents can also contact us directly. In general, patients and parents can expect to go through one or more of the following steps, if surgery is required.

- initial visit with a surgeon
- pre-operative visit which may include blood tests, and meeting with an anesthesiologist, a pediatrician and a nurse (in simple cases, all may be done at the initial visit)
- surgical procedure and recovery
- follow-up visit in the Pediatric Surgery clinic or by telephone

Each child's case is unique; therefore the time frame for these steps is determined on an individual basis with the parents and the child.

Completing the circle: our commitment to teaching...

The Montreal Children's and Shriners Hospitals are teaching hospitals of McGill University. We are therefore responsible for training the physicians and surgeons of tomorrow, with a special mandate to train new pediatric surgeons. The Division's goal is to create competent, skilled, ethical, and mission-driven surgeons. We offer each surgical trainee the best formal, clinical, and operative teaching in a safe and patient-centered surgical setting. We are also involved in the continuous education of family doctors, pediatricians, and pediatric subspecialists. As global citizens, we are heavily involved in global surgery, going beyond our borders to serve, operate, and teach in low-income countries.

... and to research

We are committed to carrying out cutting-edge research to provide innovative solutions to difficult problems, and improve our patients' outcomes. We are also committed to sharing these results beyond our community for the benefit of children around the world.

Our Surgeons



Dr. Sherif Emil is Professor of Pediatric Surgery, and Pediatrics, and the Division Director. His clinical and academic interests include fetal diagnosis, congenital anomaly surgery, acute care surgery, head and neck surgery, and minimally invasive thoracic surgery. He is vocal in patient advocacy and health care policy issues. His innovative work has been widely featured in the media, and he has received multiple honors including selection as one of America's Best Doctors and one of Canada's Best Doctors. He has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Governor General of Canada.

514-412-4497 sherif.emil@mcgill.ca



Dr. Dan Poenaru is Associate Professor of Pediatric Surgery. He has significant clinical expertise in anorectal and urogenital malformations, and chronic constipation. He holds a Ph.D. in global surgery. As one of the world's leading authorities on pediatric global surgery, he brings a strong clinical and academic global pediatric surgical focus, and has a strong interest in global burden of disease research and teaching.

514-412-4498 dan.poenaru@mcgill.ca



Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge is Professor of Pediatric Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the most senior member of the Division. He has published widely on most areas in pediatric surgery, and has been selected as one of Canada's Best Doctors. His clinical and academic interests include lung development, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, fetal evaluation and therapy, and congenital anorectal anomalies. He is coeditor of the textbook "Pediatric Surgery" and was President of the International Fetal Medicine and Surgery Society in 2002 and of the Canadian Association of Paediatric Surgeons from 2009-2011.

514-412-4498 jean-martin.laberge@muhc.mcgill.ca



Dr. Pramod Puligandla is Professor of Pediatric Surgery, and Pediatrics, and the Director of the fellowship program in pediatric surgery. He is also certified in pediatric critical care, which he actively practices. His clinical and academic interests include thyroid surgery, congenital lung anomalies, and neonatal surgical outcomes. He has taken a national leadership role in many of these areas. Dr Puligandla has received a number of awards, including the McGill University Faculty Honor List for Medical Education

514-412-4438 pramod.puligandla@mcgill.ca



Dr. Kenneth Shaw is Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery. He is the medical director of the trauma program at The Montreal Children's Hospital. He has an interest in surgical education at multiple levels, and directs the pediatric surgery clinical teaching unit.

514-412-4388 kenneth.shaw@muhc.mcgill.ca

PEDIATRIC GENERAL & THORACIC SURGERY

Information for Parents and Children



One Team One Mission