New Faculty: Elise Emrath, MD

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our Pediatric Critical Care team, Dr. Elise Emrath. Elise grew up in Chattanooga, TN, and pursued her undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia. She started her career in health care as a dietitian specializing in the nutritional management of patients with genetic disorders. Dr. Emrath then obtained her medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia and went on to do her general pediatrics residency and fellowship in pediatric critical care at Emory University. She has a special interest in sepsis, procedural sedation, nutrition in critical illness, and ECMO. Her hobbies outside of work include cooking, baking, running, and photography.

Pediatric Telehealth

The Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine continues to be a leading force nationally in pediatric telehealth. A team of researchers led by Dr. Jillian Harvey, PhD from the College of Health Professions, and Dr. David McSwain, Associate Professor in Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, recently published a study in the Pediatric Critical Care Medicine journal, titled “The Impact of Telemedicine on Pediatric Critical Care Triage.” The study demonstrated that children who receive a telemedicine consultation in a rural emergency department are 2.6 times less likely to be admitted to an ICU than those who receive a telephone consultation. Dr. McSwain is also helping to lead the development of a national pediatric telehealth research collaborative called SPROUT (Supporting Pediatric Research on Outcomes and Utilization of Telehealth), which will facilitate the development of further multicenter research on pediatric telehealth services across the country.

In addition, Dr. McSwain was the lead author and workgroup chair for the recently published American Telemedicine Association Operating Procedures for Pediatric Telehealth. The operating procedures provide overarching guidance for the establishment of safe and effective pediatric telehealth services across a variety of applications, and have been endorsed by multiple professional societies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and the American Academy of Respiratory Care.

The Future of Pediatric Critical Care in Charleston

The state of the art Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital will open in the fall of 2019 with enhanced clinical space for the Pediatric Intensive and Intermediate Care Units.

- Increase to 28 private rooms emphasizing family-centered care
- Special rooms equipped to continuously monitor brain activity using EEG
- Space within the ICU to provide the special care needed for patients who have suffered from burn injuries
- Close proximity to operating rooms with equipment designed just for children
- Medical helipad located on the roof for rapid transportation of the most critically ill children