



# Children's Health

A publication for those who support children's health research, education, and care at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital

## Bridging research and care

*University's new children's hospital to open its doors April 30*

Coming soon to a neighborhood near you: a state-of-the-art children's hospital in a vibrant package.

It's hard to miss the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital along Riverside Avenue in Minneapolis. With its special anodized steel exterior, the building changes color throughout the day depending on how the light hits it. This material has been used on only one other building nationwide.

Beyond its physical brilliance, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital will become a beacon of hope for children and their families when it opens its doors to patients on April 30.

"We've tried to create, throughout the hospital, little moments of 'Wow!'—where a child will see something and, even if it's for a split second, they forget they're a patient and just feel like a child," says Russ Williams, vice president of professional services at the hospital.

### Special care for special kids

Because it's affiliated with the state's only academic health center, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital plays a crucial role in conducting research focused on finding better ways to treat, cure, and prevent childhood disease.

The treatment protocols and devices developed by our physician-researchers are adopted by community hospitals and pediatricians throughout the country and the world. And because these advances happen here, Minnesota patients benefit from them first.

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Family honors loved ones by 'adopting' a hospital room  
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Photo by Brady Willette

## Bridging research and care *(continued from cover)*

As a result, families with the sickest children often come to University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital for the treatment they can't get anywhere else.

### Designed to foster healing

Some ill children must stay in the hospital for weeks or months at a time. For these children and their parents, the hospital room becomes the family's home away from home.

That's why hospital leaders believed it was so crucial to ask patients and their families what they wanted in a hospital—and then build the safe, healing environment that the kids deserve.

In the new hospital facility, private, cheerful rooms that are 35 percent larger than the national standard include a wall of windows and space for parents to sleep, store their clothes, work on a computer, and fix and share simple meals.

These exceptional rooms are designed to improve outcomes and accelerate healing and can be sponsored by individuals or companies through the Adopt A Room program.

### A cheerful environment

Outside of each individual patient room, the hospital hallways and common spaces incorporate a "Passport to Discovery" theme,

which is meant to tie into the University's mission of being "Driven to Discover."

For starters, there's a large compass mosaic on the lobby floor. Then each level of the hospital highlights a different type of wildlife habitat and animal mascot. The third floor, for example, is "grasslands," decorated with warm orange-yellow paint and giraffe and elephant animal mascots.

Photo by Kristie Anderson



Photo by David Sherman



## By the numbers

96

patient beds in the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital

50

pediatric and maternal specialties available through the hospital

227,000

square feet of space in the replacement facility

100

years since the University's hospital admitted its first pediatric patient



Each habitat theme is reflected in several places throughout the floor—from the backlit scenes that greet people coming off of the elevator to the animal silhouettes on patients' room signs.

Most important, the new building fills a need for a space that is truly focused on children and families, says Joseph Neglia, M.D., M.P.H., physician-in-chief of University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital and chair of the Medical School's Department of Pediatrics.

"We now have an outstanding physical space that reflects the quality of care we have been providing for years," he says. "This new facility lets us offer families a whole new level of service."



Photos by David Sherman

**Far left:** A kiosk in the new building tells visitors about the hospital's namesake, Kurt Amplatz, M.D., a pioneer in the use of imaging technology for minimally invasive procedures. **Left:** Joseph Neglia, M.D., M.P.H., is physician-in-chief of University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. **Above (top):** A nurse shows a model room in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. **Above:** The fourth floor of the hospital is decorated in a rainforest theme.

## \$11.2 million gift to transform pediatric behavioral health units

University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital received an \$11.2 million gift from its lead donor, Caroline Amplatz, J.D., to help renovate the hospital's children's and adolescent behavioral health units.

"I am making this gift in honor and in memory of my mother, Maxine Heinrich Amplatz, M.D., who was a pioneering physician who courageously battled depression," Amplatz says. "I strongly believe children facing mental health challenges deserve as fine a care environment as children experiencing medical health concerns. As a community, we must step up and do more to recognize and support those facing mental illness. Behavioral health impacts us all."



Maxine Heinrich Amplatz, M.D.

The gift, which follows a \$50 million gift Caroline Amplatz made to the hospital two years ago, sets in motion the initial phases of a \$16.5 million renovation effort.

"Ms. Amplatz's commitment to impacting the lives of children facing physical and mental health challenges is truly amazing," says Kathie Taranto, president of University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. "Her gift will allow the state's premier academic children's hospital to offer the state-of-the-art care environment these children need."

Home to one of the nation's largest behavioral health programs for children and adolescents, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital provides comprehensive mental health, substance abuse, and dual-disorder services for children and adolescents. With 74 beds and outpatient program services, including partial hospital, day treatment, and community-based substance abuse treatment programs, the children's and adolescent behavioral health units provide care to more than 3,400 youth and their families each year.

# A global impact

## University physician-researchers' work is making a difference far beyond Minnesota's borders

There are places in the world where nearly seven in 100 newborns do not live more than a month, where a vast majority of births take place without skilled birth attendants, and where one in five children never lives to see his or her fifth birthday.

These stark realities fuel the drive of physician-scientists in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

"When you actually visit these countries and see firsthand the tremendous health issues children face, it's life-changing," says Chandy John, M.D., M.S., director of the department's Division of Global Pediatrics. "You can't do this kind of work and not be moved by it."

### Understanding malaria

Working with colleagues in Uganda and Kenya, John and his team have made the University an international leader in the study of malaria, a disease that accounts for approximately one in five of all childhood deaths in Africa.

"We're seeking to find answers to basic

questions—such as how malaria occurs and progresses, whether it can be prevented, and how it's best treated," says John.

In Kenya, his research is focused on understanding why malaria is more prevalent in the country's highlands than in other regions.

"These areas don't have year-round transmission where people are exposed to malaria every day, but they can have severe epidemics," he says. "Determining why epidemics occur should provide more clues about what we can do to prevent them."

In Uganda, John is studying cerebral malaria, an acute type of malaria that affects the brain. His studies have shown that one in four children with this type of malaria develops long-term cognitive impairment.

Exactly how this happens and what can be done to reverse or minimize the damage is an emerging area of study. If researchers can identify treatments that help protect children's cognitive abilities, John says, they'll have a better quality of life and a greater chance of reaching their full potential as contributing members of society.

### Making diabetes manageable

While the widespread impact of malaria in developing countries demands considerable resources, other diseases that are generally considered manageable in the United States contribute to the global children's health crisis.

One such illness is type 1 diabetes. With the leadership and expertise of University pediatric endocrinologist Toni Moran, M.D., a long-term, collaborative relationship with Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, is addressing the need for better diagnosis and treatment of type 1 diabetes in children.

The actual incidence of diabetes in Uganda is likely five times higher

*Top: Chandy John, M.D., M.S., shows a medical officer in Uganda how to look for changes in the retina caused by malaria.*

*Bottom: Pediatrics resident Geoffrey Oburu, M.D., talks with a Ugandan teenager about managing her type 1 diabetes.*





## A resource at home and abroad, U's International Adoption Clinic celebrates 25 years

Ten-month-old Margo Freeman couldn't have looked any healthier. Yet, when Don and Robyn Freeman learned that their adoptive baby girl was waiting for them in Ethiopia, they sought an expert evaluation of her medical records and advice on what to expect when adopting a baby from a foreign country.

"We were already in love with her just from seeing her picture, so there was probably nothing that would have changed our minds," says Robyn.

Still, they wondered, based on the medical information they received, what challenges might lie ahead?

They turned to the International Adoption Clinic (IAC) at the University of Minnesota. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, the clinic was the first of its kind in the country and helped to establish the field of adoption medicine as a specialty in pediatrics. It has become a model

for other clinics around the country, garnered an international reputation, and created a greater understanding of the special medical and developmental needs of adopted children from foreign countries.

The IAC staff sees 300 to 400 children in the clinic each year and conducts roughly 1,500 pre-adoption health assessments annually.

As it turned out, the Freeman family learned that Margo had tuberculosis, which was treated successfully in Ethiopia. Today Margo is a thriving 17-month-old. "As she continues to grow, the IAC will play a key role in her development," Robyn says.

*The Freeman family: Robyn, Margo, Don, and Myles*

*Photo by Eliesha Johnson of Photogen, Inc.*



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than what is reported because children aren't always brought to medical facilities, Moran says.

"The majority of children with diabetes are dying without being treated," she says. "A modest amount of education can make a huge difference."

At Mulago Hospital, University physician-researchers are helping to create health care teams to treat chronic illnesses, train providers to become diabetes educators, establish pediatric insulin protocols, and develop basic medical record systems.

"Our work indicates that physicians from developing nations can make a difference in improving the care of chronic illness without an unrealistically large investment of time or money," says Moran.

Surely that's an investment worth making.

## Bowling for a cause

Nearly 30 teams participated in Dave Lee's Gutter Bowl 5, presented by WCCO Radio, raising \$94,000. Proceeds from the event, which took place February 18 at Brunswick Zone XL in Brooklyn Park, helped to fund the WCCO Adopt A Room at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.



# A Rosie conclusion to a long journey



Photo courtesy of Children's Cancer Research Fund

Cancer survivor Rosie Jones and her doctor, Brenda Weigel, M.D.

Any child diagnosed with cancer faces the battle of her life. But what if her family lives in an unstable country and cannot see a doctor? That's what happened to Rosie Jones.

Albert and Koliju Jones knew something was wrong with their baby girl in early 2004.

"Her abdomen was getting large and very firm on the right side, and she complained of increasing pain," recalls Albert.

The family lived in the West African nation of Liberia. "Our country was in civil unrest and medical services were not available," he says. "We were just living with [the problem] until we had the opportunity to come to America."

The luck of an immigration lottery gave them their opportunity. In June 2004, the Joneses moved to Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where other family members had settled.

After an exam at a local medical center, Rosie was referred to University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. At just under 2 years old,

Rosie was diagnosed with Wilms' tumor, an aggressive kidney cancer, which had spread to her lungs and liver.

Under the care of pediatric cancer specialist Brenda Weigel, M.D., Rosie went through an intense 16-month treatment program that included surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation.

Rosie finished treatment in October 2005. Her family remained strong and hopeful throughout the battle. "There is always hope, even when there seems to be none," says Albert. "We never knew we were going to come to the U.S.A., but we had hoped that a cure was possible."

Today Rosie is a healthy third grader who excels in school and loves ballet dancing and singing.

Her parents credit Rosie's recovery to her health care providers—from Weigel and the entire medical staff to the social workers, occupational and physical therapists, and lab technicians.

"The treatments were just blessings," Albert says.

## Champions for Children Golf Classic Monday, June 20 Windsong Farm Golf Club, Independence

Join local celebrities for this third annual event, hosted by Minnesota Viking Steve Hutchinson, to benefit University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. To learn more, visit [www.mmf.umn.edu/events/champions](http://www.mmf.umn.edu/events/champions).

## Time to Fly 2011 Saturday, June 25 Harriet Island Regional Park, St. Paul

Support pediatric cancer research at the University by attending this Children's Cancer Research Fund event, featuring 5K and 10K runs, a family-friendly 5K walk, and a "fun run" for kids. To learn more, visit [www.childrenscancer.org/timetofly](http://www.childrenscancer.org/timetofly).



## WineFest No. 16 – A Toast to Children's Health Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, The Depot, Minneapolis

Celebrate the renowned University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital and sample wines from international luminaries from South America, France, and Spain while enjoying menu selections from some of the Twin Cities' finest restaurants. Join honorary event chairs Teresa and Ron Sit in thanking this year's award recipients—University of Minnesota first lady Susan Hagstrum, Ph.D., Clear Channel Outdoor, and Anthony Ostlund Baer & Louwagie—for their support of children's health. For more information or to buy tickets, visit [www.thewinefest.org](http://www.thewinefest.org). This year's WineFest artist is HeeJune Shin.



# A special gift

Family creates Ben & Bob's Room to honor loved ones and make the hospital more like home for young patients



Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

Ben, Vivian, and Bob Calmenson in 2008

Bob Calmenson lived decades longer than doctors predicted. But when he died at 60 in 2009, his life seemed far too short to family and friends. "He left us too soon," say his sisters, Margie Howell and Janet Lesgold.

Yet the spirit of Bob, and his father, Ben, who died at age 90 just 13 days before Bob died, will live forever in Ben & Bob's Room, one of the patient rooms designed to feel more like home under the Adopt A Room program at the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Though Ben lived to age 90, it was Bob who truly beat the odds. He was born with a congenital heart defect and not expected to make it past age 20. However, surgery as an adolescent at the University's former Variety Club Heart Hospital helped extend his life.

In gratitude, Ben and his wife, Vivian, established the Robert L. Calmenson Pediatric Cardiology Research Fund when Bob turned 50. Now members of the entire Calmenson family have given \$200,000 to create Ben

& Bob's Room. It and other privately funded "adopted rooms" promise to provide a vastly different experience than Bob and his family had when he was hospitalized.

Vivian remembers small, shared rooms and restricted visiting hours. Family members were not allowed to stay overnight. The situation left a lot to be desired. And that's why the Adopt A Room program appealed so much to the Calmensons.

"This is a way of paying it forward," says Laurie Calmenson, Bob's widow.

Adopted rooms will be private and large, with mini-fridges, microwaves, tables for eating together and doing homework, and sleeper sofas. These rooms also will feature technology that allows children to control the lighting, TV, inter-room communications, and video conferencing that keeps them connected to school, family, and friends.

Both men surely would approve of Ben & Bob's Room, says Lesgold. "If they're looking down on us, they would be very pleased."

To learn more about how you or your company can sponsor an Adopt A Room, contact Lauren Moore at 612-626-7946 or [lmoore@mmf.umn.edu](mailto:lmoore@mmf.umn.edu).

**M**ore than 6,000 children in Minnesota live with the pain of arthritis and other rheumatic diseases. But the state has only six pediatric rheumatologists to provide specialty care for these young patients.

A nationwide shortage of pediatric rheumatologists prompted the Minneapolis-based Wasie Foundation to take part in a challenge grant: If the University of Minnesota raised half of the \$1 million needed to start a pediatric rheumatology fellowship program, The Wasie Foundation would provide the other half.

Now the match is complete, and the fellowship program is in full swing. The program's first fellow began training in 2009. A second enrolled last summer, and a third will begin this summer.

"Our board ... really wanted to see the program get going," says Jan Preble, The Wasie Foundation's vice president of programs. "Mostly we're just grateful that there will be more people in practice to serve the children in need."

The three-year fellowship includes one year of clinical training and two years devoted to research.

"We hope that by training more pediatric rheumatologists for the region, we will help to ensure that children with rheumatic diseases have timely access to the subspecialty physicians they need," says pediatric rheumatologist and fellowship program coleader Bryce Binstadt, M.D., Ph.D.

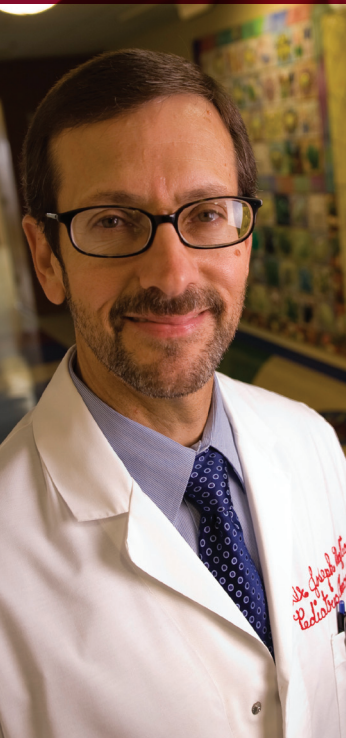
**New fellowship program helps ease shortage of pediatric rheumatologists**

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## A new hospital, a new outlook



Joseph P. Neglia, M.D., M.P.H., a familiar face in the Department of Pediatrics, took the reins as department chair and physician-in-chief at University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital in January. Part of the University community since 1984, Neglia knows well the opportunities—and challenges—that lie ahead.

**You must enjoy working at the University. What has kept you here for the last 25-plus years?**

The opportunity to work with an outstanding faculty has probably been the driver. It's also the academic programs that create new knowledge and new care paradigms that have made this a personally and professionally rewarding career.

**What excites you most about being physician-in-chief right now?**

We have a brand-new, child-focused hospital building and new clinic space designed for children and families. It is our chance to offer our families a level of care and service that we've never been able to deliver before.

**What challenges do you foresee for the department and the hospital?**

In the long haul, we need to invest wisely in the strategies that are going to deliver for our patients down the line, and those investments need to be spread across all of the missions that we have—basic research, translational research, education, and clinical programs. The community has to come together to make this happen. That is critically important.

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