

## Separated Conjoined Twins: Joshua and Jacob Spates

### Prenatal Care

- Diagnosed as conjoined twins at 25-week fetal ultrasound on Nov. 23, 2010.
- Followed in Le Bonheur Children's Fetal Center for eight weeks.
- Born via C-section on Jan. 24, 2011.
- Joined pygopagus at lumbar sacral spine, shared rectum, muscle and nerves.
- Two days after birth, pediatric surgeons performed a colostomy and inserted a gastrostomy tube to assist with nutrition and waste elimination.
- Treated for seven months in Le Bonheur Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

### The Separation

- Separated at Le Bonheur Children's on Aug. 29, 2011, in 13-hour surgery.
- Most complex surgery in Le Bonheur history.
- Involved multiple pediatric surgical specialties: anesthesia, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery and radiology.
- 34-member pediatric surgical team included:
  - 6 general surgeons
  - 4 orthopedic surgeons
  - 4 neurosurgeons
  - 3 plastic surgeons
  - 2 anesthesiologists
  - 2 certified registered nurse anesthetists
  - 6 surgical technicians
  - 6 registered nurses
  - 1 radiological technician
- Surgeons separated spinal column bone, nerves and muscles and completed gastrointestinal repairs.

### **About Conjoined Twins**

- Conjoined twins are rare and occur in roughly one in every 100,000 pregnancies.
- 40 to 60 percent of conjoined twins are stillborn, and many die within first few days of birth.
- About 70 percent of conjoined twins are female.
- About 15 percent of conjoined twins are pygopagus and joined back to back at the pelvis and lower spine, each with separate hearts, heads and limbs.

### **About Conjoined Twins in Memphis**

- Six documented conjoined twins in Memphis history.
- Last separated case occurred in 1970s.
- Previous separations performed in Memphis resulted in the death of at least one of the twins.