

UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
ZURICH

# A leading pediatric medical center

**Meet our world renowned professors  
and their fields of expertise**

**The Children's Hospital Zurich is the largest pediatric university hospital in Switzerland and one of the leading pediatric medical centers in Europe. International collaborations are standard practice and key to achieving this goal. The entire spectrum of pediatric medical and surgical care is offered by over 40 departments with their state of the art medical equipment.**

**Several areas of highly specialized medicine have officially been assigned to the Children's Hospital Zurich by the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Health Directors. With its own rehabilitation center as well as the Children's Research Center, the Children's Hospital is one of a kind in Europe.**

**Our International Office is at your disposal for all inquiries.**

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### **Prof. Dr. med. Clemens Schiestl**

Clemens Schiestl is a pioneer in Pediatric Plastic Surgery in Europe and one of the world's leading pediatric burn surgeons. Since 2005, he has been the Head of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the Pediatric Burn Center of the University Children's Hospital Zurich. As a member of the University of Zurich, he has been researching autologous skin substitutes for over 20 years with support of the European Union, the Swiss National Foundation, the ETH Zurich and the Tissue Biology Research Unit of the University Children's Hospital. Clemens Schiestl is the former Secretary of the European Club for Pediatric Burns and he became president of the European Burn Association in 2018. He has operated on more than 1000 children after burn injuries, large soft tissue defects, giant congenital nevi and vascular anomalies from all over the world. Together with his team he also provides the whole spectrum of scar treatments including modern laser technologies.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Emanuela Valsangiacomo**

Prof. Valsangiacomo is co-director of the Division of the Pediatric Cardiology and Congenital Heart Disease at the University Children's Hospital Zurich. She has been senior attendant pediatric cardiologist since 2007 and is therefore one of the most experienced physicians in our Heart Centre. She is an internationally recognized expert in Cardiovascular Imaging – particularly magnetic resonance Imaging – and in Fetal Cardiology. Together with her team she offers highly specialized non-invasive cardiac examinations for all congenital and acquired heart diseases from birth to adolescence, including echocardiography, MRI and CT. Prof. Valsangiacomo has a strong academic profile with active participation in several international guidelines and more than 70 publications. She is currently a board member of the European Society for Pediatric Cardiology and incoming President of the Swiss Society for Pediatric Cardiology.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Oliver Kretschmar**

Prof. Kretschmar is one of the European leaders and opinion setters in the field of minimal-invasive transcatheter treatment of patients with congenital heart defects. Since 2012 he has been a dedicated professor for Pediatric Cardiology at the University of Zurich and co-director of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and Congenital Heart Disease at the University Children's Hospital Zurich. He trained at one of the greatest European centers (German Heart Institute) in Berlin. He has been active in the constantly growing subspecialty of interventional cardiology for pediatric patients with congenital heart defects for 20 years. He has also been involved in several developments and innovations in the field, which allow alternative and less invasive treatment options for various heart defects. The results of his clinical and scientific work have been published in numerous professional articles and presented at national and international congresses.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Robert Cesnjevar**

After 13 years of heading the Department of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at the University Hospital Erlangen (Germany), Prof. Cesnjevar is now heading the Division of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at University Children's Hospital Zurich, as of 2021. He is exceptionally experienced and has built a broad international network over the years. Prof. Cesnjevar enjoys an excellent reputation in both clinical work and clinical research. He has already won several prizes with his medical and scientific achievements in pediatric cardiac surgery. Today he and his team perform up to 350 surgeries a year. An active heart transplantation program and all modern mechanical cardiovascular replacement procedures (ECMO, Assist Device) are available.



**Prof. Dr. med. Georgia Ramantani, PhD**

Prof. Ramantani is an internationally renowned expert and heads the epileptology and epilepsy surgery program at the Children's Hospital Zürich, the largest comprehensive pediatric epilepsy program in Switzerland. She trained as a pediatrician, neuropediatrician and epileptologist in Heidelberg and Freiburg in Germany as well as in Tokyo, Japan, and Cleveland, USA. Her clinical work focuses on comprehensive patient care in epilepsy, aiming to improve both seizure and cognitive outcomes of affected children. She has recently been appointed Chair of the Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Committee of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE). She is currently involved in several European joint studies and has received numerous international scholarships and awards.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Nadia Khan**

Prof. Nadia Khan has been supporting and treating children and adolescents diagnosed with Moyamoya for many years. She is the first female neurosurgeon with a professorship at a Swiss university and pioneered the field of moyamoya angiopathy. She consolidated and deepened her knowledge at various professional institutions in Switzerland and abroad. In 2011, she founded the Moyamoya Center at the Children's Hospital Zurich, which specializes in children and adolescents. It is the only center in Switzerland and in Europe dedicated to and for moyamoya children, and internationally it is one of the few that have successfully positioned themselves in this specialty.





### **Prof. Dr. med. Ueli Möhrlen**

Prof. Möhrlen is professor of pediatric surgery at the University of Zurich and the Surgeon in Chief of the University Children's Hospital Zurich. He is an internationally renowned surgeon and researcher, especially in the field of neonatal and fetal surgery. Since 2001 he has been working for the University Children's Hospital Zurich, with some interruptions, for example due to a clinical fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (USA). In 2010, he was a cofounder of the Zurich Center for fetal Diagnosis and Therapy and has been actively involved in the introduction of fetal surgery in Zurich. He performs more than 25 open fetal interventions per year for fetuses with spina bifida. He has also been Head of the Department of Visceral and Thoracic surgery since 2014 and is a very active member of a large number of national and international professional associations. Through his scientific publications and his numerous academic assignments all over the world, he has gained great international recognition.



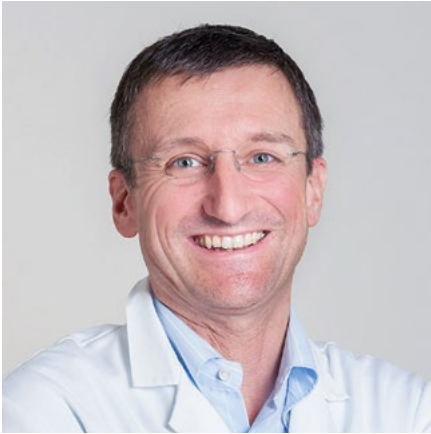
### **Prof. Dr. med. Niklaus Krayenbühl**

Prof. Krayenbühl, Head of Pediatric Neurosurgery, is an internationally renowned neurosurgeon and expert in the field of brain tumor and epilepsy surgery. He trained with experts like Prof. Gazi Yasargil, neurosurgeon of the last century, and worked as vice chairman of neurosurgery at the University Hospital in Zurich, before joining the University Children's hospital. He is head and founding member of the Center for Epileptology and Epilepsy surgery in Zurich and a member of the DIPG/DMG Center in Zurich. Besides his excellent skills and knowledge in microsurgical anatomy and surgery, he is also an expert in robotic assisted surgery and minimally invasive laser ablation techniques. To share his experience, he is invited to lectures and workshops all over the world and is a member of numerous international associations.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Michael Grotzer**

Prof. Grotzer is a full professor of pediatrics at the University of Zurich and the Medical Director of the University Children's Hospital Zurich. In his role, he is responsible for the leadership and management of all areas of Medicine, Research & Teaching. In addition to his specialization and certification in pediatrics, he is also specialized and certified in pediatric oncology-hematology. After spending three years as a research fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (USA), he returned to Zurich and established Pediatric Neuro-Oncology in Switzerland. He has been the recipient of numerous awards for his research activities. Among others, he has received the Friedrich Götz Prize of the University of Zurich and the SIOP Prize (International Society of Pediatric Oncology).



**Prof. Dr. med. Dr. sc. nat Jean-Pierre Bourquin**

After his residency at Children's Hospital Zurich and his MD/PhD at the University of Zurich, he was recruited to the combined clinical and research fellowship program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital (both Harvard Medical School) in Boston, USA. In 2004, he returned to the University Children's Hospital of Zurich to lead the hematological malignancy program. In 2020 he was appointed as a full Professor in Pediatric Oncology and Department Head of oncology. Prof. Bourquin has made many seminal contributions in the field of pediatric hematology-oncology, specifically in pediatric leukemia. His research focus is on mechanisms of drug resistance in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia, in particular new approaches to target transcriptional dependencies and development of functional precision medicine approaches. These have paved the way for international studies for this group of vulnerable patients.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Dreher**

Since 2018 Prof. Dreher is the Head of Pediatric Orthopedics and Traumatology Department at the Children's Hospital Zurich. Before moving to Zurich he was very successful as Head of Paediatric Orthopaedic, Neuro-orthopaedic and Foot Surgery at Heidelberg University Hospitals, Germany. His specialties are pediatric hip surgery, neuro-orthopedics, deformity correction, foot deformities, limb lengthening, trauma and movement analysis. In the field of neuro-orthopedics he is working in an interdisciplinary setting to provide a comprehensive treatment of the whole spectrum of disorders. He is not only an internationally recognized specialist but is actively involved in research in order to provide state-of-the-art treatments and solutions for his patients. Prof. Dreher and Prof. Meyer-Heim (Swiss Children's Rehab) have established a strong and close collaboration in order to provide patients with continuing care and individual therapies after their treatment.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Andreas Meyer-Heim**

Since 2010 Prof. Meyer-Heim is the chief physician of the Swiss Children's Rehab, the center for highly specialized pediatric rehabilitation. Together with his experienced multiprofessional team he aims to foster as much independence and functional improvement as possible in the affected children and young people and in this way is improving the quality of life for the whole family.

Parental inclusion is part of the care and treatment, which is why the rehabilitation team works closely with them.

Through innovative research projects by the clinic's own «Pediatric Rehab Research Group» with a focus on robot and computer supported movement therapy, the rehabilitation program is being updated continually.



### **Prof. Dr. med. Tayfun Güngör**

Since 2008 Prof. Güngör is leading the largest pediatric center for Stem Cell Transplantation in Switzerland. Together with his team he has helped hundreds of children suffering from chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) to reclaim their aspirations for the future and for a normal, healthy life. They have pioneered a method of hematopoietic cell transplant that has been recognized by the scientific community as one of the safest and most effective in the world. Around 35 allogeneic transplantations for the treatment of diseases such as leukemia, primary immunodeficiency, and inborn errors of metabolism are performed annually. Prof. Güngör's main clinical and scientific goal is the reduction of complete abolition of transplant-related mortality and graft-versus-host disease after allogeneic stem cell transplantation as well as in reducing or abolition of long-term sequelae including infertility.



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**| *The hospital of the  
Eleonore Foundation***

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