

Looking to the Future

Our pediatric research enterprise has experienced astounding growth over the past decade, and we are excited to continue that trajectory into the future. We are proud of the fact that our research enterprise pivoted effectively to meet the challenge of COVID-19 and made a significant contribution to this global emergency. Moving forward, we continue to implement our bold strategic growth plan in research and education that began in 2020. Over a five-year period, Children's and Emory University will lead and accelerate research in a number of critical disciplines, recruit 30 new investigators and add 45 pediatric residents and subspecialty fellows. We will add 40,000 square feet of research space in 2022, and in 2025 we will move into the state-of-the-art Arthur M. Blank Hospital made up of 1.5 million square feet. This growth will give us the manpower and facilities needed to provide the quality care and better health outcomes that kids deserve.





As our research portfolio and extramural funding continue to grow, we are well positioned to enhance our national reputation as one of the leading pediatric research partnerships in the country, especially in these areas:

- **Pediatric technologies** will focus on microsystems-engineered point-of-care technologies, nanomedicine for pediatric cancers and technology-enabled tissue engineering, such as 3D printing and bioprinting, often in collaboration with engineers at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- **Health disparities research** will include outcomes and population-based research, growing our Sickle Cell Disease Program, and behavioral and mental health initiatives.
- **Sickle cell disease research** will highlight stem cell biology, the basis for blood formation; cellular therapies, including stem cell transplant and gene-based therapy; and drug discovery and development, including small molecules and biologicals. We are recruiting “game changing” faculty to lead and support this effort.
- **Behavioral and mental health research** will enhance behavioral and mental healthcare, improve access to community resources, pioneer prevention through innovative programs, and build a strong foundation through leadership recruitment and partnerships.
- **Cell therapies research** will involve rapid translation of “homegrown” discoveries into early phase clinical trials in our newly established Marcus Center for Pediatric Cellular Therapy.
- **Clinical informatics research** will accelerate the development of evidence-based practices and their implementation into clinical care by partnering with frontline doctors and nurses, data analysts and electronic health record (EHR) developers.
- **Bioinformatics research** will nurture next-generation genome and large biological data-driven discoveries for better treatment of complex and heterogeneous diseases.

We are proud to share with you these examples of some of the exciting work that reflects our progress. As we look to the future, we will continue to leverage our nationally leading clinical volumes and the unique Atlanta partnership of Children’s, Emory University and Georgia Tech to improve the health of children in Georgia, across the nation and around the world.

Clinton H. Joiner, MD, PhD
Chief Research Officer,
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Shary and Matt Price Chair for Pediatric Research,
Children’s and Georgia Institute of Technology
Professor and Vice Chair for Research,
Emory University Department of Pediatrics

Melinda Mathis, MPA, CRA
Vice President,
Research and Academics
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta