The Division of Pain Management at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles aims to give kids and adolescents the best chance to lead a healthy, happy life by providing expert care that’s age-appropriate, comprehensive and unmatched by any other pediatric medical center. Each year, the Division’s multidisciplinary team of physicians, anesthesiologists, nurse practitioners, psychologists, massage therapists and acupuncturists treat over 3,000 inpatients and outpatients to prevent avoidable acute pain and minimize or alleviate chronic pain discomfort in a safe environment.

Shaping the Future of Pediatric Pain Care

Research, education and training are critical components of the Division of Pain Management’s treatment framework. Throughout the year, the Division:

- Conducts multiple research studies focusing on the effectiveness of treatments and procedures—studies that often lead to clinical protocol changes that improve short- and long-term outcomes
- Provides ongoing education to physicians and nurses to ensure new and existing medications are safely administered
- Trains interns, fellows and residents from a variety of disciplines (such as anesthesiology, psychology, acupuncture and social work) in pediatric pain management

Physicians

**Giovanni Cucchiaro, MD, MPP**
Director, Division of Pain Management and Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Professor of Clinical Anesthesia, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC)

Clinical Interests: Acute and chronic pain management, pediatric regional anesthesia

**Emily Chen, MD**
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Acute pain management, pediatric regional anesthesia

**Carl Lo, MD**
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Pediatric pain, regional anesthesia, blood transfusion
Neha Patel, MD
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Pediatric pain, regional anesthesia, neuroanesthesia, quality improvement

Eugene Kim, MD
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Complex regional pain syndrome and other causes of neuropathic pain, back and extremity pain, joint pain, abdominal pain, headaches, postoperative pain, interventional pain medicine, pediatric anesthesiology

Sang Le, MD
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Regional anesthesia, acute postoperative pain management, difficult airway management

Andrew J. Costandi, MD
Attending Physician, Divisions of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Acute perioperative pediatric pain management, neuraxial and peripheral nerve blocks solid organ transplant surgery, fetal surgery

Robert Holloway, MD
Attending Physician, Divisions of Psychiatry and Pain Management, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Clinical Interests: Chronic pain management, psychogenic disorders, depression, anxiety, child and adolescent psychiatry

Programs and Services

Chronic Pain Care (Outpatient)
Persistent pain that lasts weeks, months or even years signifies a complex condition that requires expert care to target the underlying causes of chronic pain. Patients in the Chronic Pain Clinic receive a personalized treatment plan that often includes:

- Individual and family therapy
- Cognitive behavioral interventions
- Breathing, relaxation and imagery training
- Medication management
- Alternative therapies (acupuncture and massage)
- Biofeedback training
- Psychotherapy
- Regional interventional therapy

Acute Pain Care (Inpatient)
Led by Division Head Giovanni Cucchiaro, MD, the Acute Pain Care Program touches every corner of the hospital and uses evidence-based practices with a conservative approach to anesthesia to alleviate avoidable pain and significantly improve outcomes.

For children who are hospitalized, the Division’s Acute Pain Care Program aims to make their experience as comfortable as possible. These services include:

- Managing pain before, during and after surgery
- Evaluating and treating pain caused by trauma; life altering illnesses such as cancer, complex regional pain syndrome, sickle cell disease and pancreatitis; and severe chronic conditions that have gotten worse over time
- Collaborating with the child’s primary medical team to ensure the safest, most effective medications are administered