

Nemours welcomes Pediatric Internist to Direct New Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Lakeland Regional Health

Orlando, Fla. (March 24, 2021) – Nemours Children's Health System welcomes Olga Zand, MD, FAAP, a board-certified, pediatric intensivist and pediatric hospitalist, who will serve as director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) for Nemours at Lakeland Regional Health.

The PICU at Lakeland Regional Health is a 12-bed High-Acuity Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, as designated by the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the World Foundation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies, ensures that children and adolescents can receive critical medical care close to home from specially trained physicians.

"With the PICU at Lakeland Regional Health, we are able to take care of medically critical patients and surgically critical patients closer to home so families don't have to travel far for specialty care," said Dr. Zand, who works with a team of three intensivists and five pediatric hospitalists, and nurses at the PICU.

Taking care of young patients and families is something that comes naturally to Dr. Zand, whose mother was a nurse practitioner in her native Saratov City in the Russian Federation. "The appreciation and sense of fulfillment she had when she would help families of newborn babies was wonderful and made an impression on me," said Dr. Zand. "I knew I wanted to spread kindness and give back to the community through my work."

Dr. Zand completed her fellowship in pediatric critical care at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo – State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo School of Medicine. She completed a residency in pediatrics at Hurley Medical Center / Michigan State University in Flint, Michigan, and an internship/specialist diploma at Tyumen State Medical Academy in the Russian Federation. She earned her M.D. with a concentration in pediatrics at Saratov State Medical University in the Russian Federation, having started medical school at Azerbaijan State Medical University in Azerbaijan.

"Nemours Children's Health System is proud to partner with Lakeland Regional Health to establish a high level of continuity of care with this PICU and with Dr. Zand's expertise," said Dr. Al Torres, medical director of the pediatric programs at the partnerships for Nemours Children's Health System. "She and the team will be able to provide highly focused individualized attention that children who are seriously ill or recovering from surgery need to heal."

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About Nemours Children's Health System

[Nemours](#) is an internationally recognized children's health system that owns and operates the two free-standing children's hospitals: the Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., and Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Fla., along with outpatient facilities in five states, delivering pediatric primary, specialty and urgent care. Nemours also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, [KidsHealth.org](#), and offers on-demand, online video patient visits through Nemours [CareConnect](#). [Nemours ReadingBrightstart.org](#) is a program dedicated to preventing reading failure in young children, grounded in Nemours' understanding that child health and learning are inextricably linked, and that reading level is a strong predictor of adult health.

Established as [The Nemours Foundation](#) through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, Nemours provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy and prevention programs to families in the communities it serves.

About Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center

[Lakeland Regional Health](#) Medical Center is Florida's fifth largest hospital. Founded in 1916 as Morrell Memorial Hospital, this 864-bed, comprehensive tertiary referral hospital operates the Jack and Tina Harrell Family Institute for Advanced Cardiovascular Medicine; a Level II Trauma Center; the Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children, which includes a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit; and the Bannasch Institute for Advanced Rehabilitation Medicine. The Medical Center holds high-level accreditations for its Certified Comprehensive Stroke Center and Chest Pain Center. Three hybrid operating rooms and a catheterization lab offer patients the least invasive surgeries possible and enhanced safety. The Medical Center is home to one of the nation's busiest single site Emergency Departments and handles over 3,000 trauma visits annually.

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