

Children's Memorial Research Center — facts & figures



Research Center leaders (from left):

- Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD, President and Scientific Director
- Philip M. Iannaccone, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President and Deputy Director for Research—Basic Sciences
- Philip V. Spina, CRA, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
- Ram Yogeve, MD, Deputy Director for Research—Clinical Sciences

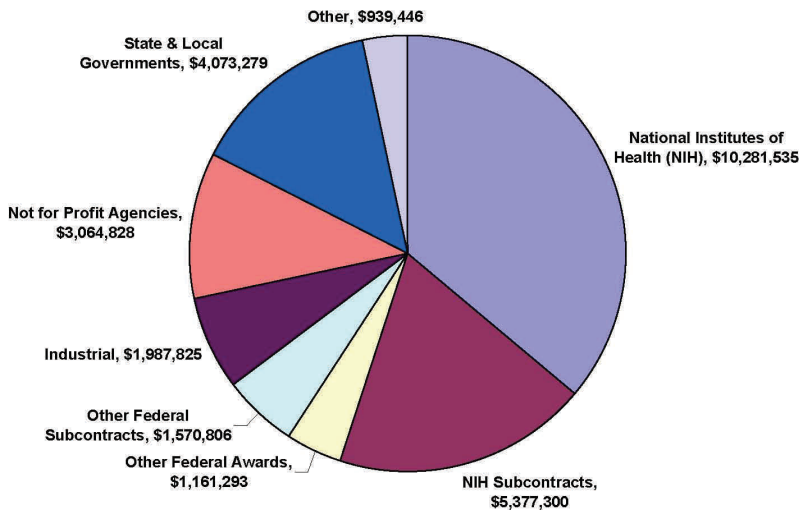
1 in a series

The mission of Children's Memorial Research Center is to generate new knowledge leading to advancements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect the development of children through adolescence as well as adult disorders that derive from them. Our multi-disciplinary teams of physicians, scientists, technicians, nurses and trainees are committed to making discoveries that will improve the lives of children and their families.

Groundbreaking work

- **Rajesh Kumar, MD, and colleagues** have identified a potential link between respiratory problems and premature birth.
- **John Lavigne, PhD, and colleagues** have determined that brief interventions for Oppositional Defiant Disorder, a common psychiatric disorder in preschool children, may work just as well as more intensive therapies.
- **Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD, and co-workers** are elucidating how a protein that governs development of human embryonic stem cells also inhibits the growth and spread of malignant melanoma and aggressive breast carcinoma.

Children's Memorial Research Center
FY2007 Funding by Sponsor Type



Our investigators should be proud that our NIH funding is up 30% in a time when federal dollars are difficult to secure.

—Harmony Maple, MPA, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs



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At perhaps no other time in history have we been this close to translating basic scientific discoveries into new therapies to advance medical care. Our success depends on a close partnership involving our donors, researchers and external funding agencies. Children's Memorial Research Center supports the academic enterprise of Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and the clinical mission of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

—Mary J.C. Hendrix, President and Scientific Director, Children's Memorial Research Center and Medical Research Institute Council Professor, Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine

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Established in 1986, Children's Memorial Research Center is the research arm of Children's Memorial Hospital, the pediatric teaching hospital for Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and one of a small number of institutions in the United States that focus primarily on pediatric research. The research center is one of 26 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes of the Feinberg School, where principal investigators who are part of the research center are full-time faculty members.

Cancer is still a deadly disease, and its complexity necessitates interdisciplinary expertise. The opportunity that I have at Children's Memorial Hospital to work closely with surgeons, oncologists and other basic researchers is invaluable and truly unique.

—Marcelo Bento Soares, PhD, Director, Cancer Biology and Epigenomics Program



Genome Information Integration Project And H-Invitational 2.

The H-Invitational Database (H-InvDB), a comprehensive annotation resource for human genes and transcripts. Nucleic Acids Research 2008 Jan;36(Database issue):D793-9.

"Our clinical colleagues have seen congenital hand-heart syndromes for many years, in which the limbs and the heart have defects," says Hans-Georg Simon, PhD, Developmental Biology Program. His work on embryonic limb development showed why.



Bimber B et al.

Differential regulation of Tbx5 protein expression and sub-cellular localization during heart development. Developmental Biology 2007 Feb 1;302(1):230-42.

In the mid-1990s a quarter of children tested in Chicago had lead levels of 10 micrograms per deciliter or greater. Our work helped push Chicago to recommend screening children at younger ages and more frequently.

—Helen Binns, MD, MPH, Director, Pediatric Practice Research Group



Binns HJ et al.

Interpreting and managing blood lead levels of less than 10 microg/dL in children and reducing childhood exposure to lead: recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention. Pediatrics. 2007 Nov;120(5):e1285-98.

Issues to watch:

The American Academy of Pediatrics has identified the following children's health topics as critical:

- Asthma and allergies
- Attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity
- Autism
- Breastfeeding
- Car safety seats
- Disaster preparedness
- Ear infections
- Emergency care
- Immunizations
- Obesity
- Secondhand smoke

The [Food Allergy Project, Inc.](#) studies this complex condition in a large cohort of children and families.

John Lavigne, PhD, directs the NIH-funded study [Improving Medication Use for ADHD in Primary Care.](#)

Laura Herzing, PhD, pursues the genetic causes of [autism](#).

[The Center on Obesity Management and Prevention](#) addresses all aspects of childhood overweight.

The Mary Ann & J. Milburn Smith Child Health Research Program studies environmental, genetic and gene-environment interactions, including [secondhand smoking](#), that may impact common conditions of childhood.



Children's Memorial Research Center is the only organized center of chick, newt and zebrafish research activity in the Chicago region.