

## **International Adoption Medical Specialists**

When a family prepares for adoption of a child with special needs it is important to consult with qualified health care professionals familiar with international adoptions. Below is a resource list of professionals with whom you may wish to consult. Though they may not be located in your state of residence, most of these individuals provide consultation via telephone, e-mail etc.

### **ALABAMA**

Jennifer Chambers, MD

University of Alabama International Adoption Clinic

CPPI 410, 1600 7th Ave. South

Birmingham, AL 35233-1711

Phone: 205-939-6964

E-mail: adoption@peds.uab.edu

### **CALIFORNIA**

Nancy Curtis, MD

Director, International Adoption Clinic Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland International Adoption Clinic

Located in the Outpatient Center

Infectious Diseases Department

747 52nd St.

Oakland, CA 94609

Phone: 510-428-3010

Dr. Curtis, along with colleagues Teresa Courville, RN, MN, Carina Grandison, PhD, and others, recently started the International Adoption Clinic at the Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland. They provide comprehensive services, including pre-adoption counseling and evaluation of medical records, preparation for travel, consultation during travel to the country of adoption, and post-adoption medical and developmental evaluations and referrals. There is a broad range of pediatric specialist practicing at Oakland to assist families in genetics, psychiatry, child development, audiology, speech and language, and many other specialties.

Gary Feldman, MD

Stramski International Adoption Program

Miller Children's Hospital

2880 Atlantic Ave., Suite 255

Long Beach, CA 90806

Phone: 562-424-4748

Fax: 562-424-4688

E-mail: [gfeldman@memorialcare.org](mailto:gfeldman@memorialcare.org)

In response to the increasing needs of international adoptees as a growing population of children, the Stramski International Adoption Program (SIAP) has been established at the Stramski Center of Miller Children's Hospital to provide support for these children, their families, and their primary care physicians. The program provides pre-adoptive consultations, which include a one-on-one session with families and SIAP physicians prior to travel. This session provides families with appropriate knowledge tools to evaluate prospective children and information regarding medical, developmental, and behavioral risks common to international adoptees. SIAP also provides in-country consultation to families while they are overseas. Families are responsible for contacting SIAP via phone or email with information they want to have reviewed. The hospital also provides post-adoption assessments with a detailed evaluation of international adoptees in the immediate post-adoptive period. This is ideally completed within one to two weeks after arrival. This visit focuses on several components, including physical exam, laboratory testing, behavior and developmental assessments. Appropriate education and referrals for interventions are provided. All children will be scheduled for a three-month and six-month follow-up from the time of initial visit. This is to ensure optimal developmental and behavioral surveillance for this at-risk population. This strategy allows for timely interventions.

## **CONNECTICUT**

Carol Weitzman, MD

Yale University School of Medicine

464 Congress Ave.

New Haven, CT 06519

Phone: 203-737-1623

Margaret Hostetter, MD

Professor of Pediatrics

Director, Yale International Adoption Clinic

464 Congress Ave.

New Haven, CT 06519

Phone: 203-737-1623

Fax: 203-737-5972

Dr. Hostetter, together with colleagues Dana Johnson (see listing), Sandra Iverson, and Kay Dole, pioneered the concept of specialized medical evaluations for internationally adopted children at the University of Minnesota in 1986. Dr. Hostetter has personally examined more than 1,500 adoptees and brought the "Minnesota model" to Yale in July 1998. Evaluations include history and physical exam by a nurse practitioner, full developmental exam by a developmental pediatrician, and complete medical testing by Dr. Hostetter or her colleague, Dr. Michael Capello.

## **ILLINOIS**

Todd Ochs, MD

4713 N. Winchester

Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-907-8864

Fax: 773-878-6867

E-mail: [t-ochs@northwestern.edu](mailto:t-ochs@northwestern.edu)

Dr. Ochs can evaluate and interpret referral medical information and videotapes prior to adoption, and can provide post-arrival medical and developmental assessments. He can provide post-placement assistance in developmental, behavioral, and school issues, plus free literature on a wide variety of adoption/medical issues. Dr. Ochs is the adoptive father of a child with special needs from China.

## **INDIANA**

John Christensen

Maria Finnell

Julie Keck

Center for International Adoption and Geographic Medicine

Riley Hospital for Children, University of Indiana

705 Riley Hospital Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317-274-7260

Fax: 317-278-0860

Website: <http://www.rileyhospital.org>

The Section of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Riley Hospital created an International Adoption Clinic in 1999. The clinic is staffed by physicians trained in pediatric infectious disease, geographic medicine, and general diagnostic pediatrics. Referrals can be made before planned adoptions; pre-adoptive sessions and review of medical information provides important educational information for parents prior to arrival. After adoption, children undergo a comprehensive evaluation with special emphasis on issues related to infections, immunization, nutrition, birth defects, and psychosocial development. Nutritionists, physical therapists, developmental pediatric experts, and the world-class pediatric subspecialists at Riley Hospital are available as needed to assist in the evaluation and management of adopted children.

## **KENTUCKY**

Dr. Shawn Taylor

University of Kentucky

UK International Adoption Clinic

2nd Floor, Wing D

740 S. Limestone

Lexington, KY 40536

Phone: 859-323-6426, ext. 310 (schedule post-adoption appointments with Grace Florence, RN)

E-mail: [Shawn.taylor@uky.edu](mailto:Shawn.taylor@uky.edu) (schedule pre-adoption evaluations by contacting Dr. Taylor directly)

Each year thousands of infants and children from other countries are adopted by American families. The International Adoption Clinic at Kentucky Children's Hospital helps families before, during, and after their adoption.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Laurie Miller, MD

Kathleen Comfort, PT, MH

International Adoption Clinic and Floating Hospital for Children

New England Medical Center

Box 286750 Washington St., 2nd floor

Boston, MA 02111

Phone: 617-636-8121

Fax: 617-636-8388B

Website: <http://www.floatinghospitalkids.org/adoption>

At the International Adoption Clinic, children and their families receive individualized attention and a comprehensive evaluation. Pre-adoption consultation and review of medical records/photos/videos is available. Evaluation after arrival includes medical, developmental, and nutritional issues as well as screening tests. The clinic provides evaluation and treatment of children with behavior, learning, or neurological problems. Long-term coordinated and comprehensive care for children with special needs, including school consultations, is also available.

Lisa Albers, MD, MPH, FAAP

Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School Adoption Program

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Boston, MA 02115

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E-mail: [Lisa.albers@tch.harvard.edu](mailto:Lisa.albers@tch.harvard.edu)

## **MINNESOTA**

Dana Johnson, MD, PhD

Co-Director, University of Minnesota International Adoption Clinic

717 Delaware St. SE

Minneapolis, MN 55455-0378

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E-mail: johns008@umn.edu

Dr. Johnson, along with Sandra Iverson, CPNP, is co-director of the University of Minnesota's International Adoption Clinic. With Dr. Margaret Hostetter, Sandra Iverson, and Kay Dole, Dr. Johnson pioneered the concept of medical evaluations for internationally adopted children at the University of Minnesota in 1986. The International Adoption Clinic can provide the following services: pre-adoption evaluation and interpretation of referral medical information and videotapes; post-arrival medical and developmental assessments; post-placement assistance in developmental, behavioral, and school issues; free literature on a wide variety of adoption/medical issues; opportunities to participate in ongoing research on the effects of early childhood institutionalization.

## **NEW JERSEY**

Lisa Nalven, M.D.

Valley Health Center for Child Development and Wellness

505 Goffell Rd.

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Phone: 201-447-8151

Fax: 201-447-8526

Dr. Nalven can provide pre-placement consultations and medical record/video reviews; medical/developmental evaluations of internationally adopted children upon arrival in the U.S.; and consultation for children with ongoing developmental/behavioral concerns. She can also provide case management and referral to appropriate specialty therapists, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech/language evaluations, which are available at the center. Audio logic evaluations are also available. Dr. Nalven gives talks on adoption/post-institutionalization issues to local groups.

## **NEW YORK**

Jane Aronson, DO

International Pediatric Health Services, PLLC

151 E. 62nd St., Suite 1A

New York, NY 10021

Phone: 212-207-6666

Fax: 212-207-6665

E-mail: [orphandoctor@aol.com](mailto:orphandoctor@aol.com)

Website: <http://www.orphandoctor.com>

International Pediatric Health Services, PLLC provides medical guidance for families adopting from abroad from the very beginning of the process. Written materials are available. Dr. Aronson reviews medical abstracts and videos of Russian and Eastern European children, and does pre-adoption consultations in the office as well as by phone/fax/e-mail. Dr. Aronson's office also provides travel kits and travel preparation. The travel preparation class is actually a childcare class to help parents with basic health issues of young children: teething, ear infections, feeding practices, and behavioral issues are just some of the topics covered. Special attention is given to the transition behavior of children recently adopted from orphanages. Dr. Aronson is available for consultation with families who have medical questions while they are abroad, and provides complete medical and developmental services in New York after the child's arrival.

Paul Lee, MD

Winthrop University Hospital International Adoption Program

120 Mineola Blvd, Suite 210

Mineola, NY 11501

Phone: 516-663-4570

Fax: 516-663-3793

Website: <http://www.winthrop.org>

The International Adoption Program at Winthrop University Hospital can provide medical reviews of any health information, including videotapes and pictures. They offer a travel preparatory consultation for families to provide simple management guidelines for common medical problems encountered and basic childcare needs. Once the child arrives in the U.S., Dr. Lee performs a comprehensive medical evaluation, including a complete physical examination, developmental assessment, and laboratory testing. Immunizations to bring the child up to date are also available.

## **OHIO**

Dr. Ellen Kempf, MD, FAAP

Oak Adoptive Health Center

Considine Professional Building

215 W. Bowery St., Suite 6300

Akron, OH 44308

Phone: 330-543-3550

Fax: 330-543-3512

Website: [https://www.akronchildrens.org/cms/adoptive\\_health](https://www.akronchildrens.org/cms/adoptive_health)

Dr. Kempf, director of the Oak Adoptive Health Center, specializes in adoption health. She is listed in the American Academy of Pediatrics Directory for Adoption Specialists.

Anna M. Mandalakas, MD, MS

Karen Olness, MD

Adoption Health Services

Rainbow Center for International Child Health

11100 Euclid Ave., MS 6038

Cleveland, OH 44106-6038

Phone: 216-844-3224

Fax: 216-844-7601

E-mail: [RCIC@po.cwru.edu](mailto:RCIC@po.cwru.edu)

Website: <http://www.adoptionhealthservices.org>

The Rainbow Center pre-adoption consultation includes a lengthy meeting with a staff physician to review both medical record information and concerns about post-institutionalized children. The post-adoption assessment includes infectious disease screening, developmental assessment, and in some cases, various specialty referrals. Follow-up visits are scheduled, and all information is passed on to the child's primary care physician. A developmental and behavioral consultation is also available, which can help identify behaviors and developmental delays that could be missed, misunderstood, or inappropriately diagnosed, in cases of children from institutions. This consultation can help sort out concerns, develop a plan, and make appropriate referrals. The Rainbow Center also offers a child traveler health service, pediatric expertise for families and children traveling overseas.



Deborah Borchers, MD, FAAP

Eastgate Pediatric Center

4357 Ferguson Dr., Suite 150

Cincinnati, OH 45245

Phone: 513-753-2820

Fax: 513-753-2824

Dr. Borchers is a pediatrician in private practice with a strong interest in adoption as the mother of two daughters adopted from China. She is a resource in the Cincinnati area for adoption information and networking. Dr. Borchers can review videotapes and other medical materials before placement, and can provide medical and developmental assessments after a child's arrival. She can make referrals for families to specialists, and can provide ongoing follow-up care for children in the Cincinnati area.

Mary Staat, MD, MPH

International Adoption Center

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

3333 Burnet Ave., Mail Location 7036

Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039

Phone: 513-636-2877

Fax: 513-636-6936

Website: <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/iac>

The International Adoption Center at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati is designed to offer four coordinated services for internationally adopted children – pre-adoption consultation, post-adoption evaluation, community outreach, and research. Dr. Staat can evaluate videotapes and medical histories of potential adoptees, assist the family in preparing for the trip abroad, and provide information on immunizations, medical supplies, and disease prevention. The center has a collaborative relationship with occupational therapy and the Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders as well. As part of a comprehensive multi-disciplinary center, the International Adoption Center can readily call on experts in gastroenterology, neurology, genetics, psychology, cardiology, physical therapy, and other specialties as needed.

Scott Krupkin, MD

University Hospitals Health System

Richmond Heights Hospital

27155 Chardon Rd., Suite 203

Cleveland, OH 44143

Phone: 216-798-6194

Fax: 440-944-2697

E-mail: rehabdoc@aol.com

Website: <http://www.adoptionhealth.com>

## **OREGON**

Dr. Meg Hayes

OHSU FM Adoption Health Services

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road

Portland, OR 97239

Phone: 503-494-5445

Fax: 503-494-3457, Attn: Dr. Meg Hayes

E-mail: adoption@ohsu.edu

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

Gail Farber, MD

Rachel Hachen, MD, MPH

Dr. Susan Friedman, Program Chair

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

International Adoption Health Program

3405 Civic Center Blvd.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: 215-590-4020

Fax: 215-590-3198

E-mail: [chopadopt@email.chop.edu](mailto:chopadopt@email.chop.edu)

Website: <http://www.chop.edu>

Sarah Springer, MD

Department of Pediatrics

Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh

1515 Locust St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-575-5805

Fax: 412-232-7389

Dr. Springer can provide pre-placement consultations, including medical record and video reviews of internationally adopted children. Upon the child's arrival, the medical and developmental evaluations include the following: medical/developmental screening; immunizations and medical treatments; ongoing medical care and developmental monitoring for geographically close families; case management/referral to appropriate specialty therapists (i.e., speech, occupational, physical). Dr. Springer also gives talks on adoption/post-institutionalization issues to local groups. She does not provide ongoing counseling or psychotherapy, but can provide referrals.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Dr. Andrea Summer, MD, MSCR

Dr. Angela LaRosa, MD, MSCR

International Adoption Clinic

Department of Pediatrics

Medical University of South Carolina

135 Rutledge Ave, MSC 561

Charleston, SC 29425

Phone: 843-876-8512

Fax: 843-876-8907

E-mail: [sta2@musc.edu](mailto:sta2@musc.edu)

Website: <http://www.musckids.com/adoptions>

## **TENNESSEE**

Alice Rothman, MD, MPH

Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Clinic for International Adoption

5028 Medical Center East

Nashville, TN 37232

Phone: 615-936-6800

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E-mail: [international-adoption@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:international-adoption@vanderbilt.edu)

The Clinic for International Adoption at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital was established to provide a resource for internationally adopted children, their families, and their primary care providers in Tennessee. The clinic is staffed by general pediatricians and a developmental psychologist and provides a medical and psychological consultation service for internationally adopted children. The clinic staff is able to provide pre-adoption review of medical records and travel advice. The clinic performs post-adoption medical, developmental, and behavioral evaluations and works with the family and the primary care physician to provide follow-up as needed.

Lana Yanishevski, MD

Laurelwood Pediatrics

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Memphis, TN 38117

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## **TEXAS**

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Texas Children's Health Center for International Adoption

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E-mail: [internationaladoptions@texaschildrenshospital.org](mailto:internationaladoptions@texaschildrenshospital.org)

## **VIRGINIA**

Dr. Suzanne Lavoie

Clinic Director

Virginia Commonwealth University

International Adoption Medical Clinic

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Box 980163

Richmond, VA 23298

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Website: [www.vcu.edu/pediatrics/adoption](http://www.vcu.edu/pediatrics/adoption)

## **WASHINGTON**

Julia M. Bledsoe, MD

Julian K. Davies

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The Center for Adoption Medicine

University of Washington Pediatric Care Center

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Seattle, WA 98105

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Dr. Bledsoe is a general pediatrician in Seattle whose practice includes more than 50 percent adoptees, primarily from overseas. Dr. Bledsoe provides ongoing pediatric care as well as pre-adoptive consultation and overseas on-call support to families who reside both locally and afar. Her pre-adoptive consultations are performed by telephone, usually in the evenings and on weekends. In addition, Dr.

Bledsoe is employed at the University of Washington Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Clinic, working in diagnosis of FAS.

**WISCONSIN**

Samantha Lynn Wilson, MD

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, International Adoption Clinic

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