



Rady Children's Hospital Advocacy & Education Seminar May 4, 2023 at 10 AM

Presents Hannah Bressner, BSN, RN's

Discussion on

"The Fetal Cardiology Program at Rady's"

The Fetal Cardiology Program at Rady Children's Hospital provides compassionate, comprehensive care to address a baby's unique cardiac needs from fetal to neonatal life. The team evaluates about 1200 pregnant mothers annually and coordinates with perinatal and pediatric cardiac specialists to optimize delivery and postnatal intervention for an estimated 150 babies with complex congenital heart disease each year. This past year, the fetal cardiac MRI program was launched and celebrated a milestone of performing the first fetal MRI at the Dickinson Center. Our fetal cardiac MRI program is one of only 10 others in the country and aims to supplement traditional ultrasound imaging with advanced 4D flow MRI imaging that allows physicians to better visualize fetal cardiac and vascular anatomy. The vision statement is, "To be the premier institute for transformational, comprehensive care of patients with cardiothoracic disease and be recognized for outstanding care, leadership, and innovation."

From this grew the need for a Fetal Nurse Coordinator. Hannah is a BSN, RN and the Fetal Cardiac Nurse Coordinator of the Fetal Cardiology Program at Rady's. She began pioneering this new position in June 2022. The fetal nurse coordinator is greatly needed with the growth seen in our county. We are number one for cardiac and heart surgery. Her role is to make sure the families feel supported during this extremely stressful period of time. They also create deeper connections than just that of the doctors and other nurses.

How are babies tested?

They start by checking the hearts of baby's as young as 14 weeks. This is why it's very important for anatomy scans for unborn babies. It's revolutionary to do these sonograms in utero. They are able to determine if the child needs surgery within the first ten days of birth. The Fetal Nurse Coordinator sees them as much as once to every eight weeks to as little as every ten weeks.

The goal is to prepare the parents for delivery and while the child is in this unit. Hannah also gives a better idea of what resources are available to families. This both prepares them while alleviating the stresses during this time. Living by the motto of, "meeting the parents where

they are,” she strives to help close the loop on other resources like transportation, mental health or help services, basically any that can aid the families during this time, as it all helps.

Because of this, Hannah wears many hats. But the main goals are to provide resources and help families de-stress. Her goal is to help the parents the “why” so then they can take the next steps in understanding all the resources and hospital connections. In an effort to “close the loop” between the hospital and families’ treatment, her goal is to create meaningful relationships. Connect current patients with previous ones. And draw families back to the organization. There are always opportunities for growth through obtaining more social workers, genetic counselors and coordinators. So please share and help raise awareness! We all “Thank You” for your support and generosity!!!

Hannah Bressner, BSN, RN is the Fetal Cardiac Nurse Coordinator of the Fetal Cardiology Program at Rady Children’s Hospital. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from Saint Xavier University in Chicago, Illinois and has been a registered nurse specializing in pediatric cardiology for 5 years. Hannah spent the first years of her career bedside in Pediatric Cardiac ICUs at top pediatric cardiac centers around the country. Now, her passion for the families of pediatric cardiology has brought her to the role she holds today in supporting them through their journey from perinatal to neonatal care. She takes pride in providing the best possible care for her patients through a family-centered care approach. In her free time, Hannah loves to travel and play soccer with friends. Notes provided by Advocacy & Education VP, Myeshia Abdul-Hakeem.