Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine Leadership

Joseph Tobias, MD  
Chief, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

Tarun Bhalla, MD, FAAP  
Vice Chair, Comprehensive Pain Program

Joshua Uffman, MD  
Vice Chair, Quality Improvement

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Vice Chair, Operations

Faculty and Services

All department faculty members are fellowship trained in pediatric anesthesiology and board certified in anesthesiology and pediatric anesthesiology. Many also hold additional subspecialty training and board certification in fields such as pain medicine, critical care, pediatrics and palliative care.

Department staff includes advanced practice nurses and certified registered nurse anesthetists who have specific training and experience providing care for infants and children.

Supporting anesthesia care for more than 30,000 patients each year within the 456-bed Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the department also provides services throughout the central Ohio region.

- 14 surgical suites and two cardiac catheterization suites (Nationwide Children’s main campus)
- Procedural sedation including radiologic imaging (nine locations)
- Four surgical suites at Nationwide Children’s off-site ambulatory surgical center
- Acute Pain and Regional Anesthesia Services
- Chronic Pain Clinic
- Pediatric Radiation Oncology, The James Cancer Hospital located at The Ohio State University
- Advanced Illness Management (Palliative Care and Hospice Medicine)
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Anesthesia services for specialty areas:
  - Gastroenterology
  - Critical Care
  - The Heart Center
  - Radiology
  - Pediatric Dentistry

Referrals and Consultations

Online: NationwideChildrens.org/Anesthesiology  
Phone: (614) 722-6200 or (877) 722-6220  
Fax: (614) 722-4000

Physician Direct Connect Line for 24-hour urgent physician consultations: (614) 355-0221 or (877) 355-0221.

Forging the Future of Pediatric Anesthesia
Innovating through Care, Education and Research

Nationwide Children’s Hospital’s Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine features a progressive environment for academic anesthesiology. In addition to providing anesthesia care for the entire spectrum of pediatric surgical procedures, the department also comprises procedural sedation, acute and chronic pain management, palliative care, extensive education and training and a highly productive research program.

Highlighted Clinical Service
Regional Anesthesia: Femoral Nerve Block

A study* conducted by clinician-scientists at Nationwide Children’s and published in a 2014 issue of the Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics found that femoral nerve block reduces the need for opioids, leads to fewer inpatient days for those who do require hospitalization and allows the majority of patients to go home within hours of surgery. In fact, up to 98 percent of all pediatric knee surgeries performed at Nationwide Children’s are now performed in an outpatient setting.

The continuous femoral nerve block technique is similar to the single-injection procedure. For a single injection the block can last from 12-24 hours, while a continuous catheter can last for approximately three days.

Nationwide Children’s is among 13 medical centers participating in the Pediatric Regional Anesthesia Network, a collaboration designed to support the collection of highly audited data on practice patterns and complications and to facilitate collaborative research in regional anesthetic techniques in infants and children.

Education and Training

Education is an essential component of the department’s mission. Pediatric anesthesia experience is provided to anesthesia residents from The Ohio State University and from OhioHealth Doctor’s Hospital, as well as to student nurse anesthetists from programs in Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia.

The department has an active fellowship program offering a one-year ACGME-approved curriculum for training in pediatric anesthesiology following completion of the standard four-year residency in anesthesiology. Training also is provided for two to three international fellows each year. The limited number of fellowship positions ensures intensive training with complex cases in addition to more common pediatric anesthesia procedures.

Additional subspecialty training is offered in pediatric cardiac anesthesia, pediatric regional anesthesia and acute pain management, quality improvement and research.

Research Program

Publishing approximately 50-60 manuscripts each year in peer-reviewed journals, research in the Department of Anesthesiology is highly encouraged and supported. Clinical research activities are strengthened by three full-time research nurses.

Basic science research studies in collaboration with The Ohio State University include investigating effects of anesthetic agents on neuroinflammation and neurocognitive outcomes in preclinical models and its translational applications to pediatric anesthesia.

Featured Peer-Reviewed Publications, 2014


For a full list of publications visit NationwideChildrens.org/Anesthesiology-Team-Publications.