

# Heart-Centered Care

**The innovative pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery programs at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Children's Center, treat congenital heart defects with unparalleled skill, compassion, and state-of-the-art interventions.**



**W**hen parents learn their unborn baby or child has a serious health condition or congenital heart defect requiring intervention, joy turns immediately to fear. Many scour the country for the highest quality care possible, often looking for answers far from home.

For residents of Northern California, however, specialized care is close to home. Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Children's Center, provides innovative, state-of-the-art, comprehensive care to 7,000 infants, children, and teens annually. A referral center covering a wide geographic area assures that help is close to home for patients from the Oregon border to Merced County.

"Our center has provided patient- and family-centered care for more than 50 years," says Dr. Daniel Falco, medical director of the pediatric intensive care unit. "In addition to offering comprehensive services for children, our team of multi-specialized, board-certified physicians performs complex interventions in several areas including pediatric cardiology,

pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, and pediatric and neonatal intensive care.

"If you have a child with a congenital heart defect, we have a leading-edge, multidisciplinary program ready to care for your family. Our goal is to see your little one healthy, strong, and living life to the fullest."

## World-class Innovation and Advanced Care

"We're proud to bring many pediatric cardiothoracic treatment 'firsts' to our

region," says Dr. Stanley Wright, medical director of pediatric cardiology. "Sophisticated, state-of-the-art diagnostics and interventions ultimately mean more peace of mind for parents and better outcomes for children.

"For example, no mother wants the news

her unborn baby may have a congenital heart defect, but our ability to perform advanced diagnostic ultrasounds of the fetal heart provides an opportunity to prepare families regarding the care of their newborn. Before the birth of their child, parents consult with pediatric cardiologists, pediatric cardiothoracic



surgeons, and neonatologists and tour our hospital. These experiences enhance their understanding of their baby's condition and provide them with confidence and comfort knowing their child will receive excellent care. Our neonatal and pediatric intensive care units offer unparalleled treatment options including the area's only full-time pediatric electrophysiologist and the area's only Gold Level Center of Excellence in life support from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization. When the unthinkable happens, you want a hospital with the best track record of both innovation and success—that's us."

## Collaborative, Comprehensive Care

Together with his team, Dr. Teimour Nasirov, medical director of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, helped establish the region's first and only minimally invasive pediatric cardiothoracic surgery program. He and his colleague Dr. Naruhito Watanabe brought pediatric heart surgery using a very small lateral incision to California.

"Minimally invasive surgery with a lateral incision means an invisible scar and faster recovery time for our patients," says Dr. Nasirov. "With earlier, better interventions, babies and children are now living into late adulthood. We created a comprehensive care model within Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Children's Center, where pediatric specialists partner with adult cardiologists and surgeons to treat complex heart conditions from the prenatal period to adulthood."

"All of the care team members at our Children's Center are both skilled and passionate about improving outcomes and saving lives," says David Cheney, CEO of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. "It is an honor to work with people who care for your children's heart like their own."

 **Sutter Health**  
Sutter Medical Center  
Children's Center



**2825 Capitol Avenue**  
**Sacramento, CA 95816**  
**877-SMC-4KID**  
**sutterchildrenscenter.org**