

Orlando FORUM

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Breaking new ground in pediatric orthopedics

By Joe Van Leer

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As director of the new Division of Orthopedics at Nemours Children's Clinic in Orlando, Doctor Suzanne Jaffe Walters has many challenges ahead of her.

Jaffe Walters is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in pediatric and adolescent dance and sports medicine. She will provide care to children and adolescents with musculoskeletal injuries and disorders. The division was recently re-opened to meet a continual need for pediatric orthopedic services.

Jaffe Walters, 37, from Ormond Beach, has an ideal background for her career path. She always loved musical theater and also science and was a pre-med and a theater major at Brandeis University, near Boston. And, she played tennis and swam throughout high



PHOTO BY JOE VAN LEER/STAFF WRITER

Dr. Suzanne Jaffe Walters is director of the new Division of Orthopedics at the new Nemours Children's Clinic.

school and college.

For about five years, Jaffe Walters sang and danced with

the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. But Jaffe Walters wanted more than entertainment so she

pursued and completed the pre-med program at Columbia University. She completed a fellow-

ship in pediatric sports medicine at Harvard/Children's Hospital Boston, with additional subspecialty training in dance medicine. Jaffe Walters received her medical degree from MCP-Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA and completed her orthopedic surgery residency at Hahnemann Hospital/Drexel University College of Medicine.

The orthopedic division of the Nemours clinic is getting booked up.

"I am looking forward to serving the community and being involved in a new and growing field - adolescent sports," said Jaffe Walters, mother of a young child.

"Sports and entertainment are huge in Central Florida with many sports teams and theme parks so the Division of Orthopedics is a great asset to the community."

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New clinic is designed to be kid-friendly

By Joe Van Leer

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The newly-opened Nemours Children's Clinic on South Orange Avenue in Orlando is kid-friendly with brightly-colored hallways, play areas offering plenty of activities and patient rooms with views of a tranquil lake for children that need lengthy transfusions and therapies.

The original clinic opened in 1997 in multiple

buildings on West Columbia Street. The new 30,000-square-foot facility places all Nemours clinicians under one roof. The move provides better collaboration between physicians and ultimately a higher level of services to patients.

The new facility is a \$3 million investment.

"The consolidation of locations to the one comprehensive clinic is more convenient for patients, families and physicians

and provides more streamlined care for complex cases that require many specialists," said Judy Wall, M.D., medical director of Nemours Children's Clinic in Orlando.

The rooms, waiting rooms and hallways are designed to flow, allowing for more freedom of movement.

Offices and a ProCare pharmacy will be on the first floor.

For patient privacy,

patients are presented to parents during check-in so when a patient is required to go to an exam room or to see a physician, the pager vibrates rather than a clinic staffer shouting someone's name.

Patients are checked out in exam rooms rather than having to go to another area.

To guide patients and families to needed subspecialty departments, there is a color-coded way-finding system for each of the color-

coded clinics.

Endocrinology, Genetics, Hematology/Oncology and Pulmonology are located on the second floor while Behavioral Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, Otolaryngology, Nephrology, Urology and Healthy Choices are on the third level.

Nemours will move on. A contract was recently signed to purchase about 118 acres in the Lake Nona area to build a pediatric health care system to be

anchored by Nemours Children's Hospital Orlando that could possibly open in 2012. The Agency for Health Care Administration approved Nemours' Certificate of Need application.

The Lake Nona campus will most likely be the hub with spokes of satellite clinics.

The Nemours Children's Clinic address is 1717 South Orange Ave. Normal clinic operating hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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said Jaffe Walters.

Jaffe Walters said children are playing many sports. Her work is rewarding because she can treat injuries so children and adolescents can go on to play college-level sports and athletes can

live Olympic dreams.

"Children are starting sports and activities at younger ages," interjected Judy Wall, medical director of the Orlando Nemours Children's Clinic.

"I am frankly excited to have women orthopedics in an up-untill-now mostly man's world and it's a tribute to Dr. Walters that she

has successfully entered that world," Wall added.

For Jaffe Walters, who grew up playing sports and being around male counterparts, her position in orthopedics is practically a non-issue.

Wall said the Division of Orthopedics will see many changes in the next five to 10 years with hundreds of thou-

sands of children and young people requiring orthopedic services in Central Florida. The division will eventually expand, possibly including satellite clinics.

However, Wall said there will not be a "hiring binge." It could take several years to recruit and hire top specialists from around the country for the proper

growth of the division. The volume of patients will dictate the numbers of physicians needed. Jaffe Walters currently has a staff that includes a clinical manager, a licensed practical nurse, a secretary, a surgery scheduler and an electronic medical record specialist.

Nemours recently signed a contract to purchase land

in the Lake Nona area off Boggy Creek Road to build an integrated pediatric health care system to be anchored by Nemours Children's Hospital Orlando.

Jaffe Walters is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American College of Sports Medicine.