



In recent days, Pineapple has the honor to visit The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH), one of the world's leading medical institutions.

Most Chinese people may not know much about it, but it is the only hospital to be ranked among the top 5 in both adult and pediatric hospital across the US. As a matter of fact, The JHH was comprehensively ranked the first in the US for quite a long period.

Many of its departments, including neurosurgery, oncology and rheumatology are among the top ones in the world. The biggest characteristic of the hospital is its exceptionally strong clinical and research capabilities. Here most of the physicians also engage in academic research and have many cutting-edge technologies. For this reason, people with rare and intractable illnesses all over the world would choose to come here for treatment.

I paid a two-day visit here and had a lot of special feeling in my discussions with many experts at the Children's Center. I am deeply impressed by its hardware and software facilities.



First let's talk about the hardware facilities.

Located in the building newly renovated in 2012, Johns Hopkins Children's Center is equipped with first-class hardware equipment. You can't smell any disinfectant here, and children's artwork can be seen anywhere. Without the child patients who shuttle in and out, you will probably mistake it for a children's theme hotel.

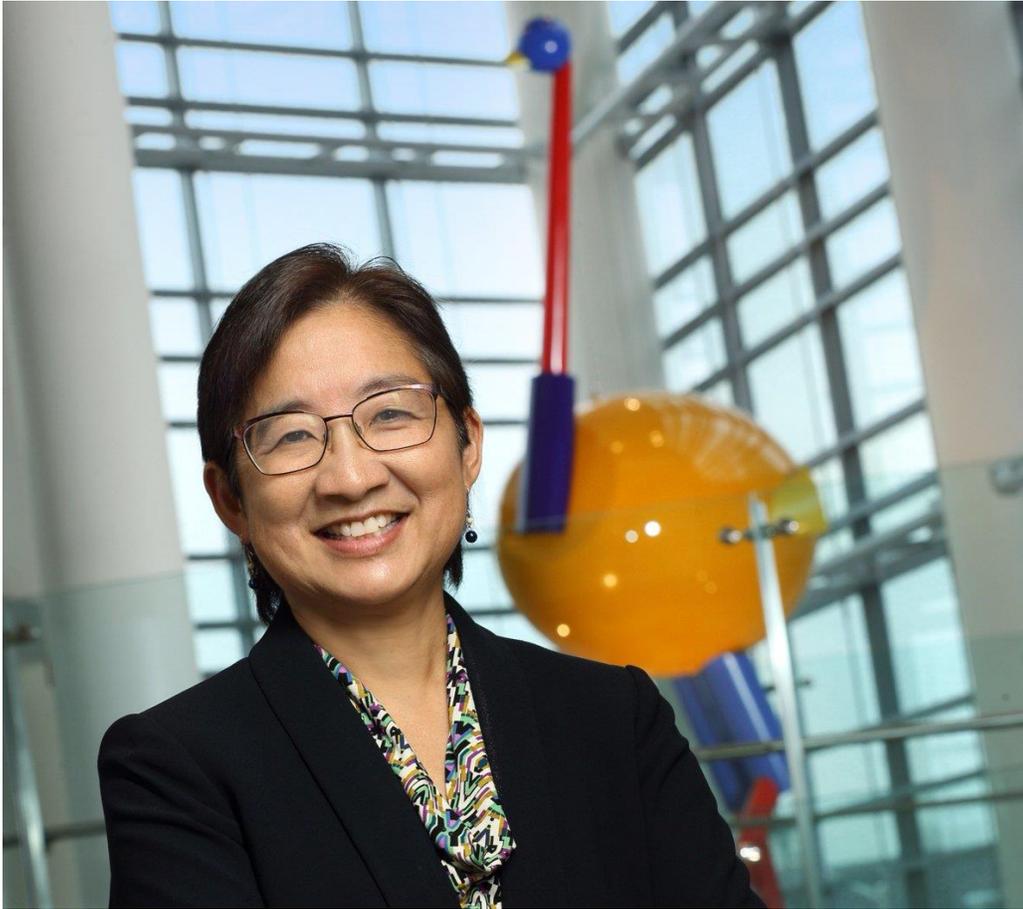
Care for children and their families is embodied in every detail in the buildings. For instance, the elevator even uses a child's voice to announce floor numbers to let the children feel more relaxed.

They also provide a complete set of amenities. For example, each ward is provided with a foldable bed for parents to stay with their child at night. Moreover, there is a special "child patients' TV station" where each child in treatment can record programs to showcase their talents.

But what I really admire is their software, namely the concept of their healthcare professionals.

This time, I had the chance to communicate with many experts, and each of them was very interesting. Today I will share with you four of them who impressed me most. If summed up in key words, that would be professional, hardworking and caring.

Tina Cheng, MD, MPH

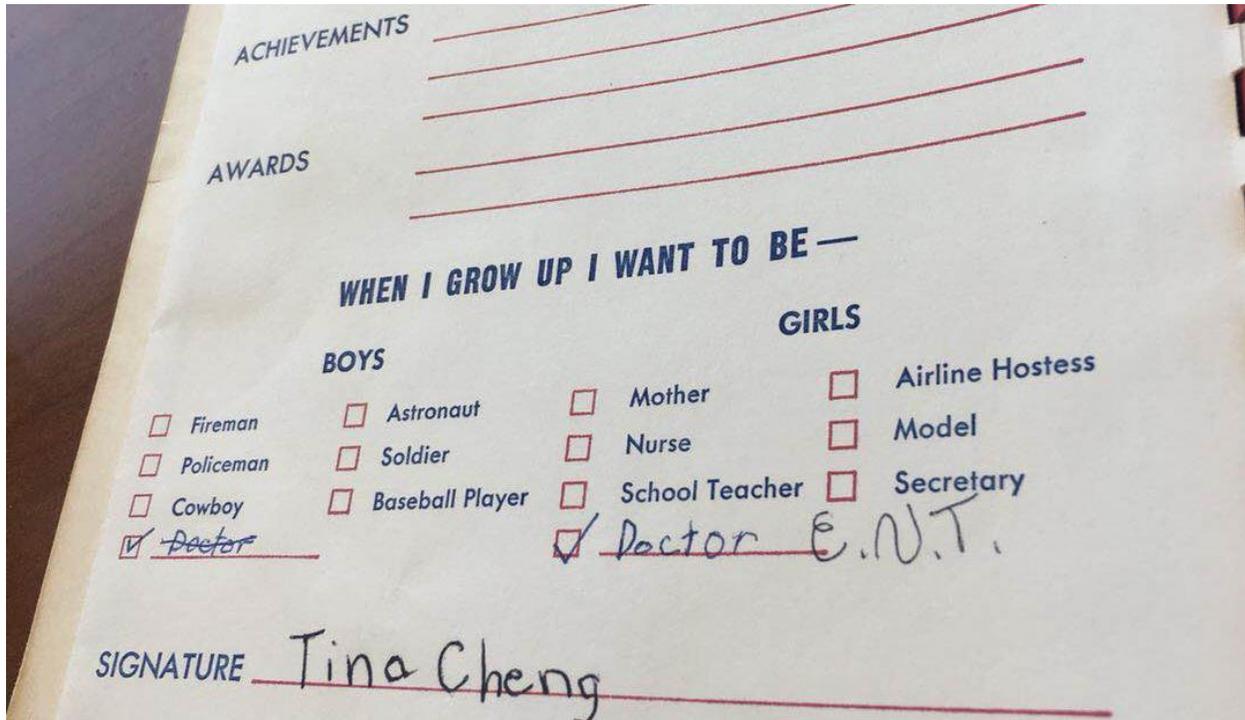


Director of the Children's Center and Director of Pediatrics of The Johns Hopkins Hospital as well as Academician of the American Academy of Medicine



My father's ancestral home is Shanghai, and my mother's is Nanjing. I am the first Asian and first female Director of Pediatrics in the history of JHH.

There are many Asian physicians in various hospitals across the US, but very few can work their way to the top management. We need to make more efforts to change this situation. We not only have to be professional, but also give greater voice to our wish to participate in the management.



When I was just a little girl, I had kept a logbook to record what I wanted to be when I grew up.

At that time, the "standard profession" for a woman was to be a mother, a nurse, a school teacher, an airline hostess, a model or a secretary. But for me, my dream was to be a doctor since my kindergarten days. I wanted to be an ENT doctor because I would often get nosebleed and went to an ENT doctor. At grade 5 of primary school, I wrote for the first time that I wanted to be a pediatrician.



We focus on four key areas in pediatrics oncology, which are also one of the best in the world, including hematological diseases (such as leukemia, lymphoma, etc.), bone marrow transplantation, brain tumor and sarcoma. We choose these four areas because we have an exceptionally powerful team in these areas, with many experts experienced in basic scientific research, translational medicine and clinical treatment.

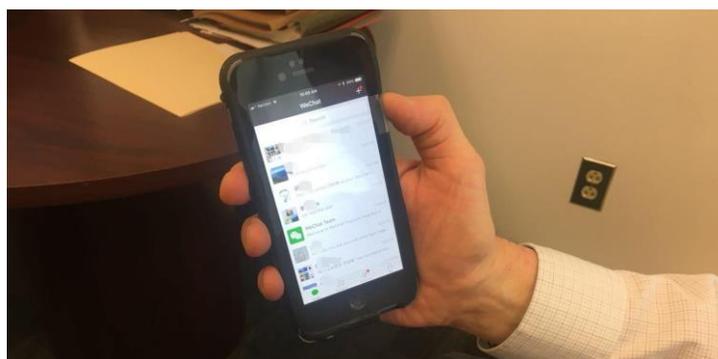
For example, we have carried out many cutting-edge chemotherapy therapies, such as CAR-T; meanwhile, we have strong surgical innovative capability, and world-leading expertise in neurosurgery. When it comes to brain tumor or leukemia in children, we are absolutely the best.



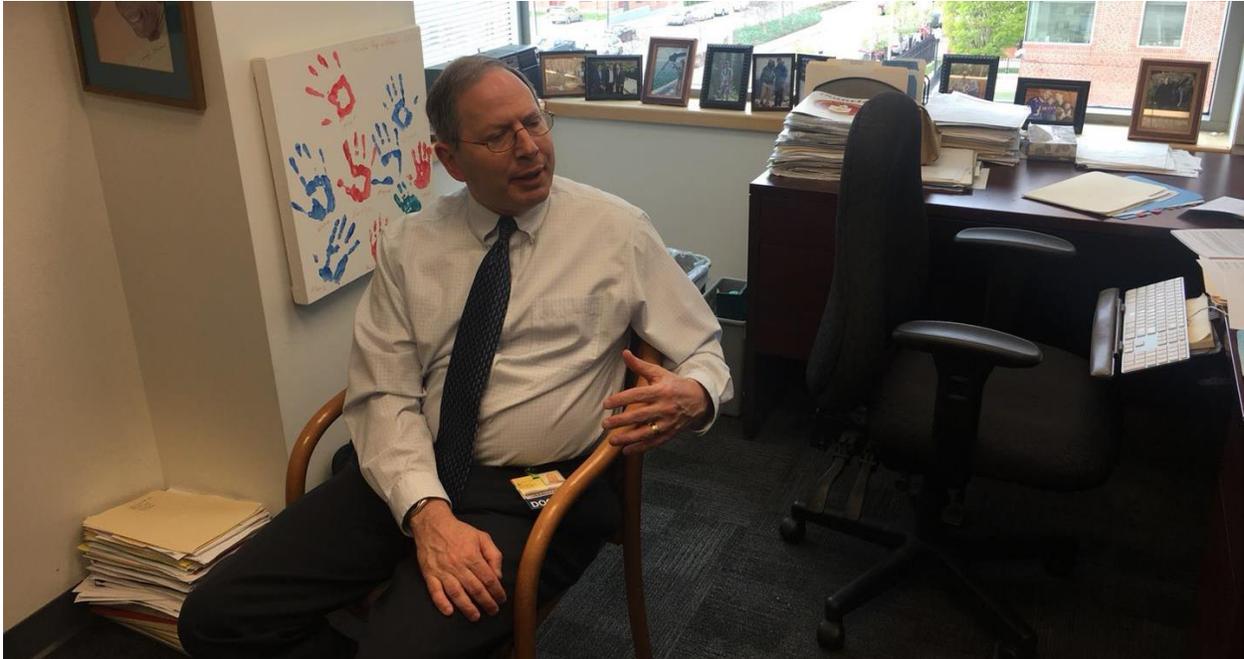
Donald Small, MD, PhD



Director of the Pediatric Oncology Department of The Johns Hopkins Hospital, expert at childhood leukemia and lymphoma and with well-known cancer genome expert Professor Bert Vogelstein as his doctoral supervisor



My wife and I went to China for our honeymoon in 1980. We were among the earliest group of U.S. travelers to China after normalization of relations. After 25 years, I was invited back to China to give talks in Beijing and Shanghai. I was really shocked by the great changes that had taken place in China.



Having worked as a professor at Johns Hopkins since 1990, I had the opportunity to witness the huge changes that have taken place in the treatments of pediatric oncology over the last three decades. First, the clinical cure rate has been greatly improved; second, our ability to control side effects in treatments has been significantly enhanced; third, various new targeted therapy and immunotherapy have been developed.

My lab was the first to clone the human FLT3 gene, an important target for the treatment of leukemia, as it is the most frequently mutated gene in acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Recently, several new drugs targeting FLT3 were launched and appear to be effective. The cure rate of leukemia with FLT3 mutation used to be 15-20% if treated with chemotherapy alone; the cure rate was later improved to 50% after the introduction of bone marrow transplantation. Now, with the addition of the FLT3 inhibitor to the maintenance therapy after bone marrow transplantation, it is likely that the cure rate of this batch of leukemia patients can be increased to 80-85%.

We are one of the best hospitals for bone marrow transplantation in the world, especially for haploidentical bone marrow transplantation. Our new approach has dramatically reduced the rejection reaction and improved the success rate of transplantation. This is quite useful for the treatments of cancer and non-malignant conditions. For example, in organ transplantation, if the donors are the receptor's parents or offspring, we may transplant their bone marrow at the same time. In this way, the blood system and transplanted organ come from the same person and will not cause any rejection action. Therefore, we don't need to use immune inhibitors for a long period, which will greatly decrease the side effects.



Undoubtedly, the happiest thing for me is that a child who once received my treatments takes his/her own child to visit me. It proves that he/she not only defeated cancer, but also returned to a normal and brilliant life.



Kenneth Cohen, MD



Clinical Director of Pediatric Oncology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and expert at pediatric brain tumors



Alan Cohen, MD



Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and expert at minimally invasive neurosurgery

The Johns Hopkins Hospital is the cradle of neurosurgery. We have the largest team of neurosurgery experts in the US. Our professors not only perform operations themselves, but also have their own labs to explore new approaches to treat pediatric neurological diseases. We now have various advanced imaging technologies to allow us to more accurately and safely perform surgeries.

My research interest is minimally invasive neurosurgery. We operate surgeries through a butter hatch which can greatly reduce trauma and side effects.



A good physician needs to possess 3 Hs, namely humility, humanity and humor. Technology can treat diseases, but it is the humanity that can cure patients.

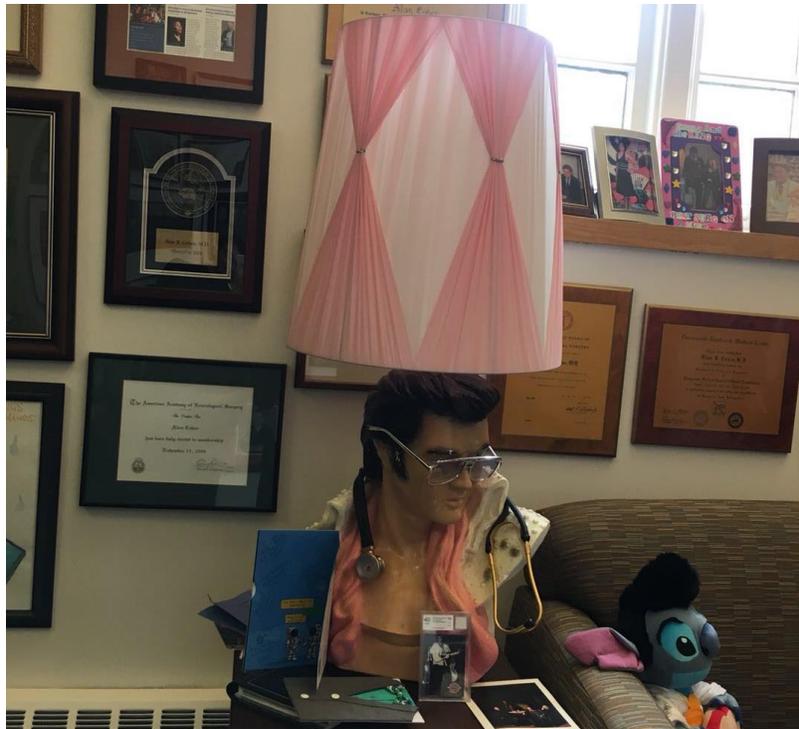
Though in my sixties, I still have a mindset of a five-year-old. Because I believe that, to become a good pediatrician, you must manage to build close relationships with children and to make clear how they think from a child's perspective.



Because I am a fan of Elvis Presley, people all call me "doctor of Elvis Presley".



I have received so many gifts about Elvis Presley that my office is already stacked to the ceiling. But my wife totally disallows me to take any of them home, which is really upsetting.



We provide Second Diagnosis service to help physicians and patients from countries all over world to address difficult diseases. We have broad collaboration with our Chinese counterparts. I think it is necessary to consult with more physicians, especially for the complicated and serious conditions as pediatric tumors.

One patient came to me for a Second Diagnosis service when she was two months old. After checking her, our team got the conclusion that the tumor indeed seemed critical, but imageological examination is not 100% correct and may be misleading. Therefore, we decided to try a surgery. A craniotomy showed that the tumor was benign.

We had successfully removed her tumor. She is now three years old.

I am so grateful that I was invited to visit The Johns Hopkins Hospital. I felt a strong humanistic care while chatting with each physician during the short two days. This also fits in well with my philosophy. They are all recognized as leading experts in their respective areas. They not only have world-leading skills, but more importantly, they understand that a physician is not just to give medicines but also to save lives.

As they all say, there are also excellent physicians in China and going abroad for medical treatment doesn't suit every person. But if you want to come to America, I think this place is well worth considering.

If you want to go to The Johns Hopkins Hospital, you may seek help from an overseas medical service company or directly contact the International Department.

Website: <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/chinese/>