

Pediatric Spine Institute

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare is a true international leader in providing comprehensive care for children who have spine disorders and is helping to revolutionize the care for these kids. Gillette providers are specialists in treating conditions such as:

- Scoliosis.
- Spinal cord injury.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Spina bifida.
- Other neuromuscular conditions affecting the spine .

Gillette uses cutting-edge treatments to help our patients thrive.

We're the first pediatric hospital in the region to use a pioneering procedure to implant magnetically controlled growing rods to act as internal braces to help in the treatment of congenital scoliosis. These MAGEC® rods are implanted in the spine and a surgeon can lengthen the rods in a remote controller procedure. This technology helps to straighten the spine without the need for frequent invasive surgeries—improving safety, saving time and money, and making life easier for our patients. Our surgeons are experienced experts and have implanted the second most MAGEC rods in the United States.

Gillette provides 80% of the Twin Cities area spine surgeries for kids age 14 and younger. Gillette physicians provide more than 65% of complex spine procedures in Minnesota, including severe scoliosis and other curvatures.

Our spine care is comprehensive and includes experts in our assistive technology department to provide special technology and equipment to meet needs of our patients. The Gillette experts work with children to create devices such as braces, casts and customized wheelchair seating. These experts are focused on helping kids function better and heal quickly.

Our success with MAGEC rods, surgical interventions, non-surgical therapies and physical therapies are remarkable achievements but we're ready to do more.

Built on the strong foundation we've created these past 120 years, Gillette wants to further optimize the care of this pediatric population through the formation of a nationally recognized Pediatric Spine Institute. The institute will be organized around five pillars:

- Research.
- Long-term Outcomes.
- Innovation.
- Knowledge Translation.
- Education.

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.



Gillette physicians provide more than 65% of complex spine procedures in Minnesota.



Tenner Guillaume, MD, works with patient Avery Wright at a medical conference presentation.



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Your gifts help Gillette offer a range of treatments to help children, teens and adults achieve the healthiest spines possible.

Thanks to cutting-edge research, pioneering treatment plans and experienced surgeons, families come to Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare for expert spine care. The spinal conditions we treat range from relatively common conditions such as adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) to more rare and severe spinal deformities.

Our team helps 10-year-old Javier Hruza dream big and travel the world.

Javier has spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy—the most serious and disabling form of cerebral palsy. He also has neuromuscular scoliosis and, until recently, the curve in his spine was getting worse due to a growth spurt. He was almost at a 90-degree curve and there was a concern it was compromising his breathing and crushing his organs.

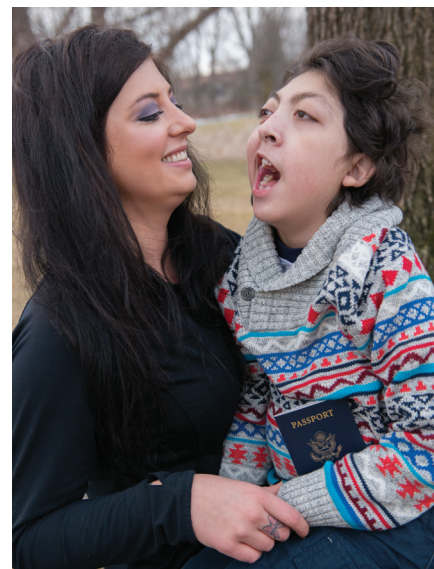
"He was just in pain all the time and he was not enjoying life," his mother Elee Hruza says.

Gillette orthopedic surgeon Tenner Guillaume, MD, recommended Javier undergo surgery using magnetically driven growing rods (MAGEC® rods), a new technology. Guillaume implanted two metal rods in Javier's back to straighten his spine, and uses magnets to lengthen the rods as Javier grows. The technique allows Javier to avoid one of the major drawbacks of a traditional rod system—having surgery every three to six months to adjust the implanted rods.

Now, instead of surgery, Javier has a 30-minute appointment every three months for Guillaume to place a special magnet on his back to lengthen and adjust his spinal rods. "There's no prep for the appointment and Javier does not feel discomfort," Elee Hruza says.

Thanks to this innovative approach, the two are planning trips all over the world.

"I want to take Javier to see the Eiffel Tower," Hruza exclaims. "I feel like our possibilities are endless."



Traveling is now a reality for Javier Hruza and his mother Elee thanks to magnetic rods surgically implanted in his back to correct his neuromuscular scoliosis.



Avery Wright was treated at Gillette for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) and remains an active athlete.

Competitive swimmer, Avery Wright, came to Gillette after her family doctor noticed an abnormal curvature in her spine. She was diagnosed with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS).

Avery's mother says the Gillette team listened to their concerns and the doctors explained the various options available. "What I liked most about Dr. Guillaume is how much he listened. It wasn't just about the medicine, he involved Avery and our real-life concerns in the process," Michelle Wright explains.

"At one point, a week before the surgery, I was feeling nervous about things. I called Dr. Guillaume's office with a few more questions, and later that day he called me back on his cell phone while he was driving home. I mean, how many surgeons call you from their personal phone? That blew me away," Wright says.

Guillaume performed a spinal fusion and, after a month, Avery was back in the pool.