

Hematology, Oncology and BMT



# The Hitchcock-Wilson Fellowship



**NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S®**

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.*



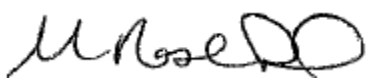
## Dear Future Colleague:

Thank you for considering the Hitchcock-Wilson Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Our goal has been to develop a program that provides a strong clinical balance among hematology, oncology and stem cell transplant, and provides fellows the opportunity to participate in scholarly activities that could include basic, clinical and translational research, as well as medical education, quality improvement or public health projects.

Our fellows spend the majority of their first year engaging in direct clinical care, with time specifically on inpatient Hematology, Oncology and BMT rotations, intermixed with outpatient Ambulatory experiences, Neuro-oncology, Hematopathology/Blood Bank, and Research. Fellows also have opportunities for procedures built into the ambulatory clinical rotation. The second and third years of fellowship are primarily devoted to scholarly activity pursuits, with support for advanced degrees made possible. Fellows submit abstracts and present their scholarly work at national meetings, with most earning multiple publications by the completion of fellowship. Longitudinal weekly one half-day continuity clinic extends through all 3 years of fellowship, with fellow-specific templates. Third year fellows demonstrate their leadership skills and competency through up to 4 weeks of inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences, prior to graduation.

Didactic sessions are abundant, with a fellowship lecture series, journal club, problem conference, hematopathology and board review; fellows are active participants and presenters, with direct mentorship. Fellow wellness sessions have included a number of activities, sponsored by the division and/or the institution, focusing on ways to foster resilience, better utilize informatic systems, practice mindfulness, or simply learning from shared experiences. Additionally, our fellows participate in Hematology & Oncology Summer Camp with our patients in attendance. We have several divisional gatherings throughout the year, including monthly social hours, birthday celebrations, and social education and advocacy forums.

We are very excited to have the chance to meet with you to discuss what our institution could offer you for Hematology, Oncology, BMT Fellowship.



*Melissa J. Rose, DO*

*Program Director*

*Hitchcock-Wilson Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT*

*Nationwide Children's Hospital*









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## ***The Hitchcock-Wilson Fellowship***

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The Hitchcock-Wilson Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT was established in July 1995. The program is ACGME-accredited and provides a broad range of experience in hematology, oncology and stem cell transplant. Eligible candidates will be enrolled in or have completed an ACGME-accredited three-year residency in Pediatrics and be board-certified or board-eligible upon the start of training. The program presently accepts four fellows per year.

Located in Columbus, Ohio, Nationwide Children's is one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the country, ranking in the top five nationally in terms of bed space and number of visits, and is consistently ranked as a Top Ten Best Children's Hospital by U.S. News & World Report. The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's is ranked in the top 10 nationally in research funding for freestanding children's hospitals and includes four research buildings that house 15 institutes and Centers of Emphasis, along with state-of-the-art support services, and an animal facility.

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## **Hematology Programs**

- Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Program:
  - » Comprehensive outpatient clinics, including Adolescent Clinic
  - » Hydroxyurea Clinic
  - » Multidisciplinary Sickle Cell-Pulmonary Clinic
- Hemostasis and Thrombosis Program:
  - » Comprehensive Hemophilia Clinic
  - » Young Women's Clinic with Adolescent Medicine
  - » Comprehensive Stroke Clinic with Neurology
  - » Thrombosis and Anticoagulation Program
  - » Post-thrombotic Syndrome Clinic
- Active program in Bone Marrow Failure and Cytopenias

## **Oncology Programs**

- Pediatric branch of the National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center located at The Ohio State University
- New oncology patients encompassing the full spectrum of pediatric cancer
- Top 10 enroller in Children's Oncology Group Clinical Trials
- Developing local Phase I/II experimental therapeutics program
- Active Long-Term Survivorship Clinic
- Neuro-Oncology Clinic, including a Long Term Follow-Up Clinic
- Comprehensive sarcoma/bone tumor clinic in conjunction with The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James)
- Comprehensive Leukemia and Lymphoma Team
- Adolescent/Young Adult Oncology Program
- Full complement of surgical subspecialists with expertise in cancer care, including a Surgical Oncology Clinic
- Comprehensive Embryonal Tumor Team with an established Radionuclide Therapy Program
- Multidisciplinary Pediatric Palliative Care/Hospice program



## Cellular Therapies Program

- Accredited by the Federal Accreditation for Cellular Therapy (FACT) program and a member of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)
- Stem cell transplants, including autologous, related and unrelated bone marrow donor and cord blood
- Diagnoses treated include:
  - » Hematologic malignancies and solid tumors with initial treatment or at relapse
  - » Hemoglobinopathies, including sickle cell disease and thalassemia
  - » Metabolic disorders
  - » Immune deficiencies
- Active apheresis program, including red blood cell, stem cell and plasma apheresis

## Hematology, Oncology and BMT Infusion Clinic

- Dedicated Infusion Clinic for Hematology, Oncology and BMT patients in two locations to better serve our community
- Utilized for outpatient chemotherapy, initiation of inpatient chemotherapy, blood and platelet transfusions, outpatient administration of IVIg for immune disorders, immune thrombocytopenia hypogammaglobulinemia associated with chemotherapy or immune deficiency, hemophilia factor administration, outpatient or initial management of sickle cell vaso-occlusive crisis, among others
- Hours of operation are more than 12 hours on weekdays, with scheduled patients on Saturdays and limited hours on Sundays

## Psychosocial Services and Programs

A large interdisciplinary team of professionals collaborates to provide clinical expertise in caring for children with cancer and blood disorders. The program provides comprehensive services to ensure children, teens and young adults and their families are served in the areas of social and emotional, educational and artistic areas with a focus on maintaining and improving their quality of life. Services include psychology, social work, child life, pastoral care, therapeutic recreation, massage therapy, music and art therapy, educational services such as school liaisons and school teachers, and events coordination.

## Clinical Experience

Our clinical inpatient teams are divided into three separate hematology, oncology and BMT services. Fellows spend 10-12 weeks on each of the Hematology and Oncology services during their first year, providing inpatient and consultative care. Eight weeks are also devoted to the Blood and Marrow Transplant service in the first year. Fellows have ample opportunities to perform procedures, i.e., lumbar punctures with/without intrathecal chemotherapy, bone marrow aspirates/biopsies and bone marrow harvests.

The Hematology/Oncology clinic is staffed by an attending physician at all times. During Ambulatory Clinic rotation, first-year fellows participate in all of our subspecialty clinics for Hematology, Oncology and BMT, while working hand in hand with national experts. Also, fellows spend two weeks of dedicated time with our Neuro-Oncology team and four weeks with Hematopathology during the first year. All fellows have an assigned half-day continuity clinic per week throughout the fellowship, with many choosing to revisit subspecialty clinics and/or procedures during their third year.



## Research Experience

The goal of the fellows' research experience is to learn basic aspects of experimental design and implementation and develop skills needed to produce impactful basic, clinical, translational, medical education, quality improvement, or public health research. Nationwide Children's, the Abigail Wexner Research Institute, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and Arthur G. James Comprehensive Cancer Center boast world-class research facilities and a renowned faculty with demonstrated experience mentoring fellows. Fellows have pursued research with investigators from our Center for Childhood Cancer Research, Center for Clinical and Translational Research, Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research, and the Institute for Genomic Medicine. A host of other laboratory options are available, including those at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and OSUCCC – James. Interested fellows have earned advanced degrees in Clinical Science, Public Health, Business Operational Excellence, and Medical Education; the pursuit of which have been supported by the institution and division.

Fellows are expected to develop and complete a project that meets criteria for scholarly activity as defined by the American Board of Pediatrics. Experienced faculty guide all first-year fellows in defining their long-term career goals and selecting appropriate mentors through a dedicated research rotation. Fellows working toward independent research careers regularly publish high-impact first author manuscripts and secure funding for their work through institutional and foundation grants and the National Institutes of Health, including those administered by the T32 program within our Center for Childhood Cancer Research. Additionally, we offer a diverse array of fourth-year subspecialty fellowships in Hemostasis-Thrombosis, Blood and Marrow Transplant and Cellular Therapies, Sarcoma, Neuro-Oncology, and Research. All fellows are expected to submit abstracts to professional meetings and present their research at national meetings; most complete the fellowship program with multiple publications in their portfolio.

For more information, visit [NationwideChildrens.org](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org) and search Fellowship Programs or email us at [PedsHemOncBMTFellowships@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:PedsHemOncBMTFellowships@nationwidechildrens.org)









## Research Opportunities

Our fellows conceive, design, and conduct research projects, often laying foundations for future careers in academic medicine. Through programs that span basic, translational, and clinical sciences, fellows have access to more than 300 potential faculty mentors across disciplines ranging from classical hematology to cancer biology and benefit from the extensive research infrastructure of both Nationwide Children's and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Our commitment to innovation ensures fellows are supported with robust funding opportunities and access to state-of-the-art laboratory facilities. Our infrastructure is designed to effectively support both fellows seeking to develop along a physician-scientist path (by developing a competitive NIH K08 application) and those with no prior laboratory experience.

**Access to more  
than 300 potential  
faculty mentors**

## RESEARCH FACTS

**264**  
PRINCIPAL  
INVESTIGATORS

**1,815**  
EMPLOYEES

**93** POSTDOCTORAL  
RESEARCHERS FROM  
**12** COUNTRIES

**>800,000 SQUARE FEET**  
OF DEDICATED RESEARCH  
LABORATORY AND  
OFFICE SPACE

**15+ biotech start  
ups launched**

**Over \$48 million in  
revenue in 2023**

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## Basic and Translational Laboratory Research

Incoming hematology/oncology fellows pursuing training in basic and translational sciences have access to Nationwide Children's world-class research institute with over 1 million sq/ft dedicated to programs like cancer biology, gene therapy, immuno-oncology, cancer epigenetics, and classical hematology. Fellows can collaborate with leading scientists to explore the molecular mechanisms of pediatric cancers, identify novel therapeutic targets, and oversee the preclinical development of cutting-edge therapies.

Through our relationship with The Ohio State University, fellows can utilize the full spectrum of resources managed by the James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, one of the largest comprehensive cancer centers in the nation. The collaboration between these two institutions fosters a unique environment for fellows to pursue cross-disciplinary research. Fellows can participate in joint projects that leverage Nationwide Children's expertise in pediatric oncology and The Ohio State University's strengths in adult oncology and immunotherapy. These collaborations are supported by mentorship programs, grant-writing workshops, and opportunities to present findings at national and international conferences.





## Clinical Sciences Research

Nationwide Children's is renowned for its expertise in pediatric clinical trials, offering fellows opportunities for exposure to groundbreaking studies in oncology, hematology, and rare diseases. Fellows who seek training in clinical trials science and public health have access to several specialized programs and resources at Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University. Our institutions collaborate to provide fellows with hands-on experience in designing, conducting, and analyzing clinical trials. The integration of research with clinical practice ensures that fellows gain hands-on experience translating findings from the lab into meaningful patient outcomes.

Fellows can earn certifications or advanced degrees in clinical trial design or public health through structured programs that integrate seamlessly with their clinical training. The university's robust infrastructure supports large-scale epidemiological studies and community-based interventions, allowing fellows to explore the social determinants of health and health disparities in cancer care and blood disorders.

Together, these institutions offer a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to training in clinical trials science and public health. Fellows benefit from access to vast clinical datasets, mentorship from leading researchers, and opportunities to contribute to initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes on both local and global scales. This dual emphasis on rigorous clinical trial methodology and public health principles equips fellows with the skills to lead innovative research programs and improve healthcare delivery for diverse populations.



*Research building 4 is the newest addition to Nationwide Children's Research Institute, opened late 2023.*

## Medical Education and Advocacy

Hematology/Oncology fellows at Nationwide Children's Hospital who seek academic training in medical education and advocacy have access to programs and resources designed to develop their skills as educators, mentors, and change-makers in healthcare policy. Our fellowship emphasizes a comprehensive approach to professional development, providing structured opportunities to cultivate teaching expertise and advocacy skills alongside their clinical and research training.

For fellows pursuing medical education, Nationwide Children's and Ohio State organize formal programs such as teaching academies, curriculum design workshops, and simulation-based learning opportunities. Fellows can collaborate with faculty in developing innovative educational tools and in scholarship related to medical education, such as the formal evaluation of teaching methodologies or curriculum assessment, with mentorship from nationally recognized education leaders.

In advocacy, Nationwide Children's offers fellows opportunities to work on initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access, equity, and outcomes for pediatric populations. Fellows can participate in hospital-led programs that address health disparities, engage with legislative efforts through the hospital's government relations team, and partner with community organizations on public health campaigns. Training in policy writing, communication strategies, and grassroots organizing is available to fellows who wish to amplify their impact. Through these experiences, hematology/oncology fellows are well-positioned to influence healthcare education and policy at both institutional and national levels.



# Hear From Our Previous Fellows

**Jennifer A. Belsky, DO, MS** | Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplant

My hematology/oncology fellowship at NCH was an incredibly rewarding experience and one that I am deeply proud of. The mentorship I received from esteemed research faculty played a pivotal role in shaping my career, fostering both my oncology clinical and research skills. Their dedication and guidance provided me with a solid foundation in clinical research, allowing me to gain invaluable experience in both clinical and basic research methodologies. Throughout my time in the fellowship, I was presented with exceptional opportunities for growth, which allowed me to refine my research abilities while expanding my clinical knowledge. The supportive environment at NCH has set me up for future success in clinical research, and I am grateful for the mentorship and resources that have helped me build a strong foundation for the next chapter in my career.

**Andrew “AJ” Picca, DO, MAEd** | Assistant Professor, Pediatrics  
Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Medical University of South Carolina/Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital

My fellowship at NCH excellently prepared me for a junior faculty position, both clinically and academically. The program provided experienced mentorship, masters-level education, and resources to complete a scholarly research project in medical education. The comprehensive clinical training and academic experiences helped me carve a niche for the next step in my career. NCH’s support and ample resources were instrumental in my academic success and overall professional development.

**Ryan D. Roberts, MD PhD** | Center for Childhood Cancer Research  
Pediatric Hematology, Oncology, and BMT  
The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital  
The James Comprehensive Cancer Center at The Ohio State University

My family and I expected Columbus to be a stepping stone to whatever the next thing might be. More than 20 years later, here we are! At each step along the way, I’ve toured the country, considered my options, and had a hard time topping what I already had going for me here. Institutional support, clinical training, scientific mentors, collaborators, supportive colleagues, and excellent resources—I’ve found everything I needed to grow as a physician and a scientist. The environment here has helped me thrive, from foundation grants to a K award to an independent faculty position to R01s and consortium awards. I now find myself on the other side of that desk, looking to find students and fellows who can contribute to my team. I now leverage to help them become the best versions of themselves. My mentors taught me that their success came from my ability to succeed. My focus is now turned to the next generation. I take the greatest pride in helping our trainees succeed.

## Expanding Care

With the announcement of a new strategic plan, Nationwide Children’s Hospital will build several new world-class health care and research facilities. New facilities will include a new 14-story inpatient hospital, featuring state-of-the-art facilities for Hematology, Oncology, and BMT patients. It will also include a new orthopedics and surgery center, new research facilities and new investments in the hospital’s areas of leadership in pediatrics. Our department also includes:

- Approximately 75,000 square feet dedicated for Hematology, Oncology and BMT
- 36 inpatient beds, including eight BMT beds and two hospice beds
- Chemotherapy pharmacy on the unit
- Lead-lined room for administration or therapeutic MIBG
- Procedure room on the unit





## Conferences

A full didactic series is offered to fellows. Required conferences include a weekly multidisciplinary patient management meeting, tumor board, monthly problem conference, bi-monthly journal club, quarterly morbidity/mortality meeting and the fellowship didactic lecture series. Fellows play an active role in these didactics. In addition, our institutional Graduate Medical Education Department has organized Fellow's College Curriculum, designed to meet the needs and ACGME requirements of fellows based on year of fellowship, as well as a dedicated Research Seminar Series and Quality Improvement Program.

Fellows are also strongly encouraged to attend divisional research meetings, monthly Pathology for Hematology-Oncology didactic, disease-specific management meetings, pediatric grand rounds and any of the other outstanding educational opportunities offered in the other divisions at Nationwide Children's.

## Call Schedules/Moonlighting

Weekday home-call is divided amongst first-year fellows three days per week, with the fourth day divided between the senior fellows. Weekend call is approximately every fourth weekend throughout fellowship on the combined Hematology-Oncology service. This consists of covering calls on inpatients from nurses and residents, as well as home calls from parents; there is a short-call and long-call weekend coverage. Attending backup is always available and communication with the attending physician is encouraged. Moonlighting opportunities are available with the program director's approval.

## Salary and Benefits

Fellows are paid at a level commensurate with their post-graduate year. Fellows are provided health care insurance, three weeks of vacation per year, as well as time for conference attendance each year. The hospital provides each fellow with an education fund to pay for ABP Pediatric Boards, society dues, books and meeting fees. Additional divisional funds may be provided to be used for research supplies or travel to meetings related to scholarly projects.

## Application Process

All applications must be submitted through Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®) and include the following:

- Complete application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Personal statement
- At least three letters of reference
- Medical school performance evaluation (MSPE)
- Medical school transcript
- USMLE or COMLEX transcript
- Photo
- If not a United States Citizen or Permanent resident – current J-1 or J-2 Visa
- If a graduate of a medical school outside of the United States – valid ECFMG certificate

As per recommendations from national and institutional leadership, we will continue to conduct virtual interviews, in an effort to create a fair and equitable process for applicants. "Second looks" may be arranged through our Graduate Medical Education staff. Candidates will be ranked and final selection occurs through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. We are unable to accept applicants that are not registered with the NRMP. Please visit [nrmp.org](http://nrmp.org).





Nationwide Children's Hospital  
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For more information, visit [NationwideChildrens.org](http://NationwideChildrens.org) and search Fellowship Programs or email us at [PedsHemOncBMTFellowships@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:PedsHemOncBMTFellowships@nationwidechildrens.org)



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