

A Position Profile

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# Division Head, Cardiology



Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's  
Hospital of Chicago  
*Chicago, Illinois*

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# *Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*



Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, formerly Children's Memorial Hospital, is the largest pediatric provider in the region with a 130-year legacy of excellence and 1,445 physicians in 70 pediatric specialties. It provides superior pediatric care in a setting that offers the latest benefits and innovations in medical technology, research, and family-friendly design.

## *Lurie Children's Hospital at a Glance*

One of the top pediatric hospitals in the nation, Lurie Children's provides the highest quality, family-centered care to children.

- More than 620,000 total patient visits
- 15,110 inpatient admissions
- 594,784 outpatient visits
- 19,770 surgeries
- 84,007 emergency/urgent visits
- More than 174,000 individual patients
- 1,353 physicians and allied health professionals in 70 pediatric specialties
- In FY15, Lurie Children's served children from all 50 states and 46 countries
- First children's hospital in the country and the first hospital in Illinois to earn the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence
- Lurie Children's was named a Level I pediatric surgery center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), becoming the first children's hospital in Illinois to earn this status



## *Culture of Care*

*Kids and their families are at the center of all we do, and they inspire us to be better caregivers. We've joined with institutions around the country to show our commitment to family-focused care by participating in the Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered Care's Pinwheel Sponsors program, which supports the practice and understanding of patient-centered care.*

## Mission

*We are dedicated to the health and well-being of all children. As the pediatric teaching facility of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, this commitment drives us to be a leader in:*

- *Pediatric healthcare delivery;*
- *Research into the prevention, causes, and treatment of diseases that affect children;*
- *Education for physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals; and*
- *Advocacy for the general well-being of all children.*

*As a charitable organization, we serve children and their families to the best of our abilities and the limits of our resources.*

## Vision

*We are guided by the belief that all children need to grow up in a protective and nurturing environment where each child is given the opportunity to reach their full potential. We believe this vision can provide a brighter future for all children.*

*Our vision is inspired by the courage of children and families. It is sustained by the extraordinary contributions of compassionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff and volunteers, and built from our tradition of providing unsurpassed healthcare for children dating back to 1882.*

## Healing Environment



The design of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago was based on the commitment to creating a healing environment that supports the work of its extraordinary caregivers. In seeking to create a warm, welcoming, and engaging environment, and one that fosters hope, provides calm, and promotes healing, Lurie Children's created a higher standard in the field of

healthcare environmental design. The creative arts elements throughout the building are supported by programming of hands-on arts education and performance to engage, support, and heal children and families in the hospital. Lurie Children's incorporated the following into the design of the hospital:

- All private inpatient rooms to reduce infection and promote healing
- Acuity adaptable rooms in the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit to eliminate transfers to another unit when a patient's condition changes
- Decentralized nursing stations to increase staff time spent in direct patient care
- Access to sunlight and views of nature to reduce stress

## *Crown Sky Garden*

The Crown Sky Garden includes light, sound, water, and wood elements. Eco-friendly bamboo planters divide the space to allow for active use as well as a more quiet respite. The highlight of its design is a translucent interactive light wall that weaves throughout the garden at different heights and changes color and brightness as people approach it. These interactive aspects allow children to define the garden. The carved wooden benches are crafted from trees planted prior to the Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and are the gift of John Bryan.

## *The Pebble Project*

Lurie Children's is also part of the "Pebble Project," a group of 50 hospitals from around the world that are committed to studying specific innovations in hospital design.

Research on the hospital design and Crown Sky Garden will be shared once it is completed so that other hospitals can learn from this experience as they move from conception to design in their own spaces.



## *Community Partner Spaces*

Through the Creative Arts Community Partnership Program, the displays and interactive exhibits throughout Lurie Children's are the culmination of years of planning and collaboration on the part of more than 20 organizations throughout the Chicago area, Lurie Children's staff, and the hospital's Kids Advisory Board.

As visitors tour the halls and rooms, they will encounter Paths of Discovery (a series of images, photographs, or illustrations) and Discovery Boxes (three-dimensional dioramas, mounted at a young child's eye level), as well as stand-alone installations, artwork, and murals.

## *Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute*



Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, the research arm of Lurie Children's, is the academic and research partner of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, advancing children's health by generating new knowledge about the prevention and treatment of disease. With the highest level of ethical standards in research, the Manne Research Institute works with scientists from around the world to improve pediatric care and enhance the health and well-being of children.

This laboratory-based research uncovers fundamental knowledge about health and disease, including medical conditions, human development, and genetics. More than 1,500 patient-related research studies, including more than 200 industry-sponsored clinical trials, are currently being conducted, and over 500 peer-reviewed scientific publications were published in 2014.

## Affiliations

### *Almost Home Kids*

Almost Home Kids (AHK) cares for children with complicated health needs by providing short-term transitional care in a home-like setting, family training, and respite care. With locations in Naperville and at Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's, AHK is staffed with medical professionals and volunteers to make sure every child and their families are prepared for the return home.



### *Partnership for a Healthier America*

As part of the hospital's dedication to wellness for patients, families, and staff, Lurie Children's has joined the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA), with a commitment to provide healthier patient meals, as well as more food and beverage options in the cafeteria that meet specific nutritional standards.

PHA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to helping ensure the health of the nation's youth by solving the childhood obesity crisis. PHA was founded in 2010 in conjunction with former First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! campaign.

The hospital's cafeteria will display health-promoting food choices more prominently, include nutrition labeling, sell more fruits and vegetables, and eventually replace deep fried foods with healthier baked options.

Lurie Children's is one of 157 hospitals to join PHA. PHA will monitor and publicly report on the progress made by hospitals that have made this voluntary commitment.

## Campus Partners

### *Northwestern Medicine*

As one of the country's premier academic medical center hospitals, Northwestern Medicine serves as the primary teaching hospital for Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Its medical staff is comprised of more than 1,600 affiliated physicians who also serve as faculty members of the Feinberg School. [Learn more about Northwestern Medicine.](#)

## *Prentice Women's Hospital*

With two bridges connecting Prentice Women's Hospital and Lurie Children's, transportation for critically ill newborns from the state's largest birthing center couldn't be faster. As part of Northwestern Memorial, Prentice Women's provides the highest quality of comprehensive medical care to meet the unique needs of women. [Learn about Prentice Women's Hospital.](#)

## *Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago*

A partner in providing superior patient care, our relationship with the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC) improves the transition for our pediatric patients with chronic conditions into adult care. [Learn more about RIC.](#)

## *Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine*

Ranked 18th by *U.S. News & World Report* as a top research-oriented medical school, 11th in women's health, and 14th in pediatrics, Lurie Children's is the pediatric teaching hospital for the Feinberg School. This partnership allows Lurie Children's to recruit some of the top pediatric specialists to Chicago, and it encourages child and adult health researchers to work closer together.

## *Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Foundation*

Philanthropy plays a critical role in accomplishing Lurie Children's goals, especially in today's increasingly challenging healthcare environment. Founded in 1987 as the Children's Memorial Foundation, today the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, through which all gifts benefit Lurie Children's. The Foundation's staff of fundraising professionals work with 11 affiliated organizations and an active team of volunteers to cultivate and secure contributions that advance the mission of the hospital. Volunteer engagement ranges from those contributing to governance on the board of directors and those conducting fundraising events to individuals contributing through grassroots efforts.

## *Philanthropy*

Support during the last year has helped save and improve more than 150,000 young lives. More than \$50.8 million was raised by 47,000 donors to support the hospital and its programs. Lurie Children's relies on philanthropic funding to enhance its programs and services for children and families.

## *Community Benefit*

Despite severe government funding challenges, Lurie Children's has remained steadfast in its commitment to partner with the government and others to improve the health and well-being of children locally, nationally, and globally. In FY14, the hospital invested \$125 million in community benefit programs and initiatives. This includes \$88 million in losses to the hospital and its physicians due to under-reimbursement from the Medicaid program.

Medicaid is the single largest insurer of children in the country, and one in three children in Chicago rely upon the service. Lurie Children's treats more children insured by Medicaid

than any other hospital in Illinois. Because more than 50 percent of inpatients are insured by Medicaid, Lurie Children's was one of 19 hospitals in Illinois deemed a "safety net hospital" by the state in 2012.

## Family Services

Lurie Children's trained professionals offer creative and educational programs, activities, and resources to help hospitalized children and their families emotionally, socially, and developmentally.



An interdisciplinary team of social workers, chaplains, child life specialists, and creative arts therapists follows inpatients from diagnosis through discharge. Social workers and chaplains are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Activity coordinators, interpreters, teachers, and volunteers help patients and families with respite and distraction. Together with the patient's medical team, it addresses the needs of the whole family for the best possible patient experience. Most of its programs are funded through philanthropic support. At the heart of its approach to family-centered care are people, places, and programs. Here are just a few of the unique programs available:

### *Child Life*

For some children, coming to the hospital can feel like visiting a foreign country. A team of child life specialists works to make things easy to understand. This team helps patients understand medical procedures through play with medical equipment, looking at pictures, and talking about what to expect. These specialists use their training in child development to create an environment that is welcoming and supports a partnership with the patient and family.

### *Interpretation Services*

More than 15 percent of patient families speak a language other than English as their primary language. Lurie Children's team provides immediate access to interpreters through in-person, video, and telephonic interpretation.

### *Skylight TV*

One of the first of its kind in the country, Skylight TV is the hospital's closed-circuit, interactive television station available in patient rooms. Skylight TV produces four live shows every week along with other special programs, giving patients another outlet for relaxation and distraction.



## Awards and Recognition

### *Nationally Ranked Children's Hospitals*

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is ranked the No. 1 children's hospital in Illinois and No. 6 in the country in the 2016-2017 *U.S. News & World Report* survey of children's hospitals. Lurie Children's is also the only Illinois children's hospital named to the Honor Roll, which recognizes children's hospitals with exceptional performance in at least three specialties. Lurie Children's has five specialties in the top 10, which include Gastroenterology (No. 4), Neonatology (No. 6), Neurology/Neurosurgery (No. 6), Urology (No. 7), and Kidney Disease (No. 10).



The *U.S. News* Best Children's Hospitals rankings help parents determine where to get the best medical care for their children. The rankings highlight the top 50 U.S. pediatric facilities in 10 specialties, from cancer to urology. Seventy-nine hospitals ranked in at least one specialty.

### *Nationally Ranked Cardiology and Heart Surgery (11<sup>th</sup> in the Nation)*

- Top pediatric cardiology program in Illinois ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*.
- With 238 transplants, the program has completed more cardiac transplants than any other pediatric healthcare provider in Illinois and the second-most in the nation (CY14).
- Pioneered Fontan conversion procedure (largest center in the country).
- Performed more than 16,000 echocardiograms and 1,400 fetal echocardiograms in FY14.
- Nation's first pediatric hospital to launch a telemedicine program; bedside, real-time echo diagnosis and management, helping more than 13,000 children since it began in 1994.

### *Parents Magazine Top 10 Pediatric Hospital*

Lurie Children's was ranked tenth in the country among pediatric hospitals according to an exclusive survey by *Parents* magazine. The hospital also ranked eighth for Cancer Care. The survey focused on key areas, including treatment success, groundbreaking research, and family-friendly facilities.

### *Magnet Recognized*

In 2001, Lurie Children's was the nation's first pediatric freestanding hospital and the first hospital in Illinois to earn the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Award for Nursing Excellence. In 2015, Lurie Children's was re-designated for a fourth time; less than 1 percent of hospitals have been designated three times.

### *Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs*

Lurie Children's has been awarded full accreditation by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP). AAHRPP promotes high quality, ethically sound research through an accreditation process that helps organizations worldwide strengthen their research protection programs. As an independent, non-profit accrediting

body, AAHRPP uses a voluntary, peer-driven, educational model to ensure that human research protection programs meet rigorous standards.

### *Joint Commission Top Performer*

In 2011 and 2012, Lurie Children's was recognized as a Top Performer in The Joint Commission's Top Performers on Key Quality Measures™ program. Lurie Children's made the list for achieving excellence on its accountability measures in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for children's asthma during 2011 and 2010. In 2012, Lurie Children's was among just seven hospitals in the country to earn the Top Performer award for children's asthma.

### *"Top Children's Hospital" for Patient Safety*

In 2015, Lurie Children's was one of only 12 children's hospitals nationwide – and the only one in Illinois – to be recognized as a "Top Children's Hospital" for patient safety by The Leapfrog Group, a national consortium of healthcare payers that promotes "leaps" in patient safety. Leapfrog's Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most prestigious distinctions any hospital can achieve in the United States.

### *LEED-certified to the Gold Level*

In 2014, the U.S. Green Building Council designated Lurie Children's with the second-highest sustainability rating, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The LEED® green building program is the preeminent program for the design, construction, maintenance, and operations of high-performance green buildings.

### *Level 1 Pediatric Surgery Center*

Lurie Children's was named a Level I pediatric surgery center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), becoming the first children's hospital in Illinois to earn this status

*For more information on Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago,  
please visit:*

<http://www.luriechildrens.org>

## Cardiology Division

The Cardiology Division encompasses the sections of electrophysiology, noninvasive imaging, heart failure and heart transplant, adult congenital heart disease, fetal cardiology, interventional catheterization, and cardiac critical care, and totals 37 attending physicians (two with endowed chairs), 12 fellows, and 20 advanced practice nurses. The Division includes the 36-bed Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit, which is about to expand to 44-bed unit, a dedicated inpatient service, and an active Consult Service.

Divisional research activities include the Cardiovascular Research database in collaboration with the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute at Northwestern Medicine, the Cardiac Biorepository for Regenerative Medicine, Pediatric Neurodevelopment and Neurocognition Outcomes, Cardiovascular Genetics, and the Pediatric Heart Transplant Study.

The division maintains a collaborative relationship with the Adult Cardiology colleagues at the Feinberg School of Medicine, as well as development of cardiovascular Bridge Programs focused on transitioning patients into adult cardiac care. With daily interaction with Pediatric residents and a significant dedication to education, the Division has garnered the annual divisional teaching award for the 2016 Academic Year. The accredited Pediatric Cardiology fellowship graduates three fellows per year, most of whom have progressed to productive academic careers.

## The Heart Center



services range from cardiac disease prevention to heart transplantation.

The Heart Center at Lurie Children's provides the highest quality care for patients with the most complex and serious heart conditions. As the region's largest children's heart center, more patients with cardiac conditions are cared for here than any other hospital in Illinois. It uses the most comprehensive heart evaluations and treatments to deliver high quality care from admission to discharge and follow-up. It provides cardiac care to pregnant mothers, infants, children, and young adults, and

The Heart Center is co-led by the Division Head, Cardiology and Carl L. Backer, MD, Division Head of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Backer is a board-certified congenital heart surgeon and thoracic surgeon with 25 years of experience in heart surgery. He is the Surgical Director of the Heart Failure & Transplantation Program and the A.C. Buehler Professor of Surgery at Lurie Children's as well as a Professor of Surgery at the Feinberg School. Dr. Backer is one of the world's experts on treating vascular rings.

## *Experience*

The Heart Center's pediatric heart team includes:

- Cardiologists, who are faculty in the Division of Cardiology in the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Cardiovascular-thoracic surgeons, who are faculty in the Division of Pediatric Surgery at the Feinberg School
- Cardiac care intensivists, who are faculty in the divisions of Critical Care and Pediatric Cardiology in the Department of Pediatrics at the Feinberg School
- Cardiac anesthesiologists, who are faculty in the Department of Anesthesia at the Feinberg School
- Advanced practice nurses
- Cardiovascular perfusionists
- Pediatric nurses
- Cardiovascular technologists

The Heart Center's experts have a wide range of experience, treating thousands of patients with heart complications annually.

- Each year, the Heart Center's cardiologists see more than 10,000 pediatric patients in outpatient diagnostic visits and more than 300 inpatients.
- Interventional cardiologists perform more than 550 cardiac catheterization procedures, including implanting a pulmonary valve, which is a less invasive procedure than surgical valve replacement.
- On average, the Heart Center's heart surgeons perform 450 heart surgeries each year, with one of the best survival rates for congenital heart surgery among the nation's 40 largest and most advanced children's hospitals — even for heart transplants.

The Heart Center offers many specialized programs, from fetal cardiology to adult congenital heart disease. It is nationally and internationally renowned for the diagnosis and treatment of irregular heart rhythms (arrhythmia) and for helping pioneer the treatment of pediatric congenital heart disease through procedures like the Fontan conversion.

The Heart Center has performed more pediatric heart transplants since 1988 than any other healthcare provider in Illinois. Its first-year survival rate for heart transplant patients, more than 95 percent, far exceeds the national average of 87 percent, and its long-term survival rates are also exceptional. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons rated Lurie Children's as a 3-Star hospital, the highest rating level awarded, in its Spring 2016 Harvest Report of the STS Congenital Cardiac Surgery Database.

The Heart Center is also home to the Regenstein Cardiac Care Unit, which was built to ensure the continuity of care from admission to discharge, and is staffed by a team of specialists that meet the unique needs of its patients.

## *Approach*

The center's goal is to provide children and family with the highest quality heart care. The experienced, multidisciplinary teams of pediatric specialists make it easier for patients to see every specialist they may need under one roof and often in the same visit.

The multidisciplinary programs include:

- Fetal and Neonatal Cardiology Program
- Athletic Screening Program
- Bicuspid Aortic Valve Program
- Complex Congenital Heart Disease Care Center
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease
- Fontan and Single Ventricle Center
- Cardiac Critical Care (Regenstein Critical Care Unit)
- Connective Tissue Disorder Program
- Heart Failure and Heart Transplant
- Priority Second Opinion: Cardiology

### *Research*

Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, affiliated with Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, is the research arm of the hospital. The mission of Manne Research Institute is to generate new knowledge leading to advancements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases that affect children's health through adolescence and adulthood. Its multidisciplinary teams of physicians, scientists, technicians, nurses, and trainees are committed to making discoveries that will improve the lives of children and their families.

The Institute's physician-scientists are pioneering new cures, preventions, and treatments for complex cardiac conditions through clinical and translational research. The Center for Cardiovascular Innovation focuses on interventions to improve outcomes and quality of life for children with high-risk complex heart disease.

Its scientific discovery efforts are supported by the Heart Center Research Core, a multidisciplinary team to support significant and innovative clinical, translational, and basic research.

The center is also conducting ongoing studies that concern:

- The underlying causes of heart failure
- Using patients' own cells to correct life threatening conditions
- Novel therapies to improve neurodevelopmental outcomes and treat neurodevelopmental issues in congenital heart disease survivors
- Transitional care from adolescence to adulthood for high-risk cardiovascular patients
- Novel aortic valve and aorta imaging
- Pioneering new therapies for patients with Marfan syndrome

### *Conditions Treated*

The center's pediatric cardiologists evaluate and treat both congenital and acquired heart diseases. For more information about the wide range of conditions treated at the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute, please visit:

<https://www.luriechildrens.org/en-us/research/about/Pages/index.aspx>

## Executive Biographies



*Patrick M. Magoon  
President and Chief Executive Officer*

Patrick M. Magoon was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Lurie Children's, previously known as Children's Memorial, in December 1997. A 35-year veteran of the hospital, Mr. Magoon had been Chief Strategic Officer, responsible for directing the external activities of the hospital, including the identification and implementation of strategic initiatives. He also directed the activities of corporate planning, marketing, public affairs, patient care services, physician services, managed care, and government and community affairs.

Mr. Magoon holds a Master's degree in Urban Policy Planning (with a concentration in Health Policy and Planning) from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Western Illinois University. He is past chairman of the board of directors of the National Association of Children's hospitals and related institutions, and past chair of the Illinois Hospital Association. He has served on the boards of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and the McGaw Medical Center. His civic affiliations include the Commercial Club of Chicago, The Economic Club of Chicago, City Club of Chicago, and The Chicago Club.



*Thomas P. Shanley, MD  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics and  
Chief Research Officer*

Thomas P. Shanley, MD, is Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He also serves as Chief Research Officer of the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute of Lurie Children's.

Dr. Shanley is an internationally renowned physician leader and researcher in pediatric critical care. As a clinician, he specializes in the treatment of children with hypoxemic respiratory failure from lung disease and septic shock triggered by infection.

As a research leader, his focus is to improve understanding of the molecular basis of inflammatory diseases that afflict critically ill young patients. Over the course of his career, he has conducted basic, translational, and clinical research, and has a keen interest in making the translational spectrum more efficient so that benefits reach patients faster. Dr. Shanley currently is the principal investigator on six National Institutes of Health (NIH)-sponsored projects and has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. He sits on the steering committee of the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, which aims to speed the delivery of new treatments to patients.

Dr. Shanley returned to his native Chicago after 11 years of leading the transformation of clinical care, translational research, and faculty collaboration at the University of Michigan Medical School. There he served as Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research,

and directed the Michigan Institute for Clinical Health Research, as well as Pediatric Critical Care Medicine at C.C. Mott Children's Hospital. Before this, he spent seven years on the faculty at Cincinnati Children's.

Dr. Shanley completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine at the University of Michigan as well as a postdoctoral fellowship at the NIH. He earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.



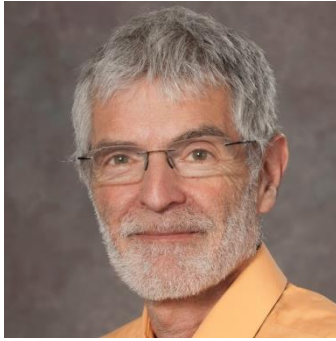
*Carl Backer, MD*  
*Division Head, Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery*

Dr. Carl Backer is the Division Head of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago where he is also an A.C. Buehler Professor of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery and attending surgeon for the Division of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery. Additionally, Dr. Backer is an Associate Staff Surgeon for the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Backer is a world-renowned pediatric cardiovascular-thoracic surgeon. He specializes in the surgical treatment of congenital heart disease in infants and children, and also performs complex re-do procedures in adults. His primary interests are congenital heart surgery, adults with congenital heart disease, complex reoperations in congenital heart surgery, heart transplantation, tracheal surgery, vascular rings, Fontan conversion, and arrhythmia surgery. He has authored or co-authored over 180 refereed articles, 68 book chapters, and four textbooks. He is the co-editor of the 2nd and 3rd editions of the well-known textbook, *Pediatric Cardiac Surgery*. His research incorporates over 40 years of database material from Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

Dr. Backer earned his medical doctorate from Mayo Medical School and a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University College of Arts and Science. Dr. Backer completed an internship and residency in general surgery as well a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at Northwestern University – McGaw Medical Center. He is board certified in congenital cardiac surgery and thoracic surgery.

Dr. Backer is a member of several local, national, and international societies. Locally, he is the founding member of the Chicago Cardiothoracic Surgical Society. He is also a member of the Chicago Medical Society, Chicago Surgical Society, Illinois Surgical Society, and the Illinois Medical Society. Nationally, Dr. Backer is a Fellow for the Council on Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery and a member of the Cardiovascular Disease in the Young Council for the American Heart Association. He is currently the President of the Congenital Heart Surgeons Society. He is also a Surgical Liaison of the Executive Committee for the Midwest Pediatric Cardiology Society. Internationally, he is a member of the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, International Pediatric Transplant Association, and the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation.



*Stuart Berger, MD  
Executive Director, Heart Center*

Dr. Stuart Berger is the Executive Director, Heart Center at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. He also serves as Professor and the Vice-Chair for the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University. He has over 25 years of experience as a pediatric cardiologist and as a leader and builder of programs for the care of children with heart disease.

Most recently, Dr. Berger served as the Medical Director of Pediatric Heart Center at the University of California, Davis. While there, he also served as a Professor for the Department of Pediatrics. Additionally, he has held the position of Chief of Pediatric Cardiology and Medical Director of the Herma Heart Center at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Under his leadership, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin rose to become one of the top pediatric heart centers in the country, ranked No. 5 by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2014.

Dr. Berger is well known as a leader in the field of sudden cardiac arrest and sudden cardiac death in children. Over the last 17 years, he has been an important individual in the areas of sudden cardiac death in children primarily via a secondary prevention approach. Specifically, Dr. Berger had created and developed Project ADAM. Project ADAM began in Wisconsin and now exists in multiple states across the country and is known internationally. Project ADAM supports and implements school emergency action plans, placement of CPR-AED programs in schools, and advocacy for CPR-AED education for all students prior to their graduation from high school. This strategy and plan has thus far directly saved over 100 lives.

Dr. Berger has been involved with the growth and development of congenital heart centers throughout his career and most notably contributed significantly to the development of one of the premier centers at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and The Medical College of Wisconsin. During his tenure at those institutions, he contributed to and developed several important clinical/research endeavors in the field of pediatric cardiology.

Dr. Berger has trained more than 50 fellows and multiple residents and medical students. The fellows trained by Dr. Berger have embarked upon both clinical as well as academic careers. Dr. Berger has lectured frequently on the topic of sudden cardiac death in children and in the process has mentored other pediatric cardiologists on this topic, including the importance of further discovery in the field. This discovery most importantly includes a better understanding of the genetics of sudden cardiac death and its positive influence on families as it relates to education and prevention.

Dr. Berger received his medical doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in Madison and completed his pediatric residency at the University of Chicago Wyler Children's Hospital and his fellowship in neonatology and pediatric cardiology at the University of Chicago. He is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology. Dr. Berger has lectured extensively nationally and abroad, and holds leadership roles with the American Heart Association and American Academy of Pediatrics.



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## Position Description



The Division Head, Cardiology reports to the Chair, Department of Pediatrics and Chief Research Officer, and pursues the full development of the department in terms of quality of care, volume, and scope of services, as well as organizing and managing the overall physician component of the program. The Division Head is responsible for the academic, clinical, and fiscal management of the division and also co-leads The Heart Center.

This innovative, collaborative physician executive will partner with enterprise leadership to promote high-quality research, double the capacity of The Heart Center, and ensure that it is consistently ranked in the top-tier pediatric cardiology programs in the nation.

### Principal Accountabilities

- Plans, organizes, and directs the activities of the division in its diverse organizational settings. Develops and coordinates short- and long-range goals of the division. Assures that divisional activities enhance the objectives of the Department of Pediatrics.
- Develops and implements the annual and long-range budgets of the division. Assures program effectiveness and impact.
- Provides clinical supervision of medical services and assures appropriateness, quality, and safety of patient care within the division, and assures appropriate supervision of trainees.
- Promotes high-quality research that leverages partnership opportunities within and outside the Department of Pediatrics, and effectively integrates the research platform with improved clinical care.
- Promotes teaching by providing leadership for and participation in the education of fellows, house staff, nursing, and medical staff. Provides leadership in the area of expertise to the department and its affiliated institutions.
- Maintains program accreditation, assuring that the service meets or exceeds local and national standards of outcome performance.
- Mentors faculty, assuring that each member of the division/program receives an annual performance evaluation applicable to his/her job description. For example, for clinicians covering patient care, teaching, research, advocacy, revenue generation, and expenses. Develops and implements objectives for faculty career development.

- Assures the participation of the division faculty in the general educational programs of the department, including instructing medical students, precepting residents and fellows, and by attending education conferences and participating in committees as requested.
- Participates as a member of the division head/program directors group and meets routinely with the chairman as well as the vice chair and associate chairs as appropriate.
- Establishes and maintains high morale of the division by fostering and enhancing collaboration and professionalism among members of the division and external partners.
- Advocates for the programs and resources necessary to optimize outcomes of Divisional priorities and the pediatric patients the Division serves.

## Experience and Qualifications

- The successful candidate must hold an MD or MD/PhD degree, and must be licensed or eligible for an Illinois medical license. Board certification in pediatrics and pediatric cardiology is required.
- The desirable candidate will be at an Associate Professor level or higher.
- Demonstrated relevant experience in a clinical leadership or administrative role within pediatric cardiology.
- Candidates who possess clinical expertise and a proven track record of academic productivity experience in the field of pediatric cardiology or related areas (e.g., publications, papers, etc.) are highly desired.
- Demonstrated ability to provide leadership of a vibrant pediatric cardiology division or program, including medical education, research, child advocacy, and patient care.
- A proven ability to mentor both junior and senior faculty, in addition to having a collaborative and visionary leadership style.

## Personal and Professional Attributes

The successful candidate will possess a wide range of personality traits, work habits, and social skills necessary to perform effectively within Lurie Children's. This individual will possess both personal and professional integrity, strong communication skills, and a professional demeanor.

Specifically, a person possessing the following knowledge, skills, and abilities will be sought for this position:

- Honest and a highly ethical team player.
- Influencing skills; manages via influence rather than by command and control.
- Strong people management and leadership skills.
- Creates an environment which recognizes and values diversity.
- Excellent communicator who welcomes the opinions of others.

- Demonstrates creativity and innovation and a willingness to “think outside the box.”
- Highly engaged, energetic, focused, and goal-oriented.
- Skilled in conflict resolution (negotiator, arbitrator, facilitator, and consensus builder).
- Collegial and collaborative. Poised, balanced, and measured in his/her approach.
- Strategic visionary and thinker.
- Able to hold people accountable and is both results-oriented and outcomes-focused.
- Strong work ethic; achievement-oriented; and motivated beyond personal interests.
- Has a visible and engaging presence and a positive attitude.
- Open leadership style. Actively seeks out and supports collaborative thinking and problem solving with others in the medical center.

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## Community Information



The Division Head, Cardiology position will be based in the organization's Chicago, Illinois, location.

### Chicago Metropolitan Area

Chicago is the third-largest city in the United States and is recognized internationally as a cosmopolitan city with a unique and lively energy. The dining scene is world class, ranging from high-end ethnic cuisine to great local diners and everything in between. The nightlife provides something for everyone, including upscale lounges, trendy nightclubs, and cozy corner pubs. With the Bears, Bulls, Cubs, White Sox, Blackhawks, and Chicago Fire, sports fans never run out of options.



Those in search of culture can visit a different museum, festival, theater, concert, or special event every weekend of the year. Shopping along Michigan Avenue is world-renowned, as are many “one of a kind” neighborhood boutiques.

The city and its surrounding communities are flourishing. The addition of new parks and cultural venues, strong interest in historic architectural preservation, and an explosion in the number of people living downtown has sparked a boom in development and construction.

Chicago is an ethnically diverse, architecturally important, and culturally rich city. It can be appreciated from the observation floor of Willis Tower, formerly named Sears Tower. At 110 stories, it is the third-tallest man-made structure in the world. In fact, three of the world's 10 tallest buildings are located in Chicago, along with the tallest apartment building, the largest hotel, the largest commercial structure, and the largest post office.



Millennium Park, this is British artist Anish Kapoor's first public outdoor work installed in the United States.

## Education

Chicago-area institutions of higher education include state and private universities of national note, including the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, the Illinois Institute of Technology, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Northwestern University, located in neighboring Evanston.

## Arts and Culture

Chicago's major cultural institutions rank with the best in the world. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra plays a season of more than 100 concerts at Orchestra Hall from September to June, and performs summer concerts at Ravinia Park in Highland Park. Equally prestigious is the Lyric Opera of Chicago, which stages classical and innovative operas at the recently renovated Civic Opera House.

More than 50 producing theaters delight Chicago audiences with fare ranging from serious to satirical. The Goodman Theatre, Chicago's oldest and largest non-profit professional theater, presents a season of classical and modern dramatic productions. Chicago theater is perhaps best represented by Steppenwolf Theatre Company, a Tony Award-winning repertory company that focuses on new plays, neglected works, and re-interpretations of masterpieces. Since 1959, The Second City, a resident comedy company that produces biting satires, has had a direct influence on American comedy, as its members have gone on to star on the "Saturday Night Live" and "SCTV" television programs and in Hollywood movies.

## Sports for the Spectator

Chicago fields at least one team in each of the major professional sports and has two professional baseball teams. The Chicago Cubs compete in the central division of the National League and play their home games at Wrigley Field, a turn-of-the-century steel and concrete structure where seats are close to the field. The Chicago White Sox of the American League's central division play their home games at U.S. Cellular Field on the city's South

Side. The teams – and their fans – enjoy a fierce rivalry. The Chicago Bears of the National Football League’s National Conference compete in central division home games at Soldier Field. The Chicago Blackhawks of the National Hockey League and the Chicago Bulls of the National Basketball Association play their home schedules at the United Center.

## Recreation

The Chicago Park District maintains some 580 parks spread out over 8,100 acres, including Lincoln Park, Grant Park, Jackson Park, and Washington Park. Chicago’s paved lakefront pathway stretches along the shore from the south side of the city to the north side.

Located in the metropolitan area are forest preserves, six golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools and lagoons, 29 beaches, and more than a thousand athletic fields.

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# Furst Group



Furst Group is in its fourth decade of providing leadership solutions for the healthcare and insurance industries. Our experience in evaluating talent, structure, and culture helps companies align their organizations to execute their strategic initiatives.

Our talent and leadership solutions provide a comprehensive array of retained executive search and integrated talent management services, from individual leadership development to executive team performance to organizational/cultural assessment and succession planning.

Our clients include hospitals and health systems, managed care organizations, medical group practices, healthcare products and services companies, venture capital- or equity-backed firms, insurance companies, integrated delivery systems, and hospice and post-acute care businesses.

Furst Group recognizes partnerships are the cornerstone of our business. In today's competitive talent environment, having a defined process that provides clients and individuals with clarity and feedback throughout the entire job search is paramount to our business model.

We take extra steps to ensure candidates:

- Understand the nuances of a particular position or organization.
- Are prepared for interviews and conversations.
- Have access to interview and travel schedules.
- Are provided timely feedback.
- Remain in our database for future contact.
- Value diversity and the principles and ethics practiced by our client organizations.

We look forward to working with you as a potential candidate for the Division Head, Cardiology position for Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

For additional information on Furst Group, please visit our website at [www.furstgroup.com](http://www.furstgroup.com). To learn more about this particular position, please call (800) 642-9940 or contact:

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