Everything Matters In

Patient Care

The Next Generation of Nationwide Children's
Achieving the Best Outcomes in Toledo
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An Exciting Time in Health Care Education

Nationwide Children’s Hospital launched an ambitious strategic plan in 2021 to take us boldly into the future. Foundational to this aspirational plan are our culture and talent. We are 14,000 strong. We also partner with more than 400 colleges and universities and more than 150 school districts to educate and train the health care team members of the future.

As a nursing student at The University of Kentucky (that’s the BLUE one), my experience at the Kentucky Children’s Hospital solidified my path to becoming a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse. As a member of the health care team, I saw the impact of achieving best outcomes for my patients and their families. For the 2,500 students and trainees who have their pediatric experience with us each year, we too can positively influence their future health care employment choices.

We build and sustain a pipeline of future team members by sharing our passion for caring for children. We create an innovative partnership with the future students through precepting, mentoring and teaching. The disruptions of the past two years have created new challenges and established a new normal for health care education as we emerge from the pandemic. This new normal will include the use of simulation and remote learning, with a focus on interprofessional education. It will also include a refreshed focus on social determinants of health, and the need to increase the diversity of our students. Technology is ever-present in our lives. As new technology emerges, we need to be agile and incorporate these tools into our education systems to facilitate critical thinking, skills development and more effective communication.

With these challenges, we need to develop programs to ensure successful transition to practice, filling in gaps and expanding their education. We need to continue to partner effectively and communicate clearly with our schools of learning to ensure bi-directional feedback happens to optimize program effectiveness and maximize learner experience.

It is truly an exciting and evolving time in health care education. Building on the successes of the past and the lessons learned through the pandemic, new and effective educational approaches will emerge and will be adopted. Our goals should always be to create and deliver high-quality educational experiences for our students, trainees, and employees, that help to achieve our vision of Best Outcomes for children everywhere.
After working collaboratively for more than two years to provide high quality health care to children and their families throughout the region, Nationwide Children’s Hospital formally assumed ownership of Mercy Health - Children’s Hospital on March 1, 2022, marking the conclusion of a months-long transition plan that culminated in the debut of Nationwide Children’s - Toledo.

Nationwide Children’s and Mercy Health Children’s became affiliates on January 1, 2020. Working together, the two hospitals successfully advanced subspecialty pediatric physician recruitment, enhanced continuing medical education and improved care coordination for families in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

As the Toledo community welcomed Nationwide Children’s Hospital - Toledo, we also welcomed an enhanced network of quality care, research and cutting-edge technology. Together we will improve the patient experience and achieve the Best Outcomes for our families and patients while caring for them in Toledo.

Nationwide Children’s - Toledo remains committed to continuing the legacy developed by Mercy Health Children’s in providing compassionate and quality care close to home. The commitment to providing high quality of care was celebrated in August 2022 as we achieved 10 years without a serious safety event.

The strength of Nationwide Children’s reputation and resources will enhance our ability to recruit highly skilled physicians to Toledo and retain them, which will support our goal to increase access for patients for current services; and expand what we can provide in both primary care and a range of other specialties.

Work is underway in some key areas where we have been able to successfully recruit general pediatric providers, as well as various medical and surgical specialists. In the surgical realm, we are now providing comprehensive ENT services with pediatric fellowship trained otolaryngologists. They offer treatment for common to complex conditions in the outpatient, inpatient and surgical settings. Urology services have expanded, and we are now able to offer robotic surgery options for patients, which was historically unavailable and required travel outside of northwest Ohio. Robotic surgery offers a less invasive option for children, decreasing recovery time and allowing the patient to get back to their daily activities much more quickly. We have seen a successful implementation of our orthopedic surgery service, as well as outpatient clinics for both colorectal and pelvic reconstruction, along with neurosurgery.

Lastly, Endocrinology, Pulmonary and Sleep services have also expanded to provide more access to patients both in Toledo and surrounding communities. This is critical for patients as asthma and diabetes are chronic conditions that negatively impact children in Lucas County. In fact, 7% of Lucas County children had an asthma episode/attack in the past year. That number increased to 12% in households with annual incomes of less than $25,000. 2021-2024 Lucas County CHIP figures indicate that 16% of children and 17% of youth in Lucas County are obese. Diabetes can be a risk for children and youth who may be overweight.

To help improve care for children with asthma, Nationwide Children’s Hospital - Toledo has increased staffing and support to allow asthma clinic providers to offer pulmonary function tests (PFTs) at each visit. PFTs are noninvasive tests that show how well lungs are functioning by measuring lung volume, capacity, flow rates and gas exchange. PFTs help to assess treatment for asthma and other chronic lung conditions.
Behavioral Health Services is another area of focus for Nationwide Children's Hospital - Toledo. In 2021, Lucas County had 605 psychiatry-related inpatient/observation discharges for ages 0 to 17 based on OHA data, which is 5% higher than 578 discharges in 2019. Mental health remains a high priority yet under-served need. In fact, according to Healthy Lucas figures, 38% of Lucas County youth felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks that they stopped doing some usual activities. This increased to 40% for African Americans and 46% for Latinos. Furthermore, 70% of Lucas County youth who contemplated suicide were bullied in the past year, and 10% of Lucas County youth attempted suicide in the past year, up from 7%. 13% of parents who looked for a psychiatrist/mental health provider for their child reported they found one in the past year, up from 7%. 10% of Lucas County youth attempted suicide in the past year, and 10% of Lucas County youth attempted suicide in the past year, up from 7%. 13% of parents who looked for a psychiatrist/mental health provider for their child reported they found one in the past year, up from 7%.

It is difficult for patients and families when their child is diagnosed with a condition that requires a more complex care plan. Often patients with more complex care plans may have more frequent appointments, testing, and require additional support and education from the health care team. There are also socioeconomic factors that can present additional challenges for families. One of these factors is a reliable source of transportation and the cost associated with traveling outside of their community. The cost incurred to travel to a location for care coupled in many cases with time away from work for caregivers can create a heavy financial and emotional burden on families. Even those families who have the financial resources and flexibility to travel outside of their community for care often struggle to maintain compliance with appointments that stretch out over long periods of time. Parents and caregivers have the best of intentions, but sometimes there are challenges that they face that create barriers that they are unable to overcome. Creating opportunities to provide access to care locally helps to reduce costs for families and improves the ability of patients to adhere to their care plan.

Because everything matters in a child's health care, Nationwide Children's - Toledo is committed to community outreach in addition to its clinical services. Our next steps consist of taking a deep dive into population and social determinants of health by partnering with community organizations to better understand where to focus efforts and resources. While providing access to world class clinical services is vital, Nationwide Children's - Toledo is focused on a holistic approach that will improve the overall quality of life for our patients, families and communities we serve.

Students on the Nationwide Children's Hospital Campus: Legal Considerations

Andy Lenobel, Associate General Counsel, Legal Services

Nationwide Children's seeks to change the delivery of pediatric health care, focusing on the "whole health" of children through cutting-edge research, innovative clinical care and ambitious population health initiatives. One way to impact this change is by educating and training students who will serve as the next generation of health care providers. There are, however, legal implications to consider when students come from outside institutions for educational opportunities. In this article, educational opportunities mean learning experiences associated with traditional post-secondary programs such as medical, nursing or allied health schools, rather than providers who are here through medical residency or fellowship programs.

EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

Outside institutions look to Nationwide Children's for thoughtful, comprehensive educational opportunities. Initially, Nationwide Children's and the schools agree at a high-level on the experiences that will be offered. The arrangement is then memorialized through an Educational Affiliation Agreement, which lays the groundwork for an educational collaboration, outlines each party's responsibilities and includes certain legal protections for each party around concepts such as confidentiality, intellectual property and liability.

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

To ensure the well-being and safety of patients, staff and visitors, and as applicable, to comply with certain accreditation requirements, students must provide appropriate documentation before coming on-site. This includes proof of:

• Health screening and required immunizations
• Satisfactory background check/drug screen
• Professional liability coverage, if applicable, for clinical, hands-on experiences

Compliance with additional policies may be necessary, including those that address requirements of federal agencies, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Other policies exist to protect Nationwide Children's; for example, there are restrictions regarding patients' privacy rights as well as the use of information technology systems and data. Although students are generally considered part of Nationwide Children's workforce, as defined under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and are therefore permitted to access protected health information in connection with educational opportunities, students must sign a confidentiality statement acknowledging they will respect and safeguard patients' and families' privacy. A similar attestation is required for use of Nationwide Children's information technology systems.

ON-SITE AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S

Students on the Nationwide Children's Hospital Campus:

Once students have complied with all screening requirements, they may arrive on-site and immerse themselves in their educational experiences. Nationwide Children's staff should remember that all students function under the supervision of designated individuals and must follow Nationwide Children's policies and procedures. Nationwide Children's remains responsible for the care of its patients and must appropriately oversee students based on their education, ability and experience. Upon completion of the experience, Nationwide Children's may provide documentation verifying successful completion. To help students get the most out of their opportunities and ensure accountability for performance and professional development, Nationwide Children's staff must communicate consistently and openly with their counterparts at outside institutions. At the same time, staff should work closely with Legal Services, Human Resources and the applicable Education Department to stay current on the requirements for students coming on-site.
A New Profession on the Horizon… Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist (APRT)

Laura Evans, MBA, RRT-NPS, RCP, Program Manager, Respiratory Care
Andrew Shonk, MRT, RRT-NPS, RCP, Education Respiratory Specialist

At Nationwide Children’s, MRT students are hosted in several areas including the Pediatric ICU (PICU), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, and Anesthesia. In the Pulmonary and Sleep department, they learn about specific pulmonary and sleep disorders, patient rounding and data collection, patient assessment and plan of care drafting.

The MRT program concept originated approximately 10 years ago. An Ohio statewide needs assessment was conducted of RT medical directors along with managers/directors and gaps in care for cardiopulmonary patients were found. A project by an expert panel of the Respiratory Care section of Society for Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) posed questions for community physicians on what was needed to function as a pulmonary/critical care physician assistant. All of these data informed the MRT program curriculum. The program was granted approval in 2016 by OSU and was approved by the Ohio Department of Education in 2017. The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) developed standards for the MRT program and the OSU program earned that accreditation in early 2020. A key next step was gaining interest from clinical sites for the MRT students. With the support of several physicians led by Karen McCoy, MD, chief of Pulmonary Medicine, Todd Karsies, MD, Critical Care, Ed Shepherd, MD, section Chief of Neonatology and Joseph Tobias, MD, chief of anesthesiology, Nationwide Children’s became one of two clinical sites to provide clinical education for the new program. The other site is The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The program is endorsed and supported by the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). Currently, the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care (OSRC) legislative committee is lobbying government to get the required legislative law changes needed to define the scope of this new advanced practice option for Respiratory Therapists.

The MRT curriculum includes coursework that OSU School of Nursing Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) students take including pathophysiology, pharmacology and additional didactic coursework in evidence-based practice and ethics. They also must do a capstone project on a research topic of their choice as well as a clinical experience in their final year. This program provides students with a more advanced understanding of physiology, pharmacology, and patient management at the provider level. Graduates of the program will be able to provide consultation and orders for respiratory services, order diagnostic studies, utilize protocols, initiate consults to other providers, authorize and supervise licensed respiratory care professionals and assume leadership roles in applying evidence-based practice and identifying opportunities for improvement in patient care. The intent is for APRTs to work with specialists in areas of cardiopulmonary health for both pediatrics and adults, such as adult critical care, pediatric critical care, neonatal critical care, neuromuscular respiratory care, sleep disorders and perioperative/anesthesia area.

At Nationwide Children’s, MRT students are hosted in several areas including the Pediatric ICU (PICU), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, and Anesthesia, In the Pulmonary and Sleep department, they learn about specific pulmonary and sleep disorders, patient rounding and data collection, patient assessment and plan of care drafting. They also address consult requests and order diagnostic tests and procedures for their patients. In PICU, they care for a broad range of patients including diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), respiratory failure, burn and sepsis patients. In the NICU they primarily focus on bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), ventilator management and neonatal nutrition. In the anesthesia rotation they do pre-op assessments and procedure clearance, ventilator management, intubation, medication administration and management and pain assessment. Students also spend time in Interventional Pulmonology at OSU doing pre-procedural assessments, performing bronchoscopies and assisting with other elements of the procedures.

To date, Nationwide Children’s has five graduates from the program, three from the inaugural class of 2021 and two in the class of 2022. The program is currently hosting its third cohort. Our hopes for the future are that APRTs will support Nationwide Children’s Journey to Best Outcomes in creating preeminent clinical programs and improving the wellness of our community by practicing in our Pulmonary and Sleep division, in our ICUs, physician practices and perioperative area providing much needed cardiopulmonary services to the growing needs of our population and that of Ohio. One of the intended outcomes of having an advancement path for respiratory therapists is that they will stay within the field and have a growth opportunity as an advanced practice provider.
Paving the Path to a New Career: Nationwide Children’s Hospital Neonatal APRN Fellowship

Allison Zara Kelly, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, NPT-C
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and Neonatal APP Education and Development Specialist

Fellowships exist in many different work environments and occupations. A fellowship is designed to provide specialty training and support to a person desiring career advancement. While the advancement of one’s career is a positive occurrence, it is also noted in the literature to be a significant stressor. Transition to the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) role has been noted to be especially difficult as the Registered Nurse (RN) moves from a bedside expert to a novice APRN. In 2019, the Neonatal APRN Fellowship Program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital started as monthly meetings for new-to-practice neonatal APRNs to explore professional development topics specific to the APRN role. In addition to the professional development topics, case studies were reviewed and discussed to facilitate management of common neonatal health concerns. A capstone project was added to the fellowship program requirements, which gives the new neonatal APRN an opportunity to develop a case review, quality improvement (QI) project or evidence-based practice (EBP) project. The fellow then presents their capstone to their peers with the goal to apply to a local or national conference for a podium or poster presentation within a year of the end of the fellowship period.

The fellowship program begins with sessions for the new-to-practice neonatal APRNs with an introduction to the timeline of their clinical orientation, expectations for evaluations and paperwork, and an orientation to the fellowship program. The meetings progress weekly for five weeks, and then transition to monthly. Content of the weekly meetings is multifaceted including introductions of the multidisciplinary team and their collaborative roles within the Neonatal Network. Team members from pharmacy, respiratory therapy, nutrition, psychology, occupational therapy, case management, Broncho-Pulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) services and the feeding disorders program meet the cohort of fellows and present introductions of the multidisciplinary team and support each other. Simulation of neonatal resuscitation has been incorporated into the fellowship content utilizing the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Simulation Center. At one of the monthly meetings, Nationwide Children’s Hospital YOU Matter team provides a presentation highlighting the importance of self-care, recognizing Imposter Syndrome and ensuring that the fellows are aware of the resources available at Nationwide Children’s for mental health care and support.

The advantages of the Nationwide Children’s Neonatal APRN Fellowship encompass several facets of the development of a new-to-practice neonatal APRN: introduction to multidisciplinary collaboration; exposure to advanced practice professional development topics; opportunities to review cases and neonatal-specific health conditions; guidance to develop a professional capstone project; and the ability to have a space to decompress and interact with new-to-practice peers. On May 23, 2022, the Nationwide Children’s Neonatal APRN Fellowship was awarded accreditation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition Programs and as a Department of Labor Industry Recognized Apprenticeship (LIRAP). We are only the second Neonatal APRN Fellowship accredited by ANCC. We continue to refine and develop our processes to ensure we are on par with best practices associated with accredited transition-to-practice fellowships. Thank you to the entire Neonatal Network team for supporting our new-to-practice neonatal APRNs.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital offers many professional growth opportunities for employees. Once such opportunity is advancing one’s degree. This feature highlights three different employees and their path to success in earning another degree to advance specialized knowledge and/or their career here at Nationwide Children’s. The first employee highlighted in this feature is Amanda Brown, DNP. Dr. Brown obtained her Doctor of Nursing Practice and is now the manager of Nurse Educator Informatics. Michael Mayberry is taking advantage of a new program for Mental Health Specialists at the Big Lots Behavioral Health Pavilion. This new program was developed in conjunction with Capital University to allow Mental Health Specialists who have a bachelor’s degree in another field to earn one in nursing through Capital’s Accelerated BSN program. Finally, Erika Kovalcsik has a bachelor’s degree in nursing and obtained a master’s degree in nursing with a focus on nursing education. She now works in the Center for Nursing Education as an Education Nurse Specialist. Here they share their experiences and what obtaining their degrees have meant to them.

A Day in the Life of a Student
Amanda Brown, DNP, RN, Nurse Educator Informatics Manager
Michael Mayberry, Mental Health Specialist, Behavioral Health
Erika Kovalcsik, MSN, RN, CPN, Center for Nursing Excellence

These sessions not only allow for discussion regarding professional and clinical topics, but interaction amongst the fellows to support each other.
M y role at Nationwide Children’s Hospital is the Nurse Educator Informatics (NEI) manager. My team is responsible for the Epic® onboarding classes for all nurses, unlicensed professionals and ancillary staff. We develop the curriculum and disseminate education when there are changes coming to Epic or any technology that may have a clinical impact. Before joining the NEI team, I was a critical care float nurse, and I realized the immense stress and pressure that our critical care nurses experience as they care for the critically ill patients at Nationwide Children’s. I always knew that I would pursue a terminal degree in nursing. In March of 2020, I returned to Chamberlain University to complete my Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Healthcare Systems Leadership. As a full-time nursing leader, student and most importantly mother, maintaining a work-life-school balance was essential for my success during the two-year program. I made sure that I found a program that fit my needs. It was important for me to focus on one class at a time to devote the time necessary to my learning. Each class was eight weeks long. At the beginning of each course, I would map out the overall goals of the course. I would then focus my efforts to each individual assignment, week and day to keep from getting overwhelmed by the seemingly insurmountable workload. The biggest keys to my success were time management and communication. I maintained an open line of communication with Chamberlain faculty, my mentor and my Nationwide Children’s leadership team throughout my program. During the busiest courses, which coincided with my practicum project, I set aside a specific day each week to spend time with my family. Some weeks, this meant that I took time off work to promote better work-life balance. This was vital for maintaining my well-being and motivation to keep going to the end of the program. I was able to focus on quality time with my children on these days so when I needed to focus on schoolwork on other days, they were understanding.

I chose a practicum project focused on impacting nurse stress in the critical care units. It was essential for me to choose a project I was passionate about. Throughout my program, I was able to create professional connections with many leaders at Nationwide Children’s. Ultimately, I was able to bring an evidence-based intervention to the critical care units that positively impacted the perceived stress of those critical care nurses who participated in my project. Attaining my DNP has been one of my greatest, most rewarding achievements in both my professional and personal life. Quite possibly the greatest gift was showing my children that anything is possible if you put your mind to it – that with perseverance and determination you can achieve big dreams and fulfill lifelong goals.

As a full-time nursing leader, student and most importantly mother, maintaining a work-life-school balance was essential for my success during the two-year program.
As underlined by our Nursing Professional Practice Model, patients and families are at the center of everything we do at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. We work as One Team, gathering and sharing knowledge, fostering care and compassion, providing safe, quality care and investing in the advancement of our staff. A hallmark of this culture of caring is the unrelenting dedication of our nurses to professional excellence. Nurses at Nationwide Children’s strive to remain an influential voice in decision-making in health care and are increasingly returning to school to obtain advanced degrees to find that voice.

I found my passion for teaching and the inspiration to return to school in the Cardiac Care Unit (H4A) at Nationwide Children’s. Practicing in this highly specialized area that demands knowledge, vigilance and competency in complex treatments, I had the privilege of collaborating with the most dedicated, knowledgeable and inquisitive team of health care professionals. Having the privilege of caring for acutely ill children battling Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), I learned the impact of nursing expertise in establishing and maintaining the highest standards of care. I chose my career path to be in nursing education because of a profound calling to positively impact patient care by investing in developing a new generation of exceptional nurses.

The journey to get a degree, certification or specialty training is not easy. Coursework takes time away from friends, family and fun; it can be stressful and demanding. Yet learning is rewarding. I believe nurses at Nationwide Children’s embrace the spirit of inquiry and continuous learning. It is ingrained in our nursing practice and is the result of the commitment to providing quality patient care.

If you feel inspired to return to school, be encouraged. Nationwide Children’s has dedicated staff and resources to support you.

Keep going, even when it gets hard:
Having to work while going to school can be challenging. It is demanding to balance work, life and school, but there are also significant benefits. Being immersed in a culture of safety, caring and professional excellence provides opportunities to find mentors, explore topics, and collaborate with some of the brightest minds in health care. While in school, I found mentors, preceptors and content experts, all willing to go above and beyond to help me grow as a student and a professional. But most importantly, the strength and resilience of our patients and families inspired me to keep and develop mine.

The hallmark of our culture and values at Nationwide Children’s is the continuous journey to best outcomes. Seeking a degree in an area of interest can improve patient care and advance the culture of knowledge, safety and caring, and fosters one outstanding team at Nationwide Children’s.

Special thanks to my mentors: H4A Leadership, Kelsey Harn, Erika Roberts, Kim Lohnes, Michelle Greic, Laura Tucker and many more!
The Nationwide Children’s Hospital staff was amazing. From the ER to the PICU, the staff ensured we had the support we needed.” Those are Erica Mullins’ words three years after her son, John B. Mullins IV, “John John,” became an organ donor hero. John collapsed at a youth baseball game and suffered a fatal brain aneurysm at the age of 11. His family made the decision for John to become an organ and tissue donor.

“John was an old soul; a grown man in a boy’s body,” Erica said. “He loved chess, basketball, baseball and football and had just started the trumpet. He had a heart of gold. When John John passed away, we knew he would want to donate his organs as a way of giving back. The night before he was taken to surgery, an employee at Nationwide Children’s had written on the white board, ‘Today, I become a hero.’ John was able to save five lives through organ donation and impact countless others through eye and tissue donation with the coordinated efforts between Nationwide Children’s and Lifeline of Ohio.”

Lifeline of Ohio is an independent, non-profit organization that coordinates transplantation; promotes awareness of organ, eye and tissue donation; provides education and extends support through aftercare and bereavement programs. The organization serves 38 Ohio counties and 2 counties in West Virginia, working with community partners including: hospitals, local bureaus of motor vehicles, funeral homes and schools.

The Legacy of John John

Faith Hilterbrand, Manager of External Partner Relations for Lifeline of Ohio
Jaime Manley, MSN, RN, CPN, NEA-BC, Director of Clinical Support Services

“Organ donation saves and impacts lives in a big way,” said Erica. “One of the phrases we used with John was ‘Always Be Big.’ He impacted many on this earth and, I believe, many more since leaving it. The message of organ donation has spread throughout our community since John died.”

John’s legacy continues in many ways. His family has organized toy drives at the holiday season and recently took part in the first annual Columbus Clippers game in honor of John, where $2 from every ticket was donated to the Child Life department at Nationwide Children’s. In addition, the family set up the “John B. Mullins IV Foundation,” which gives back to the community while also raising awareness of arteriovenous malformations (AVMs).

Erica said, “John John developed an unselfish way of thinking and acting at a young age, which helped his life’s legacy live on further through organ donation. He was one of a kind.”

To learn more about organ, eye and tissue donation and view a beautiful tribute video to John, visit: lifelineofohio.org
Can You SEE What’s Happening? Exposing Students to Surgical Careers

Dominique R. Williams, MD, MPH, Physician, Division of Primary Care Pediatrics
Marcie Rehmar, MS, Director, Community Education

What do you get when you combine an institution dedicated to improving workforce diversity, a surgeon with a vision and a team of dedicated professionals? You get to SEE: the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Surgical Exposure and Exploration Program.

With the vision of David Rogers, MD, chief of Ophthalmology, curriculum development by Dominique Williams, MD, MPH, Division of Primary Care Pediatrics and the expertise of an interdisciplinary team, Nationwide Children’s piloted the SEE program in the summer of 2022 with five students from Columbus City Schools.

Based on the program goals and curriculum, the students participated in hands-on experiences in the hospital’s Simulation Center. The multidisciplinary teaching faculty introduced the students to clinical skills like auscultation, identifying respiratory distress and clinical deterioration; and surgical skills like suturing, casting, wound and drain care. Using the operating room in the Simulation Center, they learned how to scrub in and apply principles of sterile technique. They were even able to work with the da Vinci robotic surgical system.

Students learned about surgical specialties by shadowing in clinic or watching surgery virtually via livestream. They were introduced to other careers in medicine such as anesthesiology and pathology, as well as careers that interface with surgery like language services, culture and inclusion, patient education and administrative operations.

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Through surveys and focus group discussions, student-identified favorites were hands-on experiences in the Simulation Center and exposure to several, varied surgical careers. They also recommended changes such as more personal development sessions, introduction to research and a choice of electives. Their feedback will help shape future iterations of SEE.

We plan to develop the SEE program into a three-year longitudinal experience. Year one will focus on exposure to multiple surgical and medical experiences. Year two will differentiate the experiences to allow more time for clinical exploration and electives, while also working to provide more intense mentoring. In year three, depending on career and educational plans, students could be hired into roles at Nationwide Children’s that could help support their college or technical school education. In the end, we would like to provide tuition assistance or scholarships to retain these talented young people as they grow their careers in medicine.

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A school bus had been arranged to transport a fourth-grade student by herself, in the middle of the day, from Taylor Road Elementary to the Nationwide Children’s Hospital pop-up dental clinic inside French Run Elementary. The student had a severe toothache with a swollen face and had been visiting the school nurse for weeks. Her mom had been walking to school daily, around lunchtime, to apply numbing gel to her gums. Within an hour of arriving at French Run Elementary, the tooth causing her pain for more than a year had been extracted and she was on her way back to her school to learn.

In the most recent screening of Ohio’s third-grade children, 48% had current or previous tooth decay and 20% had at least one untreated cavity. Looking at disparities across income levels, 60% of children in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Program had caries history and 29% had untreated cavities compared to only 38% and 12%, respectively, of those not enrolled. Disparities exist across insurance types as well as race and ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, only 14% of Ohio dentists have more than 100 Medicaid patients. It is no surprise the Dental Clinic on the Main Campus of Nationwide Children’s, a large safety-net clinic for central Ohio and beyond, is one of the hospital’s busiest outpatient clinics.

In 2020, the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at the Ohio State University (OSU) College of Dentistry was awarded a $2.25 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance resident training. Because Nationwide Children’s functions as the largest clinical training site for the pediatric dental residents, and because of the extensive dental care need seen by our colleagues Community Wellness, the grant was written to include the creation of school and community-based clinics for resident training. The new, largely HRSA-funded department of Community Wellness was created with a focus on offering interdisciplinary public health rotations alongside medical trainees, recruitment of trainees from backgrounds underrepresented in dentistry, simulating patient training and facilitating use of tele-dentistry. Nationwide Children’s Department of Dentistry partnered with Community Wellness, who operates mobile and fixed medical sites in the schools and community, to begin planning the first pilot dental clinic site. After consulting with no fewer than sixteen departments within Nationwide Children’s, the Ohio State Dental Board, the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Cincinnati Health Department and a local school district, we piloted the first community dental clinic and began treating patients in the community in July 2021.

Our program uses portable dental equipment to set up clinics in various places. We use mobile dental carts, digital and portable radiography, rolling storage carts, laptops and portable patient chairs. We can do simple diagnostic and check-up procedures, such as X-rays, cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments, as well as restorative treatment like dental fillings, extractions, stainless steel crowns and more. Our staff can also perform dental cleanings, apply fluoride and place sealants, even when a dentist isn’t present, adding in our program’s sustainability.

We have set our equipment up in a medical clinic, an empty classroom, a music room and an art room. Our Community Dental team consists of a dental hygienist, a dental assistant, a project coordinator and rotating dental residents and dental attendings. When not caring for children at the school, our agile team travels to childcare sites to provide dental check-ups and fluoride varnish applications, educate school nurses and students in their classrooms about oral health, and fit mouthguards for sports teams.

Under the guidance of Community Wellness, we partner with schools that value our services for their high need students. The families we serve typically have difficulty finding dental care and/or traveling downtown to Main Campus. Whether it is finding a dentist who accepts their insurance, caregivers unable to leave work for a dental appointment or a lack of transportation, our Community Dental Clinic removes these barriers to care for these children inside their school or in a location closer to their home. We retrieve children directly from their classrooms and in turn, they miss minimal school time. Caregivers may attend dental appointments if they wish, but many appreciate the ability to have their child treated without missing work or traveling to Main Campus.

Opening during a pandemic was challenging given restrictions on aerosol-generating procedures and the ever-impending threat of schools returning to remote learning. In the last academic year, we served two elementary, one middle, one high and a charter school. In the 2022-2023 school year, we are adding four elementary schools with goals to expand our team even more and utilize tele dentistry. There is no shortage of need for dental care in our community and we are proud of our partnership with Community Wellness to bring dental care to the most vulnerable and needy children.
Teaching the Next Generation of Pharmacists About Social Determinants of Health

Elora Hilmas, PharmD, BCPS

The widespread focus on the concepts of social determinants of health (SDOH) in health care continues to challenge all disciplines to change their approach in achieving the best outcomes for our patients. SDOH are the conditions in which people are born, live, work and grow, which account for up to 80% of modifiable health outcomes, based on Country Health Rankings and Roadmaps data.

Imagine a future that when you go to pick up your prescriptions, the pharmacist asks you to complete the WellRx™ survey, a validated health screening tool. Within this tool, you are asked a number of questions about unmet social needs regarding ability to pay for food, housing stability, ability to find daycare for your children, personal safety and the presence of any legal issues. This may seem like an invasion of privacy, but based on the literature, screening is critical to connecting families to the resources they need to support medication adherence. An example is the identification of frequent moves or housing insecurities for a patient and the expected negative impact on medication adherence, such as mail order prescriptions sent to the wrong address. In this scenario, helping families connect with housing resources or legal help could be more important than dispensing medications.

Now, imagine that the computer system displays SDOH along with information that you expect to see such as allergies and weight. Then, based on the individual’s own personal life circumstances, medication recommendations are made. For example, a patient may not have transportation to get to the pharmacy to obtain medications, therefore, the pharmacist may schedule home delivery. Another example is the discovery that a patient can’t afford their medications. In this situation, the pharmacist can intervene by recommending alternatives that are cheaper.

So, how do we train the next generation of pharmacy learners about social determinants of health? In an article published by Kiles et al., a literature review was conducted to identify how pharmacy schools are teaching social determinants of health to students. The impetus for this education is coming from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) standards which require schools and colleges to integrate SDOH principles into their educational programs. A total of 16 articles were included in the review and the majority used an active-learning activity related to social/community context and health/health care. Domains such as education, economic stability and neighborhood/built community were not as equally addressed. The article concluded that there is room for innovation in this area to ensure students are provided with a full understanding of the SDOH factors that affect patient outcomes.

As pharmacists become more knowledgeable about SDOH, the conversations related to medications will change and become more focused on personal life circumstances. Pharmacists have the potential to play a tremendous role in using SDOH to tailor medication therapies for the best outcomes. It will be interesting to see how the pharmacist’s role will evolve in the future regarding incorporating SDOH into medication management and how the next generation of students will be equipped to face this paradigm shift.
In Recognition

In Recognition, a twice yearly feature in In Patient Care, recognizes clinical operations staff in their pursuit of education advancement and knowledge sharing.

Presentations


Camacho C., Mac T., Cole M., Howorka S. “Utilizing Simulation as a Diagnostic Tool to Identify and Implement Educational Needs.” Association for Nursing Professional Development, Central Ohio Chapter Webinar; August 2022.

Clark S., Rosenberg N., Glazer L. “Transforming Clinic Practice in Cerebral Palsy to Include Disability as a Critical Component of Discussion.” European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD); May 2022.

Clark S., Rosenberg N., Niezei G. “Goal Shifting in Cerebral Palsy: When and How to Shift Primary Clinical Efforts away from ‘Medicalization’ and towards Participation and Community Integration.” European Academy of Childhood Disability (EACD); May 2022.


Gasior A. “Growing up: Colorectal Surgery: Transitioning Patients from Pediatrics. Transition of Care from Adolescence to Adults How to Set this Up at Your Institution & Avoiding the Turf Battle.” ASACS Annual Scientific Meeting; May 2022.

Gasior A. “Colorectal Transitional Adult Case Presentations (Multidisciplinary Discussion): International Center for Colorectal and Urogenital Care: Transition of Care; June 2022.


Gasior A. “Modern Approaches to Rectal Prolapse.” Appalachian Surgical Summit; June 2022.


McNicol M., Boyl E., Rowlson P. “Advanced Population Management: Utilizing the EMR to Enhance Therapeutic Drug Monitoring.” Impower Care Now Conference; September 2022.


Shred S. “Minimizing Post-operative Opioid Requirements in the NICU Through a Multidisciplinary & Nurse Controlled Analgesia Unit.” American Society for Pain Management Nursing; National Conference; September 2022.


Wallace T. “Top Topics.” Florida Association of Neonatal Nurses Conference; October 2022.


Wood R. “Models/Opportunities for Mentorship Across Institutions.” Pediatric Trauma Congress, Sponsored by Societies for Pediatric Urology (SPU); October 2022.


Wurstler L. “Pediatric Trauma Resuscitation: Kids Aren’t Just Small Adults!” Oregon Health & Science University Fall Tufts Trauma Nursing Conference; October 2022.

Hoffman R., Damilano C., Hong M., Glabis B., Kambmer J. “Glycemic Control, Depression, Diabetes Distress Among Adolescents with Type 2 Diabetes: Effects of Sex, Race, Insurance, and Obesity.” Asia Diabet; June 2022.


Hoffman B., Damilano C., Hong M., Glabis B., Kambmer J. “Glycemic Control, Depression, Diabetes Distress Among Adolescents with Type 2 Diabetes: Effects of Sex, Race, Insurance, and Obesity.” Asia Diabet; June 2022.

Daisy Award

Kristen Schlosser, RN

The quarterly Nationwide Children's Hospital Daisy Award was presented to Kristen Schlosser, RN, of H8A. The Daisy Award is given in appreciation of the important difference our nurses make in the lives of our patients and families at Nationwide Children’s.

Says Kristen's co-worker: “We had a patient with abdominal distension with unknown etiology. The doctors and family were stumped, but Kristen took a step back and came up with an explanation. In short, she very politely asked the team if we had considered the particular way we had been feeding the patient, and when we changed our feeding plan based on her recommendations, the patient’s abdominal pain quickly resolved. We cannot thank Kristen enough for her attention to detail, hard work, and compassion. Kristen is a real team player who has had invaluable insight into her patients, who she knows better than anyone!”

To learn more about our Daisy winners, and read their full nomination, visit NationwideChildrens.org/Daisy-Award