

## Pediatric Surgeons of West Michigan P.C.

### **Robert H. Connors, M.D.**



Dr. Connors graduated with honors from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. He then completed medical school, a general surgery internship, surgical residency, and a pediatric surgical research fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical School and University of Michigan Mott Children's Hospital. Following 10 years of training in Ann Arbor, Dr. Connors returned to Washington, D.C. to train as a Chief Resident in Surgery at The Children's Hospital National Medical Center. Prior to moving to Grand Rapids, Dr. Connors practiced with the 130th Station Army Hospital in Heidelberg, West Germany and at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Connors is a board certified pediatric surgeon, with added qualifications in surgical critical care. He is also an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Surgery at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

### **Marc G. Schlatter, M.D.**



Dr. Schlatter received his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology (with honors) from Indiana University, and his medical degree from Ohio State University. Dr. Schlatter's postgraduate medical training included internship and residency programs in general surgery at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, a Clinical Fellowship program in pediatric liver transplantation at the University of Texas Children's Medical Center, and a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at Indiana University's J.W.Riley Hospital for Children. Dr. Schlatter is a board certified pediatric

surgeon. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

### **Neal D. Uitvlugt, M.D.**



Dr. Uitvlugt graduated from Calvin College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He completed his medical degree and general surgery resident training at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and the University of Chicago Medical Center. Dr. Uitvlugt's fellowship training included a pediatric surgery research position at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University and a pediatric ECMO fellow position at the University of Chicago Medical Center. He also completed a two year pediatric surgery residency at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr. Uitvlugt is a board certified pediatric surgeon. He also is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Surgery at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

### **James M. DeCou, M.D.**



Dr. DeCou received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (graduating with distinction) from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and then received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School. His postgraduate training included an Internship and Residency in General Surgery at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover/Lebonon, New Hampshire. Dr. DeCou also completed two Fellowships, one in Pediatric Surgery at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, and a second Fellowship in Pediatric

Surgical Oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. DeCou is a board certified pediatric surgeon.

### **Daniel J. Robertson, M.D.**



Dr. Robertson received both his Medical Degree and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin (Madison). His postdoctoral training included a General Surgery Residency at the University of Washington Hospitals (Seattle), and a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He also completed a Fellowship in Pediatric Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, gaining additional training in neonatal and pediatric laparoscopic and thoracoscopic techniques. Dr. Robertson is board certified in General Surgery and board eligible in Pediatric Surgery. He received the David Tapper Memorial Teaching Award in 2003 upon the completion of his training in Seattle. Dr. Robertson has published a number of medical articles and book chapters on Pediatric minimally invasive surgical procedures.

### **Appointment Information:**

Dr.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you are unable to keep your appointment, we would greatly appreciate a 24-hour-notice for rescheduling. Thank you.*

Phone: (616) 458-1722

Fax: (616) 458-0061

E-mail: [info@pediatricsurgeons-wm.com](mailto:info@pediatricsurgeons-wm.com)

Visit us on the web at: [www.pedsurg-wm.yourmd.com](http://www.pedsurg-wm.yourmd.com)

# Pediatric Surgeons

OF  
WEST  
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P.C.

ROBERT H. CONNORS, M.D.

MARC G. SCHLATTER, M.D.

NEAL D. UITVLUGT, M.D.

JAMES M. DECOU, M.D.

DANIEL J. ROBERTSON, M.D.

## Welcome . . .

Thank you for selecting Pediatric Surgeons of West Michigan for your child's surgical needs. As board-certified pediatric surgeons, we are dedicated to providing your child and family with the best possible care. In doing so, *we follow a very simple rule: we treat each individual as we would a member of our own family.* We understand that you may have questions and concerns about your child's surgery and care, and therefore we encourage you to contact us at your convenience.

## What Is A Pediatric Surgeon?

Pediatric surgeons specialize in the surgical care of children. We are surgeons who, by training, are oriented toward working with children and understanding their special needs. In addition to completing training and achieving board certification in general surgery, we complete additional years of training exclusively in children's surgery. We then receive special certification in the subspecialty of pediatric surgery.

## What Services Do We Offer?

As pediatric surgeons, we specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of elective and urgent surgical problems seen in patients from birth into young adulthood. These Pediatric Surgical problems and areas of expertise include:

- Hernias (inguinal and abdominal)
- Hydroceles
- Undescended Testicles
- Abdominal Surgery (including surgery of the liver, gallbladder, biliary tract, pancreas, spleen, kidney, intestine, colon, anus, and retroperitoneum)
- Gastroesophageal Reflux/Feeding Tube Placements

- Chest Wall Reconstruction (pectus excavatum and carinatum)
- Thoracic Surgery (including thoracoscopy and bronchoscopy)
- Children's Cancer Surgery (including Wilms tumors and tumors of the neck, chest, and abdomen)
- Laparoscopy and Endoscopy
- Head and Neck Surgery (including thyroglossal duct and branchial cleft cysts)
- Pediatric Gynecology

Urgent or emergent Pediatric Surgical problems include:

- Evaluation of Acute Abdominal Pain
- Appendicitis
- Bowel Obstructions (including pyloric stenosis and intussusception)
- Foreign Body Obstructions (both airway and esophagus)
- Newborn Surgery (for congenital bowel obstructions, diaphragmatic hernia, and abdominal wall defects)
- Respiratory Distress in newborns and children requiring ECMO (extracorporeal life support)
- Management of Pediatric Trauma

## Do We Work With Other Doctors?

Working as a part of your medical team, we will keep everyone involved in the care of your child informed about our recommendations, procedures performed, and instructions for care following surgery. It is our practice to send a written report to the patient's referring physician within 48 hours of a consultation.

## A Bit More About Our Office. . .

### Office Hours And Appointment Scheduling

We see patients and their families by appointment only. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call our office at **(616) 458-1722**. If you are unable to keep your appointment, we appreciate a 24-hour notice for rescheduling. It is our goal to see patients at their scheduled time, however, occasionally emergencies occur and delays are unavoidable. We appreciate your understanding if this occurs during your visit.

### Emergency Care

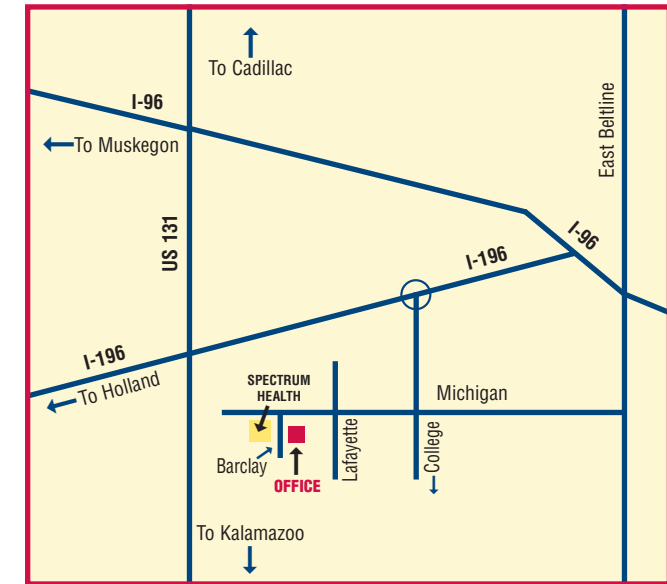
We provide 24-hour on-call service in the event of an emergency. Should an emergency occur, contact our office at (616) 458-1722, or, if time does not allow, proceed to the Emergency Room at Spectrum Health. If it is after office hours, our answering service will contact the physician on call. You will be contacted by the doctor in a timely manner.

## What To Expect During A Visit

In most cases, a patient's first visit to our office involves meeting with the physician and reviewing the child's medical history. After a physical examination, the doctor will then explain his recommendations. If surgery is recommended, the physician will outline when it should be performed and what to expect following surgery. If any tests need to be performed prior to the surgery, our staff will assist in scheduling them.

Following surgery, the doctor will visit the child and family and discuss follow up care. We ask that you call the office after surgery to schedule a follow up visit.

## Location



350 Barclay Avenue NE • Suite 202  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

We are conveniently located in the Women's and Children's Health Center just east of Spectrum Health Downtown, directly across from the hospital's Emergency Department entrance. Plenty of free, handicap-accessible parking is available in either the parking lot or on the lower level. If you need directions or have questions about your visit, please contact us.

## Insurance and Payment Policy

We participate with many major health insurance and managed care plans. Payment is required at the time of your office visit. For your convenience, we accept cash, checks and major credit cards. We will provide you with a detailed, itemized statement that you can submit to your insurance carrier for reimbursement, if appropriate. If you have specific questions about your insurance coverage or would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please contact our office prior to your appointment.