

Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Greenville's Movement Analysis Lab has been an integral part of many patients' care plans at the hospital for over 10 years. The lab allows physicians and clinicians to carefully observe and measure the way our patients move. Although just about any movements can be analyzed, most commonly, patients are referred to the movement analysis laboratory to assess and examine their walking or gait patterns.

This past summer, the movement analysis lab at Shriners Hospitals for Children — Greenville received a makeover. An integral part of the movement lab is the lab's pressure plate which measures the pressure distributed between the patient's feet and the ground as the patient walks. This summer, the lab's pressure plate became five times bigger! "Over the last 10 years, the current pressure plate had been successfully used to assess the foot pressure patterns in over 4,000 patients," said Roy Davis, Ph.D., director of the Movement Analysis Laboratory. Dr. Davis says the only drawback with the formerly used pressure plate was its small size. "Patients had to either walk many times along the pathway for the foot to land naturally on the measurement surface or they tended to change their walking pattern to intentionally hit the surface." The larger pressure plate allows the lab to quickly collect a natural walking pattern and quickly provides the high quality data for clinical interpretation.

Shriners Hospitals for Children — Greenville's new pressure plate was made possible by a donation from J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, South Carolina. The student body chose the hospital as the recipient of its Spirit Week fundraiser.