



# THE LIVES WE CHANGE

2016  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



## AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

Dear Friends of Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital:



It's been a year of explosive growth at Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital, and our 2016 Annual Report demonstrates that with stories of technological advancements, strategic partnerships and strong relationships that we continue to build with our patients. We are continuing to push the envelope by bringing in new technologies, new experts and new programs to more deeply serve the needs of our patients.

We have created something really exceptional.

In these pages, you'll read about the people who make Barrow at Phoenix Children's so exceptional. They're our physicians, they're our partners, they're our donors. But most importantly, they're our patients.

Meet high school baseball pitcher Tyler Lakin, who was sidelined with debilitating back pain at age 10. Now he's being recruited to play in college.

Meet Blyss Blackman, a 5-year-old who faced 30 seizures a day. Now he's seizure-free.

Meet 3-year-old Adrianna Lopez, who came to Phoenix Children's after falling off the bed — but doctors discovered she had a brain tumor the size of a clementine. Now, after surgery, she's tumor-free.

You'll also learn about the doctors who helped make these stories a success — Drs. Jamal McClendon, Angus Wilfong and Taryn Bragg, among many others — and the lifesaving technologies and treatments they use.

Our experts, programs, advancements, research and donors fuel our growth. You're the reason our neurosciences group has grown into a statewide, regional, national and international destination for neurological care.

These are the stories that push Barrow at Phoenix Children's Hospital further. We think you'll agree.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT L. MEYER**

*President and Chief Executive Officer  
Phoenix Children's Hospital*

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital cares for children with neurological, mental health and behavioral diseases and disorders so they may live happy and healthy lives. In 2016, the merits of our neurosciences, neurosurgery and neurology programs helped make us a U.S. News & World Report Center of Excellence in the Best Children's Hospitals ranking as a top Children's Neuroscience Program.

Recognizing the importance of not just diagnosing and treating a particular disease or disorder, but reorganizing the importance of bringing behavioral and mental health to the children and their families will truly ensure and improve their quality of life.

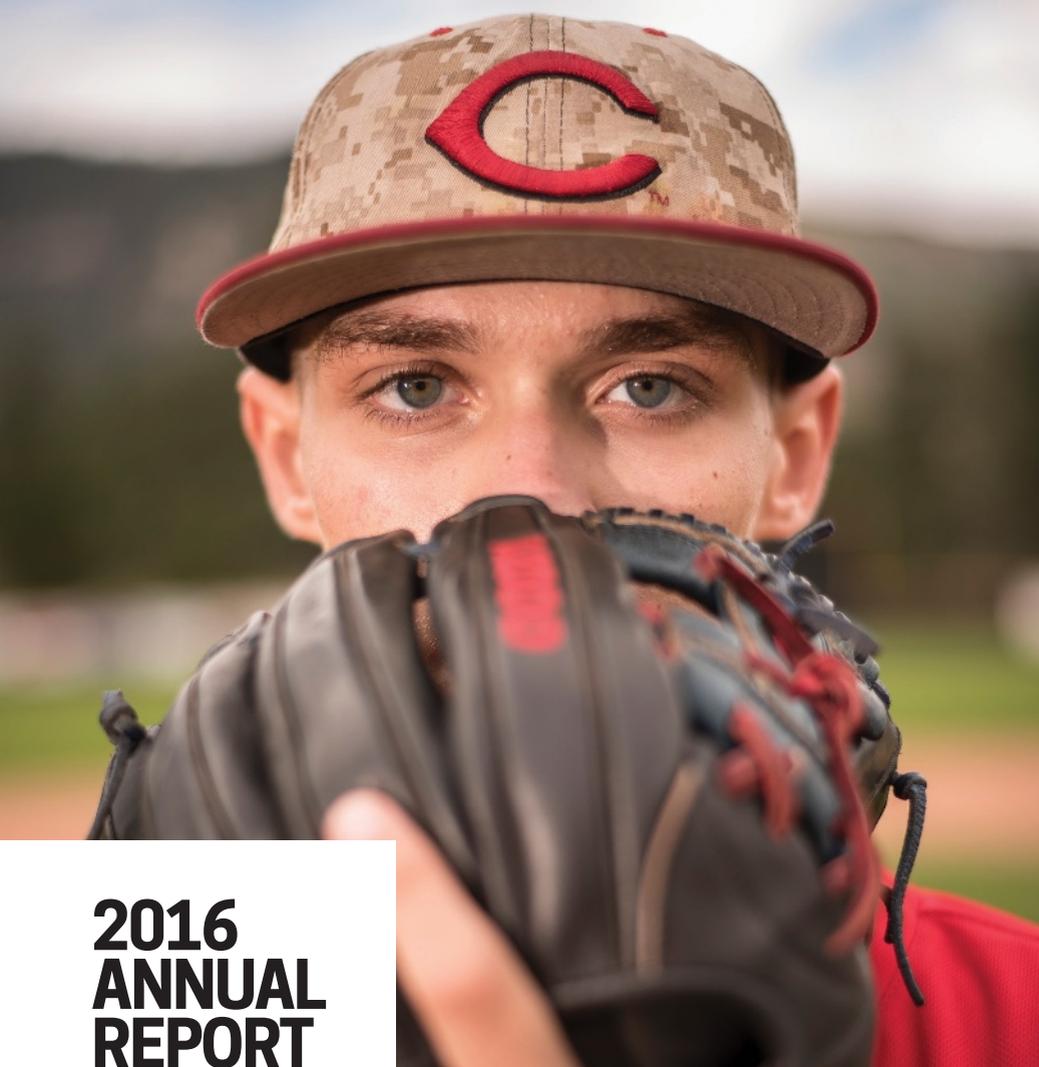
Our collaborative and comprehensive approach to medicine across disciplines, education and research has resulted in Barrow at Phoenix Children's being the largest pediatric neuroscience center in the Southwest. We are proud to be one of the few hospitals to



offer pediatric neurological, behavioral, psychiatric, psychological and neurosurgical care and rehabilitation in one central location.

Barrow at Phoenix Children's is committed to continually improving care through research and

education. We are unwavering in this commitment to providing comprehensive care through our team of nationally and internationally recognized neuroscience experts to ensure Barrow at Phoenix Children's offers state-of-the-art, individualized patient care.



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR MISSION

Improving the health and quality of life for children with neurological, behavioral and mental health diseases and disorders.

## OUR VISION

To be recognized as the premier “Center of Excellence” and destination for management and cure of neurologically, behaviorally and mentally related pediatric diseases and disorders by providing comprehensive, high-quality patient and family-centered care; state-of-the-art clinical and translational research; and professional and community education.

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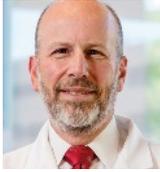
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## BETTER OUTCOMES THROUGH COLLABORATION

Dear Friends of Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital:



It is increasingly recognized that children diagnosed with complex conditions such as developmental delays, autism, epilepsy and traumatic brain injuries achieve better and

more efficient outcomes through the early collaboration of multidisciplinary specialties.

Having these subspecialties under one roof, or Centers of Excellence, promotes the cross-coordination of care that is considered the gold standard in health care today. Consequently, Centers of Excellence can provide the highest level of expertise needed to treat these complex conditions, resulting in outstanding outcomes.

Barrow at Phoenix Children's, recognized as a Center of Excellence, provides a quality experience to its patients and community. Our goal is always to improve the experience for these children and their families using clinical, evidenced-based options. Our cutting-edge research continually brings new treatments, therapies and surgical techniques to the care of children with neurological and behavioral disorders, while our community outreach and professional education ensures everyone is armed with the necessary knowledge to best advocate for these children.

Centers of Excellence also generate excitement and energy that can attract some of the industry's most talented individuals, ones like Drs. Bragg, McClendon and Wilfong, all of whom joined us in the past year. They've already made significant impacts, and you'll read about those successes throughout this Annual Report.

Dr. Wilfong has changed the dynamic of Barrow at Phoenix Children's culture as the division chief of pediatric neurology. He has contributed exponentially to our Epilepsy Program, bringing new ideas and technology, raising the bar for all.

Dr. McClendon, a neurosurgeon with the Pediatric Neurosurgery Program, is trained in both pediatric and adult spine care. Dr. McClendon will be Phoenix Children's

Hospital's comprehensive neuro-ortho spine program co-director along with Dr. Greg White of orthopedics, a collaboration that will be instrumental in the growth of our spine center.

Dr. Bragg, too, has already been influential by bringing new techniques and surgeries to Barrow at Phoenix Children's Movement Disorders Program. Dr. Bragg is a significant addition, as her collaboration complements our efforts to improve the quality of life for our community's children with movement disorders.

With growth, it is important we also focus on the need to be sustainable. In order to achieve and sustain this great expansion and development of these highly specialized centers, further resources and financial support from the community, more philanthropic dollars and new community investments are needed. David and Marilyn Alexander, who are highlighted in this report, are shining examples of how generosity and philanthropy have driven the growth of the Barrow at Phoenix Children's. Their support, along with that of others, has been critical to our continued growth and the financial health of the Hospital.

As you'll see in the coming pages, 2016 exemplified what we are achieving across the spectrum of care here at Phoenix Children's Hospital. We continue to assemble a team at Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children's Hospital that defines a Center of Excellence, with unsurpassed knowledge, experience, expertise and passion to care for the most important people in your life – your children.

Sincerely,



**P. DAVID ADELSON**

*Director, Barrow Neurological Institute  
at Phoenix Children's Hospital*

*Diane and Bruce Halle Endowed Chair  
in Pediatric Neurosciences*

*Chief, Pediatric Neurosurgery*

# 2016 BY THE NUMBERS

160

Patients treated for stroke

1,045

Neonatal patients treated by neurologists

2,277

Patients treated for spine-related conditions

2,697

Patients treated in the Headache Clinic

99

Patients treated for neurofibromatosis

86

Patients treated for brachial plexus injuries

212

Patients treated for spine or brain tumors

69

Patients surgically treated for hydrocephalus

40

Patients surgically treated for Chiari I malformation

15

Pediatric neurologists

5

Pediatric neurosurgeons

9

Physician assistants



Blyss Blackman with his mother, Kyri Carter, father, Kyle Hibbard, and brother Mykah (left).

# FROM ALL ANGLES

How Dr. Wilfong and the Epilepsy Program at Barrow at Phoenix Children's changed one boy's life



Blyss Blackman's first seizure was nearly imperceptible. His dad, Kyle Hibbard, thought his fall getting out of the pool had something to do with the water being cold or a muscle cramp. But when it happened again the next day, it was much more noticeable.

The 5-year-old fell in the parking lot at Phoenix International Raceway, on his way to his first NASCAR race.

He remained conscious, but half his body was completely stiff and he couldn't move for about 20 seconds. EMTs transported Blyss to a hospital for evaluation. Blyss' EKG in the ambulance was abnormal, but hospital staff told Kyle and Blyss' mother, Kyri Carter, everything was fine and to go home.

Over the next two weeks, Blyss started having seizures to 30 times a day for 20 to 30 seconds at a time. Three more unsuccessful trips to their local ER and one local hospital stay left Kyle and Kyri frustrated and scared. They were then referred to Angus Wilfong, MD, associate director of child neurology at

## TEARING DOWN THE STIGMA

After completing his residency in child neurology and fellowships in electromyography, clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Angus Wilfong started and directed the comprehensive epilepsy program at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine. Over 15 years, Dr. Wilfong built the largest comprehensive epilepsy program in the U.S., and now he brings his vast knowledge and focused experience to Barrow at Phoenix Children's.

But Dr. Wilfong is dedicated to more than just studying and treating epilepsy. He is also aiming, through education, to tear down the stigma that still surrounds epilepsy.

"One in 10 people are going to have a seizure during their lifetime," he says. "Next to headaches, seizures are the most common neurologic event, but still nobody talks about it. We're going to change that."

Barrow at Phoenix Children's. While Dr. Wilfong was new to Phoenix at the time, having joined the institute in 2016, he was well-established in pediatric neurology and, more specifically, epilepsy. Previously, Dr. Wilfong built the largest comprehensive epilepsy program in the United States at Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine.

### ALL-ENCOMPASSING CARE

Comprehensive epilepsy centers have epilepsy monitoring units where patients can be evaluated so physicians can characterize seizures and determine where in the brain they're occurring. The units also allow staff to monitor patients when trying or changing medications.

Blyss spent some time in the epilepsy monitoring unit at Barrow at Phoenix Children's so Dr. Wilfong and staff could observe and track his seizures. Dr. Wilfong was able to pinpoint what area of the brain was causing Blyss' seizures, something previous providers hadn't been able to determine. The diagnosis was frontal lobe epilepsy with consciousness. While Blyss had been given seven other medications during his previous care, Dr. Wilfong prescribed two new ones.

Another tenet of a comprehensive epilepsy center is that it must offer all possible seizure treatment options, including 1. medication, 2. surgery, 3. dietary therapy and 4. nerve stimulation, and that means staying up to date on research. But Dr. Wilfong's program at Barrow at Phoenix Children's, which has been designated a Level 4 comprehensive center by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, does more than that.

"We don't just rely on therapies that are currently approved," Dr. Wilfong says. "We are investigating and developing new medical therapies through our own innovative research."

Fortunately, the medications Dr. Wilfong prescribed Blyss worked, and no further treatment is needed. Kyle and Kyri even expect to be able to wean Blyss off one or both medications in the coming year.

### 'A 10 OUT OF 10'

"He has not had a seizure since he was released from Phoenix Children's," Kyri says. "If we had just been here from the get-go, it wouldn't have been as hard."

Kyri and Kyle both credit Dr. Wilfong for helping Blyss become seizure-free.

"Dr. Wilfong is just amazing," Kyri says. "And the best thing is that you can ask him questions and he will answer you. He'll take the time to explain things."

Kyle agrees. "Yeah, he's definitely a 10 out of 10."

We think so, too.

**50,000 CHILDREN  
ARE DIAGNOSED  
WITH EPILEPSY EACH  
YEAR IN THE U.S.**



Dr. Angus Wilfong

# WITHOUT COMPLICATION

A fluke accident revealed a brain tumor in this little girl. Fortunately, Dr. Bragg was there to help

Just looking at Adrianna Lopez, you'd never know she recently had brain surgery. Largely oblivious to the scar hidden under her long hair, Adrianna talks, laughs and plays with as much vibrancy as any other 3-year-old. It was her energy that brought her to Phoenix Children's Hospital in the first place. A fall off the bed had mom, Michelle, headed to the emergency department. A CT scan revealed good news for Adrianna's injury — no internal bleeding or brain damage — but it also uncovered something Michelle never expected. Adrianna had a choroid plexus tumor the size of a baseball in the center of her brain.

"Choroid plexus tumors are uncommon in children, representing 3 percent of all pediatric brain tumors," says neurosurgeon Taryn M.

Bragg, MD. "The location of Adrianna's tumor within the third ventricle is exceptionally rare in children. We're talking *maybe* one case a year."

Still, it had to come out all the same, and so that's what Dr. Bragg set out to do. After deciding how best to access the hard-to-reach mass, Dr. Bragg had to cut off the tumor's blood supply so it didn't pose a bleeding risk during surgery. She then removed the tumor without complication.

## OVERCOMING OBSTACLES OF ANY SIZE

Today, Adrianna is doing well. She and Michelle visit Barrow at Phoenix Children's every so often for follow-up scans to make sure the tumor doesn't grow back, but they don't mind.

"Dr. Bragg is great," Michelle says. "She's really good with children, and Adrianna just loves her."

## THE NATURAL CHOICE

Neurosurgeon Taryn M. Bragg, MD, fell in love with pediatric neurosurgery during her residency at Loyola University Medical Center. There, she treated both children and adults, and saw the gamut of cases, but decided her calling was pediatrics. After completing a neurological surgery residency at Loyola and simultaneously earning her master's in clinical research methods, Dr. Bragg went on to complete a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Primary Children's Medical Center at The University of Utah.

In 2010, she accepted a staff position at American Family Children's Hospital in Madison, WI. During her six years there, she developed a special interest in kids with cerebral palsy, serving as the director of the Spasticity and Movement Disorders Clinic. So when Barrow at Phoenix Children's was hiring a neurosurgeon to fill that exact role in spring 2016, Dr. Bragg was the natural choice.





Adrianna Lopez

## CHOROID PLEXUS TUMORS ACCOUNT 3 PERCENT OF ALL PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMORS.

Dr. Bragg has just as much adoration for her patients as they do for her.

“Kids have such spunk, a sparkle that many adults lack,” she says. “They see an obstacle, and they’re already crawling over it before we’ve even started treating them.”

Dr. Bragg also appreciates that children often come with strong support systems in their parents and family. This system is important for patients, but it’s also critical for physicians, and the team at Barrow at Phoenix Children’s is one of the aspects that drew her to Phoenix in 2016.

“I’m really impressed with how there’s such a camaraderie that exists here,” Dr. Bragg says. “And the level of expertise is second to none. The fact that every physician has extensive experience speaks volumes. We each have an area of expertise that’s unique with enough overlap that we cover the depth and breadth of

pediatric neurosurgery. There’s no place like Phoenix Children’s.”

### ‘OUR DUTY, OUR COMMITMENT’

Dr. Bragg shares her experience

by training neurosurgery residents and fellows, and she serves as an instructor for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. She also takes time to educate her patients and their parents and families.

“I firmly believe there isn’t anything on a scan I see that they can’t also see. I always sit down and show them pictures and talk through what we think is going on,” she says. “It’s our duty, our commitment, to share with them the information that we have. After all, it’s their child we’re talking about.”

Barrow Neurological Institute at Phoenix Children’s Hospital believes educated parents make better advocates for children.



Dr. Bragg removed a baseball-sized tumor from the center of Adrianna’s brain.

# LISTENING WITH EMPATHY

How one young baseball star finally found relief at Barrow at Phoenix Children's

There was a point in Tyler Lakin's life when he struggled to put on a sock or a shoe without feeling unexplained pinching pain in his lower back. And that was before he had even turned 10.

"He started complaining of back pain early," says Tyler's mother, Sabrina Lakin. Tyler is large for his age — the now 15-year-old wears a size 14 shoe today — so Sabrina says she was unsure whether his pain stemmed

from growth spurts, or if it was more serious.

But by about age 10, Tyler started showing more concerning signs, particularly during and after his Little League baseball games. "He would come home from a game and lay there and cry," Sabrina says. "I just knew, this isn't your normal back pain."

The mother and son from Flagstaff, Arizona, sought answers from a variety of health care providers. Some suggested he had bulging discs or deterioration in his spine. Tyler tried visiting physical therapists and chiropractors — all the while, excelling in baseball. The pain would sometimes subside, but it always came back. "I just pitched through the pain," Tyler recalls.



Tyler Lakin is back on the mound after overcoming a disc herniation and surgical fusion (right).

This went on for years.

Then, on June 24, 2016, Tyler was pitching a game when his back gave out and he fell forward. He was debilitated. Sabrina continued to advocate for more answers from area doctors. But after months of ineffective options, Tyler was often sweating profusely

and had lost so much of his athletic-level appetite that he dropped 45 pounds.

That's when Sabrina brought Tyler to Phoenix Children's Hospital, where they met Jamal McClendon, MD, a neurosurgeon at Barrow at Phoenix Children's, and Department of Neurosurgery at Mayo Clinic School of Medicine, Scottsdale.

"Dr. McClendon talked with us for a long time," Sabrina says. "It was exactly what I needed — somebody to really listen to what was going on. Dr.



**"I JUST KNEW, THIS ISN'T YOUR NORMAL BACK PAIN."**

—SABRINA LAKIN

McClendon said he wanted to consider what he would do if this were his own son. He was amazing."

#### **DOCTOR ASKS, 'WHAT WOULD I DO?'**

It's this approach to spine care — one of empathy and compassion — that makes Dr. McClendon a leading neurosurgeon at Barrow at Phoenix Children's. "It goes a long way," Dr. McClendon says. "I can only be myself. I interact with these patients' parents and explain what I would do if I were in their situation."

Tyler was diagnosed with an L5-S1 disc herniation with spondylolisthesis from a bilateral spondylolysis. In other words, he had a slippage of his spine. Dr. McClendon recommended a surgical fusion.

Tyler was throwing a baseball again just six weeks after the surgery. He was pitching competitively six months later. In fact, he was back on the same pitching mound on June 24, 2017, where his back gave out a year prior. And he's no longer complaining of pain.

"If I didn't advocate for my son and we didn't meet Dr. McClendon, we'd still be going through this," Sabrina says. "Tyler is being looked at for scholarships now. For Dr. McClendon to step in the way he did — he went beyond. When he did that, I felt relieved."

#### **'THERE'S A HUMANISTIC QUALITY'**

Dr. McClendon credits the level of unmatched service found at Barrow and Phoenix Children's Hospital.

"Patients are not treated as numbers here," he says. "There's a humanistic quality [here]."

"When you wake up in the morning, there are some things that you can't really predict," Dr. McClendon adds, "but by and large, there's an overwhelming sense of greatness that comes through these doors, knowing that you're going to help patients by fixing a problem not only physically, but also emotionally. Taking care of children is a great privilege. It's enriching to be here."

Barrow at Phoenix Children's treats children of neurological diseases so they can live happy and healthy lives.



## **THE FUTURE OF SPINE CARE**

Jamal McClendon, MD, came to Barrow at Phoenix Children's in 2016 because he knew it would be a place where he and his colleagues could grow.

"I have partners focused in orthopedics and neurosurgery who not only believe in me, but also believe in what we can accomplish together," Dr. McClendon says. "I feel that we all benefit from each other, and we're better because of each other, actually."

To that end, Dr. McClendon and co-director, Dr. Greg White of the Herbert J. Louis Center for Pediatric Orthopedics have a vision for marrying neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery into one spine program at Phoenix Children's. He says that's possible thanks to the already healthy overlap of expertise between these two departments at Phoenix Children's, as well as the level of collaboration here that is not seen anywhere else.

"The hope is that we will offer a spine program that is comprehensive," Dr. McClendon says. "It's something very special that we have here. In five to 10 years, there won't be a division between orthopedics and neurosurgery spine care at Phoenix Children's, because essentially that doesn't even exist now."

# THE GREATER GOOD

Barrow at Phoenix  
Children's is saving  
lives through research  
and education

Research is critical to medical advancement. Every medication, every vaccine, every treatment ever made started with research. And yet, not every physician or institution values research. The physicians and staff at Barrow at Phoenix Children's, however, are a different story. Not only do they value research for their patients, they know it's vital to children

across the world.

"It's not just about what we're doing at Barrow at Phoenix Children's," says clinical research director S. Danielle Brown, RN, MS, CNRN. "It's important to health care as a whole. It's important to medicine. Nothing moves, nothing changes unless we understand the 'why' of these diseases, and research is how we understand. It's how we gain knowledge and can grow, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of these children."



## RESEARCH LABORATORIES OPTIMIZING CARE

Phoenix Children's Hospital has four research laboratories, two of which are dedicated to neuroscience, based at Barrow Neurological Institute. The labs host studies that aim to better understand diseases and optimize treatment for neurological diseases.

In 2016, Barrow at Phoenix Children's neurogenomics researchers uncovered a new lysosomal storage disease that mimics multiple sclerosis in children and adults. The Translational Neurotrauma Research Program also found the link between traumatic brain injuries and increased inflammation and pain sensitivity in other parts of the body. Understanding disease processes paves the way for future targeted treatments.

## CLINICAL TRIALS OFFER NEW TREATMENTS

In some cases, being part of a clinical trial at Barrow at Phoenix Children's is life-changing. Patients participating in the trials get access to still-being-developed treatments that aren't being offered otherwise. But even the families who choose not to participate in trials benefit from the research initiatives at Barrow at Phoenix Children's.

"All of our patients get state-of-the-art medical management because our researchers are in contact with people all over the world sharing information," Brown says. "For instance, Dr. Adelson participates in quite a few advisory boards and steering committees for studies all across the globe. So our doctors often have access to study results and proven treatments before they're even published."

## ADVANCING RESEARCH THROUGH MEDICAL EDUCATION

Not all research is aimed at developing new treatments. Studies also are used to validate current treatment methods. With Barrow at Phoenix Children's focus on education, residents, fellows and medical students come from all over to conduct retrospective research — often in partnership with leading educational and medical institutions.



**“NOTHING MOVES,  
NOTHING CHANGES  
UNLESS WE  
UNDERSTAND, ...  
AND RESEARCH  
IS HOW WE  
UNDERSTAND.**

— S. DANIELLE BROWN, RN,  
MS, CNRN, CLINICAL RESEARCH  
DIRECTOR, BARROW AT  
PHOENIX CHILDREN'S

"Research is when you have a question like, 'We've been doing this treatment for awhile. Is it helping these kids?'" Brown says. "Then,

we can look back and see how much of an impact a treatment has had on our care."

In fact, Barrow at Phoenix Children's continues to conduct research long after kids are treated and back to their busy lives of being kids.

At Phoenix Children's Biological Materials Availability Program, physicians bank discarded samples — tissue, blood, body fluids — to be studied at a later date. Consider this: If in five years, a researcher wishes to conduct a study on hydrocephalus, for example, Phoenix Children's already has cerebral spinal fluid on hand to facilitate the study rather than it taking years to collect the samples. Barrow at Phoenix Children's believes it needs to be at the forefront of research to contribute to our understanding of neurological disease, but also to deliver the best care to children.

# 2016 RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

TRANSLATIONAL  
NEUROTRAMA  
RESEARCH

975

Patients evaluated and treated  
for trauma and post-concussion

GRANTS

15

New grants  
submitted

CLINICAL  
TRIALS

8

Funded by the National  
Institutes of Health

9

Peer-reviewed publications  
about trauma and concussion

18

New studies approved by the  
Institutional Review Board

5

Industry  
sponsored

3

Studies related to  
traumatic brain injury

7

Grants successfully  
reviewed

27

Observational  
studies

610

Patients enrolled in Biologic  
Materials Availability Program

9

Prospective clinical  
databases on patient care

400+

Samples collected

Includes tumors, epileptic tissue, cerebrospinal fluid,  
blood, plasma, urine, synostotic skull bone and cystic fluid



# THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Barrow at Phoenix Children’s multidisciplinary approach to neuroscience care includes strategic partnerships and collaborations with clinical research groups, locally, nationally and internationally. This includes a strong emphasis on professional education programs, with crucial residencies and fellowships. We would like to thank our partners from 2016.

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Arizona Alzheimer’s Consortium

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Arizona Biomedical Research Commission

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Arizona Governor’s Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

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Arizona State University Schools of Biodesign Institute, Biological and Health Systems Engineering, Bioinformatics, Education, Law, Nursing

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Banner University Medical Center

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Barrow Neurological Institute at Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center

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The Industry Partners: AstraZeneca, Baxter™, Cyberonics, Integra®, Lundbeck, Pfizer, IQVIA, Schering-Plough™

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DSM Pharmaceuticals

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EPIC – TBI

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INSYS Therapeutics

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Mayo Clinic

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Arizona National Institutes of Health

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Phoenix VA Health Care System

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Science Foundation Arizona

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Sojourner Center

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Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC)

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The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix, Department of Child Health

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The University of Arizona College of Medicine - Tucson, AzNETT

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The University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

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The University of Arizona College of Nursing

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Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen)

# HONORS AND AWARDS



**P. DAVID ADELSON, MD**

Arizona Top Doctors, Castle Connolly Medical  
 Best Doctors in America – Neurological Surgery/Pediatric Neurosurgery  
 Herbert Olivecrona Award, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden  
 One of the 25 most influential people in Phoenix healthcare, *Phoenix Magazine*  
 Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*

**ROBIN K. BLITZ, MD**

Arizona Top Doctors, Castle Connolly Medical  
 Recipient, National Down Syndrome Congress Education Grant  
 Recipient, Board of Visitors Campaign for Developmental Pediatrics Grant  
 Top Doctor, *Phoenix Magazine*

**RUTH BRISTOL, MD**

Top Doctor, *Phoenix Magazine*

**ALLEN KAPLAN, MD**

Top Doctor, *Phoenix Magazine*

**JOSHUA KELLISON, PHD**

Co-Chair for Membership, American Psychological Association, Div. 44

**JOHN F. KERRIGAN, MD**

Editorial Board Member, *Epilepsy Research*

**MICHAEL KRUER, MD**

Recipient, Scott Family Foundation Grant  
 Scientific Advisory Board Member, Spastic Paraplegia Foundation

**MICHAEL S. LAVOIE, PHD**

Reviewer, *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*  
 Secretary, Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries

**MATTHEW M. TROESTER, DO**

Arizona Top Doctors, Castle Connolly Medical  
 Editorial Board Member, *American Academy of Sleep Medicine Sleep Scoring Manual*  
 Top Doctor, *Phoenix Magazine*

**AMBER WRIGHT, CPNP**

Finalist, Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year, March of Dimes – Arizona Chapter  
 Nursing Excellence Award, Advanced Practice Provider,  
 Phoenix Children's Hospital

**LAURA WILNER, MD**

Top Doctor, *Phoenix Magazine*

# PHILANTHROPY, INNOVATION AND GROWTH

In 2016, the Phoenix Children's Hospital Foundation raised \$715,570 in cash, pledges and gifts-in-kind for Barrow at Phoenix Children's. Since 2008, the Foundation has raised a total of \$15,316,740 in gifts-in-kind, events, pledges and donations.

## SUPPORTING BARROW AT PHOENIX CHILDREN'S

Your investment in Barrow at Phoenix Children's helps us develop new paradigms for clinical care and cures for the children we treat. We are forever grateful for the funding provided by our generous donors. You can express your support of Barrow at Phoenix Children's in ways that complement your own personal interests as you help us grow, evolve and continue to set new standards in pediatric neurological care.

## WHAT PHILANTHROPY SUPPORTS

- Development and the enhancement of existing and/or new clinical programs
- Cutting-edge programs in clinical, translational, laboratory and experimental research
- Community and professional educational initiatives
- Infrastructure supporting the biorepository, bioinformatics and data centers

## WAYS TO GIVE

You've helped us to grow, but we are always looking for opportunities to fully or extensively fund our:

- Epilepsy Program
- Neuro-Oncology Program
- Translational Neurotrauma Laboratory
- Neurogenomics of Movement Disorders Laboratory
- Neurodevelopmental Disorders (Down syndrome, Fragile X, developmental delay)

MAKE A DONATION TODAY AT  
[PHOENIXCHILDRENSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://PHOENIXCHILDRENSFOUNDATION.ORG)



## A PASSION FOR GIVING

He's a self-made businessman, a decorated triathlete and a celebrated ambassador for the Boy Scouts of America, for starters.

But at his core, David Alexander says giving to others is what he enjoys most. Over the past decade, this unassuming man — who happens to run Phoenix-based CalJet — and his wife Marilyn have gifted more than \$500,000 to Barrow at Phoenix Children's.

"It's about passion," he says. "You've got to have passion for many things in life — like so many people at Phoenix Children's." Especially, he says, P. David Adelson, MD, Barrow's Director and Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery. "When he tells me he needs something, I want to get it for him," says Alexander, who now counts Dr. Adelson as a close friend. Despite the long, arduous hours they each devote to their work lives, the two giants in their respective fields make time to connect.

"I've given to Barrow at Phoenix Children's because I was so impressed with Dr. Adelson's passion for what he does. And in order to make an impact, I had to focus on one area," Alexander says.

And make a difference, he has. Over the years, the Alexanders' gifts have bolstered Barrow at Phoenix Children's initiatives in neurosciences, and will continue to touch the future. Their support has funded projects including brain-computer interface (BCI), which helped develop neural prosthetics that will one day restore damaged hearing, sight and movement; a collaboration between Phoenix Children's and ASU offering state-of-the-art imaging technology; seed funding for the development of a biorepository that can store bio specimens samples from more than 1,000 patients for future scientific discovery; and an international neurotrauma fellowship helping to train international neurosurgeons on neurotrauma and neurocritical care and research.

# MEET THE TEAM

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