Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship

at Shriners Children’s Northern California & UC Davis Children’s Hospital
Dear future colleague,

Congratulations on choosing the best orthopedic subspecialty, one that will undoubtedly engage and inspire for your entire career! Many would aptly describe pediatric orthopedic surgery as a calling rather than a career. You will certainly find that spirit embodied in our faculty at the Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship at Shriners Children’s Northern California and UC Davis Children’s Hospital.

Our diverse group of faculty surgeons is committed to education, engaged in providing life-long mentorship and dedicated to improving musculoskeletal care for all children. The fellowship will provide you with both the breadth and depth of this amazing field and give you the tools to make critical surgical decisions for complex clinical situations. Each week, you’ll have five hours of dedicated pediatric orthopedic education through conferences, journal clubs and lectures. A well-staffed clinical research division with a highly productive motion analysis center will give you resources to do meaningful research. Most importantly, you’ll have the flexibility to seek out your educational path as the year progresses through a fluid rotation schedule and ample elective time. We hope to welcome you to our fellowship program!

Sincerely,

Vedant Kulkarni, M.D.
Director, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship

Holly Leshikar, M.D.
Co-Director, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship

at Shriners Children’s Northern California & UC Davis Children’s Hospital

The Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship at Shriners Children’s Northern California and UC Davis Children’s Hospital offers an in-depth, hands-on exposure to all aspects of pediatric orthopedics across both high-volume centers. A flexible schedule allows for dividing time between complex elective pediatric orthopedics and spine surgery at Shriners Children’s Northern California, and elective and urgent pediatric orthopedics at UC Davis Children’s Hospital and its level I Trauma Center.

Fellows gain expertise in:

- General pediatric orthopedics
- Pediatric and young adult sports
- Young adult hip preservation
- Trauma and fractures
- Early onset, congenital and adolescent spinal deformity
- Cerebral palsy and gait analysis
- Spina bifida and neuromuscular orthopedics
- Limb deficiency and prosthetics
- Upper extremity and brachial plexus birth palsy

Fellows have graduated responsibility during the year, gaining independence in the clinic and the operating room. Fellows receive in-depth instruction in the Motion Analysis Lab at Shriners Children’s Northern California and participate in weekly didactic conferences. The fellows participate in the education of the four orthopedic surgery residents, and also contribute to active clinical and basic science research projects.

Fellowship Applications

The Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship is 12 months in duration, beginning August 1 and ending July 31 the following year. One fellow per year will be accepted through the Pediatric Orthopedic Fellowship Match. Compensation is commensurate with a PGY-6 salary with excellent benefits. Upon acceptance to the fellowship through the SF Match, our fellowship coordinator will guide future fellows through the process of obtaining an unrestricted California medical license and a California Fluoroscopy Supervisor and Operator Permit prior to the start of the fellowship year.
Educational Conferences

The Shriners Children’s Northern California and UC Davis Children’s Hospital Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship offers an in-depth, hands-on exposure to all aspects of pediatric orthopedics. Educational conferences include:

- **Pre-operative Pediatric Orthopedic Conference** *(1 hour, Weekly)*: The fellow participates in preparation and presentation of pediatric orthopedic cases and actively discusses indications and surgical strategy with all faculty present. Residents and the fellow divide responsibility for discussing cases and discussion of cases is at a level appropriate for fellowship training.

- **Post-operative Pediatric Orthopedic Conference** *(1 hour, Weekly)*: All pediatric orthopedic surgical cases of the week are presented by the fellow and residents.

- **Motion Lab Interpretations** *(2 hours, Weekly)*: Fellows are encouraged to attend interpretations of gait analysis. The Motion Analysis Center performs six full 3D gait analysis studies per week and the cases are reviewed with pediatric orthopedic surgeons weekly.

- **Pediatric Core Curriculum Lectures** *(1 hour, Twice Weekly)*: Faculty present in-depth lectures on pediatric orthopedic topics on a rotating schedule.

- **Spine Preoperative and Postoperative Conference** *(1 hour, Twice Monthly)*: All pediatric spinal deformity cases are discussed at this conference by pediatric Orthopedic and spine surgery faculty, fellows and residents, with discussion at a level appropriate for fellowship training.

- **Morbidity and Mortality Conference** *(1 hour, Monthly)*: All cases are presented by faculty of all surgical subspecialties, with fellows participating in the discussion.

- **Faculty Journal Club** *(1 hour, Monthly)*: The faculty will assign current articles for presentation by the fellow and residents.

- **Fellow Journal Club** *(1 hour, Monthly)*: The fellow chooses a topic for discussion with guidance from faculty, chooses and assigns articles for presentation and leads the discussion of each article.

- **Orthopedic Surgery Grand Rounds** *(1 hour, Pediatric Topics Monthly)*: Local and invited faculty present on topics relevant to pediatric orthopedic fellows and faculty. Fellows present a topic of their choosing (1 hour) once during their fellowship.
Fellowship Alumni

2009 - 2010  Teresa Ferguson  Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Roseville, California
2010 - 2011  Lisa Maskill  Helen DeVos Children’s, Grand Rapids, Michigan
2011 - 2012  Margaret Grisell  Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Modesto, California
2012 - 2013  Thu-Ba Leba  Valley Children’s Hospital, Madera County, California
2013 - 2014  Jessica McMichael Emily Andrisevic  Children’s Hospital Orange County, Orange, California Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona
2014 - 2015  Jill Friebele  Valley Children’s Hospital, Madera County, California
2015 - 2016  Glenn Reinhart Sean Tabaie  Advocate Health Care, Chicago, Illinois Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
2016 - 2017  Aaron Boyles  Children’s Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colorado
2017 - 2018  Matthew Brown  Banner Health, Phoenix, Arizona
2019 - 2020  Vanna Rocchi  Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Virginia
2020 - 2021  Abby Howenstein  University Medical Center, Las Vegas, Nevada
2021-2022  Jennah Mann  Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California
“I have stayed in touch with everyone and continue to ask for their opinions on difficult cases. This fellowship was also a good balance of mentorship and independence.”

— Jill Fribele, 2014-2015 Fellow

“The fellowship gave me the best pediatric experience while meshing well with my previous fellowship in sports. I wanted the fellowship to be spent experiencing the breadth and depth of pediatric orthopedics. The Peds Ortho Fellowship allowed me to step in and spool up a practice almost immediately.”

— Matt Brown, 2017-2018 Fellow

“I was initially attracted to the program because of the combination of the complex patients that Shriners seems to attract along with the complexity of trauma that a level 1 trauma center provides. My fellowship prepared me extremely well for the diverse pathology that I encounter in my practice in Colorado. I have a true general pediatric orthopedic practice and feel comfortable treating the diverse pathology I encounter.”

— Aaron Boyles, 2016-2017 Fellow
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Faculty

**Jon R. Davids, M.D.**, Assistant Chief of Orthopedics at Shriners Children's Northern California, is an internationally recognized pediatric orthopedic surgeon noted for his work in treating children with cerebral palsy. He served as Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Duke University Medical Center, the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, and as Chief of Staff at Shriners Children's Greenville, prior to his appointment at Shriners Children's Northern California in August 2011.

Dr. Davids graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brown University before earning his Doctor of Medicine at Harvard University, where he was a member of the Aesculapian Club and President of the Harvard Chapter of the American Medical Students Association. He completed his Residency in Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Colorado Affiliated Hospitals and a Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopedics at Children's Hospital and Health Center at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Davids is a member of the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, International Pediatric Orthopedic Think Tank, the American Orthopedic Association, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons, Gait & Clinical Movement Analysis Society and the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

**Credentials**
- Medical Degree, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Residency, University of Colorado Affiliated Hospitals, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, University of California, San Diego, Pediatric Orthopedics

**Nicole Friel, M.D., MS,** is an orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Children's Northern California. Dr. Friel specializes in pediatric and adolescent orthopedic sports medicine, taking care of non-operative and operative problems, including performing arthroscopic and open procedures on the knee, shoulder, elbow and hip. On the academic front, she has authored multiple peer-reviewed manuscripts in major orthopedic and sports medicine journals and also numerous book chapters. She loves teaching medical students and residents who aspire to be successful physicians. Dr. Friel enjoys taking care of all her patients but most especially athletes. She has served as the team physician for multiple high school and collegiate teams as well as assisting in the care of professional teams including the Pittsburgh Penguins, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls. Her primary goal is to find the best way to return her young patients to being active and healthy.

**Credentials**
- Medical Degree, Rush Medical College, Rush University Medical Center
- Masters of Science, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Rush University Medical Center
- Residency, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Rush University Medical Center, Orthopedic Sports Medicine

**Brian Haus, M.D.,** is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon and Sports Medicine Specialist with Shriners Children’s Northern California. Dr. Haus is a native of Sacramento and is dedicated to providing world-class care to children in Northern California. He specializes in pediatric and adolescent sports medicine, pediatric trauma, arthroscopy and joint preservation. He has extensive experience in treating children with sports injuries of the hip/shoulder/knee/ankle using open and arthroscopic techniques, including cartilage restoration. He also performs hip preservation surgery in adolescents with hip disorders, including hip arthroscopy, periacetabular osteotomy and open surgical dislocation. In addition to his appointment at Shriners Children's Northern California, Dr. Haus is an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine.

**Credentials**
- Medical Degree, Stanford University
- Residency, Harvard Combined Orthopedic Residency Program, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Pediatric Sports Medicine
- Fellowship, Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Vedant Kulkarni, M.D., serves as Director of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship in Northern California. His work is devoted to treating children with all types of orthopedic conditions and injuries, including hip, lower extremity, and foot deformities. He has a special interest in neuromuscular disorders such as cerebral palsy and is part of the multidisciplinary Cerebral Palsy Center of Excellence, using computerized motion analysis to improve outcomes with surgery.

He has presented his research nationally and published scientific articles in multiple peer-reviewed international medical journals. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of orthopedic Surgeons, Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, and the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. He has been awarded the MacKeith Press Promising Career Award and the Fred P. Sage Award by the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, Stanford University School of Medicine
- Residency, UC San Diego Medical Center, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery and Scoliosis

Joel Lerman, M.D., is an orthopedic surgeon for Shriners Children’s Northern California and Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine. An honors graduate of Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Lerman practiced at Shriners Children’s Texas and was Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine before relocating to Northern California. Board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and the National Board of Medical Examiners, Dr. Lerman is also licensed by The Medical Board of California, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Lerman’s professional affiliations include the Association of Children’s Prosthetics and Orthotics Clinics, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America and the Scoliosis Research Society.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, Stanford University School of Medicine
- Residency, Maricopa Medical Center, Orthopedics
- Fellowship, Children’s Hospital in Boston, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

Holly Leshikar, M.D., MPH, is a fellowship trained pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Children’s Northern California and an assistant professor at UC Davis School of Medicine. She enjoys treating the musculoskeletal conditions of children of all ages. She has a special interest in pediatric trauma, pediatric hip conditions, post-traumatic conditions, congenital anomalies and is part of a multidisciplinary team that is devoted to excellence in clinical care and research.

Dr. Leshikar is actively involved in teaching. She has authored multiple book chapters and has published several peer-reviewed scientific articles. She has been awarded multiple honors including the Reno Orthopedic Clinic Trauma Award, Global Mentor Scholar Award from AAP, Resident Mentorship Award, and the David R. Freedy Memorial Award.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
- Residency, UC Davis Medical Center, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Monroe Carroll Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Candice McDaniel, M.D., is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Children’s Northern California and a Clinical Assistant Professor at UC Davis School of Medicine.

Dr. McDaniel has published in leading peer-reviewed journals and was selected for the Clinician Scientist Development Program by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. She is an active member of several professional organizations including the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. She has also served in leadership roles in the American Medical Association, serving as an Alternate Delegate to the AMAs House of Delegates, on the AMAs Council on Legislation and in the Women Physicians Congress.

Dr. McDaniel grew up in Southern California, where her father served in the Navy and her mother was a public school teacher. She now lives in the Sacramento area with her husband and four children. Most of her free time is spent supporting her children’s many activities, which include competitive downhill skiing, snowboarding, swimming, figure skating, ice hockey, lacrosse, chess and dance.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, UC Irvine School of Medicine
- Residency, The Medical College of Virginia, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Shriners Children’s Portland, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery

Debra Templeton, M.D., is an orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Children’s Northern California. Dr. Templeton focuses exclusively on pediatric orthopedics, which includes reconstruction, scoliosis, sports, and trauma. She has served as a consultant editor for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. As a fellow, she received the Boone Pickens Outstanding Fellow Research Award. She also was awarded the Wyeth Resident Research Award. While in medical school, Dr. Templeton was a Member of the United States Olympic Development Track and Field Team and received the United States Olympic Committee Scholar Athlete Award.

Dr. Templeton is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and a member of the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, for which she has served on several national committees.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
- Residency, Fort Worth Affiliated Hospitals, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery and Scoliosis

Amanda Whitaker, M.D., is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Children’s Northern California and UC Davis Health. She is a native of central Ohio. She received her undergraduate degree in biology through the Honors Program at the University of Kentucky and completed her medical degree at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University with qualifications in biomedical research. Her residency training was conducted at the University of California San Francisco where she completed the six-year research track. She went to Harvard Combined/Boston Children’s Hospital for her pediatric orthopedic fellowship. Before joining Shriners Children’s and UC Davis, she practiced orthopedic surgery for five years at Nationwide Children’s Hospital focusing on children and adults with cerebral palsy, clubfoot, trauma, vascular malformations, osteogeneisis imperfecta and macrodactyly.

Credentials
- Medical Degree, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University
- Residency, University of California, San Francisco, Orthopedic Surgery
- Fellowship, Boston Children’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery
Pediatric Hand Surgery Faculty

The Upper Extremity Service at Shriners Children’s Northern California is internationally recognized for its expertise in congenital and neuromuscular upper extremity differences. Pediatric orthopedic surgery fellows can work with these attendings during elective rotations.

Michelle A. James, M.D., is Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Shriners Children’s Northern California and Chief of Pediatric Orthopedics in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at UC Davis Medical Center. Specializing in the treatment of children’s hand and arm conditions, including malformations and neuromuscular problems, Dr. James is a noted pediatric hand surgeon. Dr. James serves on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons, The Perry Initiative and Orthopedics Overseas. She is Deputy Editor for Hand and Upper Extremity for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. She is also Principal Investigator on two multi-center clinical research studies of hand function in children and has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals, as well as contributing to chapters in surgical textbooks.

Dr. James has worked for Shriners Children’s Northern California since 1989. She is a Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at UC Davis School of Medicine and UC San Francisco. Her professional affiliations include the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, the American Orthopedic Association and the Ruth Jackson Society, for which she served as President in 2012.

Dr. James organizes and attends a pediatric hand surgery service trip to a pediatric hospital in Managua, Nicaragua twice per year, and has served as a mentor for many pre-medical and medical students and orthopedic surgery residents.

**Credentials**

- Medical Degree, University of California, San Diego
- Residency, UCSF School of Medicine
- Fellowship in Hand Microsurgery, Indiana Hand Center

M. Claire Manske, M.D., is a pediatric orthopedic hand surgeon at Shriners Children’s Northern California. She specializes in congenital, traumatic, and neuromuscular (cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, and brachial plexus palsy) conditions of the hand and upper extremity, with a particular interest in brachial plexus birth palsy. Her research focuses on optimizing diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of brachial plexus palsy and congenital hand differences. She has presented her research nationally and internationally and published scientific articles in multiple peer-reviewed medical journals.

She completed medical school and orthopedic surgery residency at Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Missouri. Following a fellowship in hand surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, she completed a fellowship in pediatric hand surgery with Dr. Michelle James at the Shriners Children’s Northern California.

**Credentials**

- Medical Degree, Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Missouri
- Residency, Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Missouri
- Fellowship, Hand Surgery, University of Washington in Seattle, Washington
- Fellowship, Pediatric Hand Surgery, Shriners Children’s Northern California
Orthopedic Spine Surgery Faculty

The UC Davis Medical Center Spine Surgery Service has an active clinical and teaching practice at Shriners Children’s Northern California. Pediatric orthopedic surgery fellows can work with these attendings during their Shriners Children’s Northern California Spine Surgery rotation.

Yashar Javidan, M.D., is the Director of the Orthopedic Spine Surgery Fellowship at UC Davis Medical Center. Dr. Javidan received his M.D. from Chicago Medical School and graduated from Orthopedic Surgery Residency from University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. He trained in pediatric and adult spine surgery at UC Davis Medical Center. He is an Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery.

Eric O. Klineberg, M.D., is Co-Director of the Spine Center at UC Davis Medical Center. Dr. Klineberg received his M.D. and M.S. from University of Maryland and completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency from University of Washington in Seattle. He then completed the Combined Neurological and Orthopedic Surgery Spine Fellowship from Cleveland Clinic. He is an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery.

Rolando F. Roberto, M.D., is the Chief of Spine Service and Executive Vice Chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at The UC Davis Medical Center. Dr. Roberto received his M.D. from UC Irvine School of Medicine and completed his Orthopedic Surgery Residency from University of Illinois in Chicago. He then completed a Spine Surgery Fellowship from the Minnesota Spine Center in Minneapolis. He is a Professor of Orthopedic Surgery.
Nationally Recognized Excellence

Shriners Children’s Northern California and UC Davis Children’s Hospital share a commitment to serving the needs of children and families in our region through excellence in treatment, teaching and research. Shriners Children’s Northern California is the only hospital in the Shriners Children’s network to house facilities for all treatment and research specialties including complex orthopedic conditions, spinal cord injuries, burns, cleft lip, urology, pediatric surgery and plastic surgery. UC Davis Children’s Hospital is a level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center with a large regional referral base. The two premier institutions form a comprehensive pediatric medical center campus in the heart of Sacramento.

For information, please contact:

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Director, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship
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Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon
Co-Director, Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship

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