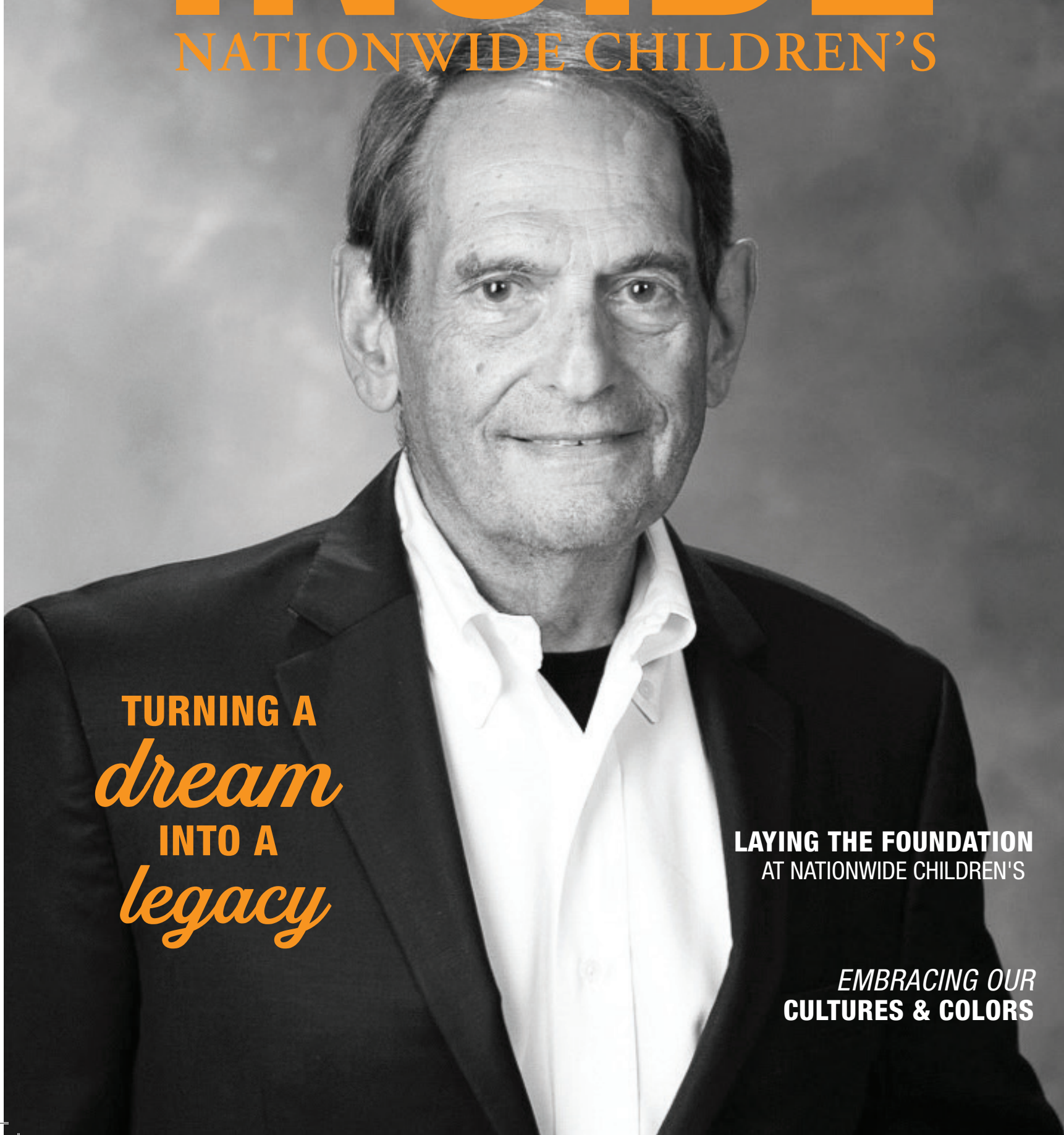


FALL 2023

ONE TEAM.....

INSIDE

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S



TURNING A
dream
INTO A
legacy

LAYING THE FOUNDATION
AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S

EMBRACING OUR
CULTURES & COLORS

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.

Read our feature story to learn about Dr. Mendell's distinguished work for patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and the first patient to receive his gene therapy infusion at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

COVER STORY

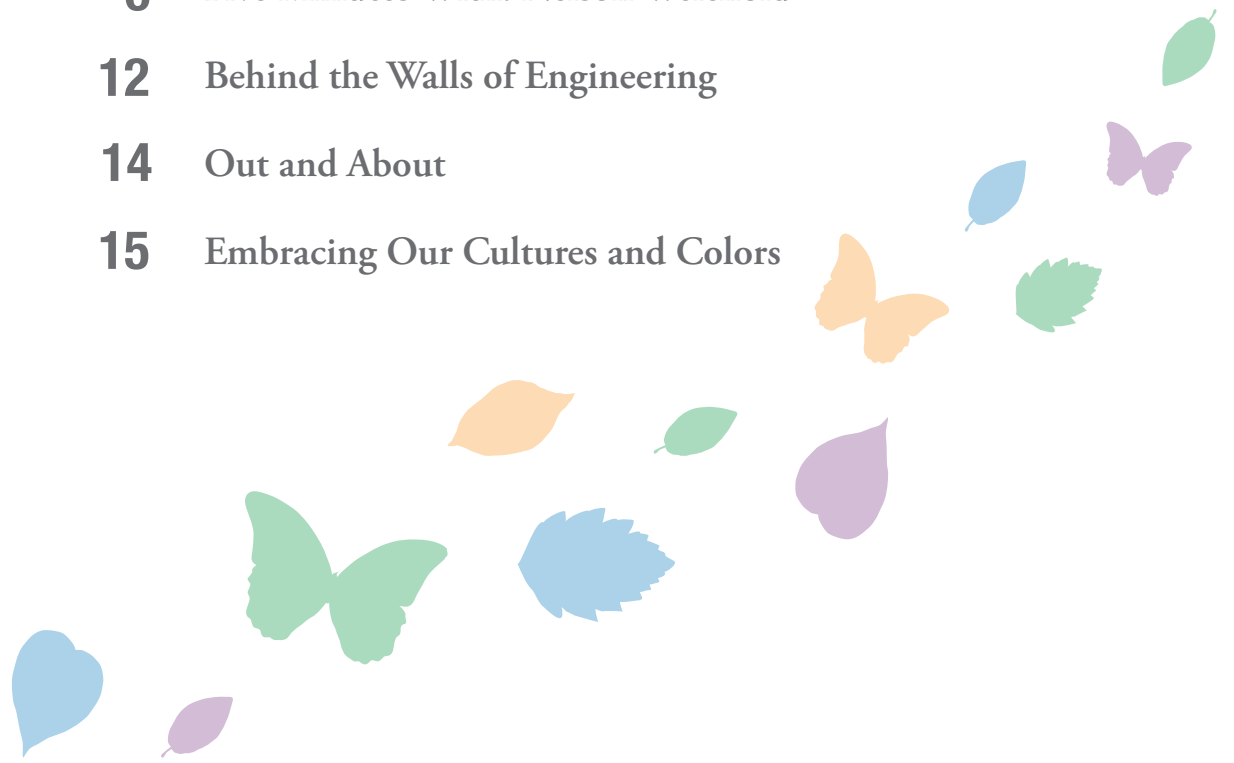
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TURNING A 50-YEAR DREAM INTO A
Life-Changing Legacy

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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CONGRATULATIONS RUNNERS!



Congratulations to all who participated in the Columbus Marathon! Did you beat a personal goal? Did you run in honor of someone special?

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

NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS
MARATHON

 Benefiting
**NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S**
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

“When you ask somebody to help you here,
they ask when they can start helping”



Team,

Dr. Jerry Mendell is one of the most well-respected neurologists in the world. He's changed the lives of countless children at Nationwide Children's Hospital, and his work will make an impact for generations to come.

Many of you already know of his legacy, and you can read more about it in *Inside Nationwide Children's*. But I want to spotlight something else that he brings up in this issue. Here's what Dr. Mendell says about the experience of working at Nationwide Children's:

"When you ask somebody to help you here, they ask when they can start helping."

We spend a lot of time talking about our One Team culture. When we hire new team members, they often point out how Nationwide Children's feels a little different from anywhere they've worked before.

Dr. Mendell put his finger on why. There are few careers that are as important as helping children thrive. So when our colleagues need help to do that, we help them. When we need help, our colleagues return the favor.

As he has shown in these pages and throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Mendell represents the best of what we can do here together: dream big and collaborate to make a difference.


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy C. Robinson".


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.tumblr.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)

Five Years. One Team!

Achieving the best outcomes for children everywhere takes the very best people. That's why we were so excited to host the first annual Five Years of Service Reception earlier this spring. Together with senior leaders, we celebrated our team members who reached their five-year anniversary and their dedication to our patients and commitment to our One Team. Cheers to you and many more!



Five Minutes with Nelson Weichold

A Q&A with our Chief Financial Officer



Nelson Weichold shares that his favorite thing about Nationwide Children's One Team culture is the kindness that is everywhere.

Nelson Weichold, born in Hamilton, Ohio, joined Nationwide Children's as our Chief Financial Officer this summer. After nearly 30 years of experience at university medical centers in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, Nelson is happy to return to his roots (and Skyline Chili!) in the Buckeye State.

"I wanted to be a part of a team that is innovative, demands excellence and is aiming to make a difference in the world. Nationwide Children's more than checked all those boxes."

From day one, Nelson exemplified the One Team spirit and what it means to provide best outcomes for the children in our community.

"I work every day with our talented accounting and finance teams to track cash flow, develop financial planning and propose new ideas to management that will allow us to keep investing in our patients, staff and in the future of pediatric research. Every dollar counts as we continue to advance the future of pediatric medicine right here in Columbus."

Read on to learn more about Nelson's strategic path to health care and his proudest accomplishments as a girl dad.



Why did you choose to work at Nationwide Children's?

It was clear early on during my interview process that managers and staff take great pride in the patient services and research that is conducted here. The aim is to always be the best and produce a first-class product every day.

What interested you most in pursuing a finance career in health care?

None of my undergraduate business classmates were interested in health care. I figured that increased my chances of landing a job.

What is your greatest achievement/biggest accomplishment?

I survived getting my two daughters successfully off to college: one in Boulder, Colorado and the other in Boston. I have also survived running several marathons and obstacle course races throughout the years.

What is your proudest moment?

My daughters both ride horses, so my proudest moment was managing to stay in the saddle during a horse-riding lesson that they gave me. Trotting was super painful.

Favorite Cafeteria meal?

Bacon and tomato wrap. Hold the lettuce.

Favorite food?

Skyline Chili – Chili cheese sandwich with mustard, no onions.

Favorite movie?

"Star Trek Next Generation Series"

Favorite band/music?

Coldplay, Owl City, Toad the Wet Sprocket

Favorite way to relax?

Jogging or light workouts at the gym

What talent would you most like to have?

Photography. It has been on my to-do list for a long time. I enjoy traveling and am looking forward to being able to advance beyond iPhone selfies.

Turning a 50-Year *dream* into a Life-Changing *legacy*

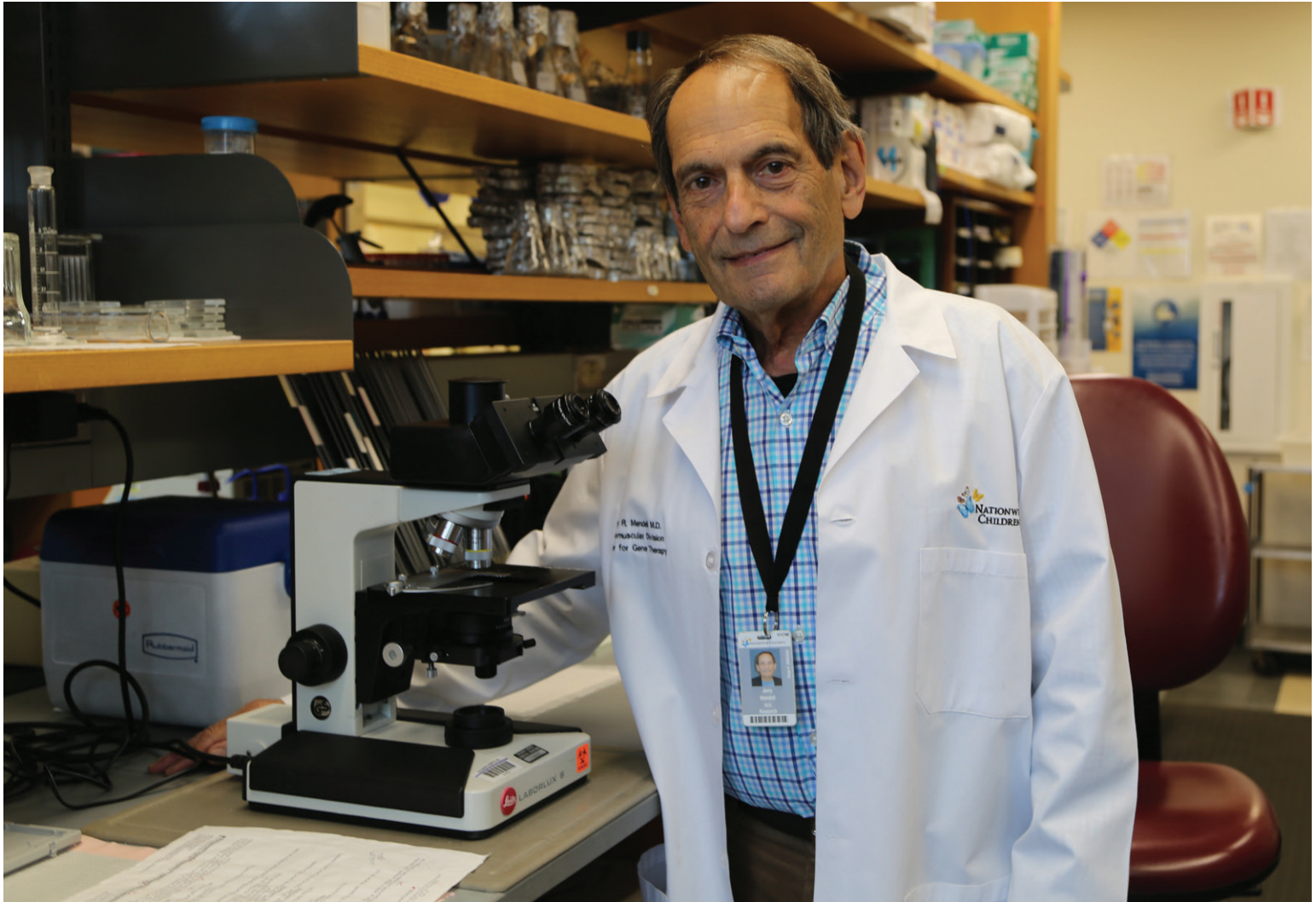
June was a memorable month for the Abigail Wexner Research Institute: the second gene therapy to originate at Nationwide Children's gained FDA approval. Following decades of research in the Center for Gene Therapy, **Jerry Mendell, MD**, achieved his 50-year mission to develop a new treatment for patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). DMD, which typically affects boys, is a severe form of muscular dystrophy caused by a mutation in the DMD gene. This mutation leads to decreased dystrophin protein, causing muscle weakness.

Dr. Mendell is no stranger to the intense and tedious process of getting a treatment approved by the FDA. **Only eight gene therapies have been approved by the FDA, and he helped develop two of them at Nationwide Children's.** In May 2019, the FDA approved the first gene therapy for a neuromuscular disorder. Dr. Mendell led the team behind this therapy (Zolgensma), which offers life-changing outcomes for children with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

"Since I began investigating gene therapy as a potential treatment for children with neuromuscular disorders, it's been my dream to develop a gene therapy for DMD," says Dr. Mendell.







Congratulations on retirement, Dr. Mendell! You've left your mark at Nationwide Children's both inside and outside of the lab.

The recently approved gene therapy for DMD uses a small form of the dystrophin protein. This form of micro-dystrophin was first published by **Scott Harper, PhD**, in 2002. Fast forward to many years later, and Dr. Harper now works at Nationwide Children's as a principal investigator.

"Though we never collaborated on this gene therapy product, and our research focuses on very different diseases and approaches, there's this connection," explains Dr. Mendell.

Another connection that has been an integral piece in bringing this gene therapy from the bench to the bedside is **Kelly Lehman, MSN, CNP**. Kelly serves on the clinical research team that has administered more doses of systematic gene therapy than perhaps anywhere else. As a result, the team established a system that has been refined by experience and expertise.

Kelly is the administrative lead within her team and the sub-investigator for the trials. Within her role, she sees families with Dr. Mendell for safety checks and infusions while also fielding calls and questions from families after hours.

"Each family is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be in the trials," says Kelly. "The hope and promise of any research opportunity is important. As a caregiver, the empathy in what they're going through is an incredible feeling."


Since Kelly has treated patients from around the world, she has learned a lot about geography throughout the process. Nationwide Children's continues to set the standard for care, and Kelly witnessed that first-hand from her patients who traveled across the globe for the trials.



Each day requires One Team collaboration between Kelly, Dr. Mendell, the Investigational Drug Services Pharmacy, labs, Radiology and Interventional Radiology. From discussions of complications to requirements that need to be met within protocol, a large amount of creative problem solving happens daily to figure out the best course of action for each patient. Many days require long hours and often working until exhaustion, but to Kelly, it's all worth it.

“We all know what our mission is, and we all work this hard because of that mission,” shares Kelly. “I love working with patients and having the chance to see that the drug is working. We understand the mission and the role that we play in the study as individuals and as a team.”

There is one word that Kelly frequently used to describe how she felt throughout the study and trials: privileged.



“It is the privilege of my career to work with Dr. Mendell. Not many providers get the opportunity to do this work for this specific population of patients,” shares Kelly Lehman, MSN, CNP.

Dr. Mendell retired his white coat in October, but his legacy will live on far beyond Nationwide Children's. His dedication, perseverance and compassion will forever leave a mark on the patients that he treated, the colleagues that he mentored and the community that he served.

Behind the Walls of Engineering



The Magic Forest is one of the most vibrant and identifiable spaces at Nationwide Children's. From the chirping birds to the tunnel trees, each component was intentionally designed.

There is one team that literally and figuratively lays the foundation for Nationwide Children's: Engineering. Building and maintaining nearly seven million square feet is not easy, and this group does it with patience, persistence and professionalism. The steady growth of the organization keeps them on their toes, especially as they prepare to break ground for the new inpatient tower.

"We've toured a lot of pediatric hospitals, and we are still the best as far as quality and space," says **Scott McClure**, director of construction. "Others have emulated our facilities, so knowing that we are a leader in design and construction is an honor. Our legacy is to build buildings that are durable and sustainable, and we are providing good bones for the institution as we grow and evolve."

Engineering's success is centered around two key skills: collaboration and clear communication. There is a certain level of autonomy as everyone manages their own areas, but questions are frequently asked between peers while exploring past projects. Since other departments and outside contractors are often involved, engineering serves as a translator between them and the organization.

"Outside architects have great ideas to bring to us, but they aren't always practical," explains Scott. "We know the way things operate here, and their ideas don't always translate to functionality."

Speaking of functionality, mock spaces are an instrumental component in the process of any large project. They are a way for end users, such as clinicians, families and staff, to be involved throughout all phases of design and construction.

“We do the mockups because most of our clients aren’t comfortable reading floorplans and architectural drawings,” says **Alisa Pinciotti**, senior design project manager. “To ensure we are designing what they really need, we design the mockups for these conversations. We can easily make 10 changes to the mockup, but if we must change something in the building, it is a very costly mistake.”



Mockup of a waiting area for the new tower planned to open in 2028.

Mockups for the new tower are well underway and have already been through several rounds of adjustments. Considerations include colors, lighting, sounds, sightlines, workflows, durability, maintenance, cleanliness and comfort.

“The most rewarding part of this job is being able to physically make the experience better for patients and families,” says Alisa. “They are going through hard things, and it is an honor to help them and the staff that is taking care of them.”

What are you most looking forward to with the new inpatient tower?

“The shift in cultural awareness of how important our staff is. When we started the existing tower, it was all about the family and patient experience. Now, we are also focused on the medicine and the staff experience. Our staff are equally as important of a client in the design story and process.”

- Alisa




“It is going to be exciting to see how it matches what we did in the current building and how it takes us to the next decade of excellence. We are adding robots for material management, so I am excited to see how everything works behind the scenes and improves efficiency and delivery times.”

- Scott




Out and About with Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families


PlayStreets are free community events with music, games and activities that encourage local kids and their families to get out, get active and connect with neighbors. It is one of the initiatives Nationwide Children's coordinates as part of Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families to build and strengthen central Ohio neighborhoods.




This summer, over **2,000 kids** and parents in the South Side and Linden neighborhoods of Columbus attended PlayStreets.



Over **300 volunteers and staff members** supported 12 PlayStreets events from May to August.



The events featured **treat trucks** from Johnson's Ice Cream, Chilljoy, Kona Ice and Little Ladies Soft Serve, a **petting zoo** and **performances** from the Jazz Arts Group.



PlayStreets was first launched in 2019 on the South Side before **expanding** to Linden in **2020**.



Embracing Our Cultures and Colors



In Japan, Senbazuru is the art of folding one thousand paper cranes with the belief that folding many cranes can bring health or luck to an individual. **Stephanie Evenson**, staff RN, led a Senbazuru project at the OSU NICU to provide a creative and cathartic way for peers to usher in wishes of health and luck to providers, patients and families.

“The most rewarding part of this project was seeing the enthusiasm and speed at which our staff folded these cranes,” said Stephanie. “Within two weeks, we folded 1,531 cranes. RNs, PCAs, OT, PT, nurse managers, RTs, unit clerks, NNPs, pharmacists, MDs and environmental services all pitched in, and it was a wonderful way to see the collaborative and supportive nature of our staff.”

The project represents the resilience found within the NICU team. The use of bold colors and animal silhouettes throughout the display is a nod to the interior aesthetic found at Nationwide Children’s. Senbazuru is just one of many initiatives that have stemmed from the NICU Sunshine Committee, a morale boosting committee composed of bedside RNs.



The All Equal Employee Resource Group hosted a block party in recognition of Pride. The event featured booths from local organizations, music from NACHO and food trucks benefitting the Ronald McDonald House.



Cultural Encounters is a Lunch and Learn series presented by the Office of Inclusion and Culture to encourage staff to experience the taste, sound and dance of various groups. The cultures of Asia, Africa and Europe were featured in the spring and summer. South America and North America will be featured in the fall and winter.



**NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S**

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

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On The Spot 

On The Spot



Rayann Ocheltree
Homecare Private Duty Nurse

When: 11:30 a.m.

Where: Complex Care Clinic

Rayann Ocheltree has been a Homecare private duty nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital Homecare since fall of 2019. "Private Duty Nursing is such a specialized field of nursing which allows me to build close relationships not only with my patients but their families too," says Rayann. "Working alongside therapists, teachers and parents, as a private duty nurse, I provide the care needed to prevent inpatient stays. This allows my patients to focus more on reaching milestones that otherwise might not be possible! It's such a rewarding job and I feel so lucky to know and care for these patients."

Rayann is pictured with Brutus the Buckeye at a recent clinic visit, where she supported her patient by attending his appointment with him.

To nominate someone for "On the Spot," email
EverythingMatters@NationwideChildrens.org