

Neurosciences Family Advisory Council

WINTER, 2016



Getting to know Neurology Staff SPOTLIGHT ON:

Kat Davitt,

Child Life Specialist



Kathryn "Kat" Davitt has worked as a child life specialist since 1989 with a variety of

populations (burn unit, ortho/surgery units, hematology and oncology program, inpatient and outpatient-dialysis, sexual abuse clinic, neuro-rehab unit, and long-term pulmonary care unit). Originally from Arkansas, she attended Hendrix College where she completed a bachelor's degree in education. She also began volunteering in a child life department at Arkansas Children's Hospital during that time.

The majority of her career has been working with children and teens living with neurological challenges. She completed her master's degree in Occupational Therapy in 2000 at Texas Woman's University. Currently she is working to provide Child Life services in the Neuro and Palliative Care clinics at Cook Children's Medical Center. She coordinates the sibling program for the medical center. She attends Camp MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) each summer. She enjoys teaching both adults and children about coping with chronic conditions.

She has participated in various committees within the Association for the Care of Child Life Professionals. She has also participated in several trips to Romania to help create a climate of pediatric-friendly health care. She was the winner of the 2014 Mary Barkey Award for Clinical Excellence in the field of child life.

Ever wondered who does what in our Neurology Clinic?

Neurologist: A doctor who specializes in disorders of the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles (strokes, epilepsy, headaches, movement disorders). Your child may see a general neurologist, an epileptologist or a movement specialist depending on their condition.

Neurosurgeon: A surgeon who specializes in the surgical treatment of neurological conditions (epilepsy surgeries, chiari decompression, tethered cord release, VP shunt placement, DBS implantation, just to name a few)

Nurse Practitioner: A registered nurse with specialized, advanced training and education who works with physicians to diagnose and treat patients. A Nurse Practitioner can manage a patient's overall care with supervision of a licensed physician (sometimes referred to as a "mid-level provider").

Physician Assistant: A provider with specialized training and advanced education who works in collaboration with physicians to assess and treat patients (sometimes referred to as a "mid-level provider").

For more information about the Family Advisory Council or the

Parents as Partners Program call 682-885-7123 or

email parents@cookchildrens.org

December

12/5 to 12/9 :
Inclusive Schools Week

12/8
Neurofibromatosis, Epilepsy & Tourette's
support group Holiday Party **6p to 7:30p**
RSVP 682-885-7259

UPCOMING EVENTS!

January 2017

1/12
Epilepsy Support Group 5:30p to 7 p
(2nd Thursday of every other month)
RSVP 682-885-7259

February 2017

2/12 to 2/14
Inclusion Works! 2017—
www.thearcoftexas.org/iw-2017.org

Do you have topics that you would like to see covered in future newsletters?
Please email us at parents@cookchildrens.org and join the Neurosciences & Neuro FAC FB Groups

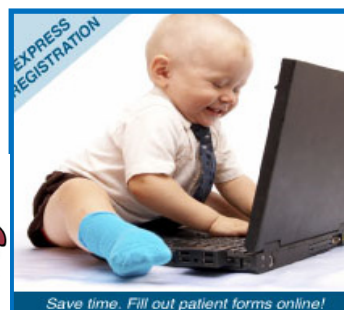
When calling the Neurology clinic:

1. Please listen to all of the prompts carefully.
2. Keep calm and speak clearly.
3. Make sure you have your child's full legal name and date of birth.
4. Have a current list of all medications.
5. Have all your questions ready.

Always call to cancel your appointment if you can't make it.

Thank you.

What do I need
to know to call
the clinic?



Follow us!
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Do you have a medically complex child? Get a free copy of "Your Child's Health Care Notebook" from our Family Health Library. You can download pages at : <https://www.cookchildrens.org/HealthInformation/FamilyMedicalPlanner/Pages/default.aspx>

~RESOURCES TO SHARE ~

These resources are shared by parents for your convenience as a helpful guide.
Cook Children's does not necessarily endorse these resources or businesses. This information is subject to change.

Texas Parent to Parent
txp2p.org Toll free 866-896-6001
Sign up for Monthly Webinars

Texas Dept. of Aging & Disabilities
www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/communications

Epilepsy Foundation of Texas
www.eftx.org

Texas Health and Human Services Commission-STAR Kids program
<http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/managed-care/mmc/star-kids.shtml>

Child Study Center Diagnosis Treatment and Education for Complex Developmental Disabilities
www.cscfw.org

Partners Resource Network - Path Project
partnerstx.org

Texas Department of State Health Services:
Region 9 & 11 - Wichita Falls & Ft. Worth
srossonpath@gmail.com
Shannon Rosson (817) 988-7717

Office of Acquired Brain Injury
Health and Human Services Commission
http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/abj/

WISHING YOU A HEALTHY, HAPPY, SAFE WINTER