

## Meet Our Providers



**Kathleen Adragna, MN, ARNP, CPNP**, is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner at Nemours Children's Hospital. She has broad experience in pediatrics, and has worked with children in the hospital, clinic and private practice setting. Adragna is currently part of the Division of Pulmonology at NCH and a key member of the Center for Asthma Research & Treatment. She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and later completed a master's degree at the University of Washington in Seattle to become a pediatric nurse practitioner.



**Jason E. Lang, MD, MPH**, is a pediatric pulmonologist and researcher with expertise in asthma, cystic fibrosis and lung and respiratory care. Dr. Lang earned his medical degree at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Burlington, Vt., where he also completed internship and residency programs in pediatrics. He completed a clinical fellowship in pulmonary medicine at Boston Children's Hospital and a research fellowship at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. Dr. Lang is board-certified in pediatrics with a subspecialty certification in pediatric pulmonology by the American Board of Pediatrics.



**Floyd R. Livingston, MD**, is division chief of pulmonology at Nemours Children's Hospital. He first came to Nemours as division chief of our specialty care clinic in 1997, and he's been treating kids and families in Central Florida ever since. He earned his medical degree at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., and completed his residency at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Livingston was fellowship-trained at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, University of Southern California School of Medicine. In addition to pediatrics, Dr. Livingston is also board-certified in pulmonology and pediatric sleep medicine.



**Joi S. Lucas, MD**, is a pediatric pulmonologist at Nemours Children's Hospital. She joined Nemours after completing a fellowship in pediatric pulmonary medicine at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and before that, an internship and residency in pediatrics at Orlando Health's Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando. Dr. Lucas earned her medical degree at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She is board-certified in pediatrics with a subspecialty in pulmonology by the American Board of Pediatrics.



**Jordan C. Smallwood, MD**, is a specialist in pediatric allergy and immunology who joined Nemours in August 2013. Dr. Smallwood earned his medical degree at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in Lexington and completed his pediatric residency at Kosair Children's

Hospital, University of Louisville. He completed a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, Ga. Dr. Smallwood is board-certified in pediatrics with a subspecialty in allergy and immunology by the American Board of Pediatrics.



**Sthorn Thatayatikom, MD, MSc**, is a pediatric specialist who treats children and teens with allergies and immune system disorders. Dr. Thatayatikom began her health career as a registered nurse in Thailand. She earned her master's degree in pharmacology at Chiang Mai University in Thailand, followed by a medical degree at Thammasat University in Bangkok. She did a combined internship and residency in pediatrics at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and an allergy and immunology fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Thatayatikom is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics with a subspecialty certification from the American Board of Allergy and Immunology.



**Raymond C. Veras, MD**, joined Nemours Children's Hospital as a pediatric pulmonology specialist in July 2013. Prior to joining Nemours, he was a pediatric hospitalist at Florida Hospital Heartland in Sebring, Fla. Dr. Veras earned his medical degree at Universidad Iberoamericana in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and he completed a fellowship in pediatric pulmonary medicine at Emory University in Atlanta. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, and his bilingual fluency allows him to effectively serve Central Florida's Spanish-speaking patient families.

## Trusted Resources

- Nemours' KidsHealth.org
- KidsTRACK at Nemours Children's Hospital
- American Lung Association ([www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org))
- American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology ([www.aaaai.org](http://www.aaaai.org))
- National Heart Lung and Blood Institute ([www.nhlbi.nih.gov](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov))
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ([www.niaid.nih.gov](http://www.niaid.nih.gov))

For more information, email us at [AsthmaResearchORL@nemours.org](mailto:AsthmaResearchORL@nemours.org).

Locations and other information is available on [Nemours.org](http://Nemours.org).  
For appointments, call (407) 650-7715.

## Nemours Children's Hospital

Center for Asthma Research & Treatment (CART)  
Nemours Children's Hospital  
13535 Nemours Parkway | Orlando, FL 32827

# The Center for Asthma Research & Treatment at Nemours Children's Hospital



Keeping *Our Promise* to Help Children  
and Families Breathe Easier

Nemours Children's Hospital



Children with asthma require expert, ongoing care especially in Central Florida where asthma rates are higher than the national average. At Nemours Children’s Hospital, our Center for Asthma Research & Treatment (CART) helps kids with asthma get the diagnosis they need to start treatment — and to advance the science of asthma care so that children everywhere can have better management strategies and happier outcomes.

### Our Team Approach to Asthma

With a complex disease like asthma, testing and care are always improving. At Nemours, a coordinated team of pediatric specialists from the Division of Allergy & Immunology and the Division of Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine is actively involved in studies to improve best practices and find new treatment options.

But our pediatric allergists and pulmonologists are more than just experts — they were selected for their dedication to family-centered medicine, which makes patients and their families key members of the care team. Other team members and services include:

- an experienced nurse practitioner
- respiratory therapists
- certified asthma educators
- KidsTRACK educational services for families
- a discharge process that brings all members of the care team together to focus on family education and seamless follow-up with primary care and specialty providers

### Leading Asthma Research in the Real World

CART is currently the only pediatric program in Central Florida linked to the two largest asthma networks in the country — Asthma Net and the American Lung Association. Through these networks and Nemours Children’s Health System, Florida-based Nemours physicians can interact with asthma experts across the country. Many of our patients are currently enrolled in research trials to test new medications and treatments.

Other programs affiliated with CART include the American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Center (ACRC) at Nemours Children’s Clinic/ University of Florida Consortium in Jacksonville, Fla., the Nemours Network for Asthma Research, and the Nemours Center for Pharmacogenomics and Translational Research. Pharmacogenomics (a combination of pharmacology and genomics) simply means that part of our research is learning how genetic differences can affect responses to medications, which means we can better tailor care for each individual child.

“We don’t want to settle for just struggling with it, we want to find new ways to really manage and cure it.”

— Dr. Jason Lang, NCH physician and asthma researcher

### The Best Care from Hospital to Home

Whether your child’s asthma symptoms are chronic and severe or mild and infrequent, we’re here to help. Through CART, Nemours provides truly comprehensive services for children and teens with asthma. We also connect with primary care providers throughout the area to offer complete and seamless asthma care backed by the latest research.

Each Nemours provider, and any additional physician your child sees, is linked by an award-winning electronic health record system that eliminates the need for repetitive testing and unnecessary doctor visits — and helps expedite the right care in an emergency.

We also take a proactive role in teaching patients and their families about asthma and related respiratory diseases. For example, we offer certified asthma educators through KidsTRACK at NCH. A KidsTRACK care coordinator is available during your child’s diagnosis, treatment and healing, offering expert help and information as you transition from the hospital to home. The coordinator works with nurse and case managers, acting as a single point of contact between your family and medical or community resources.



### Outpatient Services

Nemours Children’s Hospital and Nemours Children’s Specialty Care locations provide:

- diagnostics and follow-up care with pediatric asthma specialists
- consultations with a certified asthma educator at each visit
- comprehensive lung function testing, including:
  - exercise challenge
  - spirometry with bronchodilator challenge
  - impulse oscillometry
  - plethysmography
  - bronchoprovocation challenge (methacholine and mannitol)
- skin allergy testing
- immunotherapy and flu shots for egg-allergic patients
- omalizumab (Xolair®) program
- allergy shots
- asthma clinical trials for eligible patients
- coordinated follow-up care
- Spanish-speaking physicians

### Did you know more children suffer from asthma than any other chronic disease?

These kids are more likely to be:

- **Absent from school.** Asthma is the No. 1 reason kids stay home sick.
- **Treated in the Emergency Department.** The annual rate is nearly one million children.
- **Admitted to the hospital.** Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization for kids under 15.

### Inpatient Services

If your child needs to be admitted, your family can turn to Nemours Children’s Hospital for:

- a kids-only Emergency Department and critical care
- around-the-clock consultation services with pediatric specialists
- bronchoscopy services
- comprehensive pulmonary function testing
- Spanish-speaking physicians

### Advocates for Healthy Lungs and Communities

Our Center for Asthma Research & Treatment works with local, state and national organizations to advocate for improved disease awareness, greater research funding, clean-air legislation and also to share expertise. We do this alongside the Florida Asthma Coalition and the American Lung Association of the Southeast.

We also partner with the American Lung Association of Central Florida to host an Asthma Educators Institute at NCH. This two-day course trains school nurses, respiratory therapists and other clinical health care professions in the best approaches for managing asthma and how to teach families about the disease.

To help bring additional awareness and vital information to the community, NCH partners with the Department of Health in Orange County to train child care providers at local Head Start day care centers. These centers earn “asthma-friendly” certification and, in the process, share important information about asthma with families.



Learn more about our research and check out a Florida patient story on our Nemours YouTube channel. “Akarri Davis vs. Asthma”