ABOUT THE DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT MEDICINE,
KENTUCKY CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON,
KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Kentucky Children's Hospital is the only facility in central and eastern Kentucky dedicated to the expert medical and surgical care of infants, children and adolescents. The University of Kentucky (UK) has a proud and distinguished history of providing comprehensive programs and innovative care to the children of the region. Although patients are referred from every county of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and from every adjacent state, the majority of patients are from the Bluegrass region around Lexington and from Appalachian counties in the eastern part of Kentucky. The Department of Pediatrics has provided service and education from the opening of UK College of Medicine in 1961.

The passion for teaching is palpable at the Kentucky Children's Hospital. Most years about 15% of our graduates or more choose to train in pediatrics. The University of Kentucky had one of the earliest combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics residency program with “med-peds” graduates very well represented throughout the faculty. This, in addition to a strong adolescent medicine program, is among factors which have led to a focus upon adolescent and adult graduates of pediatric care from Kentucky Children’s Hospital.

The approach at the Kentucky Children’s Hospital (KCH) is focused on family-centered care. Full-time child life coverage, facilities for families to stay with children overnight, age-appropriate playrooms, children's library facilities, in-hospital school services, a dedicated television channel, a computer laboratory and many other features provide the special environment to provide the best of care for children. The Kentucky Children's Hospital includes a 12-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, a 66 bed Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 44 acute care pediatric beds, a 26 bed normal newborn nursery, and an 8 bed short stay admissions/observation unit. KCH has grown from about 3,750 discharges per year in 2004 to about 5,400 in 2009.

Pediatric medical and surgical outpatient facilities are primarily located in the Kentucky Clinic, which is attached to the hospital. Each year, the pediatric clinic has over 46,000 patient visits. Of these, over 15,300 patient visits are in the general pediatric and continuity clinics, over 17,400 occur in the various subspecialty clinics. Kentucky Children’s Twilight
Clinic is open all but two days of the year in addition to the state-of-the-art pediatric emergency center.

Specialty care includes medical and surgical cardiac care, endocrinology, pediatric kidney disease, developmental pediatrics, pediatric allergy and immunology, solid organ transplantation, behavioral pediatrics, pediatric emergency medicine, intensive care pediatrics, neonatology, gastroenterology and hepatology, dysmorphology, biochemical genetics, pediatric rheumatology, oncology, hematology, infectious diseases, hospitalist care, adolescent medicine, adolescent gynecology, child neurology, pediatric surgery, pediatric orthopedics, pediatric imaging, child psychiatry, pediatric anesthesiology, pediatric otorhinolaryngology, speech disorders, pediatric pathology, pediatric physical medicine, pediatric neurosurgery and many other fields. The Young Parents Program is an innovative service of the Adolescent Medicine Division, which has been very successful. Many of these specialties cover outreach clinics throughout underserved Appalachian counties of Kentucky as well as in Lexington. New facilities are in preparation, because of the remarkable growth in clinical programs for children.

The growth of clinical programs and service capability has been matched by considerable growth in pediatric research at UK. Substantial programs in vascular biology and diabetes, pediatric inflammatory biology, molecular pediatrics, developmental biology, pediatric health policy research, epidemiology, prevention, cancer research and pediatric pharmacology are growing rapidly. The Kentucky Children's Hospital is located on the UK campus. Access to faculty in the other colleges including social sciences and humanities enhances the Kentucky Children's Hospital scholarly environment and provides unique opportunities for collaborative work.

As we approach our 50th year anniversary, we remain committed to improving the lives and health of young people of the Commonwealth and improving the future for their families.

DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT MEDICINE

The Division of Adolescent Medicine was founded in 1998 to provide state of the art care for adolescent patients from all areas of the commonwealth of Kentucky, to serve as a statewide resource for education and training for local providers on adolescent issues, to study specific factors on the local level affecting youth in the state, to help teach medical students and residents and to provide community service to help improve teen future in the commonwealth.

The division provides comprehensive, holistic team approach to adolescents, where teens receive all aspects of care from mental health to routine care from a team of professionals including physicians, mental health providers, social workers, psychologists, nutritionists and nursing staff. One unique program within the division is the Young Parent Program, where pregnant teens are cared for throughout pregnancy then they and their babies are cared for together in the program.

The division is active in research with many peer reviewed articles published each year as well as several books and special journal editions.
In the community, the program has founded several grass route programs to help prevent youth suicide, teen pregnancy, accidental death and substance abuse among adolescents in Kentucky.

The division has provided more than 300 lectures, worshops, media events and teaching for community providers, parents, teachers and school counselors. It also provides advocacy work on behalf of teens with active work at the state legislative and executive government as well as local governments to help improve the lives of teens.

COLLABORATIONS

The Division of Adolescent Medicine collaborates locally with school boards, youth service centers, state and local governments, other universities and child advocacy centers as well as with regional adolescent medicine programs.

Internationally with the Institute for Child Health and Human Development in Israel, the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Santa Casa University, Brazil, Quality of Life Research Center and Nordic School of Holistic Health, Copenhagen, Denmark, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.

THE VISION

The vision of the Division of Adolescent Medicine is to improve the health and long term wellbeing of Kentucky Youth to grow into productive adults. We also invision global work to help positive youth development world wide.

TARGET AREAS OF INTERESTS

The interest areas of the division are all aspects of youth development and adolescent health with focus on prevention and community involvement in collaboration on the local, national and global level with programs having the same goal.

Contact

Hatim Omar, MD, FAAP
Professor of Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology
Director of Adolescent Medicine & Young Parent programs
J422, Kentucky Clinic
Department of Pediatrics, Kentucky Children’s Hospital
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
Lexington, KY 40536
E-mail: haomar2@uky.edu
Website://www.mc.uky.edu/