The University of Florida Health Shands Children’s Hospital is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as Top in Florida and No. 11 in the nation for pediatric cardiology and heart surgery. UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital continues to achieve excellent survival outcomes for congenital heart surgeries among medium-volume centers, according to a December 2018 report published by STS. Among the largest heart transplant programs in Florida and one of the largest in the southeastern United States, the UF Health Congenital Heart Center continues to have outstanding outcomes and exceeds national survival rates.

At UF Health, our multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses and clinical staff believe in family- and patient-centered care. Located within the UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, the team strives to ensure that patients and their families are taken care of throughout the patient’s treatment. From unborn babies to adults, the team provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for patients with congenital and acquired heart disease at all stages of life.
**Top Highlights Over the Past Decade:**

**2006:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center opens and is led by its first director, Mark Bleiweis, MD.

**2006:** UF Health becomes the first in Florida to use the Berlin Heart® implant as a bridge to transplant.

**2011:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center is ranked among the Top 50 pediatric cardiology and heart surgery centers by U.S. News & World Report for the first time.

**2013:** UF Health physicians perform a heart-lung transplant in their youngest infant.

**2013:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center becomes the first program in Florida to implant the SynCardia Total Artificial Heart™ in a 16-year-old patient.

**2013:** UF Health starts the Single Ventricle Home Monitoring Program and joins the NPC-CIC to decrease mortality of infants with single ventricle in congenital heart disease.

**2014:** UF Health opens its state-of-the-art Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

**2015:** 3D printing is introduced for patients with complex congenital heart disease.

**2016:** The UF Health Congenital Heart Center celebrates 10 years in operation.

**2017:** The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients releases its biannual report showing UF Health Shands Hospital’s pediatric heart transplant program experienced zero deaths within a two-and-a-half year period.


---

**Our Specialized Team & Services**

The UF Health Congenital Heart Center employs a specialized team of one pediatric cardiovascular surgeon, 18 pediatric cardiologists, six pediatric critical care specialists, two adult congenital cardiologists, one electrophysiologist, four pediatric cardiology fellows, one pediatrician and a multidisciplinary group of dedicated faculty and staff.

**The UF Health Congenital Heart Center specializes in:**

- Treatment of congenital and acquired heart disease in neonates, infants, children and adults
- Fetal echocardiography and prenatal diagnosis of congenital heart disease
- Heart failure and cardiomyopathies
- Pediatric heart, lung and heart-lung transplantation
- Ventricular-assist devices, including the Berlin Heart®, HeartWare® and SynCardia Total Artificial Heart®
- Melody transcatheter pulmonary hypertension valve placement
- Treatment of heart defects in patients with connective tissue disease, such as Marfan syndrome.
- Interventional and diagnostic cardiology
- Noninvasive cardiac imaging
- Invasive electrophysiology
- Adult congenital heart disease

**UF Health Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit**

In FY19, 287 unique patients were cared for in the PCICU.

**The PCICU is equipped with:**

- Large, private patient rooms, each with its own private bathroom and shower
- Child-friendly décor and atmosphere
- Ceiling-mounted exam lights and ceiling-mounted patient-lifting systems
- In-unit gym as an option for physical, occupational and speech therapies
- Nurse alcoves in corridors with state-of-the-art monitoring systems for patient observations

Inpatient services are offered through Child Life, UF Health Shands Arts in Medicine and Streetlight, and features include pet visitation, Bravery Beds, playrooms and social work services.

---

Kimberly Clawson, Business Development Manager, Pediatrics
Gainesville, Florida
davkim@shands.ufl.edu • 352.316.7046