



## Sara Higginson, MD, FACS

### Chief of Staff, Shriners Children's Ohio

Sara M. Higginson, MD, FACS, has led a life dedicated to service of others. She's been a high school science teacher, an EMS helicopter pilot and a U.S. Navy officer. Today, she is the Chief of Staff at Shriners Children's Ohio, a specialty pediatric hospital treating children with burns, complex craniofacial conditions, and skin and wound conditions – all regardless of the families' ability to pay or insurance status.

Dr. Higginson grew up in the Los Angeles area and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, before making good on one of her childhood dreams of becoming a naval officer. She enlisted and the Navy trained her to fly the SH-60B Seahawk.

Following her service, Higginson became an EMS pilot for Medflight of Ohio, transporting the most critical trauma patients to hospitals across the state. That experience decided her next career – medicine. She earned her medical degree at The Ohio State University and headed west to complete her surgical residency. Following her fellowships, she returned to Fresno, California, as medical director of the Leon S. Peters Burn Center.



In 2023, Higginson was named Chief of Staff for Shriners Children's Ohio. Her responsibilities include overseeing both inpatient and outpatient units plus outreach clinics to underserved populations and telehealth visits. She's manages large burns, critical burn care and burn laser therapy, with a goal of decreasing hospital length of stay and patient outcomes. Dr. Higginson also oversees a comprehensive craniofacial surgical team that includes plastic as well as neurosurgeons, nurse care managers, pediatric intensivists and nutritionists.

As she settles into her new home, Dr. Higginson is focused on strengthening partnerships with physician providers, philanthropic and community organizations, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Dr. Higginson is excited about the prospect of serving as a Key Influencer to inspire young patients to let their dreams, literally, take flight.

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|-------------|--------------------|--|
| 1998 - 2003 | United States Navy | Naval Officer LTJG,<br>Naval Aviator                     |
| 1999 -      | United States Navy | Water Survival Training                                  |
| 2000 -      | United States Navy | Designated Naval<br>Aviator                              |
| 2001 -      | United States Navy | Basic Officer<br>Leadership Training                     |
| 2001 -      | United States Navy | Survival, Evade, Resist<br>and Escape (SERE)<br>Training |



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|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2001 -      | United States Navy              | Shipboard Aircraft Fire Fighting and General Shipboard Fire Fighting   |
| 2001 - 2001 | Federal Aviation Administration | Single Engine Airplane Land and Helicopter, Instrument Rating Pilot Qualified in Model: T-34c, TH-57, BH-212, BH-412, AW-139, BK-117 |
| 2001 - 2001 | Federal Aviation Administration | Single Engine Airplane Land and Helicopter Commercial Pilot License  |
| 2002 - 2002 | United States Navy              | Water Survival Training  |

**ABOUT SHRINERS CHILDREN'S**

Shriners Children's improves the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, conducting innovative research, and offering outstanding education programs for medical professionals. Children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate are eligible for care, regardless of the families' ability to pay, and receive all care and services in a compassionate, family-centered environment. For more information, please visit [shrinerschildrens.org](http://shrinerschildrens.org).

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