

Welcome to the all-digital edition of *MedStat*. The printed version will no longer be produced, but you can access a PDF version online at NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat and in The Lounge on ANCHOR.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

2025 Physician Recognition Award Nominations

The Medical Staff Recognition Committee is accepting nominees for the 2025 Career Contribution Award, Golden Stethoscope Award, Art of Medicine Award and Outstanding Community-Based Award. The recipients of these awards will be recognized at the Physician Recognition Awards event on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Conference Center. The guidelines and nomination form can be found in the *MedStat* email PDF attachment. Additionally, nomination forms were sent on February 1 via SurveyMonkey. Nomination forms should be returned to the attention of **Yvonne Jackson** in the Medical Staff Office by March 31.

Center for Clinical Excellence Quality Awards 2024

Nationwide Children's Center for Clinical Excellence recently awarded the Asthma Collaborative and the Nephrotoxic Acute Kidney Injury Reduction Team with Quality Awards for their efforts and success.

Asthma Collaborative

The asthma core team has improved the quality of asthma care at Nationwide Children's for over 10 years.

- Increased utilization of Asthma Specialty clinics by over

100 visits per month and increased the rate of patients completing asthma education by over 20% in 2024.

- Implemented a more efficient albuterol nebulizer treatment, leading to decreased length of stay for patients who received albuterol nebulizer treatment in 2024.
- Consistently met national benchmarks for hospitalized patients' length of stay and return rates.
- Provided access to specialty services in the community, offering patients more specialized care, in-home nursing and options to receive controller medications at school.

Nephrotoxic Acute Kidney Injury Prevention

The Nephrotoxic Acute Kidney Injury (NAKI) reduction team addresses one of the most frequent hospital-acquired harms detected in children's hospitals. Since 2020, the NAKI reduction team's primary goal has been to minimize nephrotoxic medication exposures and resultant NAKI events across the hospital, thereby improving patient safety and outcomes. NAKI is linked to chronic kidney disease, longer hospital stays and higher costs.

- Enhanced decision support tools, providing education for providers and pharmacists, and improving data accessibility.
- Identified unit and service-level champions to ensure all staff are engaged and aware of best practices.
- Statistically significant reductions in NAKI exposures in non-ICU, CTICU and PICU areas, along with notable decreases in NAKI events within CTICU and PICU units.
- Improved surveillance tools in units that encounter specific challenges for NAKI.



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Amy Valasek, MD, Recognized With Community Leadership Award

Amy Valasek, MD, recently received the 2024 President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition Community Leadership Award, which recognizes individuals who

drive stronger, healthier communities through initiatives in sports, exercise, wellness and nutrition. She was selected as one of 20 recipients nationally. When Dr. Valasek went to Washington, D.C. to accept the award, she was inspired by all the incredible ways people around the nation are working to promote movement within their communities. The experience particularly strengthened her passion to help those who cannot afford to participate in travel sports or costly athletic programs.

Resources for Supporting Healthy Teen Relationships

The Center for Family Safety and Healing's Green Flags campaign offers a positive and approachable framework to help teens build skills and foster healthy relationships. This initiative provides education on the characteristics of healthy relationships, how to set boundaries and how to recognize signs of abuse. Additionally, it offers resources to address and prevent abuse. [Click here](#) to request a Green Flags training for your department, a toolkit or other printed resources.

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

Ohio Amblyope Registry

The Ohio Amblyope Registry (OAR) is the first and only statewide program in the United States designed to serve the needs of children with amblyopia, commonly known as "Lazy Eye," their families and eye doctors. It is a voluntary registration program to increase knowledge about amblyopia, its treatment and prevention. The OAR provides free eye patches for the treatment of amblyopia, free literature about amblyopia and its causes, and other important services to help families of children with amblyopia. All services are free of charge (restricted to Ohio residents only). The OAR is part of the Save Our Sight program that receives voluntary contributions from the check-off donation box on the Ohio License plate renewal forms.

Tips for Toothbrushing

Do your patient families have questions about toothbrushing at home? February is Children's Dental Health Month, and the Partners For Kids® Oral Health team offers a fun and engaging video to share with parents and little ones. Medical Director **Beau Meyer, DDS**, and Dental Hygiene Educator **Andrea Workman** share four important tips to keep teeth clean and healthy from the day the first teeth come in. You can find more oral health resources in the [Oral Health Toolkit](#).

Updated Management Guidelines for Insomnia

Partners For Kids has updated the Management Guidelines for Pediatric Insomnia to help primary care practitioners provide effective treatment for children who have difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. The guidelines include clinical recommendations, sleep hygiene tips, evaluation tools, medication information and more. [View the Guidelines](#).

Discontinuation of 722-KIDS

The 722-KIDS physician referral line will be discontinued on May 1. Originally, this phone line was a tool to help parents and guardians find a pediatrician. However, over the past several years, its usage has sharply decreased. Parents and guardians looking for a pediatrician can now use the enhanced "Find A Doctor" link on the navigation bar of the Nationwide Children's website or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/find-a-doctor](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/find-a-doctor).

Promote Early Literacy With Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

One of the most powerful tools you can offer your patient families is the gift of literacy to support cognitive development, language skills and emotional bonding. You can help ensure every child ages 0 to 5 has the opportunity to develop a love for reading for free. For more information and to enroll, encourage parents and caregivers to visit [NationwideChildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary).

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Sean Tabaie, MD, MBA, FAAOS, FAOA, is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Nationwide Children's Hospital and clinical professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. At Nationwide Children's, Dr. Tabaie serves as the director of the Cerebral Palsy & Neuro-Orthopedics Program, medical director of the Honda Center for Gait Analysis and Mobility Enhancement, director of the Neuro-Orthopedics Fellowship,

associate director of the Pediatric Orthopedics Fellowship and associate director of the Orthopedic Innovation Program.

Dr. Tabaie obtained his medical degree from the Chicago Medical School. He then trained in orthopedic surgery and clinical research at Saint Louis University Hospital. He subsequently completed an advanced fellowship in pediatric orthopedics at the Northern California Shriners Hospital for Children and UC Davis Medical Center, where he gained expertise in cerebral palsy treatment, child and young adult hip preservation, limb deformity treatment, club foot and scoliosis. He then showed his dedication to the field of pediatric orthopedics by completing a second fellowship at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, where he gained further experience in treatment of children with complex limb deformities and cerebral palsy.

Dr. Tabaie is board-certified and is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Orthopaedics Association. He is an active member of many national/international professional societies. He holds numerous leadership positions within those organizations, including his current role on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.

Dr. Tabaie's research focuses on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion and advancing innovation in pediatric orthopedics. He has published numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts, focusing on topics, such as surgical outcomes in underserved populations, health care disparities in pediatric orthopedics and novel treatment approaches for children with cerebral palsy.

Additionally, Dr. Tabaie is a principal investigator with the Cerebral Palsy Research Network. He is focused on advancing the field of pediatric orthopedic surgery through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning. He believes that these emerging technologies have the potential to revolutionize diagnosis, treatment planning and outcomes in pediatric orthopedics. His current research projects focus on leveraging AI algorithms and predictive modeling to enhance surgical decision-making, optimize patient care and improve long-term outcomes.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- Ross Hall, the first building at Columbus Children's (now Nationwide Children's) dedicated to research, opened in 1962.
- The Wexner Institute for Pediatric Research opened in 1987.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Physician Recognition

Medical staff leadership would like to acknowledge physicians for recently receiving positive comments from patients and families. These comments are only a brief sample of the many compliments our physicians receive regularly.

Monica Ardura, DO, Pediatrics

"My daughter initially received care from Dr. Ardura during a short in-patient stay. At that time, my daughter was almost 18, and I was so impressed by the patience and willingness of Dr. Ardura to explain her condition in a way that she could hear and understand, which helped my daughter begin to take responsibility for her own medical care and personal actions. Dr. Ardura reached out, followed up and even researched info for my daughter. I appreciate her care and commitment."

Ray Bignall, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Bignall is phenomenal. He truly cares about his patients and makes every effort to ensure he makes the best decisions. He listens and cares about any concerns brought up and does everything to make sure concerns are resolved. Dr. Bignall should be an example for every doctor!"

Traci Bouchard, MD, Pediatrics

"The staff of East Broad Close to HomeSM went above and beyond to make my daughter feel relaxed and comfortable when she was feeling sad and tearful. Dr. Bouchard was incredible. She took time to listen to my daughter, and us, her parents. Dr. Bouchard helped us with pharmacy options since it was a Sunday evening and limited pharmacies were available, and even arranged for my daughter to be given a dose of medication before leaving the clinic. It was truly an exceptional experience with exceptional people."

Elizabeth Claxton, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Claxton was incredible! We seriously feel so blessed to have received care from such an amazing medical professional! Dr. Claxton listened to our concerns and did her best to keep my daughter comfortable. Dr. Claxton explained all her plans before the nurses executed them. We are so thankful we were in such fabulous hands!"

Gregory Pearson, MD, Pediatric Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

"Dr. Pearson takes his time, educates us, answers all our questions, and provides compassionate care. He is well-liked by the nurses and staff. The teamwork is amazing. You can tell Dr. Pearson truly cares about his patients and their families. He always goes over and above."

Reno Ravindran, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Reno has been fantastic! My daughter feels very comfortable with him as he explains her condition and involves her in decision-making. It is never 'fun' to have a hurt child, however, this team makes it as enjoyable as possible with their positive attitudes and great bedside manner."

Jessica Scherr, PhD, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

"Dr. Scherr is amazing! Dr. Scherr has been compassionate, patient, professional and helpful. I cannot thank her enough! My boys were so comfortable, and that is a rarity! Everyone treated us so nicely for something that could be stressful for children and parents, the entire staff (especially Dr. Scherr) created the most welcoming, kind, compassionate experience, not just for my children, but for me as well!"

Rishabh Sethia, MD, Otolaryngology

"My daughter was scheduled to have tubes inserted in her ears. Dr. Sethia came in before and after surgery and explained the surgical process and afterward how the procedure went for my daughter. Dr. Sethia was very professional and made the experience less stressful. The experience overall was exceptional due to the professional staff."

HEMESCARE UPDATE

Homecare Service Area 2025

Homecare's Intermittent Skilled Nursing (ISN) and Therapy Services have expanded their service areas in central Ohio for 2025. Homecare's most recent service area map (which provides a complete listing of services and counties covered) and the new ISN fact sheet are in the PDF section of the February MedStat email version. The map, updated Payor Matrix and details regarding Homecare's service lines are available at [NationwideChildrens.org/Homecare](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Homecare).

Homecare's Home Medical Equipment continues to deliver equipment and supplies to all 88 counties, except for phototherapy. Due to regulations, phototherapy equipment is available only in Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties.

For questions regarding any of Homecare's services, email Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org. For referrals call Homecare at (614) 355-1100 or toll free at (800) 466-2727 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

2025 Ohio EMS for Children Conference

March 7

Keynote speaker Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD, FACEP, FAAP, FAEMS, will discuss pediatric readiness and improving emergency pediatric care, and also present on pediatric airways during the afternoon panel. There will be an Ohio EMSC Clinical Saves Award Program at lunch. Attendees can choose from ED, prehospital, or alternative tracks with tailored breakout and speaker sessions. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/2025OHEMSC](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/2025OHEMSC).

Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research's Communities Aiming to Reach Equity Summit: Leveraging Technology to Advance Health Equity

April 9

Attendees will hear from clinicians, researchers, and community partners engaged in health equity advancements using technology. Presentations will highlight technology as a tool to address social needs, the potential bias when using technology (including artificial intelligence), and its role in impacting communities, clinical settings, and the health and well-being of families. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/CCHEORCARES25](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/CCHEORCARES25).

2025 Annual Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference

April 11

The 42nd Annual Dwight A. Powell Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference in conjunction with the 40th Annual Pediatric Infectious Diseases Nursing Conference, will present material covering a variety of infectious diseases affecting neonates, infants, and children that are frequently encountered by the primary care medical professional with pediatric patients. Our goal is to assist the attendees in utilizing the most up-to-date diagnostic techniques and therapeutic options to improve the management of these conditions. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ID2025](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/ID2025).

2025 Otolaryngology Research Symposium (ENT)

April 23

The 2025 Otolaryngology Research Symposium is directed to presenting clinical updates and research discoveries for the otolaryngologic care of children. This one-day meeting will include expert panels, multidisciplinary discussions and strategies to improve the quality of care of children. The intended audience includes medical professionals, including otolaryngology physicians, pulmonary physicians, advanced practice providers, nursing staff, registration and administrative staff, and audiology and speech staff. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ENT25.

15th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference

May 9

The conference highlights emerging information and practical advice regarding asthma management for providers or asthma patients across all levels of care. This conference is designed for pediatricians, family practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, social workers, pharmacists, and clinical staff from the hospital, urgent care, primary care, and school facilities with students/patients who have asthma and allergies. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/Asthma2025.

2025 Neonatal/Fetal Conference

May 13-15

The 2025 Neonatal/Fetal Conference will highlight concepts of continuous quality improvement and safety in fetal and neonatal practice. The rapidly expanding evidence in both specialty areas poses challenges for the health care professional to remain current and to recognize opportunities for change in thought and practice. The goal of the conference is to offer science, methodology, practice initiatives and discussion points for the participant to explore. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/NeoFetal25.

Sickle Cell Trait and Disease in 2025: Primer for the Primary Care Provider

July 11

This symposium aims to educate primary care providers (PCPs) regarding the diagnosis and management of sickle cell trait and sickle cell disease. A solid knowledge and understanding of sickle cell disease are essential for PCPs to diagnose sickle-related conditions, counsel patients appropriately, and know when to refer to the academic center for evaluation and treatment. Good communication between the academic center and the primary care providers and appreciation of each other's roles is essential to ensure the patients receive optimal care. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SCD24.

Additional Conferences

To learn more about 2025 conferences, visit NationwideChildrens.org/conferences. For information on event and conference planning support, email IPEoffice@NationwideChildrens.org.

- February 28, Therapeutic Recreation Conference
- March 14, CapABLE Conference: A Piece of the Pi – Sweetening the Pediatric to Adult Transition Journey
- March 19-20, Advancing Social Work in Health Care Conference: Strengthening and Transforming Partnerships
- July 24-25, Multidisciplinary Early Recovery After Congenital Heart Surgery (MERCURY) Meeting
- August 4-8, Annual Scientific Meeting for the Society for Research in Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida
- August 20-22, 3rd Annual Robotic Surgery for Pediatric Surgeons: Program Development and Beyond
- August 25-29, Myology Course
- September 12, Ohio Neuropsychology Group Conference
- September 12-13, Pediatric Feeding Conference
- September 18-19, 2025 IMPAACT Summit
- September 26, 2025 Dermatology Conference
- October 3-4, 2025 PULC Course
- October 17, School Health Update Conference
- October 21, Virtual Reality Conference (XR)
- October 23, The Heart Center Research Day
- October 28-29, Neonatal Simulation Conference
- November 18-19, Research Retreat
- November 21-22, Sports Medicine Conference

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Pediatric Grand Rounds takes place every Thursday from 8 to 9 a.m. A schedule of upcoming and prior recorded sessions is on the Nationwide Children's Physician Connect app and the ANCHOR calendar.

Upcoming sessions include:

Date	Topic	Speaker and Institution/Department
2/13	Cell Therapy for Cancer and Beyond	Dean Lee, MD, PhD Nationwide Children's Hospital
2/20	Health Literacy and Systemic Racism: Using Clear Communication to Reduce Health Care Inequities	Clif Coleman, MD, MPH Oregon Health & Science University
2/27	Transforming Care Culture: Partnership, Pride, and Anti-Ableist Practice in Rare Disease Medicine	Kara Ayers, PhD Cincinnati Children's Hospital
3/6	TBD	Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD, FACEP, FAAP, FAEMS Harbor-University of California Los Angeles Medical Center
3/13	Evaluating the Child with Recurrent Fevers	Shoghik Akoghlanian, MD, and Guliz Erdem, MD Nationwide Children's Hospital

Innovative Approach to Bridge Pediatric Health Care Gaps

Enhance pediatric care with Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). This free virtual program brings together experts and community providers to share knowledge and collaborate on best practices. Through educational presentations and case-based discussions, providers gain the skills to address health care disparities, improve patient outcomes and deliver specialty care to patients within their communities.

Save your spot today for these upcoming sessions:

- Complex Constipation and Bowel Management
- Obesity: Continuity – Orthopedics
- Obesity: Foundations
- Rumination

Visit [NationwideChildrens.org/ECHO-series](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/ECHO-series) to learn more. For your patient families, [Family ECHO](#) is available.

Lounge and Learn

Plan to join the upcoming virtual sessions at 7:30 a.m. via Webex. If you have questions or want to receive session invitations, email Bruce.Meyer@NationwideChildrens.org or Rhonda.Burk@NationwideChildrens.org or call our office to leave a message at (614) 722-4550.

Upcoming virtual sessions:

February 14 – Antonio Cabrera, MD, Cardiology Update

March 14 – Stephen Cook, MD, Healthy Weight Nutrition Update

April 11 – Margaret Redmond, MD, Updates on Food Allergy

May 9 – Sean Tabaie, MD, MBA, FAAOS, FAOA, Cerebral Palsy and Club Foot Update

Visit [NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/MedStat) for additional information regarding many of these articles.



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