

THE FACE SHEET



Volume 1, Issue 1

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SAINT BARNABAS REGIONAL CRANIOFACIAL CENTER

Welcome from Our Medical Coordinator

Welcome to the first edition of the Saint Barnabas Regional Craniofacial Newsletter. We hope it will be interesting and informative as it will come out on a quarterly basis. Our purpose will be to familiarize you with our team and the work we do. It will include articles on persons and topics of interest as well as reviews of important clinical subjects.

I have been associated with the Center for 38 years, originally working with Dr. Lyndon Peer, our founder, and many great and dedicated professionals through the years. The Center was the first one of its kind in NJ when it was founded. It is presently my honor to be the medical coordinator of what is now our most comprehensive and experienced team. From its inception our program has been recognized as a center of excellence for the treatment of cleft lip and palate. By staying current

with advances in technology and research, and in some instances leading the way, we have established a center capable of the most comprehensive care for all craniofacial disorders.

While we have an outstanding team of well-trained and dedicated professionals, the operative word is TEAM. When such a team functions smoothly the result is greater than the sum of its parts. This insures our patients of an integrated cohesive program of care. (See page 4 for a list of our comprehensive team.)

The team concept also leads to new ideas and innovations, which result from the interchange among specialties. We are pioneering new methods of moving and repositioning the bones of the face to achieve better function and aesthetics with less surgery and more stable outcomes. Another project is molding the



Cyrus J. Amato, DDS

segments of the clefted jaw in the newborn to achieve early-improved results and fewer subsequent surgeries.

The work of our team begins with the diagnosis of a facial defect, which may be prenatal. Our belief is that early consultation, patient education and team care, are key to a satisfactory long term outcome. I am available by phone or email to answer questions or help to initiate patient registration with our team.

Call us at 973-322-7123.

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"Be kinder than necessary for everyone is fighting some kind of battle."
- Plato

How to Refer to the Center

The Saint Barnabas Regional Craniofacial Center is located at the Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center, Suite 221. To refer a patient or to make an appointment call: 973.322.7123.

All new patients are appointed to meet and be examined by our full team. The team also meets and consults with expectant parents who have a prenatal diagnosis indicating their child will be born with a

cleft lip/palate or other craniofacial abnormality.

Health care providers may contact the following persons to discuss any aspect of patient care or center procedure.

You may also call directly:

Cyrus J. Amato, D.D.S.,
Medical Coordinator
973.736.7660

Nancy J. Edelmann, R.N.,
Administrative Director
973.322.7025

Patient Writes Children's Book for Craniofacial Center



Fifteen-year old Alyssa Hatch of Westfield, NJ, is no stranger to overcoming difficulties. As a three-day old infant with a cleft lip and palate, she was referred for reparative surgery to Dr. David Lange and Dr. Cyrus Amato of the Saint Barnabas Regional Craniofacial Center in Livingston, NJ.

Today, with several surgeries under her belt, Alyssa is giving back to the Craniofacial Center with a book that illustrates growing up with a cleft lip and palate. This book is also a Girl Scout project that must take 65 hours to finish and when completed, will earn her the Gold Award, the highest honor offered in the Girl Scouts.

The book details the story of a dolphin named Shannon Swimfin and her experiences with cleft lip and palate. From the time of Shannon's birth to clinic visits, hearing and speech evaluation, and subsequent bone graft, author and illustrator Alyssa brings children

through a journey of growing up with cleft lip and palate.

"I've always wanted to do something for others with cleft lip and palate and I've always enjoyed writing books," said Alyssa. "As a child, I wrote books and gave them to family members as presents."

The main character, Shannon Swimfin, was inspired by a trip to Sea World and her general love of dolphins.

"I've been drawing dolphins since I was five years old when I learned about them in Kindergarten," said Alyssa.

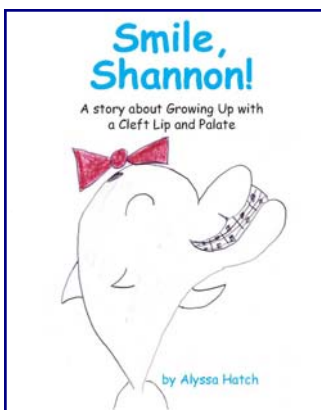
She has also volunteered at the Craniofacial Center in Livingston for the past year and is working on another project for the Center—a brochure for children with cleft lip and palate and their families. Her favorite part of this project is visiting the new Speech department located at the Atkins Kent building in West Orange.

"Working in speech, language and pathology is something I am considering for future," said Alyssa.

A sophomore at Westfield High School, Alyssa volunteers for Operation Smile, a not-for-profit medical organization that provides cleft lip and palate repair for children worldwide. She is a member of the cross country and track teams and has been playing the violin for six years.

Alyssa is the oldest of four children. Her parents, Tom and Gail, are both physical therapists and continue to show support and encouragement for Alyssa.

For the future, she plans to follow in her parent's footsteps to become a physical therapist or to work with children in some way.



Prenatal Diagnosis

Our craniofacial team collaborates with the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. The perinatologists use 3-D and 4-D ultrasound technology which allows the physicians to see the image on three simultaneous planes: transverse, longitudinal and horizontal. These views, combined with the ability to see movements, bring about 3-D and 4-D images.

NJ Perinatal Associates, whose physicians specialize in the care of high-risk pregnancies, is always interested in acquiring the most advanced technology available for the care of their patients. The image provided by the new ultrasound has a number of medical benefits.

Physicians and sonographers have an

enhanced view of fetal development, which may aid in the evaluation of babies with certain conditions, such as cleft lip, cleft palate or facial anomalies.

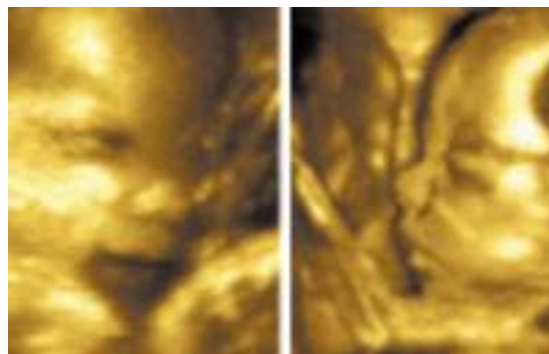
Care beginning in the months prior to conception or during the pregnancy can include everything from advanced diagnostics (such as ultrasound, amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling) and direct fetal assessment (including invasive procedures such as intrauterine therapies and fetal surgeries) to counseling and education.

Being able to provide parents with the information obtained from this technology allows the craniofacial team to meet with and educate parents before their baby is

born. Both the Craniofacial and the Perinatal teams are dedicated to providing expectant mothers and their babies with the most advanced, complete and professional care before delivery, combined with the sensitivity and caring our patients deserve.

For more information about New Jersey Perinatal Associates and The Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Saint Barnabas, please call (973) 322-5287.

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What is Crouzons disease?

Crouzon syndrome is part of a family of craniofacial disorders that results in several surgically correctable facial and skull deformities. The syndrome was first described by Dr. Louis Octavius Crouzon in the late 19th century. He described the disorder as an abnormally shaped skull, proptosis (prominent eyes) and midface deficiencies (small or absent cheek bones). The cause of the

disorder is lack of growth factors as the fetus is growing in-utero.

As the child grows, there is premature fusion of the cranial sutures (growth centers of the skull) resulting in something called craniosynostosis. This results in an abnormally tall and flat forehead in cases of Crouzon Syndrome. In addition, the bones around the eyes and upper teeth do not grow

properly resulting in prominent eyes and the appearance of a flat or deficient midface (cheeks).

For the most part, these children are cognitively normal without evidence of learning disabilities. However, some research suggests that uncorrected craniosynostosis could lead to retardation. Fortunately, advances in craniofacial surgery has allowed specialists in

reconstructive surgery to correct these deformities and restore the face to its normal proportion allowing for these children to live up to their limitless potential.

At the Saint Barnabas Craniofacial Center, we have a team of surgeons who focus on the correction of Crouzon Syndrome as well as all pediatric facial deformities and vascular malformations.

SAINT BARNABAS REGIONAL CRANIOFACIAL CENTER

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Cyrus Amato, DDS / Medical Coordinator

John P. Amato, DDS, MD

Theodore Niebloom, DDS

Orthodontics

Richard Newman, DMD

Matthew Peluso, DMD

Otolaryngology

Laura Downey, MD

Robert Fieldman, MD

Norman Holzberg, MD

Plastic Surgery

John P. Amato, DDS, MD

Frank Ciminello, MD

David Evdokimow, MD

David Lange, MD

Genetics

Frank Desposito, MD

Craniofacial Surgery

John P. Amato, DDS, MD

Frank Ciminello, MD

Pediatric Neurosurgery

Mustafa El Khashab, MD

Arno Fried, MD

Pediatrics

John Kintiroglou, MD

Psychology

Michael Gerson, PhD

Audiology

Kathleen Delaney, AuD

Judy Levitan, AuD

Speech-Language

Randi Schwartz-Zalayet, SLP

Administrative

Nancy Edelman, RN

Mary Beth Vogel

Our Mission:

We provide comprehensive, compassionate, interdisciplinary, collaborative care to individuals born with cleft lip/palate and craniofacial anomalies. Building on our history of dedication to excellence in care and support, we strive to bring the most advanced comprehensive team approach to the treatment of craniofacial deformities.

We're On the Web!
www.saintbarnabasacc.com

 **SAINT BARNABAS**
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center



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