

UPFRONT

Insights and transparent talk from leadership

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Innovative therapies

Harnessing the newest insights and techniques for children's care

BY THOMAS T. SATO, MD

As we begin a new year, we reflect on the highlights of the past year at Children's. One of these was the Heart Summit, at which we welcomed pediatric cardiologists and cardiothoracic surgeons from institutions worldwide to share treatment and research discoveries. This group gathered to share as much evidence as possible, so that we all can learn what is working and what alterations in therapies can be most beneficial for our young patients. And, in the spirit of building medical consensus, we engaged in a spirited examination of various clinical approaches.

As we did at the first Heart Summit in 2017, attendees addressed the many aspects of congenital heart disease, and the fact that we now have a growing population of patients who underwent heart repair as infants and face new cardiac complications as they age into adulthood. This group still needs specialized care, and the Summit offered opportunities for practitioners to share innovative ideas on treatment and ongoing management.

Further innovation has come in the form of a remarkable immunotherapy treatment for a resistant type of leukemia. By altering a patient's own T-cells, we are able to mount an immune response to attack cancerous blood cells. We are truly fortunate to have such incredible researchers and providers here at Children's who offer this leading-edge treatment along with the most compassionate care.

Best,



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A new way to treat childhood leukemia

Children's is one of only about 40 pediatric hospitals in the country certified to offer cutting-edge CAR-T immunotherapy to children with relapsed or refractory B-cell acute lymphoblast leukemia (ALL). *Pediatric Rounds* interviewed Julie An M. Talano, MD, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist who leads the bone marrow transplant clinical research team, about this innovative therapy. Read the article at chw.org/car-t.

