



HEART - to - HEART



Welcome to Our First Edition of Heart-to-Heart

Hello, everyone and welcome to Heart-to-Heart, our official, quarterly e-newsletter from Phoenix Children's Heart Center. We are excited as this newsletter is truly a partnership between the Hospital and the Heart Center Family Advisory Council (HCFAC).

The newsletter will offer the most up-to-date news from both groups. Enjoy!

MEET OUR TEAM



Joseph N. Graziano, MD

Division Chief of Cardiology

Specialty: Cardiology

Areas of Expertise: Pediatric Cardiology,
Pediatrics



Daniel A. Velez, MD

Division Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Specialty: Thoracic & CV Surgery

Areas of Expertise: Cardiac Surgery,
Thoracic Surgery, Vascular Conduits,
Myocardial Protection, Congenital Surgery,
Arterial Switch, Heart Transplant



Paul R. Bakerman, MD

Interim Chief of Cardiovascular Intensive



Stephen G. Pophal, MD

Medical Director of Inpatient Cardiology

Care Unit (CVICU)

Specialty: Cardiovascular ICU

Areas of Expertise: Pediatric Critical Care



Christopher L. Lindblade, MD

Medical Director, Fetal Cardiology Program

Specialty: Cardiology

Areas of Expertise: Pediatric Cardiology, Echocardiography, Trans-Thoracic Echo, Fetal Cardiology, Fetal Echo, Trans-Esophageal Echo

Specialty: Cardiology

Areas of Expertise: Pediatric Cardiology, Cardiac Catheterization, Heart Failure, Heart Transplant



Steven D. Zangwill, MD

Medical Director, Heart Failure and Transplantation

Specialty: Cardiology

Areas of Expertise: Advanced Heart Failure, Heart Transplant

Meet the Rest of Our Team!

JAXTON'S STORY

Jaxton is one tough little dude! He had heart surgery at 7 months old and he's the **first case** in Arizona of a melody valve implantation in the mitral position (rather than the pulmonary position).

Phoenix Children's Heart Center Division Chief, Joseph Graziano explains the

significance of this surgery. "The positioning of the valve keeps Jaxton off blood thinner medicine (to avoid blood clots) which is very hard to regulate in a baby. It also has side effects and puts him at high risk for excessive bleeding."

Jaxton's surgeon, Division Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Daniel Velez added customization is key. "Jaxton's valve can be adjusted with minimal invasiveness in our Cath Lab as he grows, which is a great alternative to multiple open heart surgeries."

Jaxton was recently featured in the news [here](#) and [here](#). Keep an eye out on the Phoenix Children's social media profiles and website for Jaxton's Heart Month grand finale video story!



HAPPY HEART MONTH!

In honor of American Heart Month, Dr. Daniel Velez, our Division Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Co-Director of the Phoenix Children's Heart Center, wants to share an important

message with our community...in Spanish!

Here is the video transcript translated into English:

February is American Heart Month and according to the American Heart Association, an estimated 40,000 babies are born each year with congenital heart defects, and about one in four has a critical congenital heart defect that requires surgery within a year. But historically, many babies leave their birth hospitals with their heart defect undiagnosed and therefore miss their window for surgery.

Here at Phoenix Children's Heart Center – we're here for you...and your little one's heart.

Happy Heart Month!

GRADUATION DAY!

Valentine's Day was also graduation day and a celebration of success, life and heart here at Phoenix Children's Hospital. A total of 21 families with children in our

Cardiac High Acuity Monitoring Program for Infants & Newborns (CHAMPION) received their "diplomas" and we're celebrated. The event was also attended by some superheroes, but the REAL heroes are these brave and courageous kids and their families.

The Phoenix Children's Heart Center CHAMPIONS Program is designed to monitor infants born with complex heart defects that require a series of heart surgeries. Our program is one of only a handful in the country that focuses on interstage mortality and optimizing growth and nutrition for high-risk infants.

In addition to offering patients a state-of-the-art facility and world-renowned surgeons capable of performing the most complex of procedures, one of the standout elements of CHAMPIONS is its commitment to continuity of care and open communication. Cardiologists within the Phoenix Children's Heart Center have noted significant improvements in family satisfaction as a result of the program.

For more information about the program, please call (602) 933-3535.



TY Hsia, MD, from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (London) has decided not to uproot his family and make the move to Arizona. We are currently in conversations with several top surgical candidates to fill this opening. More to come!

Joshua Koch, MD, currently at University of Texas, Southwestern (Dallas) has signed his commitment to join us this summer as our new Chief of the CVICU. We'll certainly get to know him more through this newsletter!

Finally, we are currently in conversation with a nationally respected candidate for the Director of Adult Congenital Heart Disease. Stay tuned!



HEART CENTER RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING



Phoenix Children's continues to receive the highest rating of 3-stars from the [Society of Thoracic Surgeons](#).

Phoenix Children's is 1 of 11 programs to achieve this designation out of the 118 participating programs.

This measure is based on the analysis of 4-years of cardiothoracic surgery data.

The measure is based on patient risk adjusted mortality following cardiothoracic surgery. This means the statistical model takes into account how 'sick' the patient is before surgery. In summary, Phoenix Children's is performing statistically better than expected (lower than expected mortality rate) given the patient cases we operate on.

[Read More About Our STS Rating](#)



This section spotlights our Heart Center Family Advisory Council (HCFAC), a group of selected family members dedicated to improving Phoenix Children's.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS

The 2018 Heart Center Family Advisory Council Members are excited for the opportunity to partner with the Phoenix Children's Hospital Heart Center. The PCH Physicians, Nurses, CVICU Department, Administration, and countless other PCH team members offer us a great opportunity for collaboration and a platform to set goals that benefit our heart kids and our families. During our first meeting of the year we began to lay the ground work for our 2018 Goals and are excited to share them with the community in the coming months. We truly appreciate the opportunity to serve the heart community and the Heart Center as members of the Heart Center Family Advisory Council in what is shaping up to be an exciting and productive year.

Sincerely,

Carie Semenko & Kisori Coulson
Chairs of the 2018 HCFAC

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[9th Phoenix Fetal Cardiology Symposium - November 2-6, 2018](#)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

[Mended Little Hearts of Phoenix](#)

If you would like to see your group featured here, please contact us at the email listed below.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HCFAC:

Submit to: fac@phoenixchildrens.com

[Find Out More](#)

CONTACT US

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About Heart-to-Heart

Welcome to Heart-to-Heart, the official Phoenix Children's Heart Center newsletter. Here, the Heart Center and the Heart Center Family Advisory Council will share department updates, healthcare insights, patient stories and other relevant information for parents, families and the community. Do you have a topic suggestion or question? [Contact us!](#)



Heart Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital

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