

A portrait of Dr. Guillaume Leclair, a young man with short brown hair and a light beard, wearing a red collared shirt. The photo is framed with a white border and is set against a background of orange and yellow abstract shapes.

DR. GUILLAUME LECLAIR

U OF A • PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY

What attracted you to you to medicine?

While I have always been interested in general sciences, I credit my grade nine biology teacher who made me go beyond the intended class material and fueled my interest in human biology and pathophysiology. The human contact component of medicine was what really made me decide that this was my preferred field; it's much more fun than spending time in a lab!

What attracted you to your specialty?

The most attractive component for me was that every intervention is tailored to the patient; it requires a good understanding of the pathophysiology at play to decide the best surgical or medical intervention. There are no "one size fits all", as all our patients have unique lesions. I also liked that pediatric cardiology is a very wide field; it has components of medicine, diagnostic imaging and interventional procedures. The hands-on diagnostic investigations and therapeutic interventions we perform also allow me to keep my hands busy.

What do you find the most rewarding in your residency training?

Seeing kids grow up! Sometimes it's daunting when they are so sick during their hospitalizations, but then it's all worth it when you see them enjoying life outside the hospital with their loved ones.

What do you find the most challenging in your residency training?

The learning curve is very steep when switching from general pediatrics to pediatric cardiology. While it's one of the longest residency programs, one can be easily overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge to accumulate in such a "short" period! Moreover, we all undergo fellowship training at the end of residency and it's sometimes difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

What energizes you outside of residency?

Getting to spend the weekend skiing in Alberta's Rockies, a walk or bike ride in the river valley or just a night doing some stargazing. Getting to enjoy those with friends and colleagues makes it all better!