

Neuroscience Program Advancement

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The future has never looked brighter for patients who have neurological conditions. Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare is leading research and crafting customized treatment plans for patients who have complex conditions such as epilepsy, acquired brain injuries, neurodevelopmental delays and other conditions affecting the nervous system.

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare has one of the premier pediatric neurosciences programs in the nation and one of the largest teams of pediatric neurologist, neurosurgeons and physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists in the Midwest.

Our approach is interdisciplinary and we work cooperatively with other pediatric care providers in the region. In fact, Gillette serves as a referral center after patients receive an initial diagnosis.

Gillette is a leader in neuroscience research and treatments. Our areas of specialty care include:

- Neuromuscular Disease.
- Epilepsy.
- Complex Movement Disorders.
- Spina Bifida.
- Cerebral Palsy.
- Spasticity.
- Brain and Spina Cord Trauma.
- Other Complex and Rare Conditions.

Through our research, we're playing a key role in clinical trials. Our Neuromuscular program was among the first to offer Spinraza™, also called nusinersen, a recently FDA approved drug to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Medical experts and parents call the development the first real hope for people who have SMA.

Gillette is set to be among the first centers in the United States to use the Skipping Exon 51 technique to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy and is a major center for an NIH-sponsored research consortium for neuromuscular diseases.

Advances in genetic testing, gene editing, surgical advancements and new treatment approaches bring exciting developments in the field of neurosciences and Gillette is committed to making sure our patients receive the best, cutting-edge care. Inspired by our patients, our plans for future development include:

- Increased use of genetic testing to understand disease causes.
- Recruiting top-level providers and specialists.
- Participation in developing therapies, clinical trials and related programs.
- Expanding our outreach clinics.
- Training and development of our therapists in the latest techniques.

Our neurosciences team is comprised of experts who've chosen to specialize in the needs of children, teens and adults who have complex neurological conditions and injuries.

Thanks to your support, we can continue to provide comprehensive care and to pursue research to advance care. For more information please contact the Gillette Children's Foundation at 651-229-1726.



An integrated team of physicians from various specialties work together on treatment plans for complex cases.



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Pioneering Neuroscience Treatment at Gillette Gives Cooper Independence

A few years ago Cooper was barely able to button his own shirt and did not have the strength to participate in everyday activities such as walking and writing.

Cooper has dystonia, a progressive condition that causes uncontrollable, twisting and repetitive movements. Through Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, Cooper and his family had tried every standard treatment option available to improve his movement and quality of life, including medication, physical therapy, and botulinum toxin treatment. But his condition worsened.

Cooper's family didn't give up, and neither did Gillette. The answer was out there.

Gillette is one of a few hospitals in the nation that has FDA approval to offer pediatric deep brain stimulation (DBS) to treat dystonia. The success of DBS surgery created a new path for Cooper.

During the DBS procedure, Cooper's surgeon implanted a medical device—called a neurostimulator—under the surface of his chest. In addition, a soft, flexible wire—called a lead—was implanted in his brain. The neurostimulator helps regulate Cooper's movements by sending electrical signals through the lead to certain areas of the brain. The device sends stimulation 24 hours a day, every day.

Although DBS has been around for 30 years for adults who have Parkinson's disease, it's relatively new in its application for kids who have dystonia. And it's working for Cooper.

Cooper is now a teenager and while DBS helped build his abilities, Gillette helped build his confidence. "The doctors here at Gillette make me feel that I am not the only one with this disorder, and they make me feel like I can do anything," Cooper exclaims.

Gillette's world-class medical team has one mission: improving the lives of kids who have disabilities and complex medical conditions. This mission—Gillette's driving force—helps patients, like Cooper, achieve new levels of independence, health and happiness.

Your gifts to Gillette help support one of the premier pediatric neuromuscular disease programs in the nation. We're making breakthroughs in research and leading developments in new treatments.



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