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.
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

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 (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
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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
300 Longwood Ave.
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 617-277-5933
Fax: 617-730-5933
E-mail: 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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Fax: 612-624-8176
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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
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

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
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
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Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 215-590-4020
Fax: 215-590-3198
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  
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E-mail: 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
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Fax: 615-936-2419
E-mail: 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.

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TEXAS

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**VIRGINIA**

Dr. Suzanne Lavoie  
Clinic Director  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
International Adoption Medical Clinic  
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Richmond, VA 23298  
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**WASHINGTON**

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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

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