From performing the first surgical repair of patent ductus arteriosus and coarctation nearly 80 years ago, to successfully completing more than 150 closed fetal cardiac interventions in recent years, Boston Children’s Hospital’s Heart Center is both a historic leader and a modern innovator in pediatric cardiology and cardiac surgery.

Our center—the largest of its kind in the United States—encompasses the full spectrum of cardiac care. We are home to dozens of sub-specialties and an internationally renowned faculty that performs close to 1,400 cardiac operations, nearly 700 electrophysiology procedures and over 1,400 catheterizations every year. And with groundbreaking treatments like staged left ventricle recruitment surgery for hypoplastic left heart syndrome, primary neonatal repair of transposition of the great arteries, and successful in-utero intervention for fetal aortic valve disease, we have dramatically improved survival rates for patients of all ages with congenital or acquired heart defects, including the rarest and most complex cases in the world.

National and global reach

The depth and breadth of the treatments, services and expertise offered through our Heart Center draw families from around the world who seek the best care possible for their loved ones. In fiscal year 2013 alone, over 30% of our patients came from outside of the New England region.

Research

For more than 50 years, Boston Children’s has pioneered cardiovascular innovations that have dramatically improved survival rates and the quality of life for children born with heart defects.

Our Heart Center attracts major research support from granting agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. We have the nation’s largest clinical and basic research program focused on pediatric heart disease, and we are an innovator in translational research, bringing laboratory discoveries to the bedside as quickly as possible.

Training

The fellowship programs of the Heart Center train academically oriented leaders in the clinical care and laboratory and clinical investigation of pediatric cardiovascular disease. Fellowships are offered in Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiovascular Research, Cardiac Anesthesia and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery.

The Congenital Heart Surgery Observership Course provides participants with extensive exposure to advanced surgical techniques used for repair of congenital heart malformations, including cardiopulmonary bypass techniques and variations, minimally invasive techniques, robotic procedures and hybrid techniques.

Physician leadership

James E. Lock, MD
Chief of Cardiology

Pedro J. Del Nido, MD
Chief of Cardiac Surgery