

Welcome to the first 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](https://NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat) and in The Lounge on ANCHOR.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE



### Can Yerebakan, MD, PhD, Named Associate Chief of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery

Nationwide Children's has named **Can Yerebakan, MD, PhD**, the associate chief of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and director of the Congenital CT Surgery Fellowship. Dr. Yerebakan is a principal investigator in the Center for Cardiovascular Research. Prior to joining Nationwide Children's and the Abigail Wexner Research Institute in September 2024, Dr. Yerebakan was the associate chief of cardiovascular surgery at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., and a professor of surgery and pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Dr. Yerebakan's research interests include alternative treatments for single ventricle heart disease and regenerative therapies for congenital heart disease. Dr. Yerebakan has received several awards and recognitions for his continued work in congenital heart disease and improving the outcomes of children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. He will continue to provide the hybrid procedure to children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

Dr. Yerebakan has conducted pioneering experimental work in regenerative therapies for congenital heart disease with first time experimental application of autologous umbilical cord stem cells for right heart regeneration. He is interested in improving the outcomes of children with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Dr. Yerebakan is a co-investigator in NIH-funded R01 research, including a phase 1 clinical trial for bone marrow stem cell treatment for neuroprotection and the experimental study to evaluate age and disease appropriate drug therapies for pediatric hearts. Dr. Yerebakan has mentored many international doctoral students, postdoctoral research fellows and clinical fellows.

Dr. Yerebakan has contributed to over 150 peer-reviewed publications in journals in three different languages. He is an active scientific reviewer and serves on the editorial boards of several high-impact journals. He is an active member of several professional organizations, including the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the European Association of Cardiothoracic Surgery and the German Society for Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery.

Originally from Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Yerebakan completed most of his medical training in Germany. After completing a pediatric cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at Children's National, Dr. Yerebakan returned to Germany to practice at the prestigious Pediatric Heart Center of Justus-Liebig University in Giessen.



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## MOC Part 4 Credit

Thank you to everyone who claimed MOC Part 4 credit through Nationwide Children's. In 2024, there were 150 credit claims and 22 new projects submitted.

Remember, claiming your MOC Part 4 credit through Nationwide Children's is easy and free. If you actively participated in a Nationwide Children's approved MOC Part 4 QI project, be sure to submit your [credit claim](#) no later than November 30, 2025.

If you need to get your QI project approved for MOC Part 4 credit, submit [application materials](#) no later than October 17, 2025.

For more information, visit the [ANCHOR MOC](#) page or email [MOC@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:MOC@NationwideChildrens.org).

### COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

## Winter Well-being: Share CAP4Kids Resources With Patient Families

Health care providers play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of the families we serve. It's especially important during the colder months to connect patients with essential resources to help them stay warm, safe and healthy. CAP4Kids is a valuable tool you can share with families, offering a wide range of local services to access:

- Housing and job opportunities
- Walk-in food pantries
- Clothing assistance
- Help with utilities
- And more

Encourage patient families to visit [CAP4Kids.org/Columbus](https://CAP4Kids.org/Columbus) to gain access to these essential resources.

## Dive Into Resources - Partners For Kids®

### ADHD in Primary Care Toolkit

Partners For Kids has created a toolkit to help primary care professionals address the needs of their patients with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The toolkit includes a list of resources for providers, including prescribing guidelines, action plans, diagnosis cheat sheets and more. [Click here](#) to access the toolkit.

### Adolescent Reproductive Health Toolkit

This Partners For Kids toolkit is designed to help primary care professionals when providing adolescent health services, including reproductive health assessments, sexually transmitted infection screenings, contraceptives and more. The toolkit includes resources for providers and patients that can be used to support decision-making and patient understanding.

[Click here](#) to view the full toolkit.

### New Care Guide Program Available

Did you know Partners For Kids now offers a Care Guide team for your patient families who are enrolled in Medicaid or could be eligible for Medicaid? The team offers expert staff trained to help families with a variety of issues related to social determinants of health, including Medicaid enrollment, connection to food assistance and housing, coordinating transportation, scheduling appointments, finding affordable childcare and more. To place a referral, email

[PFFKCareCoordination@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:PFFKCareCoordination@NationwideChildrens.org).

For more information, call (855) 562-4735.

## Community Education: Save The Date

### Craniofacial Family Retreat

January 25 | Program at 1 p.m.

Education sessions and small group discussions designed for teens, school-age children and young children. All program participants are then invited to attend a Columbus Blue Jacket game at 7 p.m. that evening. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

### Rare Disease Day

March 1 | 9 a.m. to noon

This event will include presentations, exhibits and activities for kids of all ages. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

### MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- In 1916, Ohio State University Pediatrics began its first affiliation with Children's Hospital (now Nationwide Children's Hospital).
- In 1957, an eight-year-old boy was the first open-heart surgery patient at (now Nationwide Children's Hospital). In 1984, as an adult, the former patient ran a kilometer through Corona del Mar, California, relaying the Olympic torch toward the summer games in Los Angeles.

## 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.

### Pediatric Primary Care Saving Lives

*"I was reviewing some of the patients in the CTICU this morning and saw that we admitted a child yesterday with no past medical history who presented to their primary care physician, **Barbara B. Rayo, MD, Pediatric Associates – Hilliard**, with fever, chest/abdominal pain and cough. Dr. Rayo noted a new murmur and sent the child to our ED. I would not be understating it to say that her exam skills and recommendations to immediately refer here saved this patient's life."*

### Julie B. Aldrich, MD, Pediatrics

*"The doctor was amazing - showed she truly cared and was invested in helping my son and our family made sure we understood things and answered all our questions. I have nothing but great things to say about this office. The staff made us feel safe, comfortable and welcome. I'm glad my son is under great care here."*

### Deborah L. Blackwell, DO, Pediatrics

*"The staff from the moment we walked in were very friendly and informative. The doctor was friendly and personable. She was tentative to our son and even joked with him. I would definitely recommend to friends and family."*

### Leah E. Braswell, MD, Radiology

*"Dr. Braswell explained everything to me in a very down-to-earth way and by the end of my first appointment with her I felt comfortable with the knowledge of being in her care as she performed the procedure. She was also more than happy to answer my dad's questions about the procedure and stopped in the pre-procedure room to talk to everyone and answer any questions."*

### Alessandra C. Gasior, DO, and Richard J. Wood, MD, Pediatric Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery

*"My son was a NICU baby with many grave defects when born. We have received what I believe to be the best medical professional care we could have hoped for. Nationwide Children's is an outstanding hospital that not only saved my son's life but also performed at the highest level regarding the stages of medical care needed to ensure he was able to live pretty much a 'normal' life. We are very grateful for the outstanding care given in the last 15 years of my son's life!"*

### Katelyn E. Krivchenia, MD, Pediatrics

*"Dr. Krivchenia is wonderful! My daughter made the comment that when she came to see us before surgery she walked in like a friend and got comfortable! We joked about everyone singing and dancing in the OR - then as my daughter was going to sleep - her team, made it happen! She was all smiles sharing that story. Thankful for everyone we met that day!"*

### Ross M. Maltz, MD, Pediatrics

*"The care provided to my 4-month-old was wonderful, the care providers treated him like their own kids! Dr. Maltz and his team were great, he listened to everything I was telling him & he explained everything very clearly! We have been to other hospitals for my son's health and this one was by far the best experience! As a parent, I really liked how I got to speak to Dr. Maltz daily during a.m. rounds, it made it very helpful to get questions answered!"*

### Wilawan Nopkhun, MD, Pediatrics

*"Dr. Nopkhun is excellent in physical medicine. She is very thorough, a great listener, answers MyChart messages timely, and shows concern and care for problems."*

### Jonathan A. Pindrik, MD, Pediatric Neurosurgery

*"My daughter, age 4, received exceptional care at Nationwide Children's. I want to personally recognize Dr. Pindrik for his clinical expertise, exemplary skill set, professionalism and knowledge as a surgeon. This surgery was not only life-changing to my daughter but our entire family. We are forever grateful for her entire care team and the staff at Nationwide Children's! From the bottom of my heart, I thank you!"*

### Zarife Sahenk, MD, PhD, Pediatrics

*"Dr. Sahenk is just incredible! She actually examines and takes time with her patients. She is a wonderful throwback to how medicine used to be practiced. I love her as a doctor and am very grateful to have her as my doctor!"*

### Aaron L. Thatcher, MD, Otolaryngology

*"The doctor that we saw was truly incredible! He was so helpful and gave us many answers that we have been waiting on forever! I would give him 6/5 stars if I could!"*



## Homecare Expansion for Nursing and Therapy Services

Homecare's Intermittent Skilled Nursing (ISN) and Therapy Services have continued expanding their service areas in central Ohio. ISN added Hocking and Perry counties and Therapy Services added Licking County for 2025. An updated map with a complete listing of counties for all services is available online at [NationwideChildrens.org/Homecare](https://NationwideChildrens.org/Homecare).

Home Medical Equipment (HME) 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 about Homecare's services, email [Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org) or call Homecare at (614) 355-1100 or toll-free at (800) 466-2727 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding national holidays.

## INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

### Kidney and Urinary Tract Symposium: State-of-the-Art in Pediatric UTI

February 20-21

The symposium provides a high-level summary of the latest in pediatric urinary tract infection (UTI) mechanisms and management. Experts will highlight knowledge gaps, research recommendations, host-pathogen interactions, host defense mechanisms, urologic evaluations, antibiotic prophylaxis and the impact of recurrent UTIs on the kidney. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/KUTC25](https://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/KUTC25).

### 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. Attendees can choose from ED, prehospital, or alternative tracks with tailored breakout and speaker sessions. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/2025OHEMSC](https://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/2025OHEMSC).

### CapABLE Conference: A Piece of the Pi – Sweetening the Pediatric to Adult Transition Journey

March 14

Plan to attend Nationwide Children's CapABLE Employee Resource Group Transition Conference and Resource Fair. Educational content will be offered for health care providers who support individuals with disabilities as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Presentation topics will cover medical transition, supported decision-making and caregiver support for fostering independence for their adult children. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/CapABLE2025](https://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/CapABLE2025).

### Advancing Social Work in Health Care Conference: Strengthening and Transforming Partnerships

March 19-20

This conference is intended to convene social workers from across the nation to explore strategies for effective communication, collaboration and advocacy within diverse health care settings. Day one of the conference will focus on local and state issues, and opportunities to work together to address the policies and challenges impacting families, social workers and organizations in Ohio. Day two of the conference will reflect the broad practice of social work in health care throughout the nation with a focus on pediatrics. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SW2025](https://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SW2025).

### 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://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ID2025).

# 15<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](https://NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/NeoFetal25).

## Additional Conferences

To learn more or register for an upcoming conference, visit [NationwideChildrens.org/conferences](https://NationwideChildrens.org/conferences). For information on event and conference planning support, email [IPEoffice@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:IPEoffice@NationwideChildrens.org).

- February 28, Therapeutic Recreation Conference
- April 8-9, Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research’s Communities Aiming to Reach Equity Summit (CCHEOR C.A.R.E.S)
- April 23, Otolaryngology Research Symposium
- July 11, Sickle Cell Trait and Disease in 2025: Primer for the Primary Care Provider
- July 24-25, 2025 Multidisciplinary Early Recovery After Congenital Heart Surgery (MERCURY) Meeting
- August 20-22, 3rd Annual Robotic Surgery for Pediatric Surgeons: Program Development and Beyond

## GRAND ROUNDS

### 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
1/9	Turner Syndrome	Jennifer Ladd, MD, MSc and Chelsea Kebodeaux, MD
1/16	No Pediatric Grand Rounds	
1/23	Simulation Use in Patient Safety and Workplace Culture Change	Megan Coe, MD
1/30	Probiotics	Michael Cabana, MD, MPH
2/6	TBD	Brett Anderson, MD
2/13	Cell Therapy for Cancer and Beyond	Dean Lee, MD, PhD

### Bridge Pediatric Health Care Gaps With Project ECHO

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is an innovative program connecting experts and community providers in virtual practice communities, fostering collaborative learning and addressing health care disparities. Enjoy educational presentations and case-based discussions at no cost.

Save your spot for the upcoming sessions to gain practical insights in 2025:

- Behavioral Health in Primary Care: Foundations
- Cerebral Palsy
- Complex Constipation and Bowel Management
- Obesity: Continuity – Neurology and Pseudo Tumors
- Obesity: Continuity – Orthopedics

Visit [NationwideChildrens.org/ECHO-series](https://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:

January 10 – Cynthia Zimm, MD, Update on Urgent Care and how Winter Coverage (Urgent Care offices) is Doing

February 14 – Antonio Cabrera, MD, Cardiology Update

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

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

## The Pam & Jack Beeler Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Grand Rounds

Make plans to join the upcoming session from noon to 1 p.m.

February 13 - Anna Van Meter, PhD, “Constant Companions – How Digital Devices can Improve Diagnosis and Treatment for Youth.” Join in person at Nationwide Children’s Allen Auditorium or **Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/92588688918>**.

March 13 - Sarah Hamilton, “Cannabis: Clinical Implications and Treatment Considerations Within First Episode Psychosis Care.” Join virtually via Zoom at **<https://zoom.us/j/97184654697>**.

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



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