



# Advancing Pediatric Cancer Care... One Child at a Time

The Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach

**If** your child is diagnosed with cancer or a serious blood disorder, your first reactions may be fear, anxiety and emotional turmoil — but they don't have to be at Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center. Childhood cancers are more survivable than ever before, with cure rates at their highest levels in history.

"Management of pediatric cancers requires specialized care of physicians and support staff. Significant advances have been made in research and treatments for children and young adults with cancer. Technological breakthroughs coupled with standardized therapies developed through Pediatric Cooperative Group trials have revolutionized the treatment of cancer," explains Afshan A. Ali, M.D., Interim Careline Director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach.

"It's critical the right diagnosis is made as early as possible," Dr. Ali continues. "When parents or primary care physicians discover blood disorders, unexplained swelling or tumors, the child's best chance for complete recovery depends on accurate diagnosis, and



Michelle Litton (left), her daughter Jillian Litton (center) currently undergoing treatment at Miller Children's and hematology/oncology nurse Colleen Purdy, RN.

treatment by a coordinated, comprehensive care plan, including other pediatric sub-specialists. This ensures implementation of the best course of treatment for patients."

## A Team Approach for Excellent Care

Nationally recognized for excellence in hematology/oncology care, Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach has led the way in childhood cancer care for more than 30 years. With coordinated treatment centers in the hospital, day care and clinic areas, home health and community outreach programs, Miller Children's offers a family centered approach that encompasses the medical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of patients and their families.

"Pediatric cancer is a disease that affects the whole family," notes Jerry Z. Finklestein, M.D., Founding Medical Director, Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center at Miller Children's Hospital. "Although the child may be the only member of the family undergoing medical treatment, we never lose sight of our responsibility to the family as a whole. Not only is our center warm, inviting and family-friendly, but our approach to patient care embraces the importance of education, psycho-social support and counseling."

## Advancing Pediatric Cancer Care

Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center at Miller Children's Hospital is one of only 230 primary institutions in the world-renowned Children's Oncology Group. This international, cooperative childhood cancer research network focuses on identifying cancer causes and pioneering new treatments and cures. This allows patients access to the latest clinical trials and a full-range of treatment options.



"The dramatic improvement in pediatric cancer survival rates is due to the advances of patient enrollment in treatment studies for each type of cancer," says Dr. Ali. "Our excellent survival rates demonstrate that we are better equipped than ever. We give our patients and their families the best possible outcomes and contribute to successful treatments of the future."

*Approved by California Children Services and accredited by the American College of Surgeons Member, Miller Children's Hospital offers multidisciplinary care for the diagnosis, treatment and education of children with cancer and serious blood disorders like sickle cell disease. For more information or to schedule a consultation, please call 800-MEMORIAL. Visit the website at [www.memorialcare.org/miller](http://www.memorialcare.org/miller).*

