ON THE COVER

One of a Kind

This summer, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center became the first pediatric hospital in the St. Louis metro area with a state of the art hybrid cardiac suite. (From left to right) Interventional Cardiologists Saar Danon, MD, and Saadeh Jureidini, MD, along with Cardiothoracic Surgeon Andrew Fiore, MD, combine catheterization and open heart surgery in one space. The addition of the hybrid cardiac suite at Cardinal Glennon offers endless possibilities in terms of cardiac care and repair.

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SSM Cardinal Glennon Welcomes Faculty

Samer Elbabaa, MD
Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery

"Our door is open 24/7 to community physicians, surgical specialists and their patients. We welcome all referrals and questions." – Dr. Elbabaa

With more than 20 years experience in critical care, Dr. Elbabaa’s clinical practice will focus on all aspects of general and sub-specialized pediatric neurosurgery. His clinical areas of interest include pediatric brain and spinal tumors, minimally-invasive endoscopic treatment of hydrocephalus, pediatric craniofacial surgery, cerebrovascular and skull base surgery, epilepsy surgery, and cranio-cervical junction anomalies.

Dr. Elbabaa’s training and clinical experience enables him to provide a balanced approach to a wide variety of pediatric neurosurgical disorders ranging from complex microsurgical treatments to minimally-invasive endoscopic techniques.

In addition to clinical advancements, Dr. Elbabaa also plans to enhance minimally-invasive endoscopic neurosurgical research efforts at Cardinal Glennon and Saint Louis University. "One of my goals is to improve techniques and approaches in pediatric cranial and spinal surgery while building a state of the art neuroendoscopy program," Dr. Elbabaa says, adding, “My team and I can assure primary care physicians that we will provide their patients with top notch care, assure their satisfaction, and practice good communication regarding the status of their patients.”

Lia Lowrie, MD
Director of Critical Care Medicine
Professor of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine

"Providing care to critically ill children is a team effort, and the primary care physician is an important member of the team. It is my job to include them in decision making and transition." – Dr. Lowrie

SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center is pleased to welcome Lia Lowrie, MD, Director of Critical Care Medicine at Cardinal Glennon and Professor of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. Lowrie is also the Associate Chair of Quality for the Department of Pediatrics at Cardinal Glennon.

Dr. Lowrie comes to Cardinal Glennon from Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, where she held the positions of Chief of Pediatric Critical Care, Director of Pediatric ECMO Program and Associate Professor of Pediatrics.

With more than 20 years experience in critical care, Dr. Lowrie says her main focus at Glennon is to “help move an excellent pediatric intensive care unit to the next level,” in terms of infrastructure, research and medical student and resident training.

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SSM Cardinal Glennon Welcomes Faculty

Lia Lowrie, MD continued from page 1

As the Department of Pediatrics Associate Chair of Quality, Dr. Lowrie will set and achieve quality metrics goals specific to medical care for children. “Quality pediatric care is best achieved by a seamless patient-centered approach across all aspects of care — outpatient and inpatient — and quality metrics are great tools to help us continue to provide all-encompassing care for children,” Dr. Lowrie says.

Dr. Lowrie’s research interests include pediatric sedation, central line infection prevention, non-invasive monitoring and model of care outcomes. Since 1990, Dr. Lowrie has been a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and currently serves as a coach for its Paragon Critical Care Quality Implementation Program. She also has been a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics for more than 15 years.

Saar Danon, MD
Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

“I will do my best to treat every patient with the best possible care, the same type of care I would give my own children. And, I will make every effort to keep the primary care physician informed of their patient’s status.” — Dr. Danon

The Division of Cardiology at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center welcomes Saar Danon, MD, Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist at Cardinal Glennon and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. Danon previously held the positions of Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, Irvine and Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist at Children’s Hospital Orange County.

“I was looking to join a program that was more cutting-edge,” Dr. Danon says of his decision to join the medical faculty at Cardinal Glennon. “I was impressed by the growth and improvement of Cardinal Glennon's cardiac catheterization program, as well as the involvement and support of both Division Director Dr. Kenneth Schowengerdt and Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Andrew Fiore. This is an opportunity to help further develop the existing cath program and work with an excellent and experienced Interventional Cardiologist, Dr. Saadeh Jureidini.”

Dr. Danon plans to resume his animal research to develop new transcatheter procedures and devices, as well as clinical research of stent angioplasty in small children. “My main goal is to continue to provide exceptional care to increase the number of children we can help through catheterization procedures by performing new and improved catheter-based interventions,” he says.

SSM Cardinal Glennon and Saint Louis University School of Medicine Physicians Named Best Doctors in America® for 2011-2012

According to www.bestdoctors.com, the Best Doctors in America® list includes the nation’s most respected specialists and outstanding primary care physicians. The list represents the top 5 percent of doctors in the United States with more than 46,000 doctors in over 400 specialties and subspecialties across the country.

Congratulations to the following SSM Cardinal Glennon and Saint Louis University School of Medicine recipients:

Saleem Abdulrauf, MD, Neurosurgery
Gary M. Albers, MD, Pulmonology
Teresa L. Andreone, MD, Critical Care
Stephen J. Barenkamp, MD, Infectious Disease
Craig W. Belsha, MD, Nephrology
Stephen R. Braddock, MD, Medical Genetics
David S. Brink, MD, Pathology
Burt Bromberg, MD, Cardiology
Oscar Cruz, MD, Ophtalmology
Bradley Davitt, MD, Ophtalmology
David P. Dempsher, MD, Endocrine
John F. Eisenbeis, MD, Otolaryngology
Elizabeth Engel, MD, Orthopaedics
William S. Ferguson, MD, Hematology/Oncology
Casimir F. Firlit, MD, Urology
Robert E. Fleming, MD, Neonatology
Thomas M. Foy, MD, Gastroenterology
Jeremy Garrett, MD, Critical Care
Thomas J. Geller, MD, Neurology
M. Susan Heaney, MD, Pediatrics
Saadeh B. Jureidini, MD, Cardiology
William J. Keenan, MD, Neonatology
Allen P. Knutsen, MD, Allergy
Atchawee Luiriri, MD, Radiology
Jay E. Noffsinger, MD, Sports Medicine
Blakeslee E. Noyes, MD, Pulmonology
Dennis M. O’Connor, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Diseases
John R. Peter, MD, Emergency Medicine
Howard Place, MD, Orthopaedics
Jill K. Powell, MD, Gynecology
Aki S. Puryear, MD, Orthopaedics
Robert S. Ream, MD, Critical Care
Jerry Rosenblum, MD, Gastroenterology
H. Farouk Sadiq, MD, Neonatology
Anthony J. Scalzo, MD, Emergency Medicine
Kenneth Schowengerdt, MD, Cardiology
Angela M. Sharkey, MD, Cardiology
Elaine Siegfried, MD, Dermatology
John A. Stith, MD, Otolaryngology
Jeffrey Teckman, MD, Gastroenterology
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The physicians of SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center and Saint Louis University School of Medicine.
What’s New at Cardinal Glennon? Check out 24/7 Glennon for Weekly Updates!

24/7 Glennon provides community physicians with timely, accessible updates about new and improved SSM Cardinal Glennon services. The informational Web page is updated weekly with news that helps you and your patients. The best part, you can check the page any day, any time for the latest news you can use.

To keep you in the loop, we send monthly e-mail updates with links to pertinent posts. Send your e-mail address (and your office manager’s too) to Jessica Hedges at Jessica_Hedges@ssmh.com.

NOTE: We respect your privacy and are sensitive to the amount of electronic communication you receive. Your e-mail address will not be shared with anyone outside the Cardinal Glennon Physician Services Department.

Diversions
Andrew Sutton  Physician Services Manager

Dining

Peel Wood-Fired Pizza is gaining acclaim much more quickly than they’re adding seats for the throngs of customers flocking to the Edwardsville spot from all over the Metro St. Louis area.

My wife Tricia and I arrived shortly after 7:00 p.m., and after a short wait and a delicious Sierra Nevada Pale Ale at the bar, were seated at a shaded table on the patio. Peel offers more than 30 domestic and imported beers, including a few hard-to-find imports on tap, as well as a nice lineup of local brew, and I was sad to leave the bar.

We started with the wood-fired rosemary foccacia, and took a leap of faith with the dipping sauce (parmesan cream) recommended by the waitress. Wow she was right! We devoured the warm and toasty slices, lathering them with the parmesan. I ended up scraping the sides of the bowl with my pizza crust, but more on that later.

All of the pizzas are cooked in an 800 degree oven, and are done within 90 seconds!

I chose the Ricotta pizza. A warm, toasted crust is topped with Italian sausage, wild mushrooms, ricotta and mozzarella cheeses and roma tomatoes. The sausage was rich, and played very nicely against the creaminess of the ricotta and the earthiness of the mushrooms.

Tricia enjoyed the Chevre pizza, which combines fresh goat cheese, spinach, roma tomatoes, chopped artichokes, pesto and extra-virgin olive oil.

After I finished off the last of the parmesan cream dipping sauce with my remaining pizza crust (I know, pathetic), I was too stuffed for dessert.

Maybe next time. We will most definitely be back.

Beverages

2007 Sbragia Family Sauvignon Blanc-Home Ranch

The Sbragia Family Sauvignon Blanc-Home Ranch is sourced from the family’s “home ranch”, a five acre parcel in the East Dry Creek area in Sonoma. The grapes benefit from the unusually cool onsite temperatures. Aged in 100% stainless steel, this crisp wine shows a lemon nose, a deep yellow color, and a little more body heft than most sauvignon blanc wines. A touch of honey on the mid-palate leads to a pleasing and sustained finish of lemon and green apple. Very tasty and available for around $15.00.
SSM Cardinal Glennon Hybrid Cardiac Suite, Only One of Its Kind in St. Louis Metro Area

The hybrid cardiac suite enables cardiac surgery and catheterization procedures to be carried out simultaneously in one space.

The hybrid cardiac suite is equipped with a state of the art Toshiba biplane system including flat-panel imaging technology, 3D rotational angiography and fluoroscopic recording. See page 6 to learn more.
When it comes to interventional cardiology, Saadeh B. Jureidini, MD, SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center Interventional Cardiologist and Saint Louis University School of Medicine Professor of Pediatrics, explains that in many cases, less is more. “The least amount of intervention is often associated with the best outcome,” Dr. Jureidini says. “Interventional procedures lessen trauma, shorten duration of hospital stay and care, and the results are good.” But in all cases that require cardiac care at SSM Cardinal Glennon, there is no shortage of experience, expertise, lifesaving treatment and innovative technology.

Dr. Jureidini has practiced interventional techniques at Cardinal Glennon since 1984, at a time when the specialty was first emerging. Since then, the benefits of intervention have drastically increased and continue to grow and improve. The foremost development in the field is the hybrid procedure, and Cardinal Glennon is leading the St. Louis metro area with its first pediatric hybrid cardiac suite.

Cardiac patients at Cardinal Glennon are now reaping the benefits of a facility that offers the ability to perform both surgical and interventional procedures at one time, in one place. “The hybrid cardiac suite allows the surgeon and interventional cardiologist to work in one room where they have the advantages of both imaging capability and surgical equipment,” says Andrew Fiore, MD, Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Cardinal Glennon and Professor of Surgery at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. This state of the art imaging technology and real time collaboration between specialties provides more options in treating congenital heart disease.
“The hybrid cardiac suite offers a significant advantage in terms of types of procedures that can be performed,” says Kenneth Schowengerdt, MD, Medical Director of the Dorothy and Larry Dallas Heart Center at Cardinal Glennon and Professor of Pediatrics at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. “In the suite, the surgeon can open the chest, giving the interventionalist direct visualization of a vessel or allowing for direct placement of a device that may not have been possible with a conventional catheterization procedure.”

Dr. Jureidini agrees that the opportunities the new suite present continue to improve patient care significantly, saying, “The versatility of the lab is fantastic. We can now close many different defects without stopping the heart.” For example, the congenital defect, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, often requires a three-step surgery. But in many cases, the first stage palliative procedure can be performed in the hybrid cardiac suite. “This eliminates the risk of putting those babies on cardiopulmonary bypass and allows us to provide a whole new facet of care for small babies with this condition,” Dr. Schowengerdt says.

The all-encompassing hybrid cardiac suite will serve as the main space for cardiac catheterizations, providing flexible scheduling for catheterizations in the hybrid suite or the cardiac catheterization lab, which was new to Glennon in 2005. The addition of the suite and its capabilities, as well as a growing cardiology team of nine cardiologists, will allow for more than 250 procedures annually. Dr. Jureidini calls the cath spaces the “ultimate diagnostic place,” and like hybrid procedures, he says that many sole interventional approaches can cure a defect, or even reduce the need for surgery entirely.

INTERVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES CAN BE USED TO CORRECT THE FOLLOWING HEART DEFECTS:

- Coarctation of aorta
- Patent ductus arteriosus
- Atrial septal defects
- Ventricular septal defects
- Valvular stenosis
- Vessel stenosis, such as branch pulmonary artery stenosis
- Occlusion of unfavorable vascular communication, such as fistulas, veno-venous collaterals, arteriovenous communication, or arterial-arterial communication
Jayden Campbell, 3, received his second cardiac catheterization at Cardinal Glennon this past spring. After being air lifted from St. Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Ill to Cardinal Glennon 12-hours after birth, Jayden was diagnosed with hypoplastic right heart syndrome. Dr. Jureidini performed both catheterizations on Jayden for diagnostic assessment and collateral vessel coiling in preparation for his third and final surgery – the Fontan operation – which will complete the reconstruction of Jayden’s single ventricle defect. “Dr. Jureidini is great. Before the catheterizations, he explained the process step-by-step to ensure we had a complete understanding of the procedure,” says Anna Campbell, Jayden’s adoptive mother, adding, “Everyone at Glennon is great.”

Within the first month of his life, Jayden received care in the Dana Brown Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Cardinal Glennon. During this time, Anna and her husband David were fostering Jayden and extremely concerned for his overall well-being. “As foster parents, safety was a major concern for us. We were very pleased with the precautions that were in place and taken seriously with every rotation,” Anna says.

After two surgeries, hospital stays and check ups, the Campbells have since experienced their share of Cardinal Glennon; and while most prefer the comfort of their own home to a hospital, Anna says Cardinal Glennon provides a similar feeling. “We love Cardinal Glennon,” she says. “Every employee is friendly, helpful. If I look the least bit confused in the hallway, I’m always offered assistance. The hospital is bright and welcomes kids with entertaining features around every corner. Even the parking is convenient. These little details are a big deal for patients and their families.”

Consistent communication with the primary care physician is also a big deal for all parties involved. “My oldest daughter was seeing Dr. Babb, but with Jayden’s specialized needs, I wasn’t sure if he needed to be referred elsewhere,” Anna says, referring to Michelle Babb, MD, of Alton, Ill. “Dr. Fiore spoke highly of Dr. Babb and made me feel very comfortable keeping Jayden at Alton Multispecialists. She always goes over the notes with me that the cardiologists at Glennon relay to her. They do a great job at contacting Dr. Babb’s office immediately following Jayden’s appointments or procedures.”

In terms of primary care physician communication, Dr. Babb says Cardinal Glennon stands out from the rest. “I’ve worked
with other health care institutions that didn’t help prepare me to resume care of my patients after a hospitalization or procedure; but the cardiology team at Glennon always follows up,” Dr. Babb says, adding, “Dr. Fiore is fantastic. He calls me personally to review my patients’ notes in detail.”

The Division of Cardiology at Cardinal Glennon follows a strictly enforced standard protocol of reporting to the primary care physician after every patient encounter. But more often than not, the cardiology team goes above and beyond standard protocols for patients, their families and referring physicians alike.

During regular check ups at Glennon, Jayden sees M. Babak Rahimi, MD, Cardinal Glennon Pediatric Cardiologist and Saint Louis University School of Medicine Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. “Dr. Rahimi gave me one of his personal books to read and help me learn more about Jayden’s condition,” Anna, who teaches high school English and is an avid reader, says. “As Jayden gets older, I refer back to it more and more. My step mom even read it.”

Prior to Jayden’s first catheterization last summer, Anna recalls his display of typical toddler behavior. “I had some questions for Dr. Jureidini and Jayden was a little antsy. One of the nurses wheeled him around the halls in a red wagon to keep him entertained,” she says.

Beth Price, Cardiac Catheterization Nurse at Cardinal Glennon, prepped Jayden for his most recent cath. Within minutes, Beth had succeeded in bonding with Jayden and made him feel at ease. “Patient education starts at the bedside and continues all the way to the cath lab,” Beth says. “When we take a child to the lab, we treat them like our own.”
Another Glennon patient, Xavier Jones, 5, who received a cardiac catheterization this past spring, jumped right into Beth’s arms, smiling and waving goodbye to his mom upon entering the lab. Xavier was diagnosed prenatally with atrioventricular canal and Down syndrome at SSM St. Mary’s Health Center. Before he was a year old, Xavier had undergone two heart surgeries. “Not once, not twice, but numerous times the cardiologists at Glennon have worked a miracle on my child,” says Carlita Jones, Xavier’s mother. “I can’t imagine taking my son to another hospital.”

Unfortunately, Xavier’s cardiac problems are irreparable, explains Saar Danon, MD, Interventional Cardiologist at Cardinal Glennon and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Children with Down syndrome can not tolerate the Fontan procedure needed to complete the three-stage surgery to treat a single ventricle defect. But in these cases, intervention can help improve quality of life.

Dr. Danon met the Jones’ for the first time before performing Xavier’s catheterization. “I carry a note pad and pen, because I’m the type of person who asks a lot of questions,” Carlita says. “Dr. Danon was very thorough and helpful in explaining what types of intervention Xavier may need.” Fortunately for the Jones’, the cardiology team determined that Xavier did not require intervention at that time. This type of teamwork is one of the reasons Dr. Danon was attracted to the Division of Cardiology at Cardinal Glennon.

“The multidisciplinary collaboration at Cardinal Glennon is impressive,” Dr. Danon says. “Every Monday morning our team comes together – the cardiologists, surgeon, nurses, technicians – to discuss each patient we catheterized the previous week. The entire staff knows all of our patients well; they’re unbelievable.” Dr. Jureidini couldn’t agree more. “We are blessed to have a wonderful team of caring and experienced nurses and technicians. They keep the lab ticking,” he says.

Cardiac Catheterization Nurse Jodi Hundley has worked at Glennon for 11 years and says that the sense of team camaraderie at Glennon is unlike anything she’s experienced before. “We are working together for a common goal – to make a positive difference in the lives of our patients and their families.”
This summer, the cardiology team hopes to change Jayden Campbell’s life for the better, as Dr. Fiore will complete his final stage of surgical repair. “Dr. Fiore is a hard worker, great technical surgeon and his commitment to his patients is unmatched. He is more involved in the care of his patients than any surgeon I’ve come across,” Dr. Danon says. Having operated on Jayden and Xavier twice before, both the Campbell’s and Jones’ have a history with Dr. Fiore. “I love him,” Carlita says. “God has helped Dr. Fiore give my son a chance at life.”

With advanced comprehensive cardiac care, every day Cardinal Glennon patients are given a chance to lead a more healthful life. For Dr. Jureidini, that’s the best part about his job. “We are saving lots of lives,” he says.

Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Dr. Andrew Fiore
Q: You’ve practiced at Cardinal Glennon for nearly 20 years. What is it about Glennon that has kept you here?

A: The patients are number one at Glennon, and that is a unique feature of the institution – patient care before anything else. This philosophy is also consistent within the cardiology group. We all agree patient care is our top priority.

Q: What is the most challenging part about your job?

A: The sick patients that do not respond to our planning, despite advanced knowledge of pediatric cardiology. There are still a lot of unknowns, but we make advances every day and our understanding continues to expand.

Q: How does the cardiology team work together to provide the best possible care for our patients?

A: As a team, we develop and follow the most optimal plan of therapy for each of our patients. We communicate regularly with each other and discuss our patients during their multiple levels of treatment. If a change in treatment is needed, we come together as a group to determine the best option. In addition, we make ourselves available 24/7 to our patients for any of their needs.

Q: How have research and technological advances impacted the care of patients who require intervention?

A: We continue to develop new and improved devices. Guide wires have gotten better. Catheters have gotten smaller. Imaging equipment produces clearer images. Now with the hybrid cardiac suite, stents can be inserted in tiny stenotic arteries, and vascular structures that were once unreachable without surgery can be reached. In the future, we will be doing procedures for our patients that we haven’t thought of yet.
Kenneth Schowengerdt, MD, FAAP, FACC
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Renuka Peterson, MD
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Fellowship: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Jamie Sutherell, MD
MD: Medical College of Ohio
Residency: Washington University/St. Louis Children's Hospital
Fellowship: University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Lisa Bade, RTR
Jodi Hundley, RN
Beth Price, RN
Kathy Tinker, LPN

Interventional Cardiology Team (from left to right): Kathy Tinker, LPN; Saadeh Jureidini, MD; Beth Price, RN; Jodi Hundley, RN; Saar Danon, MD; Lisa Bade, RTR; Kenneth Schowengerdt, MD