

Pediatric Urology: Not Easy to Talk About But Vital to Our Smallest Patients

In the Institute for Pediatric Urology directed by Dix P. Poppas, M.D., children are evaluated for a number of disorders affecting the urinary tract. Recently, the generosity of the Seaman family made possible the establishment of the Linda and Carl Seaman Pediatric Urodynamics Unit at the Komansky Center for Children's Health, enhancing the screening, treatment, and monitoring of children who have urological difficulties—from bedwetting to complex voiding disorders.

“Our family was proud to be able to support the vision of Dr. Dix Poppas for a pediatric urodynamics center,” says Jordan Seaman, son of Linda Seaman and the late Carl Seaman. “We knew that with a new facility, Dr. Poppas would be able to expand the program and enhance this important resource for children.”

Voiding disorders in children are quite varied, with issues that include nighttime bedwetting, as well as more significant problems. “Parents bring their children to see us for a number of reasons,” says Carlos Medina, M.D., Director of the Pediatric

Urodynamics Unit. “Symptoms range from incontinence and frequent urination to pain during urination and recurrent urinary tract infections.”

A graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Medina became interested in pediatric urodynamics during his pediatric urology fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. “During my training in San Diego, I participated in a spinal defects multidisciplinary clinic and realized that one of the services severely lacking for children with spinal disorders was pediatric urodynamics,” says Dr. Medina. “That was always one of the areas that was near and dear to my heart.”

Interested in returning to the East Coast, Dr. Medina called Dr. Poppas to ask him about a position he was considering at another hospital. Timing was everything. Dr. Poppas was in the process of developing a pediatric urodynamics program at the Komansky Center, and asked Dr. Medina to come on board. “When I joined the Hospital, the vision behind the program was in place, and it was well on its way to becoming a reality



The new Pediatric Urodynamics Unit at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell was made possible by the late Carl Seaman, and his wife, Linda.

thanks to the Seaman endowment,” says Dr. Medina. “For me it was just slipping into something that I’d always wanted to do.” Since that time, Dr. Medina has developed the program into a comprehensive service for children with voiding disorders and an

important referral center for patients with bladder issues secondary to another condition, including congenital spinal cord defects or injury, and cerebral palsy.

The Seaman Pediatric Urodynamics Unit provides a calming environment for children to minimize their anxiety and facilitate diagnosis and treatment. A urodynamics evaluation enables Dr. Medina and his colleagues to determine the status of the bladder and urethra, providing valuable information about bladder pressure, capacity, and voiding pressure.

“The generosity and vision of Linda and Carl Seaman has enabled us to establish a wonderful, state-of-the-art center for evaluating and treating children with urological problems,” says Dr. Poppas. “We are fortunate to have Dr. Medina leading the program. His expertise in the field and his commitment to children with these disorders is extraordinary.”

The Institute for Pediatric Urology is part of the Department of Urology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. ■