

Dr. Douglas Canning Memorial Endowed Fund

As CHOP's Chief of Urology for 25 years, Douglas Canning, MD, directed one of the largest and most robust pediatric urology programs in the world and established CHOP's leadership in diagnosing, understanding and treating bladder exstrophy. Dr. Canning's visionary approach to collaboration enabled CHOP to pioneer extraordinary partnerships with other pediatric institutions through the Multi-Institutional Bladder Exstrophy Consortium (MIBEC) — a collaboration between CHOP, Boston Children's Hospital and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin — as well as to enhance the U.S.-India Bladder Exstrophy Collaborative, through which urologists across the world work together to treat patients in India and other countries where care is limited.

Dana Weiss, MD, attending pediatric urologist, with an exstrophy patient over the years



The Dr. Douglas Canning Memorial Endowed Fund seeks to both honor and extend Dr. Canning's principles by supporting four pillars that guide our work with bladder exstrophy:



Family-Centered Care: The patient family experience is at the forefront of everything we do. The exstrophy clinic has helped us develop a truly multidisciplinary clinic in which patients, from the comfort of a single room, are seen in sequence by everyone with whom they might need to consult, including experts from urology, orthopedics, physical therapy, social work and clinical psychology.



Innovative Research: We are redefining research on bladder exstrophy clinical outcomes with standardized metrics to evaluate continence, kidney health and quality of life. We are also working to uncover the genetic underpinnings of bladder exstrophy through genomics research and biobanking. To that end, we recently enriched our existing biorepository through a collaboration with the Birth Defects Biorepository.



Education and Advocacy: We are dedicated to training the future generations of surgeons and providers, beginning with a video library with over 600 hours of footage on the nuances of bladder exstrophy surgeries. That library is growing thanks to a videographer who captures footage at each exstrophy repair and at secondary and tangential surgeries, such as conjoined twin separation. Footage has been refined into more than 90 films that a rotating cohort of visiting scholars can watch to prepare for surgeries. Scholars can watch these edited recordings from any device in preparation for surgery, teaching and publication.



Growth and Global Outreach: In the spirit of Dr. Canning, we are committed to collaborations with partner institutions around the world to share knowledge and expand access to care. Visiting scholars have leveraged our video library and, in some instances, procedure techniques back home. For example, one scholar who used the video library is now performing exstrophy repairs in Estonia, and CHOP clinicians are excited to share pelvic floor physical therapy in India via the U.S.-India Bladder Exstrophy Collaborative.