Special Page 4 Feature

Colorectal Center for Children
Treating colorectal anomalies

Hospital Accolades
Children’s on U.S. News' Honor Roll

Gender and Sexual Development
Program offers care and counseling

New Lymphoma Center
Lemieux Foundation Donates $2.5M
The SUMMER 2014 issue of Pediatric INSIGHTS

In this issue of Pediatric INSIGHTS, learn how children with colorectal anomalies can get care close to home from world-renowned surgeon Luis De la Torre, MD, who leads the new Colorectal Center for Children at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. The center offers surgical solutions and teaches patients and families how to manage and adapt to their challenges with confidence.

In addition:

• Once again, Children’s is named to U.S. News & World Report’s Honor Roll of America’s Best Children’s Hospitals. Children’s ranks ninth on the Honor Roll and ranks among the top 25 in all 10 pediatric specialties.

• Children’s opens a Specialty Care Center in Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania, expanding the number of its centers offering local care for children in the region to six.

• The namesake foundation created by Mario Lemieux, Pittsburgh Penguins owner and a lymphoma survivor, pledges $2.5 million to establish the Mario Lemieux Lymphoma Center for Children and Young Adults along with $2.5 million from UPMC.

We welcome your feedback, thoughts, and story suggestions. Please share them with one of our physician liaisons, whose contact information you can find on page 3.
One of America's Top 10 Children's Hospitals
Children's Hospital Named One of U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals


Children's also ranks in each of the 10 pediatrics specialties ranked by the magazine. This is the fifth consecutive year Children's has been named to U.S. News' Honor Roll.

The Best Children's Hospitals rankings highlight the top 50 U.S. pediatric hospitals in each of 10 specialties: cancer; cardiology and heart surgery; diabetes and endocrinology; gastroenterology and GI surgery; neonatology; nephrology; neurology and neurosurgery; orthopaedics; pulmonology; and urology.

Children's ranked in the top 25 of all 10 specialties, including fifth in diabetes and endocrinology; sixth in gastroenterology and GI surgery; sixth in pulmonology; eighth in neonatology; and ninth in neurology and neurosurgery.

According to U.S. News, the rankings are intended to be a starting point for families who need to make critical decisions about where to seek care for children who need specialized pediatric health care.

“Our inclusion on the Honor Roll and our rankings in each of the 10 specialties speaks to the breadth and depth of our clinical programs,” says Christopher Gessner, Children's president. “It’s wonderful to see the expertise and commitment of our physicians, nurses, and other staff who make Children’s Hospital a global leader in pediatric health care recognized on a national stage.”

The 2014-15 Best Children's Hospitals rankings are online and also will be published in the U.S. News Best Hospitals 2015 guidebook, available in August.

Pittsburgh's Best Doctors
More than 130 physicians from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and Children's Community Pediatrics were listed in Pittsburgh Magazine's 2014 "Best Doctors" issue. The list was compiled by Best Doctors® and derived from the Best Doctors in America® database which includes the names and profiles of more than 45,000 of the best doctors in the United States. Check out the full listing at www.chp.edu/bestdoctors.
Extending Our Reach
Number of Children’s Hospital Specialty Care Centers grows to 6

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC continues to bring pediatric subspecialty care to its patient families, close to home.

Children’s Hospital’s newest Specialty Care Center opened in Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania, July 1, 2014. The Mt. Morris location joins other specialty care centers in Chippewa, Erie, Hermitage, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and Wheeling, West Virginia.

A number of hospital divisions will see patients at Mt. Morris. Child Neurology is currently sending specialists to Mt. Morris. Services that will start later this summer and into the fall are Allergy (including allergy testing), Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, General and Thoracic Surgery, Nephrology, Otolaryngology, and Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine.

The Specialty Care Center in Mt. Morris is at 120 Locust Ave. Ext., Mt. Morris, PA 15349. The phone number is 724-324-9004, and the fax is 724-324-9006. Full details are available at www.chp.edu/mtmorris.

South Fayette Advances
In late September 2014, Children’s South will move from Bethel Park to its new location in South Fayette Township, where it will offer expanded outpatient pediatric subspecialty care.

The new Children’s South will feature state-of-the-art pediatric radiology services, phlebotomy, behavioral health, and open gym and exam room space to allow for pediatric rehabilitative services. Full details, including a list of services that will be available at Children’s South in South Fayette, can be found online at www.chp.edu/southfayette. Patients will be seen at Children’s South in South Fayette starting Monday, Sept. 29, 2014.

Children’s Community Pediatrics–South Fayette, a general pediatrics practice, will move from its current location at 3117 Washington Pike to its new space at Children’s South.

The new Children’s South is at 205 Millers Run Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017, just off Interstate 79 and near State Route 50.

Get a sneak peek at the new Children’s South in South Fayette and meet representatives at an open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. RSVP for your preferred time slot for a self-guided tour at www.chp.edu/openhouse.
Gender and Sexual Development Program
Supporting young people with gender and sexual identity questions

For children and youth up to age 26 with questions around gender and sexual identity development, gender non-conforming behaviors, and transgender care, the Gender and Sexual Development Program at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC provides thorough clinical assessments, promotes shared decision making around treatment options, and connects patients and families to relevant resources and support in the community.

The program was founded in 2011 by Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine, and Selma Witchel, MD, of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology. It is a collaboration among those two divisions as well as the Division of Pediatric Behavioral Health.

Patients can enter the program either through Pediatric Endocrinology or Adolescent Medicine. It depends on the age, says Dr. Miller. “Adolescents and young adults tend to come through Adolescent Medicine, and the children and younger adolescents through Endocrinology.” To date the program has served about 30 children and youth. One or two new referrals come in each week.

Joanne Goodall, CRNP, in Adolescent Medicine, works with LGBTQ individuals in the adolescent clinic and at outlying clinics at Family Links, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh, and the Shuman Juvenile Detention Center. “Some clients come in more regularly than others, but that is part of the process,” she says. “We are there for them at their pace. We collaborate with other providers in the community around our clients and their care.”

The center provides physical care, trans* care, gynecological care, STD testing and treatment, trans* counseling, mental health counseling, social work services, and nutrition services.

If you have questions or to request a consultation or refer a patient, contact Pediatric Endocrinology at 412-692-7618 or Adolescent Medicine at 412-692-6677 (ask for “gender care”).

*All identities within the gender identity spectrum

Physician Liaisons at Your Call

Our team serves as liaisons between physicians in the community and our pediatric specialists. Contact them with questions, comments, and concerns.

Judi Morris-Feinberg | 412-692-5428 | judi.feinberg@chp.edu
Laura Mull | 412-692-7157 | laura.mull2@chp.edu
Monica Reisz | 412-692-5376 | monica.reisz@chp.edu
Colorectal Center for Children
Treating colorectal anomalies close to home

Five years ago, Michael and Meagan Witkowski of Cecil Township welcomed little Mikey after a fairly standard birth at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC in Oakland. When the time came for post-partum testing, they handed him over to the nurse — and were taken aback when she abruptly left the room just a few minutes later.

That surprise was nothing compared with what happened next. “It was terrifying; it was shocking,” recalls Meagan. “The doctors came and told us there was something wrong with our son.” The nurse had not been able to take Mikey’s temperature because he was born with an imperforate anus. His anatomy lacked an opening to his rectum.

Imperforate anus affects approximately one in 5,000 children born each year in the United States. Other anorectal malformations include an anal passage that is too narrow, a blocked anal opening, or a rectum that is connected to the urinary tract by a fistula.

Hirschsprung’s disease, or congenital aganglionic megacolon, is another condition affecting approximately 25 percent of newborns with colorectal problems or one in 5,000 births overall. In Hirschsprung’s disease, parts of the

ABOVE: Born with a colorectal anomaly, Mikey Witkowski is now a happy, energetic kid following corrective surgery at the new Colorectal Center for Children at Children’s Hospital.
large intestine (always affecting the rectum) lack the nerve cells necessary to regulate the colon’s activity. The lack of function contributes to blockage, which causes the colon to stretch. The usual treatment is surgical; the surgeon pulls an enervated part of the colon down to cover the part that lacks nerve cells.

A family adjusts
An ambulance transported the baby and his dad to Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. “Time kind of stopped there for a while,” says Michael. He shuttled back and forth to Magee with increasingly disturbing news for Meagan. In addition to an imperforate anus, Mikey was found to have an undescended testicle and two small holes in his heart. None of this had shown up on prenatal tests. “Every time he came to see me, he had more bad news,” says Meagan. “I finally told him to please stop coming over. I was a mess.”

At just 24 hours old, Mikey had his first surgery, a colostomy, so he could eliminate what he ate. All went well, and at 3 months, Mikey was ready for his second surgery. A pediatric surgeon created an opening to Mikey’s rectum, and three months after that, Mikey’s colostomy was reversed. But these measures did not seem to resolve all of his elimination issues. “We were surprised because every diaper — every single one — had something in it,” says Michael. Babies usually produce a couple of stools a day, but this was unusual.

The Witkowskis consulted a variety of gastrointestinal experts. “We received three or four different answers, but nothing seemed right,” says Meagan. Then they heard about Luis De la Torre, MD, a world-renowned colorectal surgeon, who joined the Children’s team in December 2013.

Creating the Colorectal Center
The founding director of the Colorectal Center for Children in Puebla, Mexico, Dr. De la Torre is also the inventor of a novel, minimally invasive technique for the treatment of Hirschsprung’s disease. And, having created a successful bowel management program in Mexico, he was keen to repeat that success at Children’s. The timing could not have been more perfect. “We were brought together for a reason,” say the Witkowskis.

When Dr. De la Torre arrived, Children's Hospital already had a burgeoning colorectal program. Kimberly Cogley, MSN, MBA, had noticed during her 14 years as a pediatric surgical nurse that children with chronic bowel issues routinely were sent to surgery can alleviate many of the problems associated with congenital colorectal anomalies like Hirschsprung’s disease, anorectal malformation, or spina bifida, but patients and their families often have trouble adjusting to the chronic difficulties these conditions can bring before and after surgery. Even after perfectly performed corrective surgeries, about 50 percent of patients will experience constipation or fecal incontinence, which can cause social isolation, problems at school, and a diminished self-image.

The Bowel Management Workshop, presented by the Colorectal Center for Children at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, is a new multidisciplinary service that helps children manage their symptoms of constipation or fecal incontinence in ways that can bring about greater confidence and comfort. The Bowel Management Workshop is led by Luis De la Torre, MD, along with Kimberly Cogley, MSN, MBA, and Wael Abdalla, MD, a pediatric radiologist. Together, they coordinate with other caring and knowledgeable staff members to help children and their families achieve a better quality of life and enhanced social integration.

Each four-hour workshop covers a variety of topics in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Attendees learn about anorectal anomalies, Hirschsprung’s disease, constipation, and fecal and pseudofecal incontinence. They also learn how to adapt their lifestyle to keep symptoms in check. Because these conditions can carry a significant amount of social stigma, staff members focus on providing the education and support kids need to understand that they are more than their medical conditions: they are empowered individuals who can learn to manage and adapt to their challenges with confidence.

The Bowel Management Workshop is offered each month at Children’s Hospital’s main campus in Lawrenceville. For dates and registration information, call 412-692-5150 or send an email to colorectalcenter@chp.edu. For more details, visit www.chp.edu/bmw.

Continued on page 6
other facilities. Knowing that she and her colleagues could help these children closer to home, she had visited Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center to learn more about its program and returned with a new focus to her practice.

When Ms. Cogley met Dr. De la Torre, she realized immediately that the new interdisciplinary Colorectal Center for Children at Children’s Hospital would set the standard for pediatric colorectal care close to home and for patients around the world.

A new hope
Dr. De la Torre reviewed Mikey’s studies and medical history. Because of a previously undetected condition known as megarectum, Mikey was experiencing chronic fecal incontinence. Surgery to create the opening to allow elimination was not going to be successful without a reconstruction of the rectum.

Mikey and his parents met with Dr. De la Torre and Ms. Cogley to learn basic bowel management techniques and to prepare for reconstructive surgery. The Witkowskis were happily overwhelmed by the outstanding level of personal involvement and real caring that their Children’s team showed.

“They came to see Mikey every day, and Kim sent Mikey well-wishes on her own time, over the weekend, so he could see them on the computer,” says Meagan. “We eventually took a few weeks off from coming to the hospital so that we could try to adjust on our own, and Mikey was begging to go back to see her and Dr. De la Torre. He just loves them both.”

A happy, energetic kid
Mikey’s latest surgery in June 2014 was successful, and he has already recaptured his happy-go-lucky embrace of life. The undescended testicle was resolved surgically, and his doctors are keeping an eye on the holes in his heart, which appear to be closing on their own. Next the Witkowskis will attend a formal Bowel Management Workshop to learn how to help Mikey manage his new life with a right-sized rectum.

The Witkowskis, Dr. De la Torre, Ms. Cogley, and the other members of the team are delighted with the quick return of Mikey’s health and confidence. Mikey gave them all an indication of his good spirits just a few days after his last surgery. A true sports fan, he spotted Pittsburgh Penguins owner Mario Lemieux during the dedication of the new Mario Lemieux Lymphoma Center for Children and Young Adults at Children’s Hospital and immediately called out to him. The two played ball for a while, and Mikey beamed with happiness — as did everyone else.

To refer a patient or schedule a consultation with the Colorectal Center for Children, contact us at 412-692-7280 or colorectalcenter@chp.edu.
Novel Procedure Eases Pancreatitis Symptoms

Pediatric Pancreatic Center offers hope for painful pancreatic disorders

“It felt like a stabbing ache on my insides.”

That’s how Derek Aguiniga, 13, of Apple Valley, California, described debilitating episodes of pancreatitis that he experienced as a child.

By age 10, tests showed that he had hereditary pancreatitis. His doctors placed him on a strict low-fat diet, but the pain would return whenever he was physically active. He had to stop many of his activities, like playing football and riding bikes with friends. He vomited almost daily and was hospitalized frequently for pain control. Too sick to attend school, Derek was enrolled in a home-school program.

Looking for answers, Derek’s Los Angeles-based pediatric gastroenterologist contacted Mark Lowe, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized expert on childhood pancreatic disorders and director of the Pediatric Pancreatic Center at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. Dr. Lowe reviewed Derek’s records and thought he was a good candidate for a novel procedure called a total pancreatectomy with autologous islet-cell transplantation (TPAIT).

Derek and his mother flew to Pittsburgh for a 14-day comprehensive evaluation to confirm that the benefits of surgery outweighed the risks. On Dec. 21, 2010, the 13-hour procedure was successfully performed by Abhinav Humar, MD, clinical director of the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and chief of Transplantation in the Department of Surgery at UPMC.

The Pancreatic Center at Children’s Hospital

Children with acute recurrent or chronic pancreatitis can find hope at Children’s Hospital’s Pancreatic Center. The center is directed by Dr. Lowe, chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, along with Sohail Husain, MD, co-director of the Pediatric Exocrine Pancreatic Disorders Program. Drs. Lowe and Husain have active research programs aimed at developing novel therapies for pancreatitis.

Acute recurrent pancreatitis usually evolves into chronic pancreatitis, a condition characterized by irreversible pancreatic scarring and pancreatic insufficiency. About five children in 100,000 have these conditions.

The most common symptom of both acute recurrent and chronic pancreatitis is severe abdominal pain, says Dr. Lowe. Affected children are likely to develop chronic pain, the inability to digest foods, and diabetes. They are at elevated risk for pancreatic cancer. For about 50 percent of affected children the condition associates with a genetic mutation.

Children’s is one of few centers in the United States with the expertise to offer TPAIT for children with acute recurrent or chronic pancreatitis. Follow-up of children who have had the procedure suggests that most experience pain relief and improved quality of life, says Dr. Lowe. Overall about 40 percent are insulin independent three years after surgery; children less than 12 years of age are more likely to become insulin independent than older children. All must take pancreatic enzymes lifelong for digestion.

THEN AND NOW: Derek Aguiniga, age 10 at time of surgery, and today at age 13

Patients referred to the Pancreatic Center who are possible candidates for TPAIT undergo a comprehensive pre-surgical evaluation. A multidisciplinary group of clinicians recommends whether to proceed with surgery after reviewing the patient’s medical record and evaluation findings.

For some patients, alternative procedures such as therapeutic endoscopy may relieve pain and improve function and quality of life, says Dr. Lowe. Children’s has many years of experience performing therapeutic endoscopy for children.

Today Derek is an outgoing, active teenager who loves computers and spending time with his girlfriend. He also serves in student government. Derek’s experience has so profoundly changed his life that he hopes to become a gastroenterologist so he can help others with the same condition.

To refer a patient or schedule a consultation with the Pancreatic Center at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, please call 412-692-5180.
Alejandro Hoberman, MD, chief, Division of General Academic Pediatrics and professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, received the Academic Pediatric Association’s (APA) 2014 APA Research Award at the Pediatric Academic Societies annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in May. The award acknowledges his contributions toward advancing pediatric knowledge through excellence in research, originality, creativity, and methodological soundness. Dr. Hoberman is known for his research on acute otitis media and urinary tract infections.

Abigail Schlesinger, MD, medical director of Outpatient Behavioral Health and the Child and Family Counseling Center at Children’s Hospital and assistant professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, recently was named physician of the year at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC. Dr. Schlesinger leads clinical program development based on the behavioral health and developmental needs of children and adolescents. She has overseen the initiation and growth of the Center for Independence, a collaboration of pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, speech, occupational and physical therapies, and other specialties that helps children and adolescents who have difficulties at developmental stages of achieving independence.

Carlton M. Bates, MD, chief, Division of Nephrology and associate professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, studies genetic mouse models of kidney and lower urinary tract development. By suppressing or altering the activity of certain genes, he and his team are able to breed mice with structural kidney disease akin to what is seen in affected children, leading to new insights into the causes of congenital kidney and bladder diseases, which are leading causes of pediatric chronic kidney disease. Linda M. McAllister-Lucas, MD, PhD (right), chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology and associate professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, examines the role of a particular multi-protein complex that, when improperly regulated, is thought to lead to the blood cancer B-cell lymphoma, as well as contribute to an inflammatory disease of the blood vessels. Her group is evaluating new approaches to treating specific malignant and inflammatory disorders.

The Supportive Care Team at Children’s Hospital recently received the Loving Heart Award from the Pennsylvania chapter of The Children’s Heart Foundation. Through 2013, the foundation has contributed $6.1 million toward 58 revolutionary congenital heart defect (CHD) research studies. The foundation dedicates itself to bringing health, hope, and happiness to children and families impacted by a CHD. Pictured: (Left to right) Scott Maurer, MD; parent Diane Roberts, who nominated the team for the award; Carol May, RN, MSN, MBA, CHPN; and Lori Jones, president, The Children’s Heart Foundation Pennsylvania chapter.

Two Children’s Hospital physician-scientists were recently elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation. Founded in 1908, the medical honor society recognizes physicians who have accomplished meritorious original, creative, and independent investigations in the clinical or allied sciences of medicine. Carlton M. Bates, MD (left), chief, Division of Nephrology and associate professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, studies genetic mouse models of kidney and lower urinary tract development. By suppressing or altering the activity of certain genes, he and his team are able to breed mice with structural kidney disease akin to what is seen in affected children, leading to new insights into the causes of congenital kidney and bladder diseases, which are leading causes of pediatric chronic kidney disease. Linda M. McAllister-Lucas, MD, PhD (right), chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology and associate professor of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, examines the role of a particular multi-protein complex that, when improperly regulated, is thought to lead to the blood cancer B-cell lymphoma, as well as contribute to an inflammatory disease of the blood vessels. Her group is evaluating new approaches to treating specific malignant and inflammatory disorders.

This brings the number of Children’s faculty who have been elected to ASCI to 14, including Juan Celedon, MD, DrPH; George Gittes, MD; David Hackam, MD, PhD; Jay Kolls, MD; Peter Lucas, MD, PhD; David Perlmutter, MD; Ian Pollack, MD; Edward Prochownik, MD, PhD; Benjamin Shneider, MD; Gary Silverman, MD, PhD; Mark Sperling, MBBS; and Gerard Vockley, MD, PhD.

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Major Gift Establishes Lymphoma Center
Mario Lemieux Foundation Gives $2.5 Million

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation has received a $2.5 million gift from the Mario Lemieux Foundation to establish a new center for rare and hard-to-treat lymphomas that is expected to benefit children and young adults from around the world.

The Mario Lemieux Foundation will donate $2.5 million over seven years, with $2.5 million in matching support from UPMC, to create the Mario Lemieux Lymphoma Center for Children and Young Adults. The center will focus on clinical care as well as laboratory and clinical research surrounding difficult-to-treat childhood lymphomas. It will be led by Linda McAllister-Lucas, MD, PhD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Children’s Hospital. She is an internationally recognized expert in lymphoma whose laboratory research has provided new insights into the molecular basis of these types of diseases.

“We are grateful to Mario and Nathalie Lemieux and to the Mario Lemieux Foundation for sharing our vision of a center that capitalizes on our unique expertise to offer hope to a group of patients with a devastating diagnosis,” says Greg Barrett, president, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation.

Lymphoma is the third most common type of childhood cancer. More than 1,500 children in the United States are diagnosed each year with some form of the disease, according to the American Cancer Society. While standardized treatment protocols are used for the majority of pediatric lymphoma cases, currently there is no effective treatment for up to 20 percent of patients.

“I was fortunate to have a type of lymphoma that has proven treatments with good outcomes,” says Mario Lemieux, owner of the Pittsburgh Penguins. “I want to create a place of hope for kids and young adults and their families who are diagnosed with lymphomas that have no known cures.”

Dr. McAllister-Lucas has studied rare lymphomas with her husband, Peter Lucas, MD, PhD, since 1999. In addition, Ed Prochownik, MD, PhD, and J. Anthony Graves, MD, PhD, in Pediatric Oncology at Children’s, direct research laboratories investigating the underlying causes of lymphoma.

“The support of the Mario Lemieux Foundation gives us the ability to enhance our basic and clinical research in a way that could lead to improved and potentially new treatments for patients from around the world who currently have very limited options,” says Dr. McAllister-Lucas.

New Physicians

The following practitioners recently joined the medical staff at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

Adolescent Medicine
Ana Radovic, MD

Anesthesiology
Danielle Damien, MD

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Mahesha Sharma, MD

Critical Care Medicine
Dennis Simon, MD
Joan Sanchez de la Toledo, MD

Dental Services
Katelyn Woods, DMD

Paul C. Gaffney Diagnostic Service
Allison Fleischer, MD
Jessica Garrison, MD
Erin Schaffner, MD

Gastroenterology
John Eisses, MD

General Academic Pediatrics
Kristin Ray, MD

General and Thoracic Surgery
Ward Richardson, MD (August)

Hematology/Oncology
Gary Mason, MD

Neurology
Kavita Thakkar, MD

Newborn Medicine
Justin Buland, MD
Karim Potoka, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery
Oz Dede, MD

Plastic Surgery
Alexander Davit, MD

Radiology
Vince Lee, MD
Tracey Melham, MD
Darshit Thakrar, MD
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