



**Research Now | April 2017**  
[nationwidechildrens.org/research-now](http://nationwidechildrens.org/research-now)

Please take this opportunity to view our recent accomplishments in research and academics, from quality improvement for patients with epilepsy to the importance of touch for preterm babies in the neonatal intensive care unit.

- John Barnard, MD, President, The Research Institute



## Quality Improvement Project Reduces Emergency Department Visits and Hospital Admissions for Patients With Epilepsy

Nationwide Children's Hospital serves almost 3,500 children diagnosed with epilepsy, with a high number of these patients coming to the Emergency Department. A quality improvement project with relatively simple interventions resulted in a significant decrease in these visits and inpatient admissions, while saving \$2 million in health care costs. Anup Patel, MD, a pediatric epileptologist and member of the Division of Neurology at Nationwide Children's, is lead author of the research, which was published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

## Heart Drug Improves or Stabilizes Heart Function in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a genetic disorder in which the body lacks dystrophin, a protein that helps keep muscle cells intact, causing the skeletal and heart muscles to rapidly degenerate and weaken. Researchers at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Ross Heart Hospital have shown that early treatment with the heart failure medication eplerenone can improve heart function in young boys with DMD and stabilize heart function in older boys with the disease.



## A Prescription for Touch: Early Experiences Shape Preterm Babies' Brains

Each year, 15 million infants are born prematurely and often spend extended periods of time in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs). Recent research led by Nathalie Maitre, MD, principal investigator in the Center for Perinatal Research at The Research Institute and neonatologist and developmental specialist who is the director of the NICU Follow-up Program, shows that a baby's earliest experiences of touch have lasting effects on their sensory development.

## Recent Publications

View recent publications from investigators and clinicians affiliated with Nationwide Children's Hospital.



### Nationwide Children's Hospital Collaborates on a Two-Year, \$450K Research Project Funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Henry Xiang, MD, MPH, PhD, director of the research core in the Center for Injury Research and Policy at The Research Institute and director of the Center for Pediatric Trauma Research at Nationwide Children's Hospital, will be collaborating with Yi Zhang, PhD, associate research director at the Medical Technology and Practice Patterns Institute in Maryland, to enhance the dissemination and implementation of causal inference methods through partnerships with large health systems.

## Article Highlights Needs of Rural Children, Families with Mental, Behavioral and Developmental Disorders

In the latest of a series of reports on child mental health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention documents that rural children from small communities have more mental, behavioral and developmental disorders (MBDDs) than those living in cities and suburbs. A Perspective article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, with co-authors from Nationwide Children's Hospital, outlines the disparities and how they could potentially be addressed.



### Spring Research Town Hall in Discovery Auditorium on April 6 from 2-3PM

Join us for the next Research Town Hall Meeting, hosted by John Barnard, MD, president of The Research Institute. Come with your questions, learn who the latest Outstanding Staff Member of the Quarter will be, and enjoy some light refreshments!

## 2016 Intramural Award Recipients Supported for Clinical and Translational Research

Intramural grants are available to support high-quality translation and/or clinical research projects, and the Intramural Funding Office is proud to support the following projects for faculty and fellows for the December 2016 Award Cycle.



### Events Calendar

View a listing of weekly seminars and upcoming events for academics and research at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

## **Annual Bremer Foundation Lectureship in Pediatrics on April 26**

The Annual Bremer Foundation Lectureship in Pediatrics is open to everyone at Nationwide Children's Hospital, and provides an opportunity for world-renowned scientists to present their research. Kim Lewis, PhD, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Antimicrobial Discovery Center at Northeastern University, will present on "The Quest for New Antibiotics" on April 26 at 3PM in Discovery Auditorium, with a reception to follow in Research II lobby.



## **Save the Date: Megan's Mile on Sunday, May 28 at Noon in Grove City**

Learn more or register for the 10<sup>th</sup> and final year of this annual event, a 4 mile run / 1.5 mile walk to honor Megan, a late employee of the Center for Gene Therapy. The cost of the event is \$12 and all proceeds support muscular dystrophy research at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Please email [Kristen.Heller@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Kristen.Heller@NationwideChildrens.org) if you are interested in ordering a shirt for the race.

## **Research News Room**

To keep up with more of the latest Nationwide Children's research news, visit the Research News Room. To be notified when our news release section is updated, please [sign up to receive e-mail updates](#) or stay connected with our RSS feeds.



## **Clinical Studies**

For a listing of studies at Nationwide Children's that are currently recruiting participants, visit our clinical research studies website.

To submit content for consideration in Research Now, or to give feedback, email  
[ResearchNow@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:ResearchNow@NationwideChildrens.org)

**The next issue will be distributed on May 1, 2017. The deadline to submit content is Friday, April 21, 2017.**

To view past issues, visit our website.