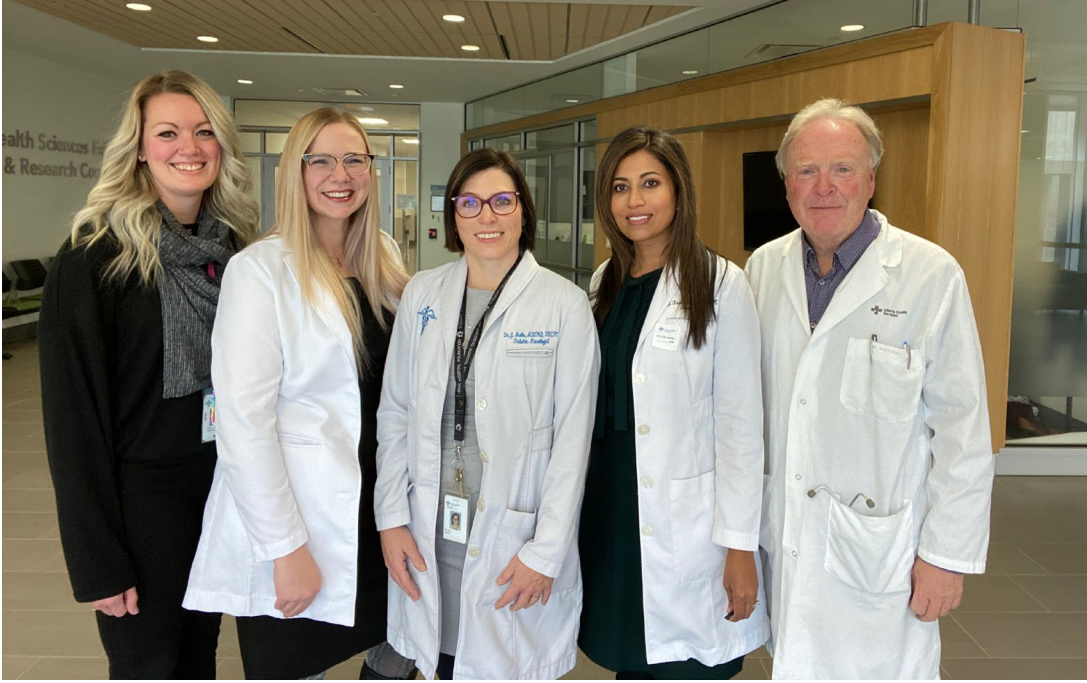




Comprehensive Epilepsy Program- Pediatric section at the Stollery Children's Hospital and University of Alberta



Left to right: Danielle Frost (RN, Epilepsy nurse); Dr. Natarie Liu, MD, FRCPC ; Dr. Janette Mailo, MD, PhD, FRCPC; Dr. Janani Kassiri, MD, PhD, FRCPC; Dr. D.B. Sinclair, MD, FRCPC.

Comprehensive Epilepsy Program- Pediatric section

- Dr. D. Barry Sinclair- Director
- Dr. M Wheatley – Epilepsy Neurosurgeon
- Dr T Snyder- Neuropsychologist
- Dr J Kassiri- Surgical and Female Adolescent Epilepsy Program Lead
- Dr N Liu- Surgical, Ketogenic Program, and VNS program Lead –
- Dr J Mailo- Neonatal Stroke and Epilepsy program Lead
- Ms D Frost- Epilepsy Nurse
- Dr A Tamm, Dr R Hung, Dr D Jeffery, and Dr M Buller- Diagnostic Imaging
- Ms S Carline and Team- EEG Technologists.

The Comprehensive Epilepsy Program (CEP)- Pediatric section at the Stollery Children's Hospital and University of Alberta is a multidisciplinary team, dedicated to providing world-class care to infants, children, and adolescents with seizures and epilepsy. Serving a geographical area of more than 500, 000 km, our team treats pediatric patients from central and northern Alberta, northern British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The comprehensive epilepsy program was established by doctor Sinclair in 1988 and



was the first comprehensive combined pediatric and adult surgical program in Canada.

Our team of epileptologists (pediatric neurologists specialising in epilepsy), neurosurgeons, neuropsychologists, radiologists, nurses, and dieticians, work collaboratively to establish comprehensive, personalized treatment plans for pediatric patients with epilepsy and seizures. This care journey begins with diagnosis, identifying the types of seizures that a patient is experiencing, and then searching further into the reasons why the epilepsy is occurring. Many patients will have investigations such as a physical examination and an EEG (electroencephalograms, or brain-wave test), while others may also go on to have brain scans (MRIs) or bloodwork, looking for a genetic or metabolic cause for their epilepsy. In select cases, a more prolonged EEG (referred to as video-telemetry in the Pediatric Epilepsy Monitoring Unit) may be required to help with diagnosis and management.

Throughout the lifespan and diverse patient care needs, the CEP team is here to support the patients we serve, through running specialized clinics, such as the Female and Adolescent Epilepsy program led by Dr. Kassiri, the Neonatal Stroke and Epilepsy program led by Dr. Mailo, and the Ketogenic Diet and Vagal Nerve Stimulator programs led by Dr. Liu. The Surgical Program directed by Dr. Sinclair and led by Drs Kassiri and Liu.

Our goal within the CEP is to help children with epilepsy and those that care for them to enjoy their lives to the fullest, and to minimize the negative impact seizures have on their quality of life. Most children who are assessed and evaluated by the CEP have seizures that respond well to medical management, involving only one or two anti-seizure medications. However, some seizures remain difficult to treat, and may not respond to medications alone. If this is the case, the CEP team works with families to explore other alternative therapies, such as the ketogenic diet, or non-pharmacologic approaches such as epilepsy surgery to help with seizure control. Additionally, through leading and participating in cutting-edge research focussed on epilepsy and improving patient care, our team continually strives to improve the quality of life for those affected by seizures and epilepsy.

This information was kindly provided by Dr. Kassiri, following an interview with members of the CEP team, on October 29, 2020.