Mission: Improving the lives of children through excellence in advocacy, education, research and clinical care.

Vision: Caring for children, caring for their future.

The Department of Pediatrics is the second largest department in the University of Utah School of Medicine and one of the largest pediatric departments in the country. The department is organized in a matrix, and is comprised of 19 medical divisions and four programs operating within four key enterprises: Education, Research, Clinical, and Academic. Divisions provide a full spectrum of specialty and sub-specialty pediatric services for children throughout the Intermountain West.

The Education Enterprise, directed by Dr. Bruce Herman, manages programs from pre-medical, medical school, residency and subspecialty fellowship programs. In addition to supporting our 81 pediatric residents (categorical, med/peds, peds neurology and triple board programs) and our 46 fellows, the enterprise manages the Glasgow Service, a ward team of four third-year medical students supervised by a senior pediatric resident, and the undergraduate student shadowing program. Over the past five years, 10-15% of University of Utah medical school graduates have chosen pediatric careers.

The Education Enterprise conducts semi-annual reviews of resident performance and an annual review of faculty proficiency in education. An annual forum, “Education in Progress” provides faculty with useful educational strategies.

The Clinical Enterprise, headed by Dr. John Bohnsack, consists of hospital and ambulatory components. Inpatient, emergency, and critical care is centered at Intermountain Healthcare’s Primary Children’s Hospital (PCH), a 252-bed tertiary care children’s facility, ranked among the top ten children’s hospitals in the United States. Department of Pediatrics faculty attend in more than 75% of hospital admissions; in total, the University of Utah School of Medicine faculty attend in excess of 85% admissions. PCH offers a full range of solid organ transplant programs, including hepatic, renal, and cardiac.

Ambulatory clinics are housed in the Eccles Primary Children’s Outpatient Services facility, with approximately 75,000 visits annually, and Primary Children’s Outpatient Services at Riverton, which accommodates nearly 30,000 visits per year. Outreach services are also provided throughout Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, and Alaska. In addition, the Department provides pediatric sub-specialty services to the Intermountain Health Care hospital networks throughout the region.

The Research Enterprise, directed by Dr. Mike Dean, is supported by the department’s 20 medical divisions and engages in multiple collaborations with the Departments of
Obstetrics & Gynecology and Neurobiology & Anatomy, the Divisions of Human Genetics and Epidemiology, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Pediatrics is a member of multiple NIH research networks, including the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network and Central Data Management Coordinating Center, Pediatric Heart Network, Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network, Neonatal Research Network, Pediatric Pharmacology Research Network, and the Pulmonary Therapeutics Development Network. The Department also is a member of the Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Network, Center for Juvenile Arthritis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, Inpatient Care Management Center, Intermountain Center for Pediatric Nutrition Center, Intermountain Injury Control Research Center, and the Pediatric Pharmacotherapy Center.

Research funding awarded to the Department of Pediatrics has increased from $99 million in FY2007-2010 to over $125 million in FY2011-2015.

The Academic Enterprise, headed by Dr. John Carey, focuses on retention, promotion, and tenure requirements for pediatric faculty members. In addition, the Academic Enterprise provides unique services for faculty, including career-staged focus discussion groups and career guidance.

The financial base of the Department has grown from $22 million in 1996 to nearly $150 million as budgeted for FY 2016. This growth comes with an increase in clinical revenue (professional billing) from $13 million in FY 1996 to an expected $83 million in FY 2016. Clinical charges have increased by a compound annual growth in excess of 9% from FY2004 to FY2015. Sponsored grant and contract funding is projected to be in excess of $22 million in FY 2016.

Challenges: Current challenges faced by the Department include a nationwide shortage of pediatric subspecialists, increasing educational debt burden for junior faculty, healthcare reform, and changing generational lifestyle issues among younger faculty.

Summary: The Department of Pediatrics is a dynamic and growing department, dedicated to excellence in pediatric clinical care, education, research, and advocacy.

The Pediatric Divisions and Programs are:

Adolescent Medicine – Michael Spigarelli, M.D., Ph.D., Chief  
Allergy/Immunology/Rheumatology – John F. Bohnsack, M.D., Chief  
Behavioral Health – Richard Martini, M.D., Chief  
Cardiology – Lloyd Tani, M.D., Chief

Critical Care – J. Michael Dean, M.D., Chief  
Emergency Medicine – Howard Kadish, M.D., Chief  
Endocrinology – Mary Murray, M.D., Chief
Gastroenterology – Linda Book, M.D., Chief
General Pediatrics – Karen Buchi, M.D., Chief
Genetics – Nicola Longo, M.D., Chief
Hematology/Oncology – Richard Lemons, M.D., Ph.D., Chief
Infectious Diseases – Andrew Pavia, M.D., Chief
Inpatient Medicine – Christopher Maloney, M.D., Chief
Medical Ethics – Jeffrey Botkin, M.D., Chief
Neonatology – Robert Christensen, M.D., Chief
Nephrology – Raoul Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., Chief
Neurology – Francis Filloux, M.D., Chief
Pulmonary & Sleep Medicine – Collin Cowley, M.D., Interim Chief
Safe and Healthy Families – Antoinette Laskey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Clinical Pharmacology – Michael Spigarelli, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Clinical Enterprise—John Bohnsack, M.D., Director
Research Enterprise— J. Michael Dean, M.D., Director
Education Enterprise—Bruce Herman, M.D., Director
Academic Enterprise—John Carey, M.D., Director