



NEW PROGRAM DEDICATED TO DIAGNOSIS OF PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

For Monmouth Medical Center pediatric neurologist Shirley B.D. Fisch, M.D., the roots of medical commitment run deep.

Dr. Fisch, who joined the staff of The Children’s Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center in February, started working as a counselor at a camp for kids with special needs while still in high school. “From then on, I was drawn to children with special needs and decided that being a doctor was the best route for me,” she says.

After graduating medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, Dr. Fisch completed her residency training in pediatrics and child neurology at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center. At The Children’s Hospital at Monmouth, Dr. Fisch diagnoses and treats neurological disorders in children, including epilepsy, headaches, head trauma, congenital and metabolic disorders.

“Children are usually referred to me by their pediatricians, but I do get requests for neurological consults from pediatric subspecialists as well,” she says, noting that she sees patients from newborns to age 18.

Dr. Fisch, who joined the staff of The Children’s Hospital less than a year ago, has seen her practice grow busy

quickly, as it has addressed a need for such services within the community.

“A typical new evaluation takes from one to one-and-a-half hours, and includes a complete medical history, including the mother’s pregnancy and childbirth experience, the child’s development, and the social and family medical history, as well as the complete history of the current illness,” says Dr. Fisch, who is assisted at Monmouth by nurse practitioner Gwen Wagon. “We also conduct a full general and neurological examination and then provide an extensive review of the potential diagnosis and management.”

Once diagnosed, children with neurological disorders may be treated with medications and/or therapies, or referred for surgical evaluation. “For children with epilepsy or other seizure disorders, there are a lot of new medications available to help us develop a treatment plan,” she says.

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