



## What's New – June 28, 2019 Metro Health Update

The pediatric urology team started an outreach clinic at Metro Health in Grand Rapids last fall. Bryan Sack and Courtney Streur visit on alternating Fridays. The clinic itself is in a beautiful outpatient building on the “Medical Mile.” We share the clinic space with a Michigan Medicine pediatric nephrologist, Mary Avendt-Reeber, and will often see patients jointly. For those that need a procedure, we have them take a quick field trip to Brighton or Ann Arbor. Thus far we have done handfuls of outpatient cases at Mott and BCSC and the patients and families have not vocalized concern with making the drive.



We have enjoyed forming a relationship with Mary Avendt-Reeber (picture to left) and having a chance to learn from her expertise. Patients also appreciate seeing both their urologist and nephrologist at one time.

We are also fortunate to work with amazing staff in the clinic. Jocelyne Venhuizen (picture bottom right) is our front desk and referral specialist and Rosario Ayala (picture bottom left) has been our medical assistant. And without our clinical manager Kate Dorsey this would have never gotten off the ground and efficiently running as it is currently.



In order to boost our referrals, we are scheduled to visit some of the local Metro Health pediatrics offices. We were also able to introduce our practice and give a brief presentation at the Metro Health quarterly staff meeting this past Fall. This upcoming fall we will be giving hospital grand rounds on pre-natal and post-natal hydronephrosis.

The pediatricians do have a long-standing relationship with the local urologists, but we are making progress! Grand Rapids is the most rapidly growing city in Michigan, primarily due to young people moving there and starting their families. As of the 2018 census, the population of Grand Rapids was 200,217. In 2010, the Grand Rapids metropolitan area had a population of 1,005,648, and the combined statistical area of Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland had a population of 1,321,557. Although there is a practice of pediatric urologists at DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, we see enormous potential in intentionally reaching out to this side of the state.

The partnership between Metro Health and UMHS started in 2009 with a focus on cancer treatment. Over time, clinical relationships began to develop between the two entities. On December 15, 2016, Metro Health officially announced its affiliation with the University of Michigan Health System. Since that time there has been hiring of multiple pediatric subspecialists that include cardiology, nephrology, rheumatology, and ophthalmology. We are the first pediatric surgical subspecialty to join Metro Health.



The long term goal is to eventually do some outpatient procedures at the Metro Health Hospital in Wyoming. Until then, all of our patients come to Ann Arbor or Brighton for their operations. So far, they haven't seemed to mind. During the worst blizzard of the winter, one of our patients made sure to get to Ann Arbor for their meatoplasty. Meanwhile, all of the local patients cancelled due to weather. However, we look forward to being able to better serve the families on the west side through our clinical and surgical presence in Grand Rapids.



**Dr. Bryan Sack**



**Dr. Courtney Streur**