



# International Patient Services

Putting Patients first.



## Sidra Medicine

Sidra Medicine represents the vision of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

Since opening our Outpatient clinics in 2016 and our main hospital in 2018, we continue to deliver optimal care for women and children who require specialist expertise. We are home to world-class patient care, scientific expertise, and educational resources.

With a team of international healthcare experts, some of whom are considered pioneers and rank among the best in their fields worldwide, we have changed the specialist healthcare services landscape for patients in Qatar and beyond. In fact, several of our services and programs are benchmarked against some of the top hospitals in the world. We are also one of the few hospitals in the world, where our clinical care services are closely integrated with our research and education priorities into a program of excellence that is built on a foundation of personalized medicine.

Each year, our International Patients Services team works with families who travel from outside of their home country to receive specialized care at our hospital. Our team understands that every patient and family has different needs and we are committed to offering seamless care. The team recognizes that travel for care overseas can be overwhelming and are committed to ensuring that patients and family members' unique needs are met before, during, and after their visit. The team coordinates everything for the patient so that the patient can focus on treatment, healing, and returning home.

Prof. Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD  
Chief Medical Officer



## Introduction

Sidra Medicine's mission is to provide children and women with outstanding preventive, primary, secondary, and tertiary care in an innovative and ultramodern facility designed to promote healing.

Since its opening, Sidra Medicine has welcomed thousands of pediatric and women patients from Qatar and the rest of the world. As a multidisciplinary specialist care hospital, we are the only providers of certain specialized services in the Middle East. We have many centers of clinical excellence, and our physicians are world-renowned for their clinical expertise.

Research is fully integrated into a patient's journey, and patients visiting Sidra Medicine benefit from seamless access to state-of-the-art technologies housed within our Research department. We are a hub for biomedical research to advance the understanding of the epidemiology and mechanisms of diseases, develop preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic tools, and improve the health outcomes of women and children.

## International Patient Services

Each year, patients from around the world travel to Sidra Medicine to receive medical care from our world-renowned team of doctors. Our multicultural and multilingual International Patient Services team helps patients, and their families navigate care and logistics with Sidra Medicine, guiding them through the medical care experience, step by step.

We understand the stress associated with illness. We understand the challenges when the treatment is sought outside of one's home country. We are committed to making a family's experience with us easy and comfortable. A liaison from our team who speaks your language will coordinate all aspects of your visit to our hospital and clinics and will serve as a single point of contact before, during, and after the visit.

### Our complete services include:

- Appointments and scheduling
- Medical records and treatment plan coordination
- Hospital admission process
- Cost of care estimates and financial counseling
- Access to health records on the patient portal
- Pharmacy refills for post-care in the home country
- Air ambulances services
- Travel advice: visas, flights, airport to hospital transfers and car rental arrangements
- Long-term and short-term accommodation reservations
- Language interpreters
- Childcare services
- Leisure, tourism, shopping, and entertainment

### Contact us:

Email: [international.services@sidra.org](mailto:international.services@sidra.org)

Telephone: +974 3003 1200



### Request for a Second Medical Opinion

Sidra Medicine specialists provide online second opinions to patients and health care providers. These are also provided through video consultation, eliminating the need to travel. During a remote second opinion, a Sidra Medicine physician will review your medical history and your current diagnosis. Based on these, our experts will give you the information that will help you to make a more informed decision about your care.

Please contact the International Patients Services to discuss costs associated with remote second opinions.

Please note that all medical documentation for second opinions must be provided in English.

### Medical Interpretation and Translation Services

Our certified interpreters can provide interpretation in Arabic, English, French, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Turkish and Arabic Sign Language. We also offer language assistance wither over the phone or video in 66 languages including Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Pashto, Persian, Bengali, Nepali and American Sign language among others.

### Payments

We want patients and their families to have as much information as possible and our experienced staff will guide families on what charges are anticipated for our services. The team will also work with them or their embassy or other payers to facilitate payment in advance of the first consultation or appointment.



# Our Services

At Sidra Medicine, we pride ourselves on giving safe and quality care to women and children in a family-centered environment. Patients have access to top doctors, advanced treatments, and state-of-the-art facilities. We provide expert, collaborative care to deliver outcomes that matter to patients.

### Pediatric services:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Adolescent Medicine
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Child Safety and Advocacy
- Dermatology
- Developmental Pediatrics
- Endocrinology and Diabetes
- Gastroenterology / Hepatology / Nutrition
- General Pediatrics
- General and Thoracic Surgery
- Genetics and Genomic Medicine
- Heart Center
- Hematology and Oncology
- Infant Hip Clinic
- Infectious Diseases
- Intensive Care Services
- Neonatology
- Nephrology and Dialysis
- Neurology
- Pediatric Emergency Services
- Poison Center
- Pulmonology
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Rheumatology
- Sleep Laboratory
- Urology

### Women services:

- Adult Pain
- Aesthetic Surgery and Medicine
- Gynecology
- Internal/Acute Care Medicine
- Lactation Support for Mothers
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Obstetrics
- Perinatal Mental Health Services
- Reproductive Medicine (IVF)
- Women's Health Physiotherapy
- Women's Ultrasound
- Women's Urgent Care and Obstetric Triage Services

# Heart Center



## Heart Center

Our Heart Center is a comprehensive program that delivers the best outcomes and safe quality care to our children and adults with congenital heart defects. We offer comprehensive surgical and medical care for all pediatric congenital cardiac and acquired heart diseases and adult congenital heart disease. Our outcomes are comparable to any other western and North American programs.

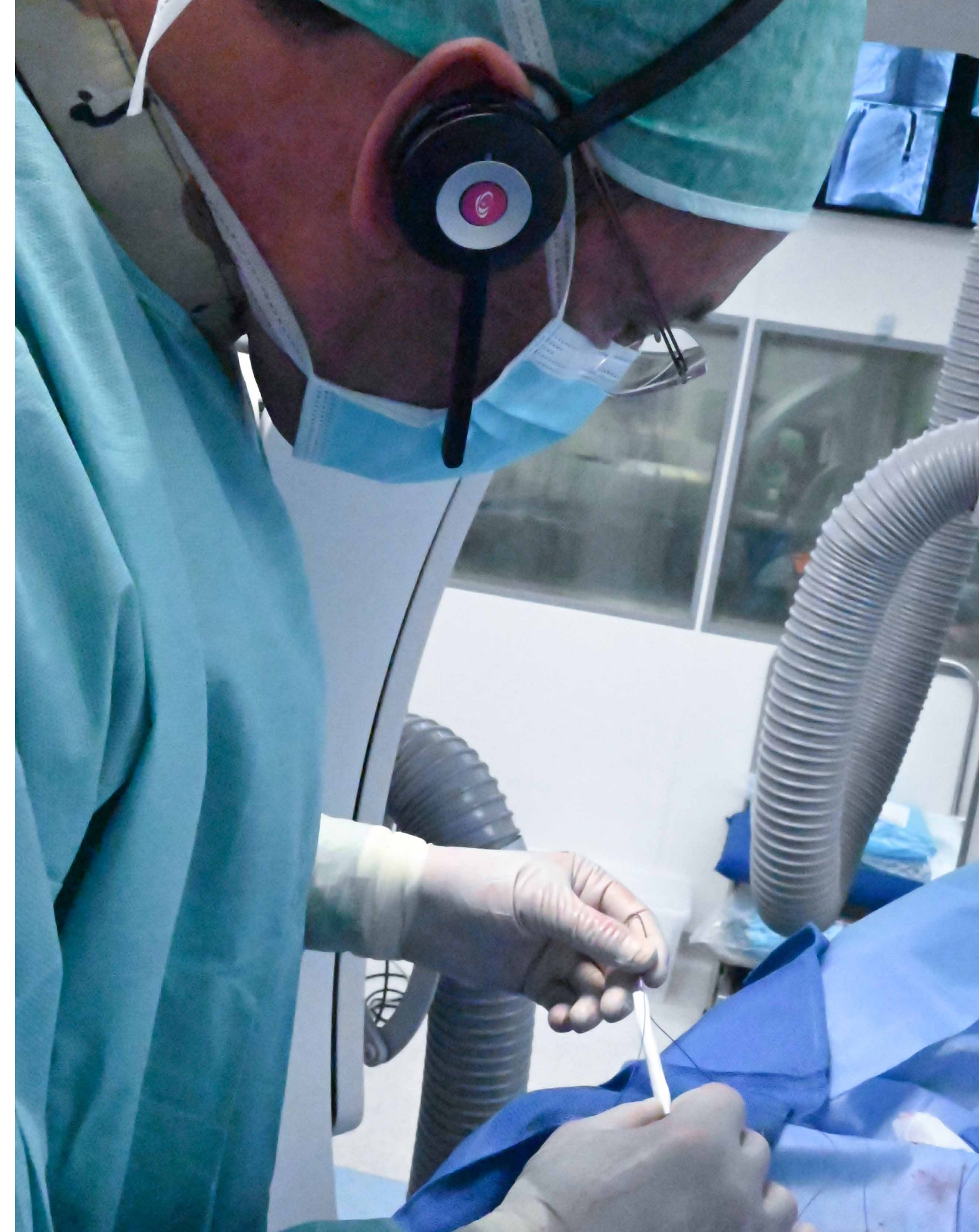
In 2021, we performed more than 170 heart operations and more than 350 interventional cardiac catheterizations with a more than a 95% success rate. We submit and compare our outcome data to Virtual Pediatric Systems in the USA for surgical cases and to the IMPACT registry.

Our team includes two senior cardiothoracic surgeons, three cardiac catheterization interventionists, four general cardiologists, one electrophysiologist, and multiple cardiac Imaging experts (Transthoracic and Transesophageal Echocardiography, Fetal Imaging, and CT/MRI), metabolic exercise experts, seven cardiac intensivists, five cardiac anesthesiologists, focused nurses, perfusionists, sonographers and cardiovascular technicians, and covers essential aspects of care in all the focused areas in the Cardiac program.



### Specialties include:

- Outpatient clinics: Daily clinics with flexible timing to suit our patients and families from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Clinic visits include clinical assessment and diagnostic investigations like echocardiogram, ECG and Holter. Patient experiences are unique as they will be assigned to their room and the staff would come to them for clinical assessment and diagnostic tests.
- Cardiac Catheterization Lab: One of the world's best cath labs; available 24/7. State-of-the-art equipment and very experienced staff can do any procedure, from diagnostic or simple interventions to very complex ones, including percutaneous valve implantation and Hybrid procedures. The results are submitted regularly to the IMPACT registry and our results ranked among the highest success rates and lowest adverse events simultaneously. Some of the interventions we do are performed first in the world by our staff Cardiologists.
- Cardiac Electrophysiology Lab: ranging from non-invasive to complex invasive procedures. A state-of-the-art lab that is available 24/7. The fluoroless catheter ablation was first performed in the world by our staff Cardiologist and is implemented in most cases.
- Cardiac Imaging lab: State-of-the-art lab equipped with the latest echocardiography machines and staffed with specialized Cardiologists and Sonographers. All modalities are available, including Transthoracic, Transesophageal, and Intra-cardiac Echocardiography with the highest standards; the lab is implementing the international guidelines in performing and reporting the studies.
- CT and MRI lab: State-of-the-art equipment and internationally recognized Radiologists who can do any simple or complex study and are available 24/7.
- Cardiac Exercise Lab: Stress and Cardiopulmonary exercise tests.
- Cardiac Intensive Care Unit: Single occupancy beds with large windows and a private bathroom, equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology. The unit is well staffed with internationally recognized Cardiac Intensivists who are available 24/7 for direct patient care. The ECMO program is one of the best in the region.



## Physician Profile



### Prof. Ziyad M. Hijazi, MD

Chief Medical Officer  
Chair - Heart Center

#### Expertise

Prof. Hijazi has nearly 40 years of experience in Congenital Cardiology and has pioneered several ground-breaking Interventional procedures in the field. He is an internationally recognized leader and a renowned interventional Cardiologist who was the first in the United States to pioneer several treatments of congenital and structural heart diseases in both children and adults, and his innovations have been used globally.

Prof. Hijazi's Cardiac contributions lead Mayor Thomas Menino to declare July 25th, 2011, as the Ziyad M. Hijazi day in Boston, MA.

#### Profile

As CMO of Sidra Medicine, Prof. Hijazi is responsible for the overall management of the hospital's medical operations, upholding its clinical excellence and patient safety programs, and ensuring that patients in Qatar receive the highest standard of medical care.

Prof. Hijazi joined Sidra Medicine in 2014, when he established the hospital's Department of Pediatrics and world-class Heart Center, staffed by some of the top pediatric specialists and healthcare professionals from across the globe. The Heart Center provides treatment (medical, interventional, electrical, and surgical) for patients with congenital or acquired heart disease.

Prof. Hijazi is a true academician and research cardiologist with over 360 published papers and nine books. He also runs many clinical trials related to novel technologies.

- Performed the first multiple coil closure of patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) in (1993).
- He was the first in the United States to use the Amplatzer device to close atrial septal defects (ASDs) in 1997.
- Was the first to describe how intra-cardiac echocardiology can be used to assist in guiding transcatheter closure of ASDs in children and patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) in (2000).

- Was the first in the United States to perform percutaneous valve implantation for patients with defective pulmonary valves using the Edwards SAPIEN valve (2005).
- Was the first in the United States to perform periventricular pulmonary valve implantation without cardiopulmonary bypass (2008).
- Expert in transcatheter closure of para valvar mitral and aortic leaks.
- Has more than 370 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals and edited nine books.
- Course director for the Pediatric Interventional Cardiac Symposium (PICS), which annually attracts more than eight hundred professionals from more than 60 countries.
- In 2008, he became the 31st president of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)
- He is routinely selected by Chicago magazine as a "Top Doctor" in his field

#### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

## Physician Profile

**Dr. Hesham Al Saloos, FAAP, MBBCH**  
Division Chief of Cardiology



### Expertise

Interventional Cardiology in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Diseases

### Profile

Dr. Hesham is the division chief of Cardiology and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, WQMC-Qatar.

He did his Pediatric residency and core Cardiology fellowship in Canada and Interventional Cardiology fellowship in New Zealand.

He joined Sidra Medicine in late 2019, where he was appointed as a senior attending Interventional Cardiologist.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

## Physician Profile

**Dr. Olivier Ghez, MD**  
Division Chief  
Pediatric Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery



### Expertise

Dr. Ghez specializes in neonatal, pediatric, and adult congenital cardiac surgery, particularly for complex heart malformations including complex neonatal and pediatric heart surgery, aortic and mitral valve repairs for congenital patients and cone repair for tricuspid valve Ebstein malformation. Along with a highly specialized team of interventional cardiologists, Dr. Ghez and his team apply innovative hybrid techniques and cosmetic approaches to cardiac surgery for simple malformations.

### Profile

Dr. Olivier Ghez joined Sidra Medicine in 2018 and is the Division Chief of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery.

Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Ghez was the lead pediatric cardiac surgeon at Royal Brompton Hospital in London, U.K. During his 10-year tenure at the hospital, he was honored by the ITV/Sun's Special Recognition Health Star Award for having successfully operated on the hearts of more than 1500 newborn babies, infants and children.

Dr. Ghez received his medical degree from the University Aix-Marseille II in France as well as a master's degree in physiology and biology of circulation from the University of Paris VII. He has several degrees from the same universities in specialties including congenital cardiac surgery; extracorporeal circulation and microsurgical research.

He is involved in several research projects to improve care to patients with congenital heart disease including operations, simulation, and circulatory support in children. He is a regular reviewer for the European Journal of cardio thoracic surgery and other publications.

### Languages Spoken

English, French

## Physician Profile



**Dr. Volkan Tuzcu, ABP, MD**

Senior Attending Physician; Clinical Lead - EP Cardiology

### Expertise

Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Electrophysiology in Children and Adults with Congenital Heart Disease

### Profile

Internationally recognized leader and the founder of comprehensive electrophysiological and catheter ablation procedures without fluoroscopy (X-ray) in children and adults.

He performed the first comprehensive electrophysiological procedure without fluoroscopy in 2004 in the USA. He is a world-renowned expert in cryoablation, a safer method of catheter ablation.

He has been published extensively in peer-reviewed journals in the USA and internationally and was invited by several conferences, and universities as an invited speaker. He has been selected as a Top Doctor in his field for several years in the USA. He is a reviewer for several peer-reviewed internationally recognized journals in cardiology and electrophysiology. He is also the organizer and course director for international electrophysiology training webinars since 2009.

Before joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Tuzcu was a tenured professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, founder of Pediatric Electrophysiology Divisions at the Giessen Pediatric Heart Center in Germany, founder of Pediatric Heart Centers at Mehmet Akif Ersoy Cardiovascular Research and Training Hospital in Istanbul) and at Istanbul Medipol University Hospital.

He is also the founder of 2 new academic pediatric heart centers in Istanbul, Turkey. He is also the founder of the Pediatric and Genetic Arrhythmia Center at Istanbul Medipol University.

### Languages Spoken

Turkish, English



# Neurosurgery



## Neurosurgery

The Division of Neurosurgery services includes the management of all pediatric head and spine injuries and complex structural birth deformities of the skull and spine. Some unique procedures include dorsal rhizotomy to relieve spasticity in the legs of children with cerebral palsy, endoscopic treatment of synostosis using specialized equipment to correct skull deformities, and complex epilepsy surgery on children to reduce seizures.

### Specialties include:

- Neuro-oncology
- Functional neurosurgery
- Reconstruction of head and face deformities
- Repair of spina bifida defects
- Shunt procedures and endoscopic
- New minimally invasive treatments for hydrocephalus in premature babies and older children (endoscopic surgery and DRIFT therapies)
- Dorsal rhizotomy to relieve spasticity in the legs of children with cerebral palsy,
- Endoscopic treatment of craniosynostosis using specialized equipment to correct skull deformities early in life
- Complex epilepsy surgery on children to reduce seizures including vagal nerve stimulation.
- Multi-disciplinary treatment of complex structural birth deformities of the skull, and spine

### Surgical procedures include:

- Temporal lobectomy
- Lesionectomy
- Extratemporal resections
- Hemispherotomy
- Corpus callosotomy
- VNS implant

The specialized facilities include the IMRIS intra-operative MRI for tumor cases, state-of-the-art navigation, endoscopic equipment, intra-operative electrocorticography, and spinal monitoring.



## Physician Profile

### Dr. Ian Pople, MD

Division Chief, Pediatric Neurosurgery



### Expertise

Pediatric neurosurgery, especially hydrocephalus, spasticity, and epilepsy surgery. Implantation of baclofen pumps and selective dorsal rhizotomy procedures on children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy. He also specializes in endoscopic techniques for hydrocephalus and the treatment of neonatal hydrocephalus using novel techniques and looks at the neuropsychological effects of brain tumors in children.

### Profile

At Sidra Medicine, Dr. Pople has developed a safe and sustainable emergency neurosurgery service offering surgical programs in pediatric epilepsy and spasticity surgery for lower limb spasticity.

His team also supports the clinical and research elements of other essential services such as craniofacial, spinal, and neuro-oncology services.

He also has a specialist interest in tethered spinal cord and epilepsy. Throughout his career as a neurosurgeon, Dr. Pople has performed over 180 selective dorsal procedures on children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy.

Before joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Pople was the Lead Pediatric Neurosurgeon at Bristol Royal Hospital for children (part of the Bristol NHS Trust), where he led the development of epilepsy surgery and SDR services for children.

Dr. Pople is a graduate of the University of Sheffield, UK, and undertook his neurosurgical training in Leeds, London (Great Ormond Street Hospital), and Bristol before a fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis USA.

### Languages Spoken

English

## Physician Profile

### Dr. Khalid Al-Kharazi, MD

Senior Attending Physician- Pediatric Neurosurgery



### Expertise

All aspects of Pediatric Neurosurgery, especially hydrocephalus, spasticity and epilepsy surgery.

### Profile

Dr. Khalid Al-Kharazi is a senior attending neurosurgeon. At Sidra Medicine, Dr. Al-Kharazi specializes in pediatric neurosurgery, especially brain tumors, hydrocephalus, traumatic brain injuries, epilepsy, spinal tumors, spinal congenital malformations. Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Al-Kharazi was the assistant professor of neurosurgery and the teaching program director in the University of Jordan. He is Board-Certified in neurosurgery from Germany (Facharzt), Europe (UEMS and EANS) and Jordan.

Dr. Al-Kharazi completed his medical degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Jordan. He is certified in neurosurgery from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) and completed his fellowship from British Columbia's Children Hospital in Vancouver, Canada.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English, German

# The Epilepsy Program



## The Epilepsy Program

Our Epilepsy Program provides not only routine care to individuals with seizures, but also excels in providing comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic services for children with intractable epilepsy. We adopt a multidisciplinary approach by a team of experts specializing in managing pediatric epilepsy.

### Our team includes members who are specialized in:

- Epilepsy
- Neurophysiology
- Neurosurgery
- Neuroradiology
- Nuclear medicine
- Neuropsychology

Based on the clinical features of epilepsy and the findings of the comprehensive evaluation, we offer advanced epilepsy treatments options to patients with refractory seizures including:

- Epilepsy surgery
- Dietary therapies, such as classic ketogenic diet and modified Atkins diet
- Neurostimulation therapies, such as vagal nerve stimulator
- VNS implant

The electrodiagnostic facilities include state-of-the-art 6 Epilepsy Monitoring Unit beds with 24-hour video-EEG monitoring, invasive recording with intracranial subdural and depth electrodes, continuous supervision by EEG technologist or epilepsy staff nurse, functional cortical mapping

by stimulation of subdural electrodes and intraoperative electrocorticography. The neuroimaging facilities include 3T MRI (epilepsy protocol), interictal PET, ictal SPECT, Functional MRI (developing), Intra-operative MRI and intra-operative neuro-navigation.

### Some of the conditions we treat:

- Intractable epilepsy in patients from 0-18 years of age
- Childhood epilepsy syndromes
- Structural epileptic disorders
- Metabolic epilepsy disorders
- Genetic forms of epilepsy

### Surgical procedures include:

- Temporal lobectomy
- Lesionectomy
- Extratemporal resections
- Hemispherotomy
- Corpus callosotomy
- VNS implant

We are the only children's hospitals in the Middle East to offer a comprehensive approach to epilepsy care under one roof. Our treatment outcomes are leading in the field and are comparable to other world-class pediatric epilepsy centers.

**83% of patients who underwent epilepsy surgery at Sidra Medicine became seizure-free, and 70% of patients maintained their seizure freedom after one year.**

## Physician Profile

**Dr. Husam Kayyali, MD, FAES**  
Division Chief Pediatric Neurology

### Expertise

Complex epilepsy management, epilepsy surgery, ketogenic diet, and clinical neurophysiology.

### Profile

Dr. Husam Kayyali is the Chief of Pediatric Neurology Division at Sidra Medicine. He is also serving as the Director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at Sidra Medicine.

Dr. Kayyali is Board Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Pediatric Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy. Dr. Kayyali obtained his medical degree from Aleppo University in Syria. He did his pediatric neurology training at the University of Missouri/Children's Mercy Hospital in Missouri, USA. Then he completed fellowship training in epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, USA. Before joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Kayyali was an Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and he co-established the Comprehensive Epilepsy Center at Children's Mercy Hospital in Missouri, USA.



Then he moved to King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Saudi Arabia where he served as the Head of Pediatric Neurology Section, and the Director of Pediatric Neurology Fellowship Program.

Dr. Kayyali is a fellow of the American Epilepsy Society.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Ruba Benini, MD

Attending of Pediatric Neurology - Pediatric Neurosurgery

#### Expertise

Complex epilepsy management, epilepsy surgery, pediatric epilepsy research, medical teaching, and education.

#### Profile

Dr. Ruba Benini is a Pediatric Neurologist/ Epileptologist. Dr. Benini is currently the Medical Director of the Neurodiagnostic Laboratory at Sidra Medicine. She is the Program Director of the Pediatric Neurology Fellowship Program at Sidra Medicine and serves as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Weill-Cornell Medicine, Qatar.

She is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada (FRCPC). Dr. Benini did her Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 2006 at the Montreal Neurological Institute in Canada. She obtained her medical degree in 2008 from McGill University, Montreal Canada, and later completed her pediatric neurology residency training in 2014 at McGill University Health Center in Montreal and a fellowship in Pediatric Epilepsy at Ste.

Justine Hospital, University of Montreal in 2016. Since then she has worked as a pediatric neurologist and epilepsy expert at the Montreal Children's Hospital in Montreal and later at King Fahad's Medical City (KFMC) in Riyadh, KSA, prior to joining Sidra Medicine in 2017.

Dr. Benini has a strong interest in pediatric epilepsy research and continues to work

on a number of research projects aimed at elucidating the genetics of pediatric epilepsy with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of children with epilepsy.

#### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English, French



# Neonatology



## Neonatology

The Division of Neonatology provides neonatal care for levels 1 through to 4, as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We are equipped to look after patients from mild to most serious and complex neonatal conditions and emergencies. Our unit is the only Level 4 NICU in Qatar caring for the most complex babies.

### Department highlights

- We can care for babies born at all gestational ages and with any medical or surgical disease
- Experienced neonatologists with strong training and background are leading the care along with a multidisciplinary team of nurses, respiratory therapists and allied health
- We offer a full range of pediatric medical and surgical sub-specialist services
- Neonatologists with expertise in hemodynamic assessment provide support for patients requiring critical care with regular echocardiographic assessments
- Surgical procedures to repair complex congenital or acquired conditions are performed
- We offer family-centered developmental care for babies and families in single-family rooms in NICU. We have trained staff in the Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education Program (FINE) which enables staff to provide supportive developmental care for babies and their families
- - NICU is equipped with state-of-the-art devices such as automated oxygen control ventilators, electric velocimetry, near-infrared spectroscopy, bedside echocardiography, amplitude-integrated electroencephalography, magnetic resonance imaging
- For discharged patients, we have specialized follow-up clinics. These are:
  - High-risk infant follow-up clinic where we assess the neurodevelopment of vulnerable neonates by a multidisciplinary team of neonatologists, nurses, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, occupational health therapists, and dieticians. Several screening tools are used such as General Movement Assessment (GMA) for supporting brain development through early intervention
  - NICU post-discharge clinic wherein patients are reviewed by NICU team within few days after discharge to offer reassurance to the parents and facilitate a safe discharge process

### Programs available are led by experienced neonatologists:

- Prenatal follow-up and delivery room program for any severe antenatally diagnosed condition. In case of a healthy or neonate with a milder condition, we have transitional care program, to provide the care for the newborn baby next to the mother in the postnatal care unit to support couplet-care.
- Disease-specific programs, for conditions such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, short bowel syndrome, bladder exstrophy and other complex congenital conditions.
- Nutrition and breast-feeding program, including parenteral nutrition, that is modified appropriately to prevent and treat liver disease. The program continues with outpatient management with home parenteral nutrition.
- Extra Corporeal Life Support (ECLS) - program for neonatal respiratory diseases
- Neonatal hemodynamics and transitional physiology program
- Micro-premie program
- Neurocritical care and therapeutic hypothermia program
- Respiratory care program with ventilatory strategies specifically adapted to each patient
- Perinatal consult program
- Neurodevelopmental therapy and high-risk infant follow-up program
- There is a robust quality and safety program with several key performance indicators and various quality improvement projects
- Our faculty is involved in multiple research projects from clinical to translational research and have been recipients of multiple peer review grants locally and internationally.
- There is also an ACGME-I (Accredited Graduate Medical Education International) certified Neonatology Fellowship Training program. Our program offers advance-training fellowships in neonatology, with a focus on the care of the most complex neonates

Conditions treated:

Respiratory

- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia
- Congenital cystic adenomatoid malformation
- Lung sequestration
- Meconium Aspiration Syndrome
- Persistent pulmonary hypertension

Sidra Medicine has facilities to offer Neonatal Respiratory ECMO where required.

Cardiac

- Patent ductus arteriosis (PDA)
- Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
- Transposition of great arteries
- Other non-cyanotic and cyanotic complex congenital heart diseases

Device closure of PDA and cardiac surgery for complex congenital heart disease are available.

Gastroenterology

- Tracheo-esophageal fistula
- Gastroschisis
- Omphalocele
- Pyloric stenosis
- Bowel atresia
- Abdominal masses
- Ano-rectal malformations
- Biliary atresia
- Gastro-esophageal reflux
- Short bowel syndrome

Bowel lengthening surgery and facilities to provide total parenteral nutrition at home are available.

Renal / urogenital

- Ambiguous genitalia
- Bladder Exstrophy
- Bladder outlet obstruction
- Renal malformations

Facilities to offer hemofiltration / peritoneal dialysis and renal transplant are available.

Neurological

- Neonatal seizures
- Intraventricular hemorrhage
- Neonatal stroke
- Vein of Galen malformation (VGAM)
- Neonatal hypotonia
- Spina bifida
- Encephalocele
- Craniosynostosis

Facilities to offer therapeutic hypothermia, intraventricular irrigation, ventriculoperitoneal shunt and endovascular embolization for VGAM are available.

ENT

- Complex upper and lower airway problems

Not only routine procedures like tracheostomy are performed but also offer procedures like jaw distraction and lower airway stenting.

Ophthalmology

- Retinopathy of prematurity

Intravitreal injections and laser treatment are available.

Musculoskeletal

- Achondroplasia
- VACTERL Association

Genetic / Metabolic

Facilities to identify rare genetic/metabolic diseases through whole genome sequencing are available.

We are part of Vermont Oxford Network (VON) which is a network of health care professionals and families from more than 1,400 neonatal centers that are collaborating to improve neonatal care around the world with data-driven quality improvement. This tool gives us the necessary data and benchmarking to make meaningful quality improvement.

Our NICU manages highly complex babies with many babies born with major anomaly. There is a high volume of patients undergoing major surgery. There was no surgical infection observed in any of these cases in 2021. Survival rates are excellent. For example, in 2021, there were no deaths among patients referred from other centers for necrotizing enterocolitis requiring surgery. Whereas, worldwide, the reported mortality for this condition is around 25 to 50%. Breastfeeding is very challenging when babies are born preterm or very sick. Feeding babies with breastmilk at discharge is a marker for family-centered care and parental involvement. In 2021, despite the high level of complexity and illness, the breastfeeding rate was 63.6 % at discharge from Sidra Medicine NICU.

	Sidra Medicine NICU (2021)	Worldwide NICU type C *(2020)		
	%	Median	Q1	Q3
Major Surgery	26.0	13.1	8.3	20.5
Any Major Anomaly	24.5	12.0	7.3	18.1
Breastmilk at discharge	63.6	64.3	52.6	73.3
Death or Morbidity	12.2	14.7	11.5	17.6
Death	4.1	3.4	2.5	5.1

Disclaimer: Vermont Oxford Network had no role in the concept, design, analysis, or formulation of this work. The discussion and views belong solely to the co-authors and do not represent the opinions of Vermont Oxford Network.

## Physician Profile

**Prof. Charlotte Tscherning, MD, PhD**  
Division Chief, Neonatology



### Expertise

Neonatology, Family-centered and developmental care, Perinatal virology, Neonatal nutrition, Perinatal epidemiology.

### Profile

Dr. Tscherning is leading the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) level 4, which offers care for babies born at all gestational ages and with any medical or surgical disease.

She has been Professor in Neonatology and Pediatrics for more than 15 years and is an international expert in her field. She actively participates in many international meetings and committees and has published numerous original articles in peer-reviewed journals, editorials, and book chapters. She has implemented a strong vision of quality and safety within a family-centered NICU and leads a very experienced and skilled team.

Before joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Tscherning was Chief of Neonatology at the University Hospital of Toulouse for 15 years, one of the largest NICU in France. She became Professor of Pediatrics in 2006 and CMO of the Pediatric University Hospital of Toulouse in 2015.

She implemented Family-centered care and set up a training center in Neonatal Individualized Developmental and Care.

Assessment of prematurity (NIDCAP), along with numerous other education programs. She established the first French NICU-based home care program for preterm babies. Along with clinical research in various areas of neonatology, such as nutrition and developmental care, her translational research interest is perinatal virology, and she was the leader of the INSERM group “Pathogenesis of viral infections of the developing and adult central nervous system” in the Centre for Physiopathology Toulouse – Purpan before leaving for Qatar.

Charlotte Tscherning was trained in Pediatrics in France and then completed her training as a fellow neonatologist at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm, Sweden. She also completed two Ph.D.’s in Perinatal Virology at the University of Lyon, France, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

### Languages Spoken

English, Swedish, French, German

## Physician Profile

**Prof. Samir Gupta, MD MRCP DM FRCPCH FRCPI**

Medical Director Clinical and Translational Research  
Senior Attending in Neonatology and Lead for Hemodynamics and Transitional Physiology Program



### Expertise

Bedside functional echocardiography and advanced monitoring in optimizing Neonatal perfusion. Expertise in neonatal advanced ventilation and research in cardio-respiratory disorders.

### Profile

Prof Samir Gupta is a Professor of Neonatology at Durham University, UK, and a Fellow at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Oxford University, United Kingdom. He has been visiting professor at NICUs in Hong Kong, Slovakia, Oman, India, UAE, Argentina, Norway and Egypt, and academic examiner for universities in the UK, Europe, India, and Australia. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He is a member of the European steering group of the Neonatologist performed echocardiography (NPE) and Member of the International advisory committee of Neonatal hemodynamics, USA. He is the founder and chair of the Neonatologist, interested in cardiology and hemodynamics in the UK. He has successfully established the Qatar NPE training program at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar. He is a member of several scientific organizations, including the European Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR) and Society for Pediatric Research (USA).

As invited faculty, he has presented over 100 lectures at international meetings and authored over 150 articles in indexed peer-reviewed journals and books. He has been invited as guest editor for high-impact journals.

He is the chief investigator of the Baby-OSCAR trial, the largest trial globally in over 25 years on patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) (<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/baby-oscar>). He established 1st global annual international neonatal cardiology and hemodynamics conference in the UK in 2010, which is successfully running to date ([www.neonatalcardiology.co.uk](http://www.neonatalcardiology.co.uk)). He has established a neonatal hemodynamics program at Sidra Medicine with a team of clinicians. He works collaboratively with the Pediatric cardiology and fetal medicine division at Sidra Medicine to improve the care of complex cardiac patients admitted to the NICU. Currently, he is working on setting up the Cardiac ICU in NICU and expanding the NPE training program internationally.

He advises various international forums on cardio-respiratory disorders and management and is an international expert in this field.

### Languages Spoken

English, Hindi

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Dhullipala Anand, MD

Medical Director, Neonatal Clinical Services  
Senior Attending Physician - Neonatology

#### Expertise

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia, neonatal ECMO, neurodevelopmental follow-up, quality improvement, and research.

#### Profile

Dhullipala Anand is a Medical Director of Neonatal Clinical Services. He has previously worked as a Consultant Neonatologist at the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Dr. Anand has experience providing intensive care for newborn infants, including extracorporeal life support (ECLS). At Sidra Medicine, Dr. Anand has contributed to developing and delivering Neonatal ECLS and is now the clinical lead for the Neonatal ECLS program.

He has also established Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia-Qatar (CDH-Q), for which he is the program lead. In addition, he has an interest in patient safety and quality improvement and has done a Scottish Patient Safety Program (SPSP) fellowship. He has developed and implemented projects to reduce central line infections, measure and monitor adverse events, deliver evidence-based medicine to improve neonatal outcomes and safety and promote integrated family care.

He is also a founding member of the United Kingdom Health Foundation's Q initiative.

Dr. Anand was awarded Ph.D. from the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, for his research on first-trimester fetal loss (vanishing twin) in a twin pregnancy and its consequences on surviving twins. His other research interests include perinatal epidemiology, genetics, neurodevelopmental follow-up and neuroimaging.

#### Languages Spoken

English, Hindi, Telegu



# General & Thoracic Surgery



## General & Thoracic Surgery

We participate in the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS-NSQIP) Pediatric and are recognized for our dedication to achieving the best surgical results for its patients. This widely recognized program is used to measure and improve the quality of surgical care. It involves collecting high-quality clinical data and comparing outcomes. (e.g., death, surgical complications, length of hospital stay) across hospitals, after adjusting for between-hospital differences in the health of their patients and the difficulty and risks of the procedures they undertake. These results are returned to hospitals to appraise their performance compared to the many other hospitals in the program. This knowledge of comparative performance is the essential first step for improvement. As participants in ACS-NSQIP, all our clinical outcomes are tracked and reported. This means that key hospital members are made aware of any surgical complications so they can take measures to prevent them in the future.

Some of the conditions treated include chest wall deformities, diaphragmatic hernia, neonatal ECMO, short bowel syndrome, malformations, and gastroesophageal reflux disease. We offer advanced intestinal rehabilitation, complex congenital dichromatic hernia with neonatal ECMO, and robotic surgery for children. We also have specialists who manage chest wall deformities and colorectal disorders in children.

### The division specializes in the care of children with:

- Thoracic congenital and acquired lesions
- Complex diaphragmatic hernia is requiring ECMO
- Chest wall deformities
- Ano-rectal malformations and Hirschsprung's disease
- Short bowel syndrome
- Upper aerodigestive disorders
- Minimally invasive and Robotic surgery
- Neonatal surgeries
- Pediatric oncology and solid tumors
- Childhood gynecology

### The division runs the following specialist clinics:

- Colorectal clinic – MDT
- Short bowel clinic – MDT
- Aerodigestive clinic - MDT



## Physician Profile



**Dr. Mansour Ali, BAO, MBBCH**

Senior Attending Physician, Executive Chair of Surgery

### Expertise

General surgery, thoracic pediatric surgery, trauma and minimally invasive technique including robotic surgery.

### Profile

Dr. Mansour Ali is the Executive Chair of the Surgery Department at Sidra Medicine. He is also a Senior Consultant.

Pediatric Surgeon, Chairman of Pediatric Perioperative Service, Head of Pediatric Surgery Department at Hamad Medical Corporation, and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar.

Dr. Mansour joined Sidra Medicine in 2017. He has a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Obstetrics & Gynecology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Republic of Ireland.

He is the senior Consultant Pediatric Surgeon, Chairman of Pediatric Perioperative Service, and Head of the Pediatric Surgery Department at Hamad Medical Corporation.

He is also the Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar, and the Clinical Associate Professor in Surgery, in the Department of Clinical Academic Education, College of Medicine at Qatar University.

Dr. Ali is the course instructor for Basic Laparoscopy Skills- mandatory for all HMC surgical residents.

He is the resident's mentor and supervisor of the Arab Board of Pediatric Surgery Training at HMC WCMC-Q and Qatar University Student Teaching Supervisor of Surgical Audit, M&M in Pediatric Surgery ATLS instructor.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

## Physician Profile



**Dr. Guy F. Brisseau, FAAP, FACS, FRCS, MD**

Senior Attending General and Thoracic Surgery

### Expertise

Neonatal Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Colorectal Surgery, Minimal Invasive Surgery

### Profile

Dr. Brisseau is a cutting edge pediatric general and thoracic surgeon as well as an acclaimed surgical educator. He is a board-certified general surgeon as well as a pediatric surgeon. These dual boards are held in two countries, USA and Canada. Having practiced in both countries he brings this clinical expertise to Sidra Medicine.

Pediatric surgeons care for the most vulnerable members in our society. They care for children born with congenital anomalies as well as those with cancer. Anatomically pediatric surgeons care for the complete child. These include problems of the head and neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis as well as soft tissues. Along with a wealth of broad clinical experience, Dr. Brisseau is also an advanced minimally invasive surgeon and an expert in pediatric trauma.

Besides his clinical expertise Dr. Brisseau is an awarded medical educator having developed programs in a variety of areas including simulation and distance education. His academic area of research is in medical education.

### Languages Spoken

English

**Gastroenterology**  
**Hepatology**  
**Nutrition**



## Gastroenterology/Hepatology/Nutrition

The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition provides a wide range of tertiary and quaternary services to treat complex gastrointestinal, liver, and nutritional disorders in children ages 0 to 18.

The division provides state-of-the-art multidisciplinary tertiary services for children/families with all forms of gastrointestinal, hepatology, and nutritional disorders. The service supports other tertiary services across Qatar, and the Middle East and provides comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. 7/24 physician-led support for emergency GI conditions care is available. The division runs a service bench marked to international standards and with patients and family-centered service, this includes family support groups and family support days.

Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and investigations are carried out in the designated GI procedure area.

The clinics under this division include the inflammatory bowel disease and the early onset inflammatory bowel disease clinics, the specialized liver clinic, the pediatric hepatitis virology clinic, the general gastrointestinal clinic, the aerodigestive clinic, the motility clinic, the intestinal failure clinic, the short-bowel, and the celiac clinic.

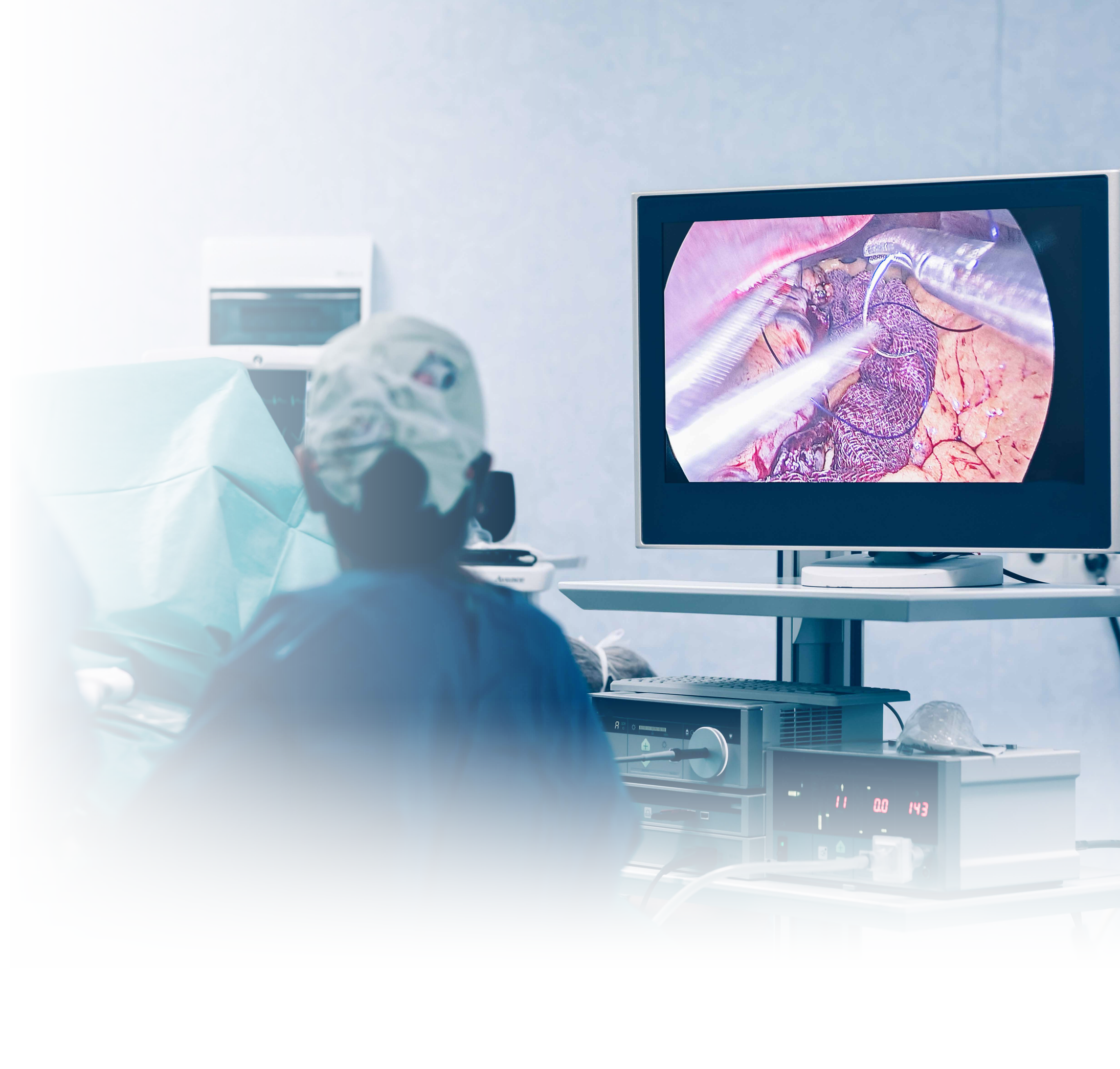
The team offers tertiary and quaternary services, many of which are developed for the first time in GCC and the Middle East.

### Diagnostic procedures carried out in the division include:

- Anorectal manometry
- Colonic manometry
- Esophageal manometry
- Anorectal manometry
- Video capsule endoscopy
- Hydrogen breath test
- Electrogastrography
- 24-hour esophageal impedance
- Urease breath test

### Endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

- Upper endoscopy: banding, clipping, sclerotherapy, hemostop
- Lower endoscopy: clipping, injection, removal of polyps
- Enteroscopy: clipping, injection, removal of polyps





## Physician Profile

**Dr. Mamoun Elawad, MD, MRCP, FRCPCH**

Division Chief, Gastroenterology/Hepatology/Nutrition

### Expertise

Autoimmune gut disorders, genetics of inflammatory bowel disease, microbiota and genetic interaction in inflammatory gut diseases, Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease and GI food allergy.

### Profile

Dr Elawad has his training in Pediatric gastroenterology at Great Ormond Street, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Oxford John Radcliff Hospital and King’s College Hospital. He worked as a consultant Pediatric gastroenterologist at University Hospital of Wales and Birmingham Children’s Hospital before he rejoined Great Ormond Street Hospital in 2002 as a consultant gastroenterologist and senior lecturer at the University College of London. He has been the head of the department at Great Ormond Street since 2007 until he joined Sidra Medicine in 2014 as a Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology and director of inflammatory bowel disorder and associate professor of clinical pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Whist at GOSH, he became the founder and the director of the first worldwide pioneering program for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant for autoimmune and inflammatory gut diseases. He was also the director of the department international collaboration “ImproveCareNow” at GOSH, and the co-founder of the European GENIUS group that oversees the diagnosis and the treatment of children with early onset inflammatory bowel diseases.

Dr. Elawad has been a senior lecturer at the Institute of Child Health – University College of London and his main research areas of interest are autoimmune gut disorders, genetics of inflammatory bowel disease, microbiota and genetic interaction in inflammatory gut diseases, Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease and GI food allergy. He has many publications in these areas.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

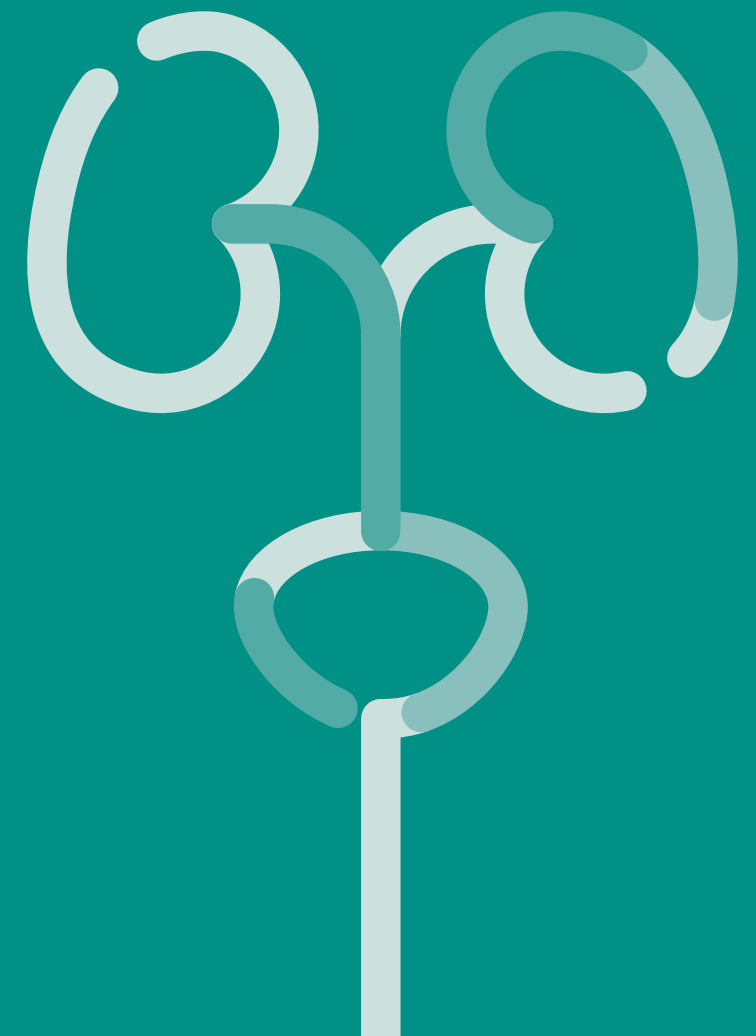
The division started the first inflammatory bowel disease and liver transplant nurse-led clinics - a first of its kind clinic in the Middle East. It also established the first pediatric virology clinic in the region as a branch of its general liver service.

The division is an active part of the international ImproveCareNow (ICN) Network collaboration with over 102 pediatric GI sites, and Sidra Medicine is the only center outside North America and Europe. ICN is a collaborative community of patients, parents, clinicians, and researchers who continuously work together to improve the health and care of children with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Currently, 102 centers have joined ICN, including 96 centers in 38 states in the U.S., one in England, four in Belgium, and one in Qatar. ICN has created a robust clinical registry to support better clinical care and assess changes in patients’ clinical outcomes over time.

The table below indicates Sidra Medicine patient outcomes compared to the averages in the ICN network in 2021(in percentile).

Results	Sidra Medicine	ICN average
Patients in clinical remission, PGA	98%	82%
Patients with prednisone-free clinical remission, PGA	98%	81%
Patients with sustained clinical remission, PGA	90%	58%
Patients with disease status of moderate / severe	1%	4%
Visits where TPMT has been measured when treatment with thiopurine is started	100%	72%
Visits with a complete bundle	99%	75%
Visits entered that were entered 30 days of visits	98%	75%
Patients with a documented visit within the last 200 days	85%	65%

# Urology



## Urology

**The Division of Urology is at the frontline of pediatric reconstructive urology. The division specialties include:**

- Advanced management of complex pediatric urological conditions, including renal transplantation.
- Modern correction of congenital abnormalities of the external genitalia (hypospadias, intersex, epispadias, etc).
- Pediatric reconstructive urology for complex anomalies such as bladder exstrophy, neurogenic bladder, urogenital sinus and cloaca persistence, and duplex system conditions.
- Modern minimally invasive technologies, including robotics

Besides the above conditions we are a unique division that has a Voiding dysfunction clinic supported by dedicated pediatric urotherapist as well as pediatric urodynamics multidisciplinary dedicated spina bifida clinic.

### Specialty clinics available:

- Spina bifid clinic
- External genitalia abnormalities clinic (hypospadias clinic)
- A complex reconstructive pediatric urology clinic
- Pediatric renal transplant program

### Conditions we treat:

- Malformations of the external genitalia (hypospadias, intersex, epispadias, etc.)
- Bladder exstrophy, Neurogenic bladder and urinary incontinence
- Urogenital sinus and cloacal anomalies
- Renal and bladder anomalies (vesicoureteral reflux, duplex anomalies and ureterocele, ureteropelvic junction obstruction, megaureters, posterior urethral valves)



## Physician Profile

### Dr. Pippi Salle, MD

Division Chief, Pediatric Urology



#### Expertise

Reconstructive pediatric urology; hypospadias; bladder exstrophy and epispadias; intersex, hydronephrosis

#### Profile

Dr. Pippi Salle is the Division Chief of Pediatric Urology at Sidra Medicine, a women's and children's hospital in the State of Qatar. The division diagnoses and treats diseases of the urinary (kidneys and bladder) and reproductive tracts in infants, children, and young people.

Dr. Pippi Salle is an internationally recognized expert in reconstructive pediatric urology. He is an innovative surgeon who developed new techniques for correcting urinary incontinence, disorders of sex development, hypospadias and UPJ obstruction.

His research interests include original techniques for the treatment of exstrophy and epispadias; urogenital sinus and DSD; clitoroplasty; refractory urinary incontinence; hypospadias, hydronephrosis.

Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, Dr. Salle was the Head of Urology at Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. He is a visiting professor and guest surgeon in more than 30 countries. In 2019 he received the Life Achievement Award by the World Federation of Pediatric Surgeons (WOFAPS) in recognition for his academic contributions to pediatric urology worldwide.

He is a Fellow of the Urology Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Society of Pediatric Urology; Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

#### Languages Spoken

English, Portuguese Spanish and French

## Physician Profile

### Dr. Yaser El Hout, MD, FEBU, FACS

Senior Attending Physician, Pediatric Urology



#### Expertise

Pediatric Urology, Hypospadias, Epispadias, Bladder exstrophy, Reconstructive, Urological Oncology, Endoscopic and Minimally Invasive, Renal transplantation.

#### Profile

Dr. Yaser El Hout joined Sidra Medicine as a Senior Pediatric Urologist in January 2022. He obtained his Medical Doctor degree from the American University of Beirut in 2000, followed by Residency Training at the Department of Surgery and Division of Urology at the American University of Beirut-Medical Center (AUBMC), graduating as Specialist in Urology in 2007. He then joined the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick kids), affiliated with the University of Toronto, Canada, where he completed an extensive 4-year Research and Clinical Fellowships in Pediatric Urology. He returned back to AUBMC, Lebanon as Chief of Pediatric Urology and rose in academic ranks to Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery. Moreover, Dr. El Hout assumed an administrative role as the Program Director of the Division of Urology and obtained the ACGME-I accreditation to it.

He presented in numerous scientific meetings and served as invited speaker regionally and internationally. He received many awards including the Alpha-Omega-Alpha for best research, the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) scholarship and Honorary mention from the Arab Council. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and Fellow of the European Board of Urology and is a member of the Societies for Pediatric Urology.

His research interests include innovation in hypospadias, pain management in neonatal circumcision, testicular torsion and surgical education and simulation. His clinical interest is in the management of the spectrum of pediatric urology with particular dedication to pediatric renal transplantation.

#### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

# Otolaryngology (ENT)



# Otolaryngology (ENT)

The division is a specialized quaternary surgical unit specializing in complex pediatric airway surgeries, complex head, and neck conditions, hearing rehabilitation, and advanced rhinological conditions. A multidisciplinary team consisting of pediatric intensivists, pediatric airway anesthetists, a dedicated tracheostomy care team, speech and language therapists, and pediatric audiologists have all come together to provide high-quality care to children. All children up to 18 years of age with any congenital or acquired otolaryngological conditions can be managed at Sidra Medicine.

Clinics include tracheostomy care clinic, multidisciplinary craniofacial clinic, sleep clinic and lab, otology clinic, speech and swallowing clinic and audiology clinic.

## Specialties include:

- Advanced multidisciplinary pediatric airway reconstruction services
- Congenial and acquired head and neck conditions
- Thyroid and parathyroid surgeries in children
- Aerodigestive multidisciplinary team for swallowing disorders
- Hearing rehabilitation procedures
- Congenital and acquired otological and rhinological conditions
- Multidisciplinary team management of Sialorrhea

# Physician Profile



**Dr. Faisal Abdulkader, BM DOHNS MRCS FRCS (ORL-HNS)**  
Division Chief, Otolaryngology and Audiology

## Expertise

Obstructive sleep apnea in children, airway reconstruction procedures, thyroid surgery, and congenital head and neck conditions.

## Profile

Dr. Faisal Abdulkader is a graduate of Southampton Medical School, University of Southampton, England, UK 1998. He undertook his surgical training in the field of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery and was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He did his sub-specialty fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Following that he did his Master of Science degree in Quality and Safety in Healthcare Management at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

Dr. Abdulkader is heavily involved in training and education and in addition to his role at Sidra Medicine, he is a clinical Assistant Professor at Weil Cornell Medicine - Qatar. Dr. Abdulkader is also an examiner for the Arab Board in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.

## Languages Spoken

English and Arabic

# Plastic, Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery



# Plastic, Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery

The Division brings together world-class surgeons from North America, the UK, and India. The team works in a multidisciplinary, collaborative fashion with colleagues across the institution providing cutting-edge, comprehensive care for the children in Qatar and beyond. The full scope of modern plastic surgical intervention and care is offered at Sidra Medicine at the highest level of excellence.

Many landmark surgical procedures have successfully been performed by the team, many of which were the first of their kind in Qatar and across the region. Most of the ambulatory care is provided by the team in a real-time multidisciplinary manner along with specialist colleagues from neurosurgery, otolaryngology, orthopedics, genetics, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, psychology, and others.

### Multidisciplinary and specialty clinics include:

- Cleft Lip/Palate (6 clinics per month)
- Craniofacial (2 clinics per month)
- Orthognathic (2 clinics per month)
- Hand trauma (14 clinics per month)
- Facial palsy (4 clinics per month)
- Vascular anomaly (2 clinics per month)
- Brachial plexus (2 clinics per month)
- Ear/Microtia/Hemifacial (2 clinics per month)

### Procedures

- Cleft lip and palate surgery
- Cleft-related speech disorder surgery
- Craniosynostosis (isolated) surgery
- Craniosynostosis (syndromic) surgery
- Non-synostotic craniofacial syndrome surgery (e.g., Treacher Collins, Goldenhar, Neurofibromatosis, Fibrous Dysplasia, etc.)
- Maxillomandibular malocclusion (Orthognathic surgery)
- Facial trauma reconstruction
- Ear anomalies, minor and major (including total ear reconstruction)

- Facial palsy reconstruction
- Hand deformity, traumatic, repair
- Hand deformity, congenital, repair
- Vascular anomalies (Hemangioma, Vascular malformations) surgery
- Brachial plexus injury repair
- Complex soft tissue and skeletal defects (including Microsurgical flap reconstruction)
- Neonatal/Infant airway management
- Complex pigmented skin lesions surgery (Excisions, Tissue Expansion, Local Flaps)

### Introduced in Qatar

- Open craniosynostosis surgery
- Endoscopic craniosynostosis surgery
- Surgical treatment of hypertelorism
- Cranial vault reduction for massive, hydrocephalic macrocephaly
- Cranial vault distraction osteogenesis
- Cranial vault spring expansion
- Facial palsy reconstruction
- Furlow palatoplasty

### Clinical Outcomes

• Cleft palate fistula rate	(<10%)
• Cleft palate secondary speech surgery rate	(<15%)
• Free flap success rate	(>95%)
• Endoscopic sagittal craniosynostosis % improvement in cranial index	(average increase of 8%)

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Mitchell Stotland MD

Division Chief, Plastic, Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery; Vice Chair,  
Department of Surgery  
Medical Director, Perioperative Services

#### Expertise

Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery. Complex Craniofacial Reconstruction. Total Ear Reconstruction. Facial Trauma Reconstruction. Soft Tissue Reconstruction.

#### Profile

Dr. Stotland joined Sidra Medicine in 2014 as founding Chief of the Division of Plastic, Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery. He graduated from McGill University Medical School in Montreal, Canada where he also completed a Plastic Surgery Residency. His Craniofacial Fellowship was completed at UCLA (Los Angeles) under the tutelage of Dr. Henry Kawamoto. Between 1997-2014 Dr. Stotland was on faculty at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and built the first pediatric craniofacial program at the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth. In 2007, he completed a Master's Degree at the renowned Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, and also initiated the Tanzer Plastic Surgery Symposium, which he ran through 2013.

Over the past 20 years, Dr. Stotland has focused his research on basic science investigations of human perception of facial difference. His current work, funded by a 3-year grant from Qatar's National Priorities Research Program, is entitled "Development of Novel Machine Learning Applications for the Assessment of Congenital and Acquired Facial Deformity". He has more than 40 peer-reviewed scientific publications, is a reviewer for multiple plastic surgery journals, and has also obtained two US patents for novel medical devices that he has invented. Dr. Stotland is a frequent Oral Board Examiner for the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

#### Languages Spoken

English and French

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Graeme Glass, MBChB, BSc, MRCS, PhD, FRCS(Plast)

Attending Physician - Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery;  
Department of Surgery

#### Expertise

Complex pediatric reconstructive surgery and complex facial and extremity reconstructive procedures.

#### Profile

Graeme Glass MBChB, BSc, MRCS, PhD, FRCS(Plast) is a London trained and internationally respected plastic and craniofacial surgeon with 20 years' experience. As co-founder Sidra Medicine's cleft, craniofacial, facial palsy, microsurgical and laser surgery services, Dr Glass established an international hub of excellence for complex pediatric reconstructive surgery and pioneered some of the most complex facial and extremity reconstructive procedures ever to have been performed in the region. These services now make an immeasurable difference to the lives of hundreds of children every year and attract patients from all over the globe, giving Dr Glass a truly international perspective to his practice.

To complement his work managing children with complex facial deformity, Dr Glass is an associate professor of clinical surgery at the prestigious Weill Cornell Medical College,

New York and Qatar and former clinical academic lecturer at Oxford University, England.

Dr Glass has published over 60 peer-reviewed papers and textbook chapters and has lectured internationally. His PhD thesis, on stem cell therapeutics, was awarded by Imperial College, London and he is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and an elected member of the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS), the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS) and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS).

Dr Glass is a contributing editor for the Aesthetic Surgery Journal, one of the world's leading peer reviewed plastic surgery journals.

#### Languages Spoken

English

## Physician Profile



**Dr. Haithem Babiker, MD, DMD, FAAP, FACS**

Senior Attending Physician - Craniofacial, and Hand Surgery;

### Expertise

Management of cleft and rare craniomaxillofacial anomalies and brachial plexus injuries.

### Profile

Dr. Babiker is a pediatric craniomaxillofacial and hand surgeon who joined Sidra Medicine in 2022. He holds both a Medical Degree (Manipal, India) and a Dental Degree (University of Pennsylvania, USA). After completing medical and dental education, Haithem joined the University of Cincinnati and completed surgical training in plastic surgery and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. He then completed a fellowship in Pediatric Plastic Craniofacial Surgery at Cincinnati Children's Hospital; one of the top pediatric institutions in the world.

Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, Dr Babiker was an Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati, and an Attending at Cincinnati Children's between 2013-2022. He was the Director of the Pediatric Plastic Craniofacial Fellowship, Director of the Maxillofacial Division and Director of the Treacher Collins Rare Craniofacial Anomalies Center.

Haithem's unique background having both medical and dental training; being double board-certified in plastic surgery and maxillofacial surgery; in addition to fellowship training in pediatric craniofacial surgery puts him among an elite group of surgeons around the world with such qualifications.

He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and lectured worldwide. Haithem's main passion is education, and he has mentored tens of students and junior surgeons from all over the world. He has a deep passion for humanitarian work and has led many surgical mission trips to South America and Africa.

### Languages Spoken

Arabic and English



# Orthopedic Surgery



## Orthopedic Surgery

Our pediatric orthopedic specialists are dedicated to helping children return to an active lifestyle. Children who fracture a bone, suffer a sports injury, or have a congenital disorder need to see a pediatric orthopedist. We address each child's future growth as part of their treatment plan. This is how we help the patient achieve the best functionality with the least disruption to normal activities.

Our team works with experts in Sidra Medicine including physical therapists, occupational therapists, child life specialists, pediatric rehabilitation physicians, rheumatologists, and neurologists – to accurately diagnose a condition and develop the most appropriate treatment plan.

### Our team has the expertise to:

- Undertake advanced management of complex pediatric orthopedic surgery conditions
- Use modern and minimally invasive technology and methodologies to correct of congenital abnormalities of the limbs and spine
- Undertake pediatric reconstruction orthopedic surgery for complex anomalies

### Our specialties include:

- Trauma and fractures
- Sports and performance injuries
- Hip prevention surgery including surgical hip dislocation
- Single event multi-level surgery for neuromuscular conditions
- Limb lengthening and deformity correction surgery
- Congenital and acquired spine surgery
- Foot and ankle surgery including circular frames

### Our clinics include:

- Gait laboratory analysis clinic to determine movement patterns of the lower limbs allowing us to accurately assess abnormalities and suggest an appropriate treatment plan
- Infant hip clinic to diagnose and treat children with developmental dysplasia of the hip
- Ponseti clinic to treat conditions related to structural foot deformity such as clubfoot, congenital vertical talus, and metatarsus adductus as well as other foot deformities
- Fracture clinic that has expertise in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of fractures

The team also undertakes elective surgeries for conditions including musculoskeletal oncology, sports medicine and spine.



## Physician Profile



**Dr. Talal Ibrahim MB BS (Honors) MD, MSc, FRCS, FRCS, FRACS, FAOrthA CCT**  
Division Chief - Orthopedic Surgery

### Expertise

Pediatric orthopedic surgery, pediatric orthopedic trauma surgery, pediatric hip conditions, neuromuscular disorders, leg length discrepancy and deformity, pediatric orthopedic trauma, single event multi-level surgery, and pediatric foot and ankle surgery.

### Profile

Dr. Ibrahim is the division chief of orthopedic surgery at Sidra Medicine. He completed his medical training in Australia at the University of Sydney and subsequently his orthopedic surgery training at the University Hospitals of Leicester, United Kingdom. Dr. Ibrahim holds clinical fellowships in pediatric orthopedic surgery from Great Ormond Street Hospital (London, United Kingdom) and The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Canada). Dr. Ibrahim has also completed mini fellowships at the Russian Ilizarov Scientific Centre for Restorative Traumatology and Orthopedics (Kurgan, Russia) and Paley Advanced Limb Lengthening Institute (West Palm Beach, USA).

Dr. Ibrahim is active in research with an interest in basic sciences and clinical research. Dr. Ibrahim has completed a Master of Science in Medical Statistics and Doctor of Medicine at the University of Leicester, United Kingdom. He has published extensively in journals and textbooks and currently a reviewer and member of editorial board for several orthopedic journals. Dr. Ibrahim has research collaboration projects both regionally and internationally.

Dr. Ibrahim is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Australia, Canada and United Kingdom and fellow of The Australian Orthopedic Association. He is also the Associate Professor of clinical orthopedic surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine – Qatar

### Languages Spoken

Arabic and English

## Physician Profile



**Dr. Abdelsalam Hegazy, MD**  
Senior Attending Physician  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

### Expertise

Areas of expertise include developmental hip dysplasia, pediatric foot and ankle surgery, lower limb deformity, leg length discrepancy and pediatric and adult trauma surgery.

### Profile

Dr Abdelsalam Hegazy is a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon who has extensive experience in adult and pediatric orthopedic trauma and more than 20 years of general orthopedic experience.

Between 1995 and 2000, he completed Orthopedic and Traumatology training at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. In 2008, he earned his board certification in Turkey and became a member of the Turkish Orthopedic and Traumatology Educational Council (TOTEC). In 2012, he did his pediatric orthopedic clinical fellowship at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Hegazy is an Assistant Professor in Clinical Orthopedic Surgery in Weill Cornell Medical College. In addition to his interest in teaching, he has published many peer reviewed articles and book chapters in his field.

### Languages Spoken

English, Arabic, Turkish

## Physician Profile

### Dr. James Huntley, MD, FRCS

Senior Attending Physician  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery



### Expertise

General pediatric orthopedics, trauma, neuromuscular conditions (in particular cerebral palsy), foot deformities, clubfeet, and pediatric hip surgery.

### Profile

Dr. Huntley is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon with Sidra Medicine since 2015. Before joining Sidra Medicine, he was a full-time NHS pediatric orthopedic consultant at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children (Yorkhill, Glasgow) coupling this with 2 honorary appointments at the University of Glasgow: Honorary Clinical Associate Professor and Barclay Lecturer.

He completed his medical training at Trinity College, Cambridge University. He did his preclinical studies at Oriel College, Oxford University where he was an exhibitioner, and then an intercalated doctorate at St Cross College, Oxford University - during which he was awarded the Theodore Williams scholarship in Physiology and the EP Abraham Major College Scholarship.

He has a full Blue in Rugby League and two higher research degrees (Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Surgery) from Oxford University.

Subsequently, he was Demonstrator in Anatomy at the Department of Anatomy, Oxford University, and then a casualty-officer at St Mary's London. He undertook his surgical training in Edinburgh and he achieved his FRCS (Orth&Tr).

He has a passion for research and training. He has published across the gamut of clinical-scientific paper types with initiatives in basic science, translational research, case series, methods, and clinical trailing – his particular interests are in osteochondral transplant, infection, physiology of the growth plate/morphogenesis, and epidemiology. He has also edited and collaborated on orthopedic textbooks. He is a surgical trainer and an external examiner for the Masters of Surgery Orthopedics program.

### Languages Spoken

English

## Physician Profile

### Dr. Farhan Ali MBBS MRCS FRCS (Tr & Orth)

Senior Attending Physician  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery



### Expertise

Limb deformity correction and lengthening, Paediatric Sports medicine, Skeletal dysplasia, Bladder Exstrophy, Paediatric hip and foot surgery

### Profile

Dr. Ali joined Sidra Medicine in 2021. In his previous role he was a Consultant Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon at The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, UK. His clinical practice includes wide range of children's bone and joint pathologies like hip dysplasia, neuromuscular, trauma and sports injuries with special interest in limb lengthening and deformity correction.

He completed both, basic and higher surgical training in the UK and did his pediatric orthopedic fellowships at Royal Manchester Children's hospital and as National fellow at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

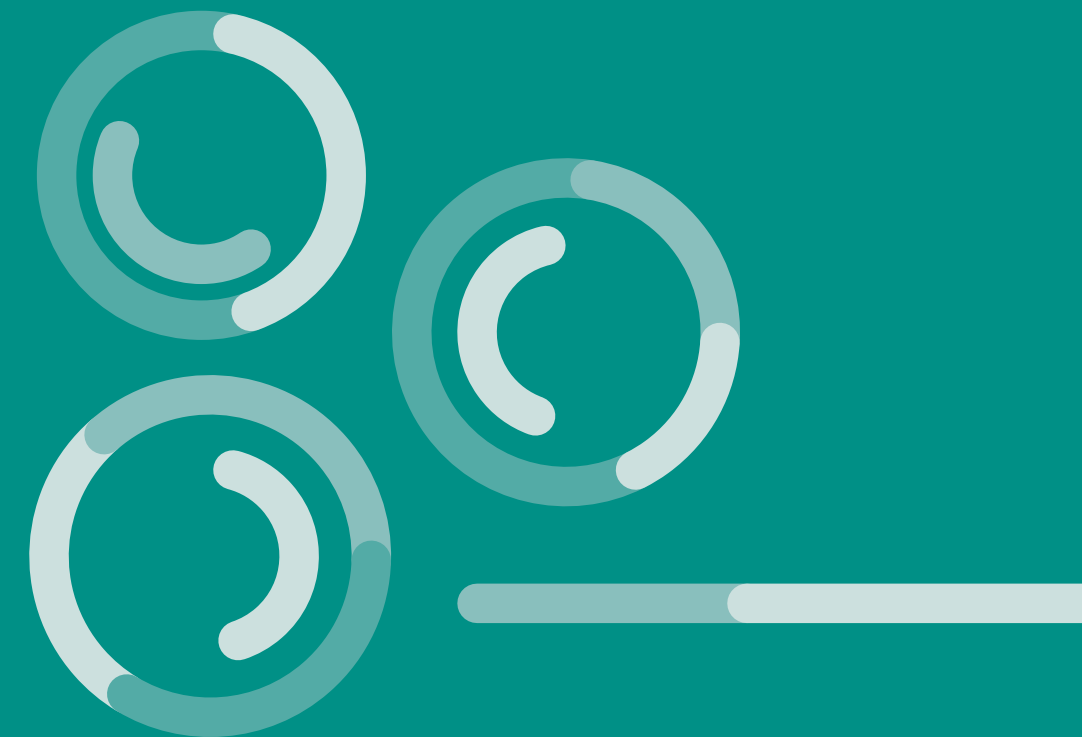
He is a faculty member in several international courses and has participated in clinical research activities with publications, international presentations and contributed to chapters in books.

### Languages Spoken

English, Urdu, Hindi

# Hematology

## -Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant

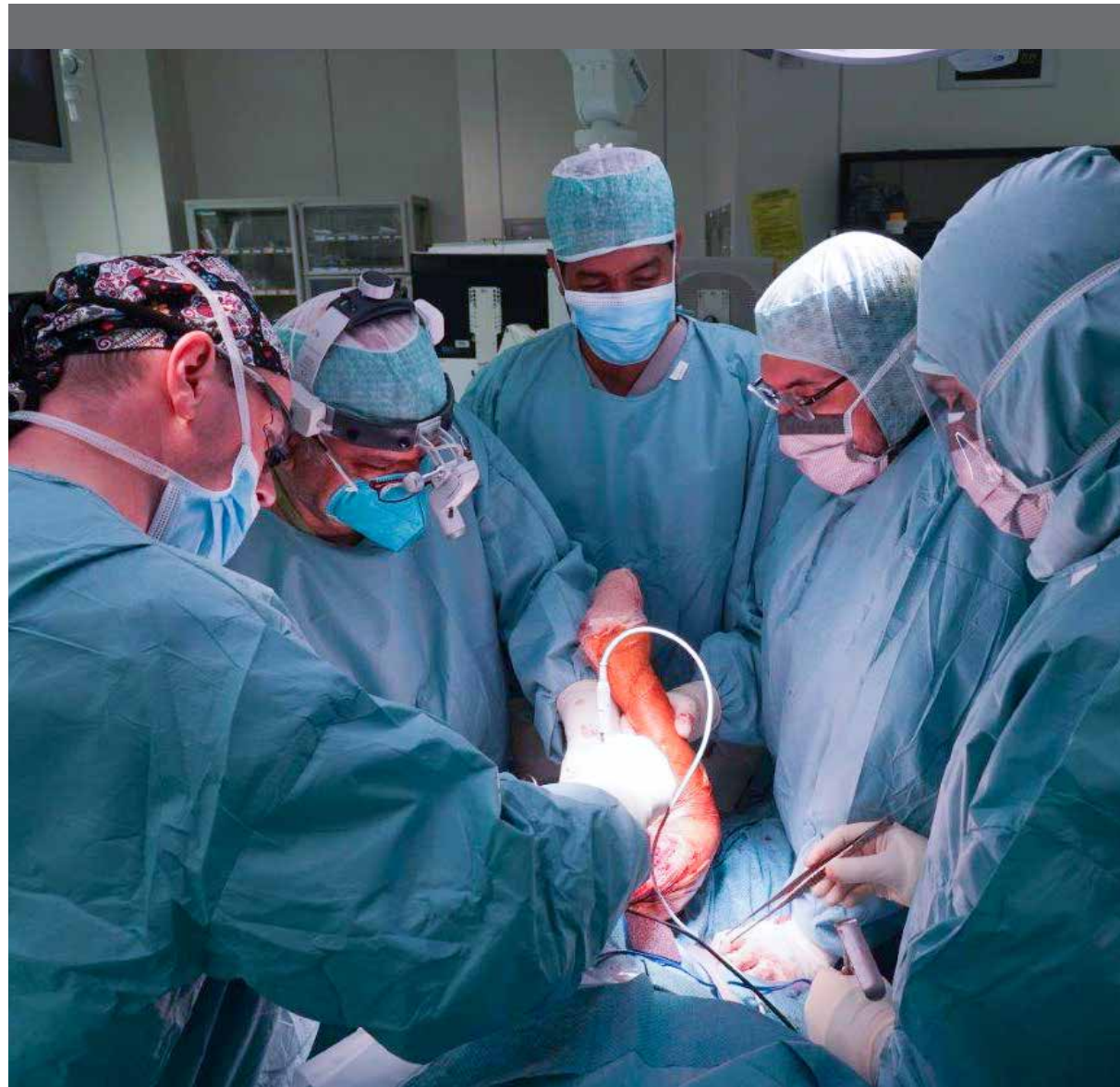


## Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant

The Pediatric Hematology-Oncology & BMT program at Sidra Medicine is a comprehensive medical service provided to all children and adolescents (Birth-18 years).

Highly skilled experts from the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Sidra Medicine work as part of a multispecialty team to provide customized care for children and adolescents who have blood disorders or cancer. Patients are admitted to a dedicated 20-bed unit staffed by certified hematology-oncology trained physicians, APON certified oncology-hematology nurses, clinical pharmacists, child life specialists, physical therapists, dietitians, and social workers.

Daily patient consultations, follow up, chemotherapy infusion, blood transfusion, and specialized treatment all are provided in our outpatient unit.



### Specialized programs:

- Leukemia and lymphoma program
- Neuro-oncology program
- Solid tumors program
- Bone marrow transplant clinic
- Hemostasis program: hemophilia, bleeding and thrombosis
- Hemoglobinopathies: Thalassemias and Sickle cell disease
- Benign general hematology
- Bone marrow failure and Fanconi clinic

### Conditions treated:

- All types of leukemia
- Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Brain and nervous system tumors
- Neuroblastoma
- Kidney tumors
- Soft tissue Sarcomas
- Osteosarcoma
- Ewing Sarcoma
- Germ Cell -Gonadal Tumors, testicular and ovarian tumors
- Hepatoblastoma, Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Disorders of Histiocytes
- Anemias: Acute and Chronic
- Thrombocytopenia: Congenital and Acquired
- Neutropenia, white blood cells disorders
- Hemophilia, bleeding, and thrombosis
- Thalassemia, Sickle cell disease and other hemoglobinopathies
- Bone marrow failure syndromes, Fanconi Anemia
- Aplastic Anemia



## Physician Profile

### Dr. Ayman Saleh, MD, MPH, FAAP

Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and BMT  
Chair, Sidra Medicine Institutional Review Board (IRB)

#### Expertise

Leukemia and lymphoma, solid tumors, bleeding and thrombosis and benign hematology.

He holds active certification from the American Board Medical Specialties (ABMS) in general pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (ABP).

He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

#### Profile

Dr. Ayman Saleh joined Sidra Medicine in 2017. He currently serves as the Division Chief of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant. In addition, he is the Chairman of the IRB and multiple other committees at Sidra Medicine.

Dr. Saleh has over 33 years of experience in the field of pediatrics and pediatric hematology oncology, the majority of which have been devoted to research and delivery of health care to patients and families in various communities in the United States of America and most recently in Qatar after joining Sidra Medicine.

#### Languages Spoken

Arabic and English

#### Areas of specialization:

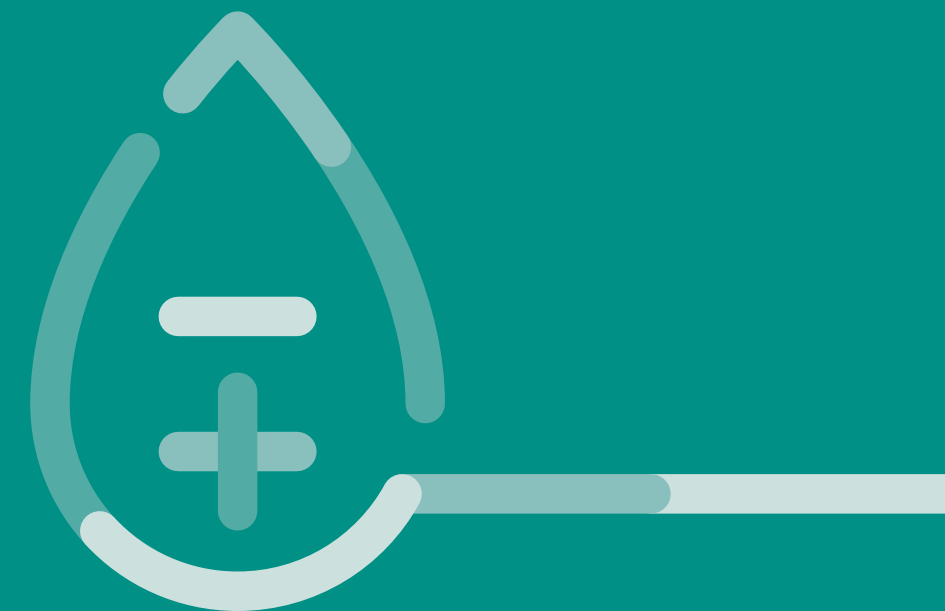
- Pediatric Oncology
- Pediatric Hematology
- Pediatric Pathology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Pediatric Neurosurgery
- Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
- Pediatric Thoracic Surgery
- Pediatric Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
- Pediatric Interventional Radiology
- Pediatric Radiation Oncology
- All Pediatric Medical Subspecialties
- Pediatric Advanced Cell Therapy

#### Some innovative practices include:

- Profiling of the genetic markers of each patient's tumors, followed by a cellular analysis which will help identify potential target for cellular therapy and non-invasive diagnostic imaging tools
- Pediatric cancer biorepository
- Precision medicine pilot launched 2021
- Advanced cell therapy
- Development of targeted therapy programs

The survival rate for childhood cancer is comparable to rates reported internationally by cooperative groups in Europe and the USA. With early diagnosis and advances in treatment, more children are surviving cancer. Today for our program, about 80% of children with childhood cancer survive.

# Endocrinology and Diabetes



## Endocrinology and Diabetes

The Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes offers a full range of clinical services for pediatric patients with endocrine and growth disorders, diabetes, and childhood hypoglycemia and rare types of diabetes mellitus.

### Conditions treated:

- Childhood diabetes
- Rare forms of diabetes mellitus
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- All endocrine conditions including obesity

Sidra Medicine also offers diabetes technology (insulin pumps and glucose sensors) and dedicated insulin pump clinics for children with all types of diabetes mellitus. More than 400 children are currently on the most modern insulin pumps and glucose sensors.

The division has developed a 10-day initiation protocol for closed-loop systems in people with Type 1 diabetes previously treated with multiple daily injections. This protocol is simple, unique and presents a smooth transition for using diabetes technologies to improve glycemic control and quality of life. Several diabetes centers in the Middle East, Asia and Europe have adopted the protocol.



## Physician Profile

### Prof. Khalid Hussain, MD

Division Chief - Endocrinology and Diabetes



#### Expertise

Childhood glucose disorders such as hypoglycemia and diabetes mellitus (especially rare forms of diabetes). Internationally recognized expertise in the field of childhood hypoglycemia and rare types of diabetes mellitus.

#### Profile

Prof. Hussain is an internationally recognized expert in the field of childhood hypoglycemia and rare types of diabetes with over 25 years of experience. He has published extensively in the field of glucose physiology with more than 400 peer-reviewed manuscripts in high impact journals including NEJM, Science, Nature Genetics, Cell Metabolism, EMBO, JCI, PNAS, HMG, AJHG, Diabetes, Diabetologia and JCEM.

He is the Division Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at Sidra Medicine. Since joining Sidra Medicine in 2016, Prof. Hussain established the clinical endocrine and diabetes service where he leads a multidisciplinary team (consultant endocrinologists and diabetologists, insulin pump experts, endocrine nurses, diabetic educators and highly specialized dieticians) who provide care for children with all endocrine conditions. The service includes specialist clinics for children with all types

of diabetes whose conditions are managed with the latest technological advances. At Sidra Medicine, Dr. Hussain's research focuses on understanding the epidemiology, biochemical and molecular mechanisms of childhood diabetes. He is also leading a national diabetes research program, funded by Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) and the Sidra Internal Research Fund (SIRF).

Prof. Hussain is an internationally recognized expert in the field of childhood hypoglycemia and rare types of diabetes mellitus. He has described several novel disorders relating to hypoglycemia and diabetes mellitus. Prior to joining Sidra Medicine, he was an Honorary Consultant Pediatric Endocrinologist at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London UK as well as a Professor of Pediatric Metabolic Endocrinology at The Institute of Child Health, University College London.

Prof. Hussain qualified in Medicine from Glasgow University in Scotland, U.K and then trained in neonatology, metabolic medicine and pediatric endocrinology in London (Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital) and Australia (Monash Medical Center, Melbourne).

#### Languages Spoken

English and Urdu

## Physician Profile

### Dr. Goran Petrovski, MD

Senior Attending Physician - Endocrinology  
Endocrinology and Diabetes



#### Expertise

Type 1 diabetes, automated insulin delivery systems, insulin pump therapy, and glucose monitoring systems.

Childhood glucose disorders such as hypoglycemia and diabetes mellitus (especially rare forms of diabetes).

Internationally recognized expertise in the field of childhood hypoglycemia and rare types of diabetes mellitus.

#### Profile

Dr. Petrovski graduated in 1997 from Medical School in Skopje, Macedonia. His background as Professor and Endocrinologist presents a treatment of 870 patients on insulin pump, evaluation of 2.780.000 sensor glucose days, 58 personalized insulin pump workshops for physicians and educators and Keynote Speaker/Invited Lecturer at international conferences on diabetes technology in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. He is also visiting Professor in several medical schools in Europe and Asia.

Petrovski's initial endocrine training was in Skopje with a fellowship in USA, France and Italy. His Master of Science thesis was on male infertility in 2003, and his Ph.D. thesis was on insulin pumps and sensors in 2006. He was promoted to Professor at Medical Faculty in Skopje in 2012. He is Donnell D.

Etzwiler scholar at International Diabetes Center in Minneapolis, USA, and Lantus Young Investigator prize winner for clinical research in 2009 in Berlin, Germany.

He started the national insulin pump program in 2002 and, as chief of the Center for Insulin Pumps and Sensors from 2011 achieved the reimbursement of insulin pumps and sensors in his home country. He was very active in publishing and promoting diabetes technology in the region and abroad and served as a volunteer on diabetes summer camps.

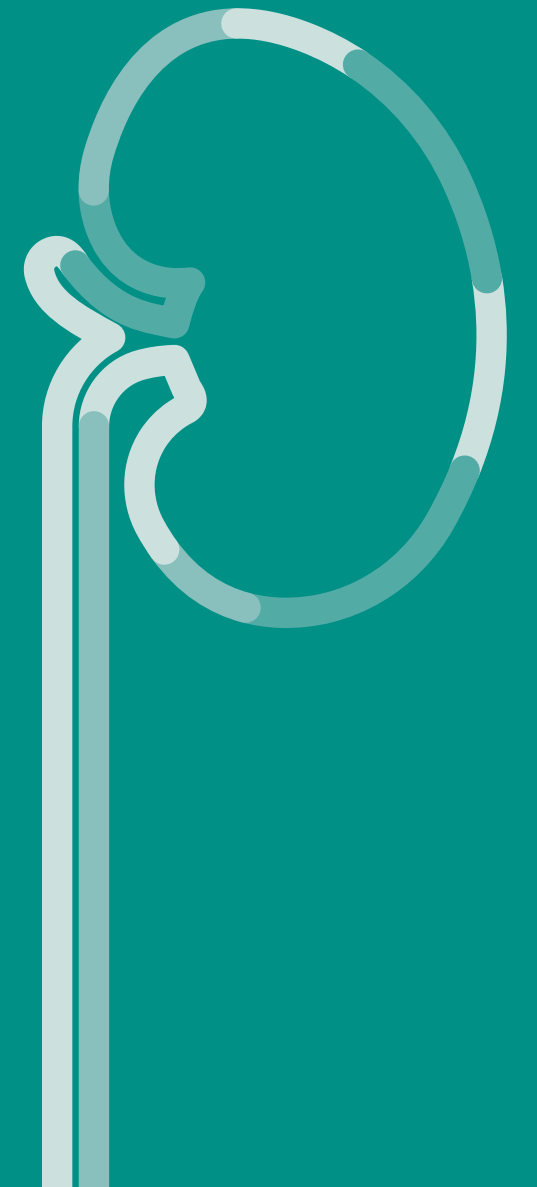
His research interest focuses on type 1 diabetes, insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring. He has published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has authored 4 books on type 1 diabetes, insulin pump, endocrinology test and clinical examination. He is also a reviewer in well-known diabetes journals (Diabetes Care, Diabetes UK, Acta Diabetologica, Diabetes Technology and Therapeutics, Journal of Technology and Science).

Petrovski's goal is to decrease the A1c level by 1% in every uncontrolled patient with type 1 diabetes for one year, until they reach satisfactory glucose control.

#### Languages Spoken

English

# Kidney Transplantation Program



# Kidney Transplantation Program

The Pediatric Kidney Transplantation Program at Sidra Medicine provides comprehensive, compassionate, and expert care to children with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). The program offers both living and deceased donor pathways. Care for the adult donors is provided in conjunction with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), while both donor and recipient surgeries are performed at Sidra Medicine.

The interdisciplinary program is operated out of the Division of Nephrology and the Division of Urology at Sidra Medicine in collaboration with Qatar Center for Organ Transplantation and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC). The program offers family-centered care before, during, and after kidney transplantation, with dedicated pediatric services, nephrologists, urologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, peritoneal/hemodialysis services in the outpatient as well as inpatient settings. The team include clinical pharmacists, psychologists, dieticians, social workers, chemistry laboratory, and child life specialists.

## Conditions treated:

Children with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) require kidney transplantation.

## Outcomes/Success rate/Benchmarks:

The outcome is excellent by international standards. It is monitored digitally and reviewed regularly:

- 100% graft survival
- 0% rejection rate
- Low infection rate
- Low re-admission rate

# Physician Profile



**Dr. Abubakr A. Imam, MBBS, FAAP, CHCQM, FABQAURP**

Division Chief of Nephrology & Hypertension

## Expertise

Acute Kidney Injury, Kidney Transplantation, Pediatric Nephrology

## Profile

After completing the Pediatric Residency Training and Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship in New York, Dr. Imam joined the faculty at the Children's Hospital of Michigan/Wayne State University in 2001 as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and became the Director of Renal Transplantation Program from 2003-2006. Then joined the faculty of Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio as an Associate Professor and the Division Chief of Nephrology & Hypertension as well as Staff Transplant Pediatric Nephrologist at Cleveland Clinic until 2009. Moved to the Middle East as the Head Section of Nephrology at King Fahad Medical City in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 2009-2012. Division Chief of Nephrology at Hamad Medical Corporation from 2012-2017.

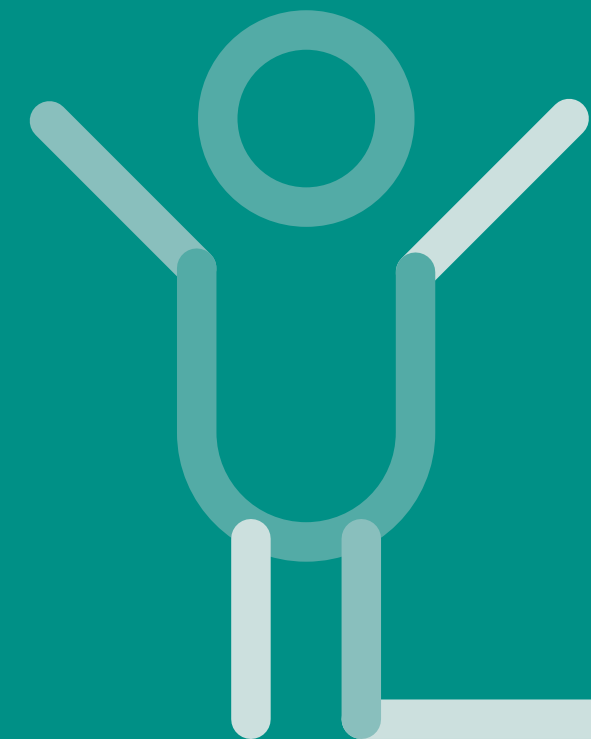
Currently, he is the Division Chief, Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension at Sidra Medicine. He is also the Chair or Renal Transplant Oversight Sub-committee, Chair of Clinical Effectiveness and Outcome Sub-committee and Chair of Policies and Procedure Sub-committee at Sidra Medicine.

Dr. Imam is a Clinical Professor at Qatar University and Associated Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. He published many articles in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of Pediatric Nephrology and Renal Transplantation. He received many awards in teaching and research as well as excellence in service from many institutions in the US and was on the Top Doctors in America List in 2009.

## Languages Spoken

English, Arabic

# Rehabilitation Medicine



# Rehabilitation Medicine

Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine is dedicated to managing the health needs of children with disabilities. We create a rehabilitation program that is individually tailored to the unique needs of every child to provide comprehensive management of their special needs.

## We are a highly specialized, multi-disciplinary team of professionals including:

- An American Board-Certified Pediatric Rehabilitation physician (fewer than 400 in the world)
- Physiotherapists (PT)
- Occupational therapists (OT)
- Speech pathologists (SLP)
- All therapists are pediatric specialists

## Some of the conditions treated at the clinic by our team include:

- Cerebral palsy
- Encephalopathy
- Muscular dystrophy
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Spinal cord injury
- Severe traumatic brain injury
- Severe spasticity

Our goal is to help every child live the fullest life possible. Multidisciplinary care including includes PT, OT, and SLP working as a team to develop the optimal individualized treatment plan for every child.



# Physician Profile

**Dr. Lisa Thornton, MD**  
Division of Rehabilitation Medicine



## Expertise

Specializes in childhood disability. American Board Certified in Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine and General Pediatrics.

## Profile

Dr. Lisa Thornton is a pediatric rehabilitation specialist. Dr Lisa is the only American Board-Certified pediatric rehabilitation Medicine professional in the region.

Since August of 2017, Dr. Lisa has been the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation at Sidra Medicine. She is Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar

She has broad expertise in physical disability and her medical practice focuses exclusively on the holistic needs of this population. She has expertise in the health issues that face people with disabilities but also is knowledgeable about issues of accessibility, education, transportation, recreation, housing, and vocation. Her special interest is in cerebral palsy, other motor disabilities, and spasticity management.

Before moving to Qatar, she lived and worked in Chicago. She completed pediatric specialty training at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and her rehabilitation residency at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She has lectured widely about the needs of children with disabilities and was a sought-after health commentator on national TV in the US.

## Languages Spoken

English

# Ophthalmology



# Ophthalmology

Sidra Medicine is the only institution in Qatar that provides a complete pediatric ophthalmology service – no other place has the full complement of pediatric ophthalmology staff – namely fellowship-trained pediatric ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrists, and pediatric nurses.

### Specialties offered

- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Orthoptics
- Optometry

### Surgical procedures available

- Strabismus surgery
- Cataract surgery
- Surgery for watery eyes
- Lid surgery

We undertake comprehensive diagnostic investigations as these are important for identifying, documenting, and monitoring various eye conditions. These investigations may include visual field testing, corneal topography, ultrasound scanning, ocular coherence tomography, and electrodiagnostic testing.

### Some of the conditions we assess and treat include:

- All pediatric ophthalmology medical conditions – assessment of all eye conditions.
- Strabismus – horizontal and vertical
- Assess and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity with laser and intravitreal injections
- Infections, inflammatory condition and help with management of medical conditions including diabetes, arthritis, neurological and neurosurgical
- Dry eye, allergic eye conditions

### Our specialty clinics include:

- General pediatric ophthalmology clinics
- Strabismus clinics
- Cataract clinics
- Diabetic eye screening clinics
- Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) clinics with Neurology, Craniofacial and Rheumatology
- Orthoptics clinics
- Optometry clinics
- Ophthalmology diagnostic clinics – OCT – retinal and anterior segment, visual fields, corneal scanning and ophthalmic ultrasound

### Outcomes

All outcomes for cataract and strabismus surgery have been well above international standards. All our treatments are benchmarked against Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the American Academy of Ophthalmology

# Physician Profile



**Dr. Adbul Rauf Kamboh, MBBS, FRCOphth, FRCS**  
Division Chief Pediatric Ophthalmology

### Expertise

Medical and surgical management of pediatric ophthalmology patients including Strabismus, cataract, inflammatory and allergic eye problems.

### Profile

Brought up in the United Kingdom, primary education in Northern England, Medicine at University of London. Ophthalmology Training at Moorfields Eye Hospital with Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

Consultant Ophthalmologist at Queens Hospital, Burton. Worked for short periods in Abu Dhabi (SKMC), KSA (KKESH) and New Zealand. Honorary posts at Birmingham eye hospital, UK and Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, USA.

### Languages Spoken

English

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Pedro Mattar Neri, MD

Senior Attending Physician  
Pediatric Ophthalmology

#### Expertise

Medical and surgical management of pediatric ophthalmology patients including complex strabismus, cataracts, retinopathy of prematurity and allergic eye problems.

#### Profile

Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship in University of Colorado, Children's Hospital and Eye Clinic, Denver, Colorado, USA.

Consultant Ophthalmologist at Unidad Oftalmologica de Caracas and CMDLT, Retinopathy of Prematurity program coordinator in Maternidad Concepcion Palacios and Santa Ana in Caracas, Venezuela. Consultant Ophthalmologist at King Khaled Eye Hospital (KKESH), Riyadh, KSA.

#### Languages Spoken

English, Spanish

## Physician Profile



### Dr. Diyaa Rachdan, MD, CSO, CABO, MSc(Oxon), FRCOphth

Senior Attending Physician  
Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Corneal Surgeon  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Weill Cornell Medicine

#### Expertise

Pediatric Ophthalmology and Corneal Surgery.

#### Profile

Dr Rachdan is an Ophthalmic Surgeon with a wide clinical experience complemented with a dual Subspecialty Fellowship Training in:

- Pediatric Ophthalmology: (The Hospital for Sick Children, "Sick Kids", Toronto, Canada)
- Cornea and Anterior Segments: (Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre, Birmingham, United Kingdom).

He gained six clinical and research degrees in ophthalmology including a master's degree from the University of Oxford, UK and the fellowship of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, UK. He also won several prizes, a memorial medal, and scholarship in Ophthalmology. Dr Rachdan performed many various ophthalmic surgical procedures in all subspecialties for children and adults, he published papers in both basic science and clinical ophthalmology and gave lectures and presented posters in international meetings. He is also a reviewer for ophthalmology journals.

Dr Rachdan joined Sidra Medicine in 2018 after working as Consultant Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Corneal Surgeon at Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, UK where he provided eye care for both children and adults. He also served as College Tutor for the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, UK.

He is keen on teaching and gives lectures regularly in local as well as international platforms. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Weill Cornell Medicine, Doha, Qatar. His areas of interest include pediatric cornea and anterior segments diseases, pediatric cataracts, strabismus, blocked nasolacrimal duct, monitoring for Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension (IIH) and high-volume adult cataract surgery.

#### Languages Spoken

Arabic, English

# Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Molecular Genetic Testing



## Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Molecular Genetic Testing

We are the only CAP-accredited pediatric pathology laboratory in the Middle East. Our international experts in pediatric anatomical pathology, biochemistry, hematopathology, microbiology, and genetics bring a Western approach to pediatric pathology.

We offer diagnostic expertise in pediatric cancer and inherited blood diseases, as well as inherited disorders of metabolism and biochemical disorders of childhood. Our diagnostic microbiology laboratory offers a unique metagenomic sequencing service to diagnose rare and challenging infectious diseases. In genetics we are offering Whole Exome Sequencing.

### Specialties Offered:

- Pediatric Anatomical Pathology
- Gynecologic and Breast Pathology
- Pediatric and Maternal Clinical Biochemistry
- Pediatric Hematopathology, Immunology, and Transfusion Medicine
- Pediatric Microbiology and Molecular Infectious Disease
- Pathology Genetics

# Patient Testimonials



# Patient Testimonials



“We are incredibly grateful for the family-centered care at Sidra Medicine and the efforts taken to save our little girl’s life. The entire team took the time to explain her treatment program every step of the way, making us feel involved and active members of her care. Thank you to everyone at Sidra Medicine – we are thrilled that she is now home, thriving and a happy little girl.”

Muntaha’s parents. Muntaha was referred to Sidra Medicine in early 2019, when she was just under two years old for Hepatoblastoma, a very rare cancerous (malignant) tumor.



“We are truly grateful to the support and guidance we received from the team at Sidra Medicine, who worked closely with us, every step of the way regarding his assessment, treatment, and working up towards his transplantation. They worked closely with the hospital in India, reviewed Joe’s medical assessments – continually following up with us until we were back after the successful transplantation, and ensured he received the best care possible upon our return to Qatar. We particularly want to thank Rania Ilaria, Sidra Medicine’s Liver Transplant coordinator, who was diligent, thorough, and extremely supportive during this time. Seeing our son thrive as a happy and healthy baby has meant the world to us and would not have been possible without the amazing team at Sidra Medicine. The fact that we have this critical specialist service in Doha is indicative of the wonderful healthcare system that is changing the lives of the families in the country.”

Marie Louise’s son underwent a liver transplant at Sidra Medicine.



“On the 18th of May, my daughter suffered a major accident. Despite undergoing several surgeries in Oman, she still required an airway stent to save her left lung. The medical team at Sultan Qaboos Hospital were exceptional in saving her life and ensuring that we got the right support at the right time and recommended Sidra Medicine for the procedure. It was a challenging journey travelling during a pandemic. We arrived on a specially chartered plane to Qatar, with the commitment and determination of everyone involved to ensure Maryam received the best and safe care possible. My family and I are truly grateful for the support we received every step of the way. From the Sultan Qaboos Hospital team and their treatment abroad program to the wonderful team here in Qatar at Sidra Medicine, including their own international patient office. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Andrew Durward who along with the team here have been amazing. To see Maryam being able to breathe normally just hours after her procedure has been so reassuring. Alhamdulillah that my daughter’s life has been saved and for the wonderful cooperation between both our governments and the medical teams in Oman and Qatar. Thank you!”

Talal Al Balushi, Maryam’s father. Maryam, a four-year girl living in Oman, suffered catastrophic internal injuries following blunt trauma to her chest after an accident and developed life-threatening airway problems. She required a highly specialized interventional airway procedure to preserve and save her lung, a procedure not available in Oman.

## Patient Testimonials



Aiden's parents **"Seeing the progress Aiden continues to make is empowering. The day he stood aided by a walker was a day that changed all of our lives. It gave us hope that we made the right decision, and each day is a day of hope and inspiration as we work together with the team at Sidra Medicine to help Aiden build his strength. Thank you!"**

Eight-year-old Aiden was referred to Sidra Medicine's Movement Disorders Clinic, to undergo Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR). SDR is a spinal surgery usually performed on children with spastic Cerebral Palsy, especially those who have not responded to therapy and medications. SDR can improve mobility, reduce pain and relieve lower limb spasticity. Following his surgery at Sidra Medicine in 2021, Aiden is now able to support his own weight aided by a walker.



**"We truly are grateful for the service and care Abdulla received at Sidra Medicine. To think that within a span of days, our son went from being at a very high risk of dying from cardiac arrest should an unforeseen episode take place, to being completely cured of the syndrome. SubahanAllah, to have one of the world's leading experts in electrophysiology, Dr. Volkan Tuzcu right here in Qatar to safely conduct the procedure, is a blessing! We couldn't have imagined a better place to have our son cared for. Thank you to the wonderful team at the Heart Center at Sidra Medicine. Nothing fills my heart with love and pride to see my son now happily playing sports, being active and being a normal teenager knowing that inshallah he won't face the risk of another episode again."**

Abdulla's father whose son was born with Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) syndrome. The condition was reversed at Sidra Medicine.



**"Our first moments with Ahmed were fraught with concern, as the doctors in the delivery room noticed his misshapen head right away. After going through the initial assessments, we were then referred to Sidra Medicine. To have such world-class care at our doorstep is life changing. It saved us the time, resources, and the challenges of taking him abroad for treatment. We are extremely grateful for the care that was provided at the hospital – which has been a very positive experience particularly under the care of Dr. Khalid Al-Kharazi and Dr. Ian Pople."**

Ahmed's parents. Baby Ahmed was referred to Sidra Medicine when doctors noticed that his skull was growing in an elongated shape and would require specialist attention.



**"We learned about our son's rare condition at birth. After research and several expert consultations, we were advised to only treat our child under the care of highly experienced doctors and in hospitals capable of providing the necessary care for such cases. We were advised by the President of Association for the Bladder Exstrophy Community to see Dr. Pippi Salle in Sidra Medicine as he is a pioneer in treating bladder exstrophy and that Sidra Medicine is a great choice to be treated in. The treatment and outcomes our son achieved at Sidra Medicine are promising of a much higher quality of life than what other children with the same condition can hope for."**

Dr. Pippi and his team made our hard times very bearable over the past 4 years of treatment. They were very informative, caring, and very trustworthy, and most importantly, gave our son outstanding results we honestly believe he wouldn't be lucky to have anywhere else. The nursing team were also highly cooperative and were extremely caring and understanding to our predicament. The international patient's office has been exceptionally supportive from our very first interaction and has been very supportive when we decided to come to Sidra Medicine."

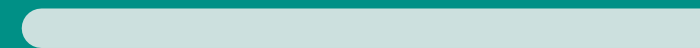
A.K. from Sudan



**"We were blown away by the care we received from Sidra Medicine. The whole process right from the international patient services taking care of our entry to Qatar, despite the Covid-19 protocols, was seamless. And once we arrived and entered – it truly felt like a hospital centered on caring for both the child and their parents. And we loved how the team interacted with our child and kept us informed every step of the way. They were fantastic. The fact that our son was able to come back to the hotel with us just one day after the procedure, was amazing. We felt so relieved to see how quickly he was recovering. It is wonderful that Qatar has a hospital like Sidra Medicine with such high international standards of care."**

Baby Abdulla was born premature with a congenital heart defect. In 2021, his parents flew him to Qatar after being referred by a cardiologist in Kuwait for a life-altering cardiac procedure.

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What kind of patients are treated at Sidra Medicine?

Women, children, and infants can be treated at Sidra Medicine.

### Is my condition treated at Sidra Medicine?

Deciding if treatment here is right for you will depend on factors such as your illness or diagnosis and other medical information. Please email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org) to schedule a consultation.

### How do I find out about my specific treatment at Sidra Medicine?

Please email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org) to schedule a consultation.

### Is it possible to request a specific physician?

Yes, that is possible.

### Can we speak to the physician before arriving?

Yes, before coming, you can speak to your physician.

### Can my physician speak my language?

Many of our physicians are bi-lingual and are fluent in more than one language. We have medical interpreters for many languages who can explain things to you and help you communicate with your specialists here and after you return home.

### Is video teleconsultation available?

Yes, we provide remote video consultations and second medical opinions to international patients and their doctors. Please email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org) for more details.

### Will Sidra Medicine liaise with my own physician at home?

Yes, our doctors need to be well informed about your condition and will coordinate with your doctor back home for follow-up care if any.

### Where do I start with the process of becoming a patient?

Please email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org).

### Do I need to provide my medical records to make an appointment?

After your initial email with the pre-admission form, our counselors will advise you on the next steps.

### Can my physician refer me to Sidra Medicine?

Yes, if your condition is treated at Sidra Medicine, your physician can email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org).

### Do I need a visa to travel to Qatar?

Nationals of more than 80 countries are eligible for visa-free entry into the State of Qatar. For more information, please visit <https://portal.moi.gov.qa/qatarvisas/>

### How long will I typically have to stay?

The length of stay varies according to the procedure you are undergoing and subsequent recovery.

### Is Sidra Medicine able to assist with special requirements?

We pride ourselves on being able to assist our patients and their families in every way possible. When you first contact us, please let us know of your requirements, and we will do our best to assist.

### Which documents should I bring with me?

Medical records, scans, reports, and images will be requested from you or your physician before your arrival at Sidra Medicine. You will carry your passport and identification card. If applicable, your passport must have a valid visa to enter Qatar.

### Will Sidra Medicine assist in travel and accommodation arrangements?

Our team can suggest travel plans and make reservations for your stay based on your appointment schedule if required.

### How do I pay for the medical costs if I don't have international health insurance?

We also self-paying patients. For more information on self-pay, please email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org)

### Will my insurance be accepted at Sidra Medicine?

Most third-party insurance is accepted at Sidra Medicine. For more information, please contact your insurance provider or email us at [internationalservices@sidra.org](mailto:internationalservices@sidra.org)

### My embassy will be paying for my medical costs. How will this be managed?

The International Patient Services team will guide you through this process.

# About Qatar



## About Qatar

Qatar offers experiences combining old and new, traditional and modern. It is a country whose people are rooted in their heritage while maintaining an eye on the future, and Qatar's growing global role in business, politics, and education. Thanks to Qatar's strategic location at the crossroads of East and West, the country is on average 6-7 hours away from key international travel hubs. 80% of the world's population is within a 6-hour flight from Qatar and more than two-thirds can enter Qatar visa-free.

Qatar is home to everything from Neolithic rock carvings to modernist skyscrapers, and gentle Dugongs in its glittering waters. This is where ancient dwellings are only a stone's throw from world-class museums, glistening malls, desert adventures, and international sports venues.

Qatar holds thrills and novel experiences for all. It offers a window to the past – and a glimpse into the future, all under the umbrella of that famous Arabian hospitality. To know more, please visit <https://www.visitqatar.qa/intl-en>



## Qatar Facts

### Air travel

Hamad International Airport, opened in 2014, is the home of Qatar Airways, one of the world's fastest-growing airlines with direct flights to over 160 destinations. Some 40 other international airlines fly into Qatar.

### Business hours

The working week is from Sunday to Thursday, with most offices closed on Friday and Saturday. Government operating hours are from 7am to 2pm.

### Climate

Qatar has a desert climate with year-round sunshine, hot summers, and mild winters. Mean temperatures range from 17°C in January to 36°C in July, reaching highs of 45°C+ during the summer. Rain is infrequent, falling in brief showers mainly in winter.

### Currency

The Qatari Riyal is the currency of Qatar. The currency code is QAR. The exchange parity has been set at the fixed rate of US\$ 1 = 3.65 QAR.

### Electricity

220/240 volts AC 50Hz. The socket type is a square three-pin 13 amp (as used in the UK).

### Geography

Qatar is an 11,500 square kilometer peninsula extending northwards into the Arabian Gulf. It has 563 km of uninterrupted coastline.

### Language

While Arabic is the official language, English is widely spoken.



### National profile

The State of Qatar, an independent sovereign country since 1971. The population stands at 2.73 million and the capital city is Doha.

### Public transport

Metered taxis, metro, and buses are easily accessible. Uber and other limousine services are also available. The metro system has 37 lines connecting significant points of interest.

### Religion

The official religion is Islam. Significant populations of followers of different religions live in Qatar.

### Time

The local time is GMT/UCT + 3 hours. There are no daylight savings adjustments.

### Telecommunications

The country code for Qatar is +974. Telecom providers Ooredoo and Vodafone offer pre-paid and post-paid mobile services. Wi-fi broadband is accessible in hotels and many other public places and is often complimentary.



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