The Department of Nephrology-Urology (DNU) at the “Bambino Gesù” Children’s Hospital in Rome, was instituted in 2002, however, Paediatric Urology started as an independent activity in January 1981, within the Dept of General Paediatric Surgery.

The DNU is devoted to “the diagnosis and medical or surgical treatment of all diseases of the kidney and uro-genital tract in paediatric age, including substitutive treatment of renal failure by dialysis and transplantation”.

As of January 2009, the DNU is structured by 5 Divisions and 4 subspecialistic units, as follows:

- Division of Urology
- Division of Surgery of Renal Transplantation
- Division of Andrology and Gynaecology in Developmental Age (with Unit of Male Gonadal Pathology)
- Division of Paediatric Urodynamics (with Unit of Paediatric Neuro-Urology)
- Division of Nephrology and Dialysis (with unit of Clinics of Renal Transplantation and Unit of Paediatric Dialysis).

The overall clinical activity of the DNU is summarized in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE</th>
<th>DNU – Clinical activities (year 2007)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall hospital admission</td>
<td>4,387 patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Day Surgery procedure</td>
<td>856 patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Hospital</td>
<td>8,476 admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatients Clinic</td>
<td>16,952 consultations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, the DNU provides round the clock on-call service for Paediatric Renal Transplantation and it is involved in the Hospital’s surgical emergencies.

The Training Programme

The Training programme on Paediatric Urology at the “Bambino Gesù” Children’s Hospital is intended to progressively provide specific knowledge in the field of Paediatric Urology. It is addressed to Medical Doctors, who are trained in Urology or Paediatric Surgery. According to the JCPU (Joint Committee for Paediatric Urology) rules, it is meant to be a two-year programme.

The programme envisages full-immersion involvement of trainees in all the clinical activities of the Department of Nephrology-Urology (DNU), progressively giving them increasing responsibility for all the clinical (diagnostic and therapeutic) aspects of Paediatric Urology, under the direct supervision of the Director of the Division or Section (or his delegate within the staff of the DNU). The trainees will be involved in a 6-day weekly schedule, including planned and emergency clinical activities of the Department.

The programme also includes a wide training in research activity in specific fields of interest. All fellows will be encouraged to develop personal research projects in agreement with the teaching staff of the Department. Publication of original papers in the area of Paediatric Urology will be promoted. Attending local, national and international meetings and courses with scientific presentations (oral, poster, or video) will be encouraged, and submitted to the approval of the Head of the Department, and of the Chief of the ESPU training programme on Paediatric Urology.

The formative professional career within the fellowship programme will envisage a progressive integration in all the clinical activities of the Department.

During the first year of fellowship, the trainees will rotate in all the Units and Divisions that constitute the Department of Nephrology-Urology provided.

During the second year of the fellowship on Paediatric Urology, a specific orientation of the training course is provided, according with the different opportunities offered within the Department of Nephrology-Urology of the “Bambino Gesù” Children’s Hospital (Reconstructive Paediatric Urology, Paediatric Andrology/Gynecology, Urodynamics, Neuro-Urology and Urorehabilitation, Renal Transplantation, ...).

A progressive increase of responsibilities on clinical activities will be given to the trainees, depending on their professional skills.

The scientific activities will be further addressed to specific fields of research, under the guidance of the Research Programme Director. At the conclusion of the two-year programme in Paediatric Urology, the trainees will be requested to prepare and present for discussion a doctoral fellowship thesis. The thesis should be based on the original research conducted during the fellowship course and should be submitted for presentation at the Annual ESPU Meeting (poster/oral presentation) and for publication in the Journal of Paediatric Urology as first choice.