

## Le Bonheur earns \$2.9 million grant to fight asthma *Innovative program aimed at helping high-risk pediatric patients*

**L**e Bonheur Children's Hospital is working to improve quality of life for children living with pediatric asthma with a new \$2.9 million federal innovation award.

The hospital received a competitive Health Care Innovation Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in July. The program — called CHAMP (Changing High-Risk Asthma in Memphis through Partnership) aims to reduce deaths from pediatric asthma, reduce Emergency Department and urgent care visits, reduce avoidable hospitalizations and reduce asthma exacerbations or episodes.

Le Bonheur receives more than 3,500 asthma-related visits each year. It is the hospital's most common diagnosis.

"We see high rates of ED visits and hospitalizations for asthma in Memphis, and we hope this grant will create new partnerships within the community to help us better educate and care for local families," said Chief of Pulmonology and project medical co-investigator Dennis Stokes, MD, MPH. "We really have a triple aim with this project: improve care, reduce costs and improve satisfaction with the care system for our patients."



The award was granted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to Le Bonheur's Community Health and Well-Being division in partnership with The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Christie Michael, MD, of Allergy-Immunology will serve as medical co-investigator. Dr. Errin Newman, a second-year pulmonology fellow, is also involved in design and implementation of the program.

Program leaders from Le Bonheur include Susan Stepp LPSW and Christina Underhill, PhD, and Ian Brooks, PhD leads a team from UT Biomedical Informatics.

The program hopes to improve quality of life for these patients and lower overall health care costs for these patients by more than \$4 million. The program is working to develop a registry of high-risk asthma patients — which can be used to study and evaluate evidence-based treatments and new approaches to care.

By developing a health care coordination team for those patients, program coordinators want to also improve coordination of care, teach better asthma self-management and engage the community in caring for high-risk patients.

"The program will help us close the loop in the continuity of care these children receive after they leave Le Bonheur," co-director Michael said.

## CF Center leads nation in key nutritional outcomes

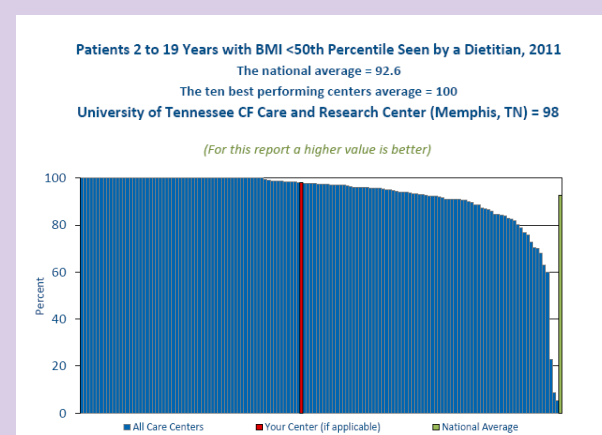
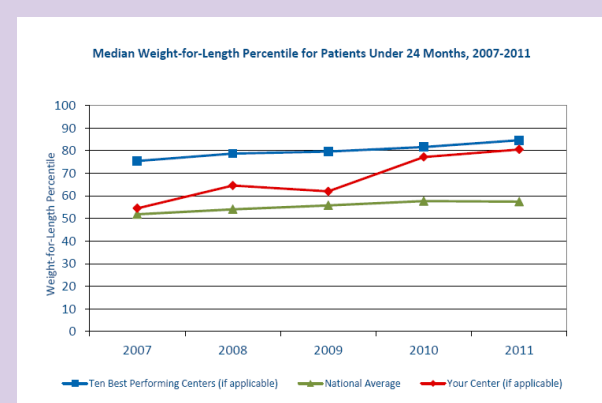
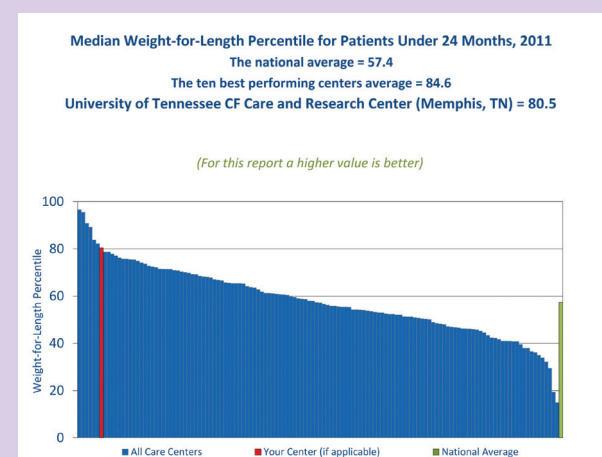
**T**he University of Tennessee Cystic Fibrosis Center at Le Bonheur Children's ranked among the top centers in the country for key nutritional outcomes, according to national 2011 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation data.

The strong nutritional outcomes — especially in initial outcomes for younger patients — are the result of a focused approach to caring for pediatric cystic fibrosis patients, says Cystic Fibrosis Clinic Coordinator Terry Knight, CNS, APRN. A dietician sees almost every child in outpatient clinics — ensuring stronger outcomes in those areas.

"We know that better nutritional outcomes and early recognition of complications like diabetes can lead to better lung function and longer lives for these patients," said Dennis Stokes, MD, MPH, chief of Pulmonology at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and Cystic Fibrosis Center director. "We are working to make sure these children stay well-nourished under our care and have had great support from the outstanding team of nutritionists at Le Bonheur."



The state of Tennessee implemented newborn screening for cystic fibrosis in 2008, and the CF care team works to ensure babies with CF maintain their weight from the time of diagnosis in infancy. Since implementation of newborn screening, nutritional outcomes for CF infants followed at Le Bonheur have been consistently among the top CF centers in the country.



Referrals: 888-890-0818

[www.lebonheur.org/pulmonology](http://www.lebonheur.org/pulmonology)

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## Why Choose Le Bonheur?

- Le Bonheur is ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the nation's top pediatric pulmonology programs.
- The hospital is home to Tennessee's only infant pulmonary function laboratory, which can measure how the lungs function in infants with lung disorders.
- Our sleep disorders center is the only exclusively pediatric and adolescent lab in Tennessee accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.
- We see nearly 3,500 kids each year with asthma – and admit nearly 1,200. Still, Le Bonheur has one the lowest asthma readmission rates in the country, compared to other freestanding children's hospitals.
- The hospital has nationally prominent clinical and research programs in cystic fibrosis, asthma, primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD), and other lung diseases of infants and children.
- Pulmonologists work collaboratively with Le Bonheur specialists in pediatric otolaryngology, pediatric surgery, pediatric gastroenterology, neonatology, pediatric critical care, and Speech Therapy to provide comprehensive, family-centered care for infants and children with complex disorders of the lungs, airways, and digestive tract.

### Dennis Stokes, MD, MPH

Dennis Stokes, MD, MPH, is chief of Pulmonology and St. Jude Professor at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). He is also center director of the UT CF Care and Research Center and director of pulmonology services at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Stokes graduated from the University of Kentucky, completed pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and a pulmonology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University School of Medicine. He holds a Master's in Public Health degree from Indiana University and is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric pulmonology.

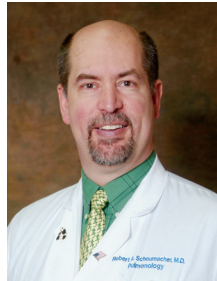
Stokes' patient care emphases include asthma, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary infections in the immunocompromised host.



### Robert Schoumacher, MD

Robert Schoumacher, MD, is a professor at UTHSC and director of Le Bonheur's Pediatric and Adolescent Sleep Center.

He is board certified in sleep medicine and in pediatrics with a pediatric pulmonology subspecialty. Schoumacher attended Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, pediatrics residency at the University of Virginia, and fellowship training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has special interests in pediatric sleep medicine, home ventilation and cystic fibrosis.



### Saumini Srinivasan, MD, MS

Saumini Srinivasan, MD is an assistant professor at UTHSC and associate director of the UT CF Care and Research Center.

She completed her medical degree at the University of Delhi in India and completed her pediatric residency at UCLA Children's Hospital. She earned her fellowship in pediatric pulmonology at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles/University of Southern California. She is board certified in pediatrics with a subspecialty in pediatric pulmonology. Her clinical interests include cystic fibrosis, exercise physiology and clinical exercise testing and pediatric sleep disorders.



### James Tutor, MD

James Tutor, MD is a professor at UTHSC and medical director of the infant pulmonary function laboratory at Le Bonheur. He completed medical school and residency at the University of Mississippi and pulmonology fellowship at Tulane. He is board certified in pediatrics with a subspecialty in pediatric pulmonology.

Tutor's clinical interests include infant pulmonary function testing, aspiration disorders, cystic fibrosis and sleep disorders.



## Published Research 2012

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