

# RITE UP

2026 | ISSUE 1



## Excellence and Expertise in Hip Care for Children of All Ages



**BOARD OFFICERS**

Lyndon L. Olson, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board

M. Douglas Adkins  
Vice Chairman

Harold D. Carter  
Vice Chairman

Ronald L. Skaggs  
Vice Chairman and Secretary

James E. Laney  
Vice President and Treasurer

**STAFF OFFICERS**

Robert L. Walker  
President/CEO

Matt Chance  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer

Lori L. Dalton  
Senior Vice President and  
General Counsel

Michelle Hays  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Kristina L. Keever-Smith  
Senior Vice President,  
Chief Investment Officer

Stephanie Brigger  
Vice President, Development

Angie Buckmeier, M.H.A., B.S.N.  
Vice President and  
Chief Nursing Officer

Leslie A. Clonch, Jr.  
Vice President and  
Chief Information Officer

Matt Ferguson  
Vice President, Research

Ashley Givens  
Vice President, Development/Events

Jeremy Howell  
Vice President, North Campus

Donald E. Katz  
Vice President, Facilities &  
Process Design

Stacy Miller  
Vice President, Human Resources

Alex Paraison  
Vice President, Revenue Cycle

**EXECUTIVE MEDICAL STAFF**

Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S.  
Chief of Staff

Henry B. Ellis, M.D.  
Assistant Chief of Staff

Brandon A. Ramo, M.D.  
Assistant Chief of Staff

Karl E. Rathjen, M.D.  
Assistant Chief of Staff

Philip L. Wilson, M.D.  
Assistant Chief of Staff

**EMERITUS**

John A. Herring, M.D.  
Chief of Staff Emeritus

J. C. Montgomery, Jr.  
President Emeritus

**FOUNDATION**

Robert L. Walker  
Executive Chairman

Karl E. Rathjen, M.D.  
President

**08 COVER FEATURE Excellence and Expertise in Hip Care for Children of All Ages**



Peyton, of Point, Texas, with her father, Reagan



Peyton, of Northlake, Texas



Blake, of Pocahontas, Arkansas



**07 FRONT AND CENTER**  
Serving Up a Comeback:  
How Adriana and Dr. Chung  
Tackled Lumbar Spondylolysis



**13 ON THE MOVE**  
Stepping Forward: KJ's Path  
to Walking Tall

**03 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
**04 CONNECTED TO THE CARE**  
**06 THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS**

**12 MOMENT OF IMPACT**  
**14 DONOR SPOTLIGHT**  
**15 TRUSTEE PROFILE**

**PUBLICATION CREDITS**

**Senior Editor:** Hayley Hair  
**Editor:** Kristi Shewmaker  
**Designer:** Peter Henry  
**Photographers:** Roy Ortiz and Allison Slomowitz  
**Writers:** Jackie Hensler, Kristi Shewmaker and Taheera Washington  
**Contributors:** Communications and Development staff

Send editorial comments to: RiteUp@tsrh.org

Rite Up is a publication of Scottish Rite for Children. If you no longer wish to receive communications from Scottish Rite, send a written request or call:

HIPAA Privacy Officer  
Scottish Rite for Children  
2222 Welborn Street  
Dallas, Texas 75219  
214-559-8510 | privacyofficer@tsrh.org

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, TSRH and Scottish Rite for Children are trademarks of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. All other trademarks, logos and brand names are the property of their respective owners. All company, product(s) and service(s) names used in this publication/website are for identification purposes only. Use of these names, trademarks and brands does not imply endorsement.

©2026, Scottish Rite for Children®

Scottish Rite for Children is accredited by The Joint Commission and is a member of: Children's Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, Texas Hospital Association and Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council.

Scottish Rite for Children does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, sex, color, national origin, disability or age in admission, treatment or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment.

For further information about this, please contact:  
Scottish Rite for Children Civil Rights Coordinator:  
Compliance  
Call: 214-559-8510  
TDD or State Relay Number: 800-735-2989

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-293-8133 (TTY: 1-800-735-2988).

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1-855-293-8133 (TTY: 1-800-735-2988).

**LETTER FROM**



**THE PRESIDENT**

**ROBERT L. WALKER**  
President/CEO

At Scottish Rite for Children, striving for excellence is a habit, a way of life. As one of our core values, excellence means that we set goals, embrace challenges and expect improvement in all we do. Living by this virtue has brought numerous accolades and awards. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Scottish Rite for Children No. 1 in the nation for pediatric orthopedic care, in collaboration with Children's Medical Center Dallas and UT Southwestern Medical Center.

To be recognized as the national leader among prestigious hospitals across the country is a tremendous honor and a wonderful byproduct of what we hold dear — taking care of the children and families who trust us every day. Our success is truly measured in the lives we have touched.

Layla, a 6-year-old of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, receives care from pediatric orthopedic surgeon Dr. David A. Podeszwa and his expert clinical team. After undergoing hip surgery, she returned to have her cast removed. Pictured below, child life specialist Lauren Newman helps Layla prepare for the

procedure with a comfort item — a teddy bear. Lauren also pretends with a play cast saw to show Layla how her bandages and cast will be removed.

Excellence in care is not something you achieve but is a continuous pursuit of improvement, always going beyond what is expected. Through our pioneering research and unrivaled education, we influence pediatric orthopedic care around the world, extending our reach to children everywhere. This significant impact is achieved through the extraordinary philanthropy of individuals and organizations who continue to support Scottish Rite year after year. This steadfast generosity allows us to welcome any child, regardless of the family's ability to pay.

From our founding in 1921 to our No. 1 ranking in 2026, a tradition of excellence has woven throughout our history because of compassionate and kind-hearted people. Our trustees, donors, partners, volunteers, doctors, clinicians, researchers, educators and staff all share in the common goal of giving children back their childhood.

Your legacy lives on as these children grow into adults and influence the generations to come.



*Bob*

Layla, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and child life specialist Lauren Newman, CCLS



World champion gymnast and former patient **Skye Blakely** is Scottish Rite for Children's official ambassador. While home for the holidays in Frisco, she got a behind-the-scenes look at Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center. She surprised patients with delightful visits and reunited with the clinical team who took care of her when she was a patient.

Physical therapist Jessica Dabis and patient Ryleigh meet Skye Blakely.



D CEO Awards Photography by Bret Redman

**SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN RECEIVES D CEO AWARD, FINALISTS IN TWO CATEGORIES**



Pediatric orthopedic surgeon **Jaysson T. Brooks, M.D.**, was named a finalist in the **Achievement in Medical Research** category for his work combining technology and medicine to advance patient outcomes for spinal conditions.



Scottish Rite for Children's Movement Science Lab (MSL) was named a finalist in the **Achievement in Provider Innovation** category, featuring the work of Division Director of the Movement Science Lab **Sophia Ulman, Ph.D.**, and her team. The MSL spearheads innovative research using the latest technology to study injury prevention strategies for young athletes.

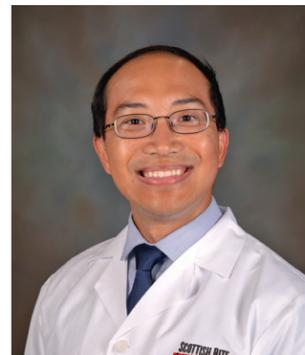
**D CEO** honored pediatric orthopedic surgeon **William Z. Morris, M.D.**, with the **Outstanding Health System Practitioner** award at its 2025 Excellence in Healthcare Awards. Dr. Morris was recognized for his exceptional expertise in complex hip disorders paired with his deep commitment to patients and their families, offering compassionate and individualized care.



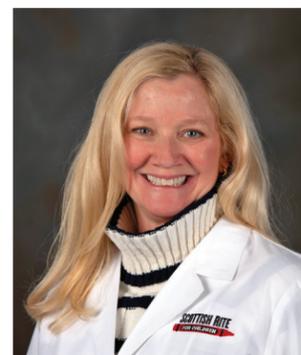
**Henry B. Ellis, M.D.**, has been promoted to Assistant Chief of Staff.



**Matt Ferguson** has been promoted to Vice President of Research.



Welcome our new sports medicine physician **Kevin Chiang, M.D., M.Ed.**, pediatric orthopedic physician **Bhargavi B. Kola, M.D.**, and pediatric orthopedic surgeon **Javier Masquijo, M.D.** All practice at the Frisco campus. Also, welcome our new Medical Director of Hospital Medicine **Leslie Garner, M.D.**, at the Dallas campus.



**The Dallas Cowboys** and cheerleaders brought joy and smiles to all during their annual visit to Scottish Rite for Children. Patients and families enjoyed fun-filled conversations, photos, autographs and more with the team.

The Dallas Cowboys kicker Brandon Aubrey, linebacker Marist Liufau, patient Zoe and her service dog, cheerleaders Megan and Taylor, and defensive tackle Solomon Thomas



Super poses with his handlers and child life specialists Tia Blodgett and Sam McCune.



Scottish Rite for Children welcomes **Super**, a Golden/Lab/Poodle mix, as our new Dallas campus facility dog. Super works alongside child life specialists to promote positive coping for patients and their families.

## THE CHIEF OF STAFF REPORTS

DANIEL J. SUCATO, M.D., M.S.  
Chief of Staff



### Researchers Awarded \$6.8 Million in NIH Grants to Advance Treatment for Osteonecrosis and Perthes Disease

Research is at the heart of inventing and advancing treatment methods at Scottish Rite for Children. In the organization's six centers for excellence, our researchers lay the groundwork by identifying and addressing clinical problems through innovative ideas that our clinicians apply in their specialties to give patients the best care.

As a pioneer in research for pediatric orthopedic conditions, Scottish Rite currently conducts approximately 136 clinical studies and 231 research projects. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded three R01 grants valued at \$6.8 million to Director of the Center for Excellence in Hip Harry Kim, M.D., M.S., and scientists Chi Ma, Ph.D., and Yinshi Ren, Ph.D., all of whom hold faculty appointments at UT Southwestern Medical Center. A R01 grant is the NIH's primary and most prestigious research project grant, which is given to support investigator-initiated biomedical or behavioral research projects. Through basic and clinical research, the aim is to advance treatment for osteonecrosis and Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease, also known as Perthes disease.

Osteonecrosis is a condition that occurs in children and adults when a disruption in blood flow to the bone causes the bone tissue to die. In children, this condition can appear as Perthes disease, a rare childhood hip disorder that affects the ball of the hip joint. If left untreated, both osteonecrosis and Perthes disease can cause the weakened bone to collapse or become misshaped, resulting in deformity and chronic pain. In children, Perthes disease symptoms begin as a limp and eventually, the inability to walk. Some treatment options are available, but these rely primarily on surgical intervention that require long recoveries, as well as interventions that only manage the symptoms and disease progression.



Director of the Center for Excellence in Hip Harry Kim, M.D., M.S., center, and scientists Yinshi Ren, Ph.D., and Chi Ma, Ph.D., received three R01 grants valued at \$6.8 million to investigate osteonecrosis and Perthes disease through three distinct research paths.

Drs. Kim, Ma and Ren are addressing osteonecrosis and Perthes disease through three distinct research paths. Dr. Kim is developing and testing minimally invasive tissue engineering strategies to overcome barriers to successful bone regeneration. Dr. Ma is using his expertise in biomaterials to further research on a hydrogel that is injected into the bone and works like a 'smart glue' to restore blood flow and support bone regeneration. Dr. Ren, an expert in genetic models and molecular biology, is studying how the body repairs bone and restores blood flow. Together, they aim to advance strategies for minimally invasive treatments to help patients affected by these conditions.

Through patient-centered research, Scottish Rite for Children delivers better outcomes today while building a healthier future for the children we serve. ◀

## FRONT AND CENTER

### Serving Up a Comeback: How Adriana and Dr. Chung Tackled Lumbar Spondylolysis

For 15-year-old Adriana of Prosper, Texas, volleyball is more than a sport. It is a bond she shares with her twin sister, Sofia. After years of playing together at home and school, the sisters joined a beach volleyball club dedicated to helping junior athletes develop their skills. But by midseason, Adriana's dreams were sidelined by an unrelenting pain in her lower back.



Jane S. Chung, M.D., examines Adriana's back during a follow-up appointment.



"It started during practice when I was serving," Adriana says. "At first, it just felt sore, but then it felt like something was stabbing me in the back." Before long, the pain made even simple activities, like climbing stairs, difficult.

A visit to Scottish Rite for Children Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Center in Frisco led to an evaluation with pediatric sports medicine physician Jane S. Chung, M.D. During the initial exam, Dr. Chung was concerned about a possible stress fracture in Adriana's lower back. An MRI confirmed lumbar spondylolysis — a stress fracture in the lower spine caused by overuse. "This type of injury is especially common in young adolescent athletes who participate in sports involving repetitive hyperextension, arching and twisting movements of the lower spine," Dr. Chung says. "Overhead movements such as serving, blocking and hitting cause repetitive arching of the lower back in volleyball athletes." Overuse-related stress fractures may also affect athletes in cheer, dance, gymnastics, soccer and football. These injuries need about three months of rest and rehabilitation before a safe and gradual return to play.

"I just thought I strained something or maybe tore a muscle," Adriana says. "When I learned I'd need to take months off, I was really upset. My season wasn't over yet, and I still had important games ahead."

Her treatment included rest, a supportive back brace and a neutral core-specific physical therapy program. Adriana was matched with physical therapist Samantha Plaster, P.T., at Scottish Rite's Therapy Services location at The Star in Frisco. Plaster had also played beach volleyball.

"I thought it was so great they got us in with a P.T. who played her sport," says Courtney, Adriana's mother. "They really took the time to create a connection, and it made a huge difference in her motivation and progress."

Dr. Chung emphasizes the importance of rest, nutrition, sleep and cross-training for young athletes. "Their growing bodies need time to recover in between the repetitive movements from training and practices," she says. She also highlights Scottish Rite's team approach: "Our team works closely together to support each athlete's unique recovery."

Although Adriana was disappointed to miss out on playing, she is grateful she took the time to recover. "I'm really glad I listened to my doctors and focused on getting better," she says. "Now, I feel stronger and more confident about returning to volleyball." ◀

# Excellence and Expertise in Hip Care for Children of All Ages

by Kristi Shewmaker



PEYTON, 11 WEEKS OLD, OF POINT, TEXAS

**Peyton** is a happy baby who enjoys being held by her father as he dances around the living room. But, within Peyton's first few minutes of life, her parents, Shelby and Reagan, learned that she had hip dysplasia. Hip dysplasia occurs when the hip socket does not fully cover the ball of the hip joint. "When Peyton was born, they moved her legs around, and you could hear them popping," says Reagan, her father.

At just 3 weeks old, Peyton and her family came to Scottish Rite for Children where they received care from pediatric orthopedic surgeon Elizabeth W. Hubbard, M.D. In Peyton's first appointment, Dr. Hubbard diagnosed her with developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH). Peyton's left hip was completely dislocated, and her right hip was

partially dislocated. Dr. Hubbard prescribed a soft brace called a Pavlik harness that held Peyton's legs apart to keep the balls of her hip joints in their sockets. Peyton wore the harness 23 hours a day for two months.

"The younger the infant is at the time you initiate treatment, the more likely they are to be successful with nonoperative care," Dr. Hubbard says.

Peyton's mother, Shelby, is no stranger to Scottish Rite, though she has no memory of it. She, too, was born with DDH and was successfully treated at Scottish Rite with a Pavlik harness that she wore for seven weeks. Her mother still has it!

Peyton exhibits the most common risk factors — **the four Fs** — of DDH. She is the couple's first child, a female with a family history of DDH, and she was positioned feetfirst, or breech, for part of the time during the third trimester of Shelby's pregnancy. Except for bath time and diaper

changes, Peyton's parents ensured she wore the harness as recommended, and today, she is harness free.

"Peyton is a great example of early detection, early referral, early initiation of treatment and how great a response can be," Dr. Hubbard says. "I expect her to roll, sit, stand, walk and run just as if she'd never had an issue."

To parents whose child may have just received a diagnosis of hip dysplasia, Reagan says, "Go to Scottish Rite, 100%! We have complete trust in them. They've given us peace of mind." »

## The Four Risk Factors of Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip

1. Female
2. First-born
3. Family history
4. Feetfirst, or breech, in third trimester

From newborns to teens, Scottish Rite for Children is world-renowned for its excellence and expertise in providing outstanding treatment for children of all ages with hip dysplasia.

In the United States, approximately one to two babies per 100 are born with developmental dysplasia of the hip. Many factors exist that together may cause DDH, including female sex, where females are affected up to seven times more than males. In infants with mild cases, the hip may correct itself during close observation. In severe cases, the hip may be dislocated, like Peyton's.

"The vast majority of kids that we treat with hip dysplasia are treated successfully with a Pavlik harness," says pediatric orthopedic surgeon, William Z. Morris, M.D. "Even in our most severe cases with hip dislocations, we've published research at Scottish Rite that shows more than 90% are successfully treated without ever going to the operating room."

While hip dysplasia most often presents at birth, some children are not identified until childhood. "We often meet these kids because they get referred for a limb length difference or a limp," Dr. Morris says. "Because they're over six months of age, unfortunately, a brace cannot treat their hip dislocation. The only way to get the ball back in the socket is through surgery."



Peyton with William Z. Morris, M.D.

PEYTON, AGE 5, OF NORTHLAKE, TEXAS

**Peyton** shares a special bond with Dr. Morris. She treasures the photo below so much that she takes the printed photo everywhere she goes. Her father, Andrew, says, "She brings it to Scottish Rite for her appointments and asks people, 'Have you seen this man: Dr. Morris? I need to find him.'" Whitney, her mother, laughs saying, "like a missing person situation."

When Peyton was 4, her pediatrician referred her to Scottish Rite for Children for scoliosis. She saw pediatric orthopedic surgeon Megan E. Johnson, M.D., who confirmed scoliosis but said they needed to address another condition first — hip dysplasia. On short notice, Dr. Morris and his team met with the family. "They made sure to see us that day to ease our minds and go through pretty terrifying news," Andrew says.

*Continued on the next page*

Peyton's right hip was dislocated, and she needed surgery. Andrew and Whitney were shocked. "The weekend before, she was running and jumping and scored four goals in her soccer game," Whitney says. But, her hip was completely out of socket. "We were looking at the X-ray and seeing just how crooked her poor little body was," Andrew says. "It was heartbreaking to see."

Dr. Morris explains, "In infants, toddlers and younger kids like Peyton, you can have a completely dislocated hip, and there's no pain. The only sign may be that kids will walk with a painless limp."



Peyton, center, with her mother, Whitney, and father, Andrew

term developmental hip dislocation because we sometimes don't know exactly when it starts," Dr. Morris says.

In April 2025, Peyton underwent surgery and came out with a spica cast. "It went all the way from her chest down to her ankles," Whitney says. "The thought of her being trapped, essentially, was pretty overwhelming." Both of Peyton's legs were casted and spread with a bar between them to keep the ball of her right hip in the socket. After seven weeks, Dr. Morris completed a second surgery that revealed Peyton's hip was healing well. He removed her spica cast and applied a

Petrie cast that was more forgiving, going only to the top of her thighs on both legs so she could bend at the waist. She wore that one for a month, and at the end of June, the cast was removed. The family refers to this important day as "Cast Off, Crown On."

Peyton loves Disney princesses. When she got home from getting her cast off, her family gave her a surprise party complete with a sparkle princess dress and multiple crowns from which to choose. At her follow-up appointment, she wore the dress with glitter in her hair and her crown. She also brought a crown for Dr. Morris.

"Being a father of 8- and 5-year-old daughters, it was not my first time wearing a tiara," Dr. Morris says. "Peyton has been bubbly, enthusiastic and brave through this whole process, and it was so much fun to be a part of that celebration with her."

After wearing two casts and getting around in a wheelchair for almost three months, Peyton healed quickly. At first, she scooted around on her bottom, then crawled. After a few weeks, she began walking, and shortly after, she ran. "Peyton has done fabulously well," Dr. Morris says. "She is back to doing everything she wants to do."

"I didn't know it could be this good," Whitney says about the care Peyton received at Scottish Rite. "They clearly care very deeply about the kids, and they put so much emphasis on making sure they don't feel scared or alone."

In November, Peyton and her family took a celebration trip to Disney World. As Peyton rode the rides and met the characters, so did Dr. Morris — at least in spirit through the "Cast Off, Crown On" photo that Peyton brought along for the adventure. »

When Peyton was learning to walk, Andrew remembers they called it her little goose walk. "She did this hop skip thing, but we never thought much of it," he says. "We thought, 'She's just a little girl who's bouncy and bubbly.'"

Babies can be born with hip dislocation or just have a shallow socket. The ball begins in the socket, but over time, the hip can become unstable, with the ball going in and out of the socket or becoming dislocated. "We use the



Blake with Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S.

### BLAKE, AGE 17, OF POCAHONTAS, ARKANSAS

A typical morning for **Blake** includes a bowl of pasta. She most often eats it in the car when her mother, Ashlee, picks her up after swim practice. Besides being really hungry after swimming, Blake says, "When I get stressed out with school or my social life, swimming is a mental break. It's good for my mental health, my health in general, and it's something I enjoy doing."

Blake has swum all her life. She competes in high school and club teams, but for many years, Blake endured hip pain. "I would walk from the couch to my bedroom and start crying," she says. At times, the pain would get better. Her family thought it was due to growing pains and being a high-level athlete. What was abnormal became normal, but they began visiting doctors in Arkansas to determine what was wrong.

According to Ashlee, some of her previous providers said, "This is over our heads." Another said, "I think you have hip dysplasia, but you need somebody who does 100 of these a year, not 20." Blake was referred to Scottish Rite for Children to see Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S., pediatric orthopedic surgeon and chief of staff. "That was the best decision we made by far," Ashlee says.

Dr. Sucato confirmed a diagnosis of hip dysplasia in both of Blake's hips. Her hip socket did not cover the ball of her upper thighbone in each hip, which

caused the pain. "It is unknown what caused Blake's hip dysplasia," Dr. Sucato says, "but when she was born, she probably had 'loose' hips, in which the hips were not deeply seated in the sockets, and with time, the sockets never developed normally."

Blake needed surgery on both hips. Dr. Sucato began on the right side. After surgery, Blake used a wheelchair, then graduated to a walker and finally, crutches before she was allowed to fully bear weight. She also received physical therapy in and out of the pool. After several months, Blake resumed swimming activities and began preparing for competition. In an incredible feat of strength and determination, she got second place at the Arkansas Activities Association All-State competition for swimming the 100-yard breaststroke shortly before she underwent surgery on her left hip.

"Blake was a superstar patient," Dr. Sucato says. "She is an elite swimmer so she got back to swimming right

away, and we did her second hip six months after the first one, which is the fastest I have seen someone have surgery on the second side." Dr. Sucato shares that Blake was such a trendsetter that he decided to use bioabsorbable screws in her left hip. She was the first patient at Scottish Rite to receive them. The screws gradually dissolve and are replaced by bone, eliminating the need for another surgery to remove them. "She did great with them," Dr. Sucato says, "and the bone has healed beautifully."

"Dr. Sucato and his team were fabulous," Ashlee says. "Scottish Rite makes sure the family is involved in the entire process, that everyone is on board and understands the care and aftercare. We couldn't have picked a better place."

Few hospitals offer all of the options for treating hip dysplasia, from infant to young adult. "The surgery Blake had was developed by the renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. Reinhold Ganz in Switzerland," Dr. Sucato says. "We visited him in 1998 and continue to work with him today. No one else in Texas can say that."

Today, Blake is a year out from her second surgery and feels no pain. A junior in high school, she is aiming for a swim scholarship that she hopes to stack with an academic one. And, she still eats pasta for breakfast, even on days when she does not swim. «

Michael Kutschke, M.D.,  
with Philip L. Wilson, M.D.



## Inspired by His Own Care, Dr. Kutschke Returns to Scottish Rite for Children as a Fellow

Young physicians from across the country pursue Scottish Rite for Children as a premier destination for advanced orthopedic fellowship training. For Michael Kutschke, M.D., a fellow in the recently accredited Orthopedic Sports Medicine Fellowship, the experience is especially meaningful. His connection to Scottish Rite began years earlier as a patient, a time that left a lasting impression and shaped his path back to the institution.

Kutschke was referred to Scottish Rite for corrective elbow surgery and later returned as a high school athlete, this time requiring the orthopedic sports medicine expertise of pediatric orthopedic surgeon Philip L. Wilson, M.D. The care he received at Scottish Rite was formative in his decision to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery. As a UT Southwestern medical student, Kutschke gained valuable research experiences under the mentorship of Scottish Rite Director of the Center for Excellence in Hip Harry Kim, M.D., M.S. During one late night in the lab, Kutschke was introduced to Brittani Boukather, an evening volunteer. The brief encounter ultimately led to their marriage and the start of their young family.

After completing orthopedic residency at Brown University, Kutschke reconnected with Scottish Rite to further his training in the Orthopedic Sports Medicine Fellowship, led by Program Director Henry B. Ellis, M.D. This distinctive program is among only a few accredited subspecialty fellowships dedicated primarily to the orthopedic care of young athletes.

"This is a full circle moment," Wilson says, describing his reaction to Kutschke returning as a fellow. "If you

are fortunate to spark interest in others and then have the opportunity to help educate them to become better than you are, that is the ultimate achievement."

"One forefront reason I was drawn to the fellowship is the leadership of Drs. Ellis and Wilson," Kutschke says. "They are excellent surgeons, clinicians, researchers and mentors. Beyond that, they are invested in my life outside of work and even know my kids' names — something that cannot be found in other programs."

Much of Kutschke's research efforts align with his athletic background, which has influenced his collaboration with researchers in the Movement Science Lab in Frisco. His work developing a predictive model for adolescent anterior cruciate ligament injuries will be presented at the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America Annual Meeting this summer.

"We are not just treating pediatric sports injuries, we are studying how they happen and how to prevent them," Wilson says. "That is where the field is going, and Michael is right at the center of that effort in North Texas."

From the time he first encountered the scent of freshly popped popcorn as a patient, to the research projects that inadvertently led to the start of his family, and now returning to advance his career in orthopedic sports medicine, Scottish Rite has been a place of enduring connection for Kutschke. "This place has been a part of my life for a really long time," Kutschke says. "To come back in this role as a fellow is more than special. At Scottish Rite, I am constantly inspired by the greatness around me." «



## Stepping Forward: KJ's Path to Walking Tall

Kenneth, also known as "KJ," of Longview, Texas, is 6 years old and full of life. He plays baseball with The Miracle League of East Texas and spreads happiness wherever he goes. Though he needs assistance to walk, not much slows him down. Thanks to Scottish Rite for Children, he is gaining independence with the support of his custom hip-knee-ankle-foot orthosis (HKAFO).

Born with spina bifida, KJ has been a patient at Scottish Rite since he was 6 weeks old. His mother, Melissa, remembers how her family's connection to the Scottish Rite Masons made Scottish Rite the clear choice for KJ's care. "We knew from the very beginning that it was the right place for him," Melissa shares. "Scottish Rite has always felt like family to us."

KJ's treatment has included years of physical therapy and a series of orthopedic orthoses to support his

growth and mobility. He has used a wheelchair, ankle-foot orthoses and now a customized HKAFO to get around. Pediatric orthotist and prosthetist Reagan Bratten, C.P.O., L.P.O., specializes in fitting custom braces and supportive devices. She notes KJ's determination drives his progress.

"The HKAFO is like an external Iron Man suit," Reagan explains. "It locks out his knees and feet, giving him the support he needs to stand and walk with a walker. KJ has the core and hip strength, and this device helps him use it to move forward." Above all, his enthusiasm stands out. Reagan says, "He never gives up, and he always brings joy and determination to every step he takes."

Though his progress hasn't always been easy, KJ's persistence shines through. "At first, when he began using the HKAFO, completing

a single lap was a big achievement," Reagan recalls. "Now, he's up to four laps, and I'm just there to cheer him on."

KJ's dedicated family drives two and a half hours to Scottish Rite. The care they receive between appointments makes all the difference. "We do not live close, so having a team that responds quickly whenever we have a question is so helpful," Melissa says. "Knowing we have that kind of support, even from far away, gives us so much peace of mind."

For KJ, walking with his HKAFO means more than just mobility. He grows in independence and can see eye to eye with his friends. "Scottish Rite gives children back their childhood and makes possibilities happen," Reagan says. "KJ is proof that with the right support, kids can do amazing things." «



Amy L. McIntosh, M.D.,  
with patient Zain

## Impact Patient Care Through a Donor Advised Fund

Since its founding in 1921, Scottish Rite for Children has cherished the philanthropy of its generous donors who ensure that patients receive outstanding care regardless of a family’s ability to pay. Year after year, families put their trust in their doctors and care teams and are able to focus on their child’s treatment, recovery and healing without the burden of worrying about their financial situation. Donors give patients and families the tremendous gift of relief and peace of mind.

Scottish Rite friends have offered their kind-hearted gifts of time and money in numerous ways by supporting fundraising events, establishing recurring donations and putting Scottish Rite in their will, among many other giving opportunities. A donor advised fund (DAF) is one more way to give children back their childhood.

A DAF, which is like a charitable savings account, gives donors the ability to grow their investment tax-free, as well as the flexibility to recommend how much and how often gifts are granted to Scottish Rite for Children and other qualified charities. Donors may

recommend grants or recurring grants immediately from their DAF or use the fund as a tool for future charitable gifts. Some donors choose to create a lasting legacy by naming Scottish Rite for Children the beneficiary of the entire account or a percentage of the fund. With a percentage, donors can create a family legacy of giving by naming their loved ones as successors to continue recommending grants to charitable organizations.

“DAF holders, like community foundations and financial services firms, provide donors with the opportunity to grow their contributions tax-free,” says Stephanie Brigger, Vice President of Development. “We are grateful for our compassionate friends who transform the lives of our patients and families by supporting us in this way.” ◀

**Support Scottish Rite Through a Donor Advised Fund:**  
Contact Senior Development Officer Mike Stimpson at 214-559-7886 or [mike.stimpson@tsrh.org](mailto:mike.stimpson@tsrh.org).

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

## A Focus on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Treasure Street

For more than two decades, Harold D. Carter has been a steadfast leader and devoted advocate of Scottish Rite for Children. Serving on the board of trustees since 2000 and as vice chairman of the board since 2007, Harold’s commitment to the organization’s mission of giving children back their childhood has been unwavering.

Harold has championed Scottish Rite in countless ways, offering strategic guidance and personal dedication. He has chaired numerous committees, including the Oil and Gas Committee, drawing upon his highly successful career in the industry to help strengthen Scottish Rite’s financial foundation and long-term sustainability. His leadership has consistently helped position the institution for growth and excellence in patient care.

raised more than \$166,000. “The goal was not only to raise money, but to introduce more people to the hospital,” Harold says. Since its founding, Treasure Street has raised more than \$16 million to benefit Scottish Rite for Children. “I’m thankful for our friends who have supported not only Treasure Street, but the hospital in general,” he says.

This year, the event will be chaired by Nicole’s older brother Dodge and his wife, Diane, on October 22. “Dodge is carrying on his sister’s legacy and his parents’ legacy, and that means a lot,” Harold says. “I’m proud of them.”



“THE DOCTORS ARE NOT ONLY SKILLED, THEY WORK MIRACLES.”

**HAROLD D. CARTER**  
Vice Chairman Since 2007 | Trustee Since 2000

Harold’s connection to Scottish Rite for Children is also deeply personal. He is one of the founders of its signature fundraiser: Treasure Street. Years ago, his granddaughter Nicole was a patient at Scottish Rite. She received care for tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), a rare genetic disease that causes noncancerous tumors to grow in parts of the body, most commonly in the skin, brain, eyes, kidneys, heart and lungs.

Treasure Street began when Dee and Dodge Carter — Nicole’s parents and Harold’s daughter and son-in-law — came to Harold and his late wife, Bitsy, as well as Dodge’s parents and said they wanted to do something to give back to Scottish Rite. Around a kitchen dinner table, Treasure Street was born.

The first Treasure Street was held in the Atrium under the Flying Machine mobile. The goal was to raise \$35,000 to hire a nurse that would be dedicated to supporting the TSC clinic. Treasures filled the Atrium in rows, or streets, where the attendees silently bid on the items. The event was so successful, it

Harold says he loves working for Scottish Rite. “Routinely and daily, they change lives,” he says. “I appreciate what they’ve done for my granddaughter. The doctors are not only skilled, they work miracles.”

Harold’s visionary leadership, generous spirit and steadfast support has helped propel Scottish Rite’s mission forward, ensuring that children receive the highest level of care. He is always available, ready to lend a hand and guided by a deep commitment to the well-being of the children and families served at Scottish Rite. Harold’s legacy is one of service, compassion and leadership — and Scottish Rite is stronger because of him. ◀

Save the date on Thursday, October 22, for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Treasure Street. For more information, please contact Special Events at 214-559-7682 or [treasurestreet@tsrh.org](mailto:treasurestreet@tsrh.org).

# SCOTTISH RITE



2222 Welborn Street  
Dallas, Texas 75219-3993

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 4215  
Dallas, Texas

## LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY



### Join the W. B. & Brandon Carrell Society

Transform the lives of patients and families while honoring the first and second chiefs of staff. When you include Scottish Rite for Children in your estate plans, you establish a charitable legacy of your own and join a society that honors your generosity.

### Make a Difference Through Your IRA

Individuals age 70 ½ or older can donate up to \$111,000 tax-free in 2026 through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The gift counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) but is not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI).

This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.

Seth, of Sallisaw, Oklahoma



### Create a Custom Giving Plan That Is Just Right for You!

Contact Senior Development Officer Mike Stimpson at 214-559-7886 or [mike.stimpson@tsrh.org](mailto:mike.stimpson@tsrh.org).



#### ABOUT SCOTTISH RITE FOR CHILDREN

Scottish Rite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions, such as scoliosis, clubfoot, hand differences, hip disorders, limb lengthening and reconstruction, sports injuries and fractures, as well as certain related arthritic and neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia. Patients receive treatment regardless of the family's ability to pay.

For more information about services available at the Dallas or Frisco campuses, visit [scottishriteforchildren.org](http://scottishriteforchildren.org).

Do you receive duplicate mailings or need to correct your name, title or address? Please send corrections to P.O. Box 199300, Dallas, Texas 75219-9842, call 214-559-5030 or email [tsrhdv@tsrh.org](mailto:tsrhdv@tsrh.org).

Scottish Rite for Children is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

