

# Division of Neonatology

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and Saint Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO



Neonatologists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine and members of its SLUCare physician group. The hospital is widely recognized for its neonatal care and expertise and is an accredited Center of Excellence for Extra Corporal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO). It also is home to the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute, a specialized fetal surgery and care center that includes pediatric and maternal fetal medicine specialists as well as neonatologists.

The neonatology program includes 19 board-certified neonatologists, 40 advanced nurse practitioners, and more than 200 registered nurses as well as six fellows in its neonatal fellowship program that together oversee care in the hospital's 65-bed, all private room, Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The team continuously advances NICU best care practices through quality improvement efforts and through clinical and translational research in areas such as nutrition, resuscitation, twin-twin transfusion and lung disease.

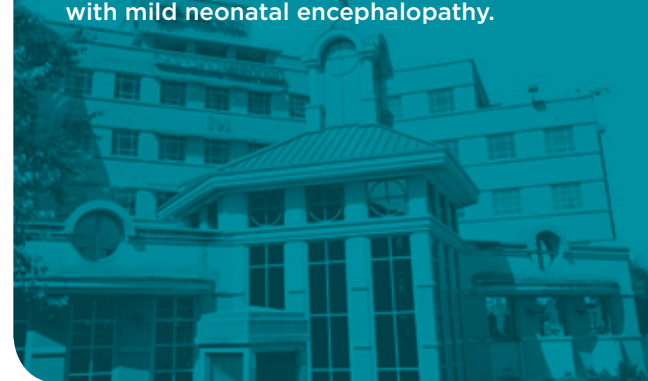
Among the latest research:

**Budesonide/Surfactant Show Benefit** — Research recently completed at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon shows a decrease in chronic lung disease, decreased days on a ventilator and earlier discharge from the hospital for preterm infants diagnosed with respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) who received a combination of budesonide and surfactant. Findings were published in *Pediatric Research* in November 2019. Ongoing animal research studies at Saint Louis University School of Medicine are showing that budesonide/surfactant combination reduces lung, liver and brain injury (AJP Lung).

**aEEG Monitoring in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) Babies** — Prenatal opioid exposure can have transient and permanent adverse effects in the brain. At SSM Health Cardinal Glennon, SLU researchers are evaluating brain function using amplitude integrated EEG monitoring in the NICU as a method to better predict which NOWS infants may benefit from closer monitoring and follow-up care. The clinical researchers also collaborate with maternal fetal medicine specialists in the Women and Infant Substance Help (WISH) Center at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital, the only center of its kind in the region, to provide comprehensive high-risk maternity care and support for women and newborns diagnosed with opioid addiction. In addition to NOWS, neonatologists provide long term follow up for infants born with opioid dependence who subsequently develop neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

## Neonatal Neurology Program

A new dedicated Neonatal Neurology Program is being initiated at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon to optimize management of babies with neurological problems such as hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy, seizures, and intraventricular hemorrhage. The service, which includes neonatology, pediatric neurology and radiology, will provide comprehensive management for these babies, including long term neurodevelopmental follow up. Initiatives include enhanced use of non-sedated MRI scans and a coordinated effort by physicians, nurses, and therapists to optimize developmental care-focused programs. Research efforts that have begun in the program include the NIH-funded, multicenter HEAL study examining high-dose erythropoietin in birth asphyxia as well as a multicenter study using brain MRI to examine outcomes of a cooling treatment in infants with mild neonatal encephalopathy.



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**SafeboosC-III** — SSM Health Cardinal Glennon is a collaborative site for this international, multicenter clinical trial investigating the use of near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) versus standard treatment with pulse oximetry in optimizing management of premature infants.

**CLABSI and Extubation Quality Initiatives** — Ongoing quality initiatives within the NICU have resulted in outstanding reduced rates of central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and the number of unintended extubations. These efforts have established best practices for optimizing the care of NICU patients.

### Outreach Services- New Mobile ICUs

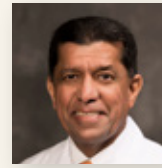
SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital is adding three mobile intensive care units and two ambulances to its emergency transport fleet, which also includes a helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. A dedicated team of nurses, respiratory therapists and paramedics logs more than 1,300 transports annually in a region that encompasses Missouri, west and central Illinois, western Kentucky and parts of Iowa, Arkansas and Indiana.

In addition to transport services, the Division of Neonatology provides onsite services at six regional hospitals. It also oversees a growing TeleNICU neonatal telemedicine program, which allows for real-time audio and video consultations. More than 50 facilities currently are participating in the telemedicine program.

### Special Needs Tracking and Awareness System (STARS)

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon is receiving national acclaim for its pioneering STARS emergency response program. The program establishes a database and educational training programs for community first responders. With these measures in place, responders will be in a better position to handle emergencies involving children with complex medical needs. The award-winning program is being implemented throughout the region and in other states.

## SLUCare Division of Neonatology Faculty



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