

## US News and World Report/ Children's Guild Foundation Autism Center/Dr Veetai Li

Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo Ranked in US News & World Report Lists of Best Children's Hospitals  
**Listed Among Best Children's Hospitals for Neurology/Neurosurgery and Cancer**

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Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo is included in the upcoming US News & World Report special edition of "Best Children's Hospitals" with a ranking among the top 50 in the U.S. for Neurology/Neurosurgery and Cancer care.

As two of the ten specialty areas within children's hospitals ranked nationally in the "Best Children's Hospitals" edition of US News & World Report, Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo ranked 46th in Cancer and 48th in Neurology/Neurosurgery among the 177 hospitals invited to participate for the 2011-2012 rankings.

"These rankings among the best children's hospitals in the U.S. is wonderful recognition for the physicians, nurses and other staff members providing care within our neuroscience and cancer pediatric specialties," said Cheryl Klass, President, Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo. "However, this is truly an achievement that demonstrates the high level of clinical expertise across a broad scope of specialized pediatric and women's health services we provide families throughout Western New York and beyond," said Cheryl Klass, President, Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

The national ranking of Neurology/Neurosurgery recognizes the broad scope of expertise throughout the neuroscience areas at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, which was among the children's hospitals surveyed by US News & World Report to receive the highest score for surgical survival rates in neurosurgery. The scope of Neurology/Neurosurgery services provided by Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo includes:

- WNY Regional Epilepsy Monitoring Center: the only such monitoring center in Western New York to specialize in diagnosing and providing care through the most current, comprehensive and individualized treatment plans for child and adult epilepsy patients.
- **The Children's Guild Foundation Autism Spectrum Disorder Center of Excellence: established with a \$585,000 grant from The Children's Guild Foundation, the center offers a unique, multidisciplinary approach to evaluation and diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorders.**
- The Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence: one of the six Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence in the United States designated by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, this center takes a multidisciplinary approach to providing comprehensive care for children and adolescents with demyelinating conditions including: multiple sclerosis (MS), acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), optic neuritis, transverse myelitis and neuromyelitis optica (Devic's disease).
- Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery: The Pediatric Neurosurgery program at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo includes the only full time, fellowship trained pediatric neurosurgeon in this region, Dr. Veetai Li. The pediatric neurosurgery team offers the full spectrum of pediatric neurosurgical care, participates in several comprehensive multi-disciplinary clinics and in the management of trauma patients with brain and spinal cord injuries.

Dr. Li has expertise in minimally invasive neurosurgical techniques, including Endoscopic Surgery and Stereotaxy (framed and frameless), allowing for more precise and less traumatic removal of brain tumors and other brain lesions. He uses intra-operative functional mapping and electrocorticography for patients with tumors or other lesions in sensitive areas of the brain and for Epilepsy surgery. This equipment is funded, in part, through the annual KISS Cares for Kids Radiothon.

- Pediatric Neurology: provides diagnosis and management of children and adolescents with neurologic disorders including seizures, headaches, brain tumors, neuromuscular disease, developmental disabilities, Autism, movement disorders, sleep disorders, degenerative diseases and neurocutaneous syndromes including Neurofibromatosis, Sturge-Weber, and tuberous sclerosis. Additional services include Neuromuscular disease clinic (multidisciplinary), Neuro-oncology clinic (multidisciplinary) and Movement disorder (Tourette's) clinic.

The national ranking of Cancer care demonstrates the scope of pediatric oncology services available at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, which was among the children's hospitals surveyed by US News & World Report to receive the highest survival rate of Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) patients. This ranking also highlights the collaboration with Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the newly opened 9-bed, inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit designed for pediatric cancer patients and their families who experience frequent or extended admissions at Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

The Division of Hematology/Oncology provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services for children and adolescents with malignancies and blood disorders. The physicians participate in national studies of the Children's Oncology Group, which undertakes clinical trials evaluating the newest treatments in childhood cancer. Specialty clinics include General Hematology/Oncology, Neuro-Oncology, Sickle Cell Disease & Thalassemias, Hemophilia, Thrombosis/Thrombophilia, Long-Term Follow-up and Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant.

Construction of the new Hematology/Oncology Inpatient Unit is a recent and significant capital investment in support of strategic growth in services for pediatric cancer and blood disorder patients, including the Bone Marrow Transplant Program in collaboration with Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Now in its fifth year, Best Children's Hospitals pulls together clinical and operational data from a lengthy survey, completed by the majority of the 177 hospitals invited to participate for the 2011-12 rankings. The survey asks hundreds of questions about survival rates, nurse staffing, subspecialist availability, and many more pieces of critical information difficult or impossible for those in charge of a child's care to find on their own. The data from the survey is combined with recommendations from pediatric specialists on the hospitals they consider best for children with challenging problems.

Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, a Kaleida Health facility and teaching hospital for the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is the regional center for comprehensive and state-of-the-art pediatric, neonatal, perinatal and obstetrical services in Western New York and beyond.