



Miraculous Monday: An Irish Story

Amazing things may happen at Children's every day, but today, in celebration of National Hospital Week and National Nurses Week, it's your chance to share some of those stories with your colleagues. All day, Careforce Connection will feature specially selected accounts of the miraculous everyday events that happen at Children's—from accounts of extraordinary patient care to the things your colleagues do to make life easier. If you'd like to submit your own story, email [Internal Communications](#) for consideration.

To kick things off, **Nancy Doelling**, M.D., a Hospitalist at Scottish Rite, sent in a story about a very lucky family from Ireland, offering not only a tribute to the teamwork of staff and providers at Children's, but a fresh perspective on the organization's place in the international healthcare community.

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I was able to have the great fortune to participate in the care of an infant diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth. The baby's lovely parents are from Ireland, where there is no prenatal screening and medical services are sometimes quite limited. While the parents were shocked and overwhelmed with the diagnosis, they began trying to find specialists in Ireland who could deliver care for their young son.

After long waits and minimal engagement from the medical system there, and with the constant message that there was "nothing more that could be done," they brought their child to Atlanta. They had acquaintances here – also the parents of a child with Down syndrome -- who raved about the care given at Children's.

The couple started with Pediatric Ear Nose and Throat of Atlanta (PENTA), where they saw **Jim Thomsen**, M.D., an otolaryngologist. As there's a likely chance the infant has unilateral deafness, Dr. Thomsen will continue to be involved in the baby's care. Due to some feeding intolerance, the parents also saw **Seth Marcus**, M.D., a gastroenterologist, early on. Dr. Thomsen ordered a sleep study, which demonstrated severe obstructive sleep apnea. Once the results were returned to him (the very next day), he requested admission for comprehensive evaluation and care. The baby was then admitted to the Scottish Rite Pediatric and Adolescent Consultants (SRPAC) service, where his care was coordinated.

After a quick, early-morning call for assistance, **Edwin Smith**, M.D., a urologist, saw the baby on his way to his clinic in order to meet the family and help them to plan for a urologic issue that will require surgery. Another quick call to general pediatrician **Anna Kuo**, M.D., and the baby had a local pediatrician who could take the baton and oversee care here in Atlanta. Then, to top it all off, the infant's nurse at Scottish Rite, **Kristen Crammer**, Staff Nurse–Resource, offered excellent nursing and maternal support and advice, because her infant boy -- born the exact same day as our Irish patient -- had recently been hospitalized at Scottish Rite.

The parents, who are choosing to pay out-of-pocket for the care of their baby, were absolutely overwhelmed by the service offered here. The diagnostics, efficiency, skill and genuine kindness of the caregivers and staff really impressed them. It was eye opening to hear about the healthcare limits of other countries, and it's especially sad to think of the many people who will not be able to afford what we believe to be very basic here in the United States simply because they do not have the resources this family has. It made me so very proud to be a part of a system with such dedicated and skilled physicians, nurses and staff. I think it also made us all proud to be a part of such an excellent system and a great country!

