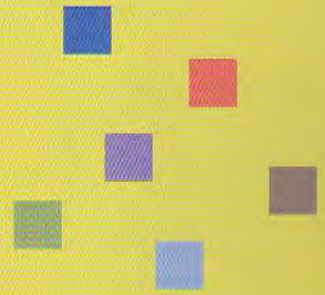




Children's Hospital
and Health System™

August 2006

Children's Hour



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*Between the dark and the daylight,
When the night is beginning to lower,
Comes a pause in the day's occupations,
That is known as the Children's Hour.
— Longfellow*

PHYSICIAN'S BIOGRAPHY

The flying ace of Neurosurgery *by Melissa Douglas*

To the average person, neurosurgery and flying airplanes have very little in common. But to Bruce Kaufman, MD, these two passions of his are very similar. Both require a high level of skill, navigation and finesse.

Kaufman is the medical director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery and professor of Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Both of Kaufman's parents were physicians, and he gravitated toward medicine because it combined both science and people.

"I was exposed to neurosurgery during my early years of medical school and became enthralled by the wide range of problems and the broad spectrum of surgical techniques," Kaufman said. "Working on the living brain is just fantastic."

Kaufman received his medical degree from and completed his residency at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Following a fellowship at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, he spent more than 10 years of his career at St. Louis Children's

Hospital before coming to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in 2001.

At that time, the hospital had a strong desire to build a more advanced neurosurgical program. Nationally, the need for

"The hospital and college both were willing and able to commit the resources needed to expand the neurosurgery program, and that made it a fantastic opportunity," Kaufman said. "I think we all have been surprised by the explosive growth of the program."

Since 2001, outpatient visits to the Neurosurgery Clinic have increased 10 to 15 percent each year, and surgical cases have increased from 300 a year to more than 700.

When people think about neurosurgery, they usually think of brain tumors, but these are just a small part of the specialty for Kaufman and the pediatric neurosurgery staff.

In recent years, the field of pediatric neurosurgery has advanced in expertise, diagnosis and treatment. Today, conditions are treated at Children's Hospital that were not even recognized as diseases years ago. Then, many children simply died undiagnosed and untreated.

Just as global positioning systems and moving maps

have improved the airplane Kaufman flies, similar technology allows him to navigate through the brain during surgery or to identify specific areas of function within the brain.



Bruce Kaufman, MD, (right), leads the Children's Hospital Pediatric Neurosurgery Program in treating patients with brain tumors, head injuries, epilepsy, spasticity and other problems.

neurosurgical care also was growing. Because of the hospital's close collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin, Kaufman jumped at the opportunity to lead the program.



In June, Bruce Kaufman, MD, (right) and Matt McDaniel completed a record-setting flight that included touch-and-go landings at 104 Wisconsin airports. For the flight, Kaufman renamed his airplane Blue Kids One in honor of the hospital's "Blue Kids" logo.

"The field of pediatric neurosurgery has expanded from simply treating brain tumors, brain trauma and fluid on the brain," Kaufman said. "My colleagues and I are involved in areas like restorative neurosurgery – where function is improved through aggressive surgical treatment of epilepsy, the repair of nerve injuries or the surgical treatments of spasticity and movement disorders."

Kaufman hopes greater collaboration with other departments also will enhance services provided to families. For example, working with Orthopedic Surgery to find sophisticated approaches to spinal disorders in infants and children and working with Radiology with greater emphasis on the use of imaging during surgery.

Airplanes always have been a fascination of Kaufman's, but working as a flight surgeon in Cleveland got him hooked. He earned his pilot's license while in Chicago and has been practicing ever since. When he moved to Wisconsin, he finally had the opportunity to visit the Experimental Aircraft Association

air show in Oshkosh, where he fell in love with the new airplanes being produced.

"With a good friend, I eventually was able to purchase a plane that is comfortable and fast enough for travel," Kaufman said. "Plus, it has a built-in parachute for added safety!"

Kaufman finally found a way to bring his work and his hobby together. On June 20, he and Midwest Airlines pilot Matthew McDaniel completed a record-setting flight they nicknamed, "Romp around Wisconsin."

He used his single-engine Cirrus SR-22 – christened Blue Kids One in honor of the hospital's "Blue Kids" logo – to land at every Wisconsin paved, public-use airport, one private (Lake Geneva Aire Estates), plus one military airport (Volk Field Air National Guard Base).

After 16 hours and 42 minutes, three fuel stops, and 2,119 nautical miles, they set a national flying record (certified by the

National Aeronautical Association) and raised more than \$12,000 for the hospital's pediatric neurosurgery program.

"Matt and I decided to tap into our love of flying and combine it with our devotion to children to create a different kind of fundraiser," Kaufman said. "Not only does this set a national record, but **I'm hoping this adventure serves a greater purpose** of raising awareness and funds for Children's Hospital."

All expenses associated with the flight were donated by the two pilots. To make a donation or for more information, check out www.firstgiving.com/romp.

"I wish everyone could see the miracles that take place on a daily basis at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin," said Kaufman. "I am inspired by the children and families I meet, their strength and their courage." ♦