

ONE TEAM.....

INSIDE

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S



Connecting
Communities to Care:
**SPORTS
MEDICINE**

Dr. L. Pommering, DO
Division Chief
Sports Medicine



ONE TEAM

INSIDE

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S

One Team Inside Nationwide Children's Hospital celebrates our employees, medical staff and volunteers, together with their families, as one team achieving the best outcomes for children everywhere.



COVER STORY

8

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO CARE: SPORTS MEDICINE

One Team Inside Nationwide Children's Hospital is the official employee magazine of Nationwide Children's Hospital. This magazine publishes four times per year and is mailed directly to the homes of all Nationwide Children's employees. The *One Team Inside Nationwide Children's Hospital* editorial staff welcomes all comments, questions and story ideas. Please send feedback and story ideas to EverythingMatters@NationwideChildrens.org.

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THE MOST MEANINGFUL MARATHON

the most meaningful marathon

This year, more than 13,500 people participated in the Columbus Marathon and ½ Marathon, raising over \$1 million for Nationwide Children's. Congratulations to all who walked and ran, and thank you to all who supported along the way!

Did you beat a personal goal or run in honor of someone special?

Share your favorite marathon moments at EverythingMatters@NationwideChildrens.org.



“One Team to make children's lives better”



Team,

We're used to hearing about the amazing innovations that come out of the Abigail Wexner Research Institute, or the nation-leading care that our Behavioral Health colleagues provide. But did you know that Nationwide Children's is also one of the country's premier centers for childhood sports medicine?

With the opening this year of the Livingston Orthopedic and Surgery Center, we've taken another giant step forward in our ability to serve our patients.

But at the heart of our Sports Medicine services is the Sports Medicine team, and you get to hear from some of them in these pages. You'll notice a theme in what they say – they believe in the work they do, and they believe in working together to help young people thrive.

Nationwide Children's had a remarkable record of accomplishment in 2024, driven by these same ideas. You worked as One Team to make children's lives better. That's true in Sports Medicine and Orthopedics, and it's true in every other part of the hospital, too, as you'll see throughout this issue.

I'm looking forward to even greater achievements as we continue to lead the journey for best outcomes for every child.

Tim Robinson, CEO

Be an Advocate

Join the conversation on any of the Nationwide Children's social media channels:

 [Facebook.com/NationwideChildrensHospital](https://www.facebook.com/NationwideChildrensHospital)

 [Instagram.com/NationwideKids](https://www.instagram.com/NationwideKids)

 [YouTube.com/NationwideChildrens](https://www.youtube.com/NationwideChildrens)

 [NationwideChildrensHospital.Tumblr.com](https://www.nationwidechildrenshospital.com)

 [Blog: NationwideChildrens.org/INC-700](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/INC-700)

 [Blog: PediatricsNationwide.org](https://www.pediatricsnationwide.org)

 [Facebook.com/NationwideChildrensHospitalFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/NationwideChildrensHospitalFoundation)

Soaring THROUGH 2024

From reaching milestones to navigating extraordinary situations, these are some significant moments that defined 2024 on our journey to Best Outcomes. While this timeline marks some of the hospital's accomplishments, we want to hear about your team wins! Submit your achievements from 2024 to EverythingMatters@NationwideChildrens.org for a chance to be spotlighted on ANCHOR.

JANUARY

Magnet Designation

The American Nurses Credentialing Center awarded Nationwide Children's with our fifth consecutive Magnet Designation, which is the highest honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice. Fewer than 1% of Magnet designated hospitals have achieved this honor five or more times.

MARCH

Butterfly Paws

Our facility and therapy dog program expanded as Butterfly Paws, and "Canine Corner" debuted as a special area for patients, families and staff to visit with our furry friends.



APRIL

Solar Eclipse

It took a village to ensure our Columbus and Toledo communities were educated about safe viewing of the solar eclipse. We provided our own branded glasses, and staff, patients and families gathered in groups to view the once-in-a-lifetime event!



APRIL

Kids Mental Health Foundation Launch

On Our Sleeves, founded by Nationwide Children's, expanded its mission to the Kids Mental Health Foundation. We marked the launch with events in Columbus, New York City and Los Angeles.

MAY

"Empower the Possible"

The "Empower the Possible" fundraising campaign launched with a historic 10-year commitment of \$100 million from the Nationwide Foundation.

JULY

Crowdstrike Outage

We may never forget the "blue screen of death," but we will also never forget how our One Team came together and persevered through the impact on our systems. Our IS team worked around the clock and touched over 17,000 computers to save the day. Not all heroes wear capes!

JULY

Livingston Orthopedic & Surgery Center Opening

A grand celebration was had to welcome staff and guests to the Livingston Orthopedic & Surgery Center to west campus. Check out our feature story to learn more about this facility and the One Team staff who work there!



AUGUST

Zanesville Close To Home Center Opening

A new facility opened in Zanesville providing clinical services in cardiology, genetics, hematology/oncology, lab and urology.

SEPTEMBER

Ann Isaly Wolfe Day

Nationwide Children's named the patient tower in honor of Ann Isaly Wolfe, longtime philanthropist and board member, and celebrated by giving patients a plush Yorkshire Terrier, representing her own beloved dogs, to brighten spirits.

OCTOBER

Athens Close To Home Center Opening

Nationwide Children's expanded services to southeastern Ohio in OhioHealth's O'Bleness medical office building, providing clinical services in cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonary, urology and more.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Light Up The Lawn, Light Up A Life

We ended 2024 on a bright note with the launch of our annual holiday campaign as the butterflies returned to our lawn and took flight to Toledo this year! To spread the joy to our One Team, staff enjoyed sweet treats, warm beverages and more throughout the season.



Five Minutes with Chet Kaczor

A Q&A with our Senior Vice President of Operations



Chet is humble in the office, but he will engage in any small talk about his Peloton or the Ohio State Buckeyes.

Chet Kaczor joined Nationwide Children's in 2013 as a manager in the department of pharmacy. He received his PharmD from Ohio Northern University and MBA from The Ohio State University. Since becoming a leader in operations, he now gets to work with representatives across many departments including Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Community and Interprofessional Education, Homecare, Pharmacy and Radiology to ensure safe and effective efforts every day.

"My favorite thing about our culture is how we prioritize patient safety and bring our values to life with the use of our Zero Hero tools. We care about what is right rather than who is right."

Our strategic plan is integrated into Chet's daily responsibilities to ensure physicians, employees and leaders have the tools and resources necessary to do their job. In addition, he focuses on removing obstacles that may impact the ability to provide outstanding patient care. Chet's charisma and empathy are just a few of the traits that make him a trusted decision-maker for Nationwide Children's.

"I distinctly recall during my interview just how incredibly welcoming the pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy management team were to me. I wanted to be part of an organization with such an incredible culture."

Read more to learn how Chet spends his free time when he's not solving problems at work, as well as the new year resolution he is looking forward to in 2025.

HAPPY PLACE: "Banff. Doesn't get much better than being immersed in nature with breathtaking views."

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAMS: "Originally being from New York, I root for the Yankees and Bills. Though I am a huge Buckeyes fan as well."

FAVORITE WINTER ACTIVITY: "Seeing all the holiday light decorations with my family."

FAVORITE WAY TO DECOMPRESS AFTER WORK: "Enjoying dinner with Jessica and my two kiddos, Colette and Ellis. It is always entertaining to hear what happens during a day in elementary school!"

FAVORITE THING TO DO IN COLUMBUS: "Attend an Ohio State football game!"

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST: "Chris Stapleton. You can feel the emotion in his guitar."

A HISTORICAL FIGURE YOU'D LIKE TO GET DINNER WITH: "Charles Munger. He had an incredible gift of distilling important life and career lessons into bite-sized sentences, and a great sense of humor."

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: "I love my Peloton, but I want to incorporate more strength training into my fitness routine!"

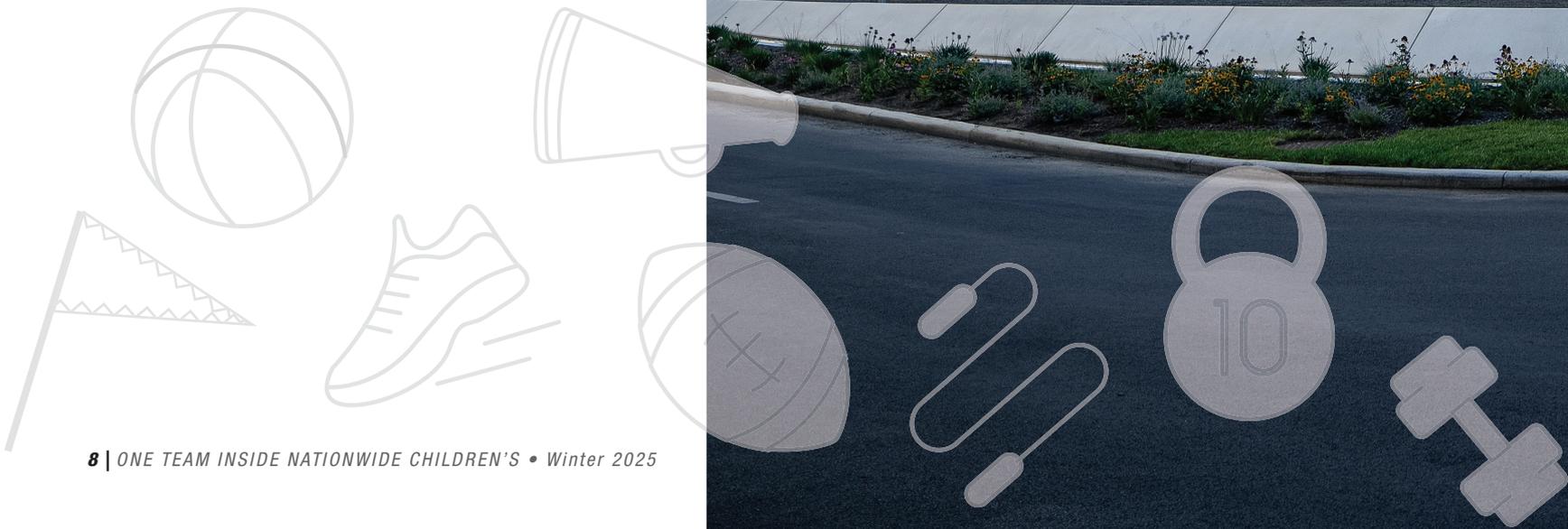




Connecting Communities to Care: SPORTS MEDICINE

Our Sports Medicine program has experienced remarkable growth over the years. Initially focused on treating sports-related injuries in young athletes, the program has expanded its services to include comprehensive injury prevention, clinics and rehabilitation, performance enhancement, Adaptive Sports Medicine, and more for all ages and skill levels across central Ohio.

“We began as a three-person operation running the program out of the trunk of our car traveling to different sites,” shares **Dr. Thomas Pommering**, Chief of Sports Medicine. “As the hospital grew with more resources, so did we.”





Livingston Orthopedic and
Surgery Center

405
Butterfly
Gardens





Performing core stability exercises at the Dublin Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center.

Dr. Pommering saw the vision for the program early on in his career. He knew the evolving city and reputation of the hospital could make it easy to grow. “I saw the chance to start something new in a city that I loved living in with a hospital I believed in,” he says. “I started my career practicing primary care and sports medicine for 10 years, so as we developed our program, we kept a focus on how to best serve Nationwide Children’s and community pediatricians by looking through a lens I was already familiar with.

Appointments began as half day a week at main campus, but slots filled quickly as word spread to local pediatricians. From there, more sessions were continuously added to meet the demand of the community. With this growth, Dr. Pommering recognized that all clinics were downtown, and a lot of families did not have the means to make that trip. Specialty clinics spread through the suburbs, leading to the addition of the Sports Medicine and Orthopedics Center in Westerville in 2007. This established Nationwide Children’s as the first pediatric hospital in the country to have a

dedicated center to care for kids with sports medicine and orthopedic needs.

By his side during these foundational years was service line administrator, **Lisa Kluchurosky**. Lisa started as an athletic trainer at high schools, which solidified her passion for working with kids. When the job came up to work alongside Dr. Pommering, it could not have been better timing. Lisa’s perspective as an athletic trainer was important to the program’s success, as her experience demonstrated how to serve athletes, coaches and athletic directors in the best way possible.

“Our focus was two-fold,” says Lisa. “We found that younger children didn’t have access to sports medicine professionals who could guide the course of their care and recovery. We also wanted to provide better training for residents in musculoskeletal evaluation and care.”

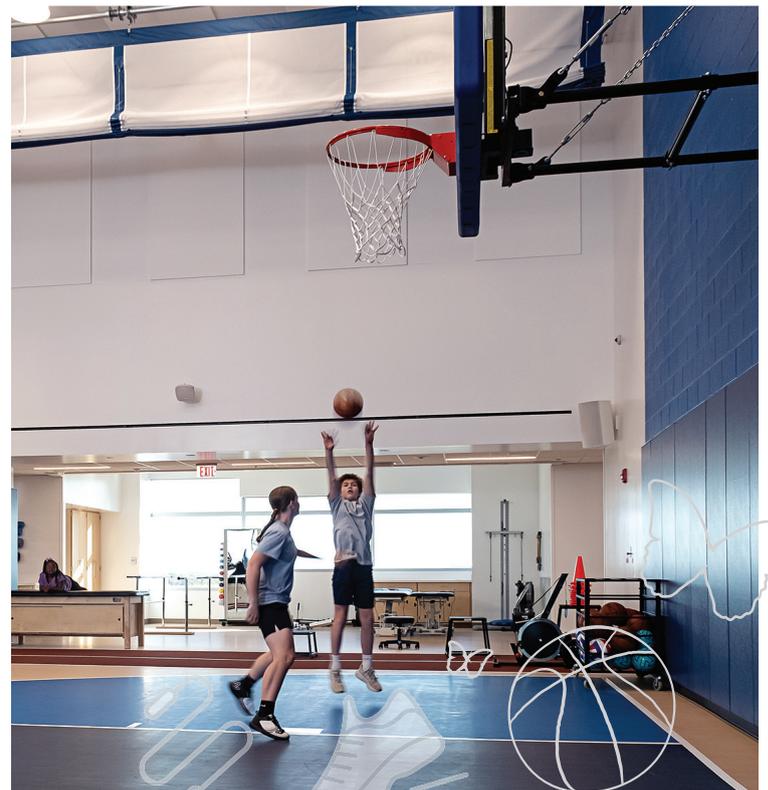


Dr. Jonathan Napolitano taking an ultrasound.

As the team grew with more medical professionals, they decided to pursue contracts with schools to provide athletic trainers and team physicians. This helped them form relationships with school administrators, community members, local pediatricians and other doctors at Nationwide Children's, which strengthened the hospital's reputation for providing the best care for children.

"We built relationships to understand what people needed and wanted out of us," says Lisa. "Over time, if there was a new need identified or gap in care, we added services to fill those gaps – like adaptive sports medicine or our dance medicine program."

When asked how they envision the evolution of the program, both Dr. Pommering and Lisa agreed that there is no end in sight. As Columbus continues to boom in population, there will be a need for additional resources in neighborhoods where Sports Medicine lacks a presence. They also see opportunities to work with other teams in the organization to increase community efforts outside of schools.



Empowering The Next Generation of Athletes

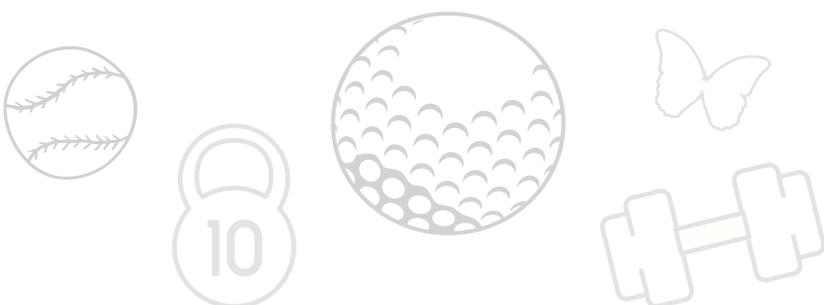
One of the community initiatives that ignites the Sports Medicine team is the Columbus Youth Camp presented by The Columbus Foundation. The goal of the camp is to get 6- to 12-year-olds active and introduce them to a wide variety of sports over the course of four days. Hosted at KIPP Columbus, most of the children live in surrounding neighborhoods and attend the camp through scholarships. Some sports are more traditional, like basketball and baseball, but participants also have an opportunity to learn about sports they may have never seen before, like pickleball and field hockey. Nationwide Children's provides athletic training services during the camp, from basic first aid to extensive injury care.

Gail Swisher, clinical lead for the Sports Medicine outreach program, helps with coordination of the camp and ensures our staff have everything they need to provide age-appropriate care.

"The great thing about our profession is we are prepared to handle emergencies," says Gail. "Our staff is there and prepared if one should occur. It's wonderful to be able to provide that extra layer of medical support and coverage while these kids are out there having fun. Most of our staff are high school athletic trainers, so this is an exciting change of pace to work with younger kids."

There are 90 minutes dedicated to each sport over the duration of the camp. Between sports, our staff teaches life lessons on topics like hydration, nutrition and exercise. This also gives children the opportunity to learn more about a profession they might not be aware of, such as sports nutrition.

Ariana Tyler, Director of Events for the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, praised this group for the impact their work has on the community. "We are deeply thankful to Nationwide Children's Hospital Sports Medicine for their support in providing skilled Athletic Trainers for our Community Youth Camp. Their expertise ensures our young athletes can learn, play and grow safely, making a lasting impact on our community's health and well-being. We're grateful for their partnership and commitment to empowering the next generation of athletes in Columbus."





The state-of-the-art rehabilitation gym located on the sixth floor.

Stronger Together at the Livingston Orthopedic & Surgery Center

This year, we opened the doors to our new Livingston Orthopedic & Surgery Center (LOSC). The innovative pediatric facility offers outpatient surgical services, comprehensive orthopedic and sports medicine care, and additional outpatient clinical services. Relocating the hospital's surgery center to this six-story, state-of-the-art facility brings together multiple aspects of care and collaboration to provide advanced, patient-focused services.

One of the most anticipated elements of this building was the sixth-floor rehabilitation gym that brings many groups together. The 11,000 square foot space includes:

- A basketball court
- Professional grade spring loaded gymnastics tumbling surface
- Performing arts studio
- Batting cage/throwing lane
- Cardio and weight equipment
- Specialized equipment for adaptive rehab
- 2,700 square foot turf space

“The location of the LOSC is important,” says Dr. Pommering. “Nationwide Children’s has nice buildings in the suburbs, but now many different teams can serve the population around the hospital in the same way. In terms of equity and diversity, it makes everyone feel like they matter. It gives everyone who works there a sense of pride, and families feel that when they walk through the doors.”



Practicing backbends on the gymnastics mat.



Where *Passion* Meets *Purpose*

Sports Medicine is unique because many staff members found their love for the profession at a young age. They were involved in sports growing up, often interacting with athletic trainers, physical therapists and team physicians throughout childhood and adolescence. This passion led them to their purpose of helping others who are in the same shoes they once wore. We asked a group of team members why they chose Nationwide Children's to pursue this passion.

John Smith, Outreach Manager (Local Partnered High Schools and LOSC)

"Nationwide Children's is truly a special place, one that lives its mission every day, one that lives its values every day and one that strives to be the best. Every day we take care of children – no matter where they are from and no matter what they can pay. That is a special calling, and one that every staff member I have met believes with their mind, with their heart, and with their soul."

Madeline Barnes, Outreach Athletic Trainer (William V. Fisher Catholic High School and LOSC)

"Our patients benefit from the quick and effective care we offer in sports medicine. I love that Nationwide Children's prioritizes safety and patient care above all else, because that's why I wanted to be an athletic trainer in the first place. It's wonderful to have found somewhere to work that aligns with what I believe as well."

Parker Lee, Outreach Athletic Trainer (Canal Winchester High School)

"I truly enjoy that we can service all patients that need care no matter their personal or financial situation. I love that I can work with kids from the second an injury occurs all the way through their return to play and play a vital role in the care, even if there is a referral made. Our doctors truly work with us and care for our input to ensure best outcomes for the patients."



Every year, Sports Medicine hosts a student athletic training workshop at local high schools.

Sakiko Minagawa, Clinical Dietitian (Dublin and Westerville)

“I love working at Nationwide Children’s because it gives me a lot of purpose and motivation to be better both professionally and personally. As one of the best children’s hospitals in the nation, I feel very motivated to provide and exceed the level of expectation and care that our patients deserve.”

Amanda Meade, Outreach Athletic Trainer (Canal Winchester High School)

“Nationwide Children’s allows me to provide the best level of care to student athletes at the high school regardless of their access to health care. These families and student athletes may otherwise not seek out and receive care for injuries or illness that we are able to treat in the outreach setting. I am building relationships and creating a bridge between families and the best possible health care available.”

Jonathan Napolitano, MD, Sports Medicine Physician (LOSC, Westerville, Dublin, East Broad *Close To Home*SM, Reynoldsburg School Health Clinic)

“Within sports medicine, the ‘teamwork’ mantra is much more than a cliché. At Nationwide Children’s, I have the privilege to collaborate with an incredible group of doctors, athletic trainers, clinic assistants, physical therapists and researchers who share the same passion and energy. Together, we help young athletes, both individually in every patient we treat, but also collectively as a population, through our unique specialty programs and research projects to improve health and outcomes.”

Heather Mansell, Outreach Athletic Trainer (Watkins Memorial High School)

“I believe as athletic trainers at Nationwide Children’s, we have such a unique opportunity to be with our athletes from when the injury occurs to when they are back on the field. We provide best outcomes for our athletes because we can guide them in the right direction when an injury happens. We can refer to our ED, get them an appointment with our sports medicine physicians or have them work with us at the school.”



**NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S**

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

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WORKDAY 

Family Ties to **Workday**



The Workday team was busy preparing for the launch on January 1. Nearly 90 staff members across many departments put in countless hours of preparation, planning and executing to ensure a seamless transition to the new platform.

Jackie and Alyssa Laubenthal are a mother-daughter duo who have shared their talents on the team. Jackie is the program director/sponsor for the implementation of the Workday project. Alyssa is the project manager leading the data conversion and cutover planning efforts. They collaborate daily to help resolve project issues, facilitate decisions and meet deadlines.

When asked what they've learned about each other in a professional setting, Alyssa says, "Growing up, I always thought she fixed computers and moved equipment around the hospital. While working with her, I have learned that she can't fix computers, but now I have a better understanding and appreciation for the hard work she does."

Outside of the long meetings they attend every day, they enjoy spending time together shopping, visiting local greenhouses and walking their dogs.