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The Children's Surgical Sciences Institute (CSSI) at Children's Hospital is devoted to the advancement and innovation in the field of pediatric surgery. Clinical and scientific research is the focus of this unique enterprise, which is the first of its kind in the United States. Discoveries made through the important research conducted at CSSI will lead to new treatments in surgical care for children.

CSSI Goals

- Although the most immediate way to restore health and heal sick children is through direct patient care, research is very important.
- CSSI research will lead to new treatments that will improve survival rates and equip pediatric surgeons with more sophisticated and less invasive surgical techniques.
- Surgical programs all over the world can adopt CSSI-originated surgical methods and give surgeons around the globe better surgical techniques.
- St. Louis Children's Hospital will greatly advance its role in surgical research and innovation through the CSSI.

CSSI Physicians and Facilities

- The physician leader of the CSSI is Dr. Brad W. Warner, surgeon-in-chief at Children's Hospital. Dr. Warner is one of America's top pediatric surgeons and a widely published researcher.
- Led by these distinguished surgeons, the CSSI recruits gifted pediatric surgeons who have demonstrated clear potential for achieving significant research breakthroughs to become part of the Institute.
- The Institute will give these talented surgeons the laboratories, technical support and funding required to pursue new research and surgical treatments.

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CSSI's Initial Focus

The research at CSSI will focus initially on four specialties of pediatric surgery:

- **Fetal Repair**

In-utero surgery is an amazing breakthrough in surgical care that allows surgeons to correct life-threatening defects before a baby is born.

- **Childhood Cancer**

Surgery plays a key role in cancer treatment, yet many types of childhood cancers still can't be cured. Through surgical research, scientists could discover new treatment options and give hope to families devastated by a cancer diagnosis.

- **Trauma**

Trauma is the leading cause of death among children. In fact, more children die of traumatic injury than the next nine leading causes of death combined. Pediatric trauma researchers at CSSI hope to improve the survival rates from pediatric traumas and prevent some injuries from happening in the first place.

- **Pediatric Gastroenterology**

Pediatric gastroenterology remains one of the "under studied" priorities in children's clinical research. Researchers at CSSI are investigating new surgical methods to improve outcomes in such conditions as diaphragmatic hernias and short bowel syndrome.

In the future, CSSI will expand its focus to include other areas of pediatric surgery including pediatric urology, neurosurgery, otolaryngology and cardiology.