

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.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



John David Spencer, MD, Receives ASPN Award

John David Spencer, MD, is the recipient of the 2025 Mid-Career Award from the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPN). Dr. Spencer is chief of the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, principal investigator in the Center for Clinical and Translational Research in the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's and an assistant professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. The ASPN award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of pediatric nephrology through their clinical service, research, or education of trainees and/or junior faculty.



Dane Snyder, MD, Recognized as Physician of the Year

Dane Snyder, MD, section chief of Primary Care Pediatrics and medical director of Ambulatory Services at Nationwide Children's and a professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, has been recognized as Nationwide Children's Physician of the Year. The Physician of the Year Award was established to honor and recognize one physician at Nationwide Children's each year. The selection of the winner is determined by members of medical and hospital leadership.



Ashley Fernandes, MD, PhD, Among the Dean's Excellence Award Winners

Ashley Fernandes, MD, PhD, has been awarded the Distinguished Clinical Science Educator Award. Dr. Fernandes is a clinical professor of Pediatrics at Nationwide Children's and the associate director of the Center for Bioethics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He is the director of Competency for Professionalism at The Ohio State College of Medicine, where he is also holds various leadership roles in medical education. The Dean's Excellence Award honorees have made exceptional contributions to education, research, patient care, community service and inclusive excellence.

Comments From Patients and Families

Medical staff leadership acknowledges positive comments from patients and families. These comments are only a brief sample of the many compliments our physicians receive regularly.

Antonio Cabrera, MD, Pediatrics, and Can Yerebakan, MD, PhD, Cardiothoracic Surgery

"The Cardiothoracic Unit is incredible. At a very scary time, they were there to help. Dr. Cabrera and Dr. Yerebakan were amazing in our son's treatment and surgery, not only giving next-level care to him but ensuring we understood everything happening. While they were the primary doctors we worked with for our son's surgery, all the doctors (and nurse practitioners) were incredible. I can't say enough great things about the staff of the Cardiothoracic Unit at Nationwide Children's. Definitely one of the best and where you want to be if your child needs help with their heart."



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Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, Pediatrics, and Dana Schwartz, MD, General Pediatric Surgery

"Both doctors were amazing! We saw the gastroenterologist and surgeon on the same day. They made this work, which was awesome, so we didn't have to make an additional four-hour trip to finish our checkups."

Tracy Ediger, MD, PhD, Pediatrics

"We came for a second opinion from Cincinnati Children's GI. I have been so impressed at the compassion and the helpfulness of all staff at Nationwide Children's. I will only get care from your GI department from now on."

Katya Harfmann, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Harfmann is a very gentle, kind physician. We see her for alopecia. She understands and respects the emotional impact this condition can have. She always checks on my child's emotional/social handling of the situation and offers empathy."

Lea Taylor, PhD, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

"I love my provider with all my heart! She has gotten me through a lot of hard times. I am sad that (eventually) I have to find a different doc because I am "aging out." She is always so laid back and relaxed, which helps my anxiety when it comes to doctors' offices. When I speak with her, it's almost like I am talking to a friend, rather than a "provider." She's truly been amazing, and I genuinely could not thank her enough!"

Lisa Stone, DO, Pediatrics

"I am always impressed by the nurses and doctors at this clinic (Near East Primary Care). They take such good care of our most precious gift with compassion and love."

Karen Texter, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Texter was so wonderful. While we were fortunate to be receiving good news, I think Dr. Texter's demeanor and empathy would have made me feel optimistic even if the news weren't so positive. I would have felt confident working with her for any ongoing care that was needed."

Jorge Vidaurre, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Vidaurre is top-notch. We have been on my son's treatment journey for 19 years. Dr. Vidaurre has been involved for the vast majority of it, and I would not want my son to be on this journey without him. Wonderful physician and human being."

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Allen A. Kadado, MD, is a board-certified pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Nationwide Children's. He serves as director of the Nationwide Children's Center for Orthopedic Innovation, director of the Nationwide Children's Pediatric Orthopedic Residency Program and adjunct assistant professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at The Ohio State University. After receiving his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine, he completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Henry Ford Health System, followed by specialized fellowship training in Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery and Scoliosis at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Dr. Kadado specializes in conditions of the spine including scoliosis, spondylolisthesis, kyphosis, spinal deformity, orthopedic trauma, lower extremity, foot conditions and general orthopedics. Within the Center for Comprehensive Spine Care, he offers a holistic and integrated approach, using both non-surgical and surgical treatment modalities. He has a particular interest in spinal deformity correction with fusion and non-fusion motion-preserving techniques.

His academic interests include [scoliosis](#), musculoskeletal trauma, innovation in medicine, global outreach, and optimizing pediatric orthopedic training through simulation and education. Dr. Kadado is active in orthopedic research, surgical innovation and quality improvement initiatives. He is also involved in national and international research study groups.

Dr. Kadado is a member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America, Scoliosis Research Society, American Orthopedic Association Emerging Leaders, Orthopedic Trauma Association, Ohio Orthopedic Society and Columbus Orthopedic Society.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Patient Financial Assistance Program

Nationwide Children's is committed to offering financial assistance to people who have health care needs and are not able to pay for care. No child will be denied care due to inability to pay for services. We accept most insurance plans, including Medicaid. Nationwide Children's has financial assistance programs for those who qualify. Financial support staff are available to help families sign up for Medicaid or to find out if they qualify for financial assistance. For more information or to obtain a copy of our Financial Assistance Policy, contact Patient Accounts at (614) 722-2055 or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Financial-Assistance](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Financial-Assistance). For Nationwide Children's

Toledo, contact Patient Accounts at (888) 908-2498 or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Locations/Toledo/Patient-Resources/Financial-Assistance](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Locations/Toledo/Patient-Resources/Financial-Assistance).

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

CAP4Kids: Free Summer Resources for Patient Families

The Children's Advocacy Project (CAP4Kids) is a one-stop-shop website that offers countless free and low-cost resources. From free meal programs to arts and science camps and college prep courses, these resources can make a significant difference in the lives of the families we serve. Encourage your patient families to [explore these opportunities](#) to make the most of their summer fun.

Giggle 'N Groove Music Therapy

Giggle 'n Groove is a research-based music therapy class designed to aid a baby's growth (ages 5-24 months) and development through music and play. This class is led by Nationwide Children's music therapists at two locations:

East Columbus Close To HomeSM (6435 E. Broad St.) at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Westerville Close To Home (433 N. Cleveland Ave.) at 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

There is no fee for NICU follow-up and Cardiac Clinic families; the cost is \$5 per class for all others.

ADHD Academy 2025 Classes

The Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) virtual series is held in the evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. online via Webex. For questions, call Community Education at (614) 355- 0589 or email Sheri.Brock@NationwideChildrens.org.

Annual Diabetes Fun Fair

The Annual Diabetes Fun Fair will be held on Friday, May 9, from 3 to 6 p.m. and is open to families free of charge. Visit with Nationwide Children's experts and educators who will have the latest information and updates on effectively managing Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. [Registration is available at this link.](#)

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- In 1978, the first separation of conjoined twins at Columbus Children's Hospital (now Nationwide Children's) and in the state of Ohio.
- In 2012, the 12-story, 750,000 square foot patient tower opens at 700 Children's Drive as part of the hospital's seven-year campus expansion, doubling the size of the ER to 62 rooms and 552 beds total.

HOMECARE UPDATE

Nationwide Children's Homecare Growth

As Homecare expanded its individual service areas in 2024, the number of pediatric patients receiving visits, supplies and services in their homes increased. This growth furthered our mission to give all children the best life possible at home by providing expert, collaborative, family-centered care. Referral numbers increased in all seven services listed below:

- **Home Medical Equipment (HME):** 29,483 deliveries
- **Hospice:** 5,641 patient days
- **Infusion Pharmacy:** 185,268 doses dispensed
- **Intermittent Skilled Nursing:** 7,738 visits (1,808 in the Toledo region)
- **Palliative Care:** 3,192 visits
- **Private Duty Nursing:** 61,365 hours
- **Therapy Services:** 20,452 visits (4,312 in the Toledo region)

As Homecare grows, the team continues to implement Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives within our service lines, which are key to sustaining successful growth and maintaining low error rates. For example, implementing QI tracking with a multidisciplinary team within Homecare has resulted in improved accuracy with HME deliveries, even as volumes continue to rise. From 2019 through 2024, QI tracking results show a significant drop in delivery error rates from 9.28 per 1,000 deliveries in 2019 to just 1.7 per 1,000 deliveries in 2024. This improvement is particularly noteworthy given the substantial increase in annual deliveries, growing from 18,079 in 2021 to 18,892 in 2022 (4.4% growth), 22,158 in 2023 (17.28% growth) and reaching 29,483 in 2024 (33.05% growth). Despite this rapid expansion, driven in part by our reach into all counties in Ohio, error rates have continued to decrease, underscoring the effectiveness of our QI efforts.

For general questions regarding Homecare services, email Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org. For referrals, call Homecare at (614) 355-1100 or (800) 466-2727, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding national holidays.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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.

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.

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.

Multidisciplinary Early Recovery After Congenital Heart Surgery (MERCURY) Meeting

July 24-25

Learn to safely reduce post-operative morbidity and reduce ICU/hospital length of stay by utilizing Nationwide Children's MERCURY approach to early recovery after surgery. Immerse your team in a two-day hands-on experience to gain confidence in achieving reliable and safe intraoperative extubation, lowered device days and reduced blood transfusion for congenital heart surgery. Develop your multidisciplinary team's coordination through live cases and simulations. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/MERCURY25

Additional Conferences

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

- 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 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

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. [Learn more about Pediatric Grand Rounds.](#)

Upcoming sessions include:

Date	Topic	Speaker and Institution/Department
3/13	Evaluating the Child With Recurrent Fevers	Shoghik Akoghlian, MD, and Guliz Erdem, MD Nationwide Children's
3/20	TBD	Eaton Lecture
3/27	Making the Diagnosis When It Counts: Recognizing Treatable Leukodystrophies	Johnson Lecture Florian Eichler, MD Massachusetts General Hospital
4/3	Pediatric Solid Organ Transplantation: Appreciating our Heroic Patients and Donors	Stephen Kirkby, MD, Alexander Weymann, MD, Hiren Patel, MD, and Deipanjani Nandi, MD, MSc Nationwide Children's

Upcoming Project ECHO: Obesity, Rumination and Family ECHO

Project ECHO creates virtual practice communities with experts and community providers, to foster collaborative learning and tackle health care disparities head-on. You can access these educational presentations and participate in discussions at no cost! Save your spot for the upcoming sessions about obesity, rumination and Family ECHO. [Register Now!](#)

MOC Part 4 Credit

Do you have an MOC cycle ending this year? 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.

Pam and Jack Beeler Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Grand Rounds

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

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Sarah Hamilton, MD

Cannabis: Clinical Implications and Treatment Considerations
Within First Episode Psychosis Care

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/97184654697>

Thursday, April, 17, 2025

Mitch Prinstein, PhD, ABPP

Social Media and Adolescent Mental Health

Nationwide Children's Conference Center – Allen Auditorium
(Lunch Provided)

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/94432412729>

Thursday, May 29, 2025

Emily Becker-Haimes, PhD

**How Decades of Research on Anxiety Management can Help
Clinicians Improve Evidence-Based Practice Delivery**

Nationwide Children's Conference Center – Allen Auditorium
(Lunch Provided)

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/94565824763>

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 the office to leave a message at (614) 722-4550.

Upcoming virtual sessions:

March 14 – Stephen Cook, MD, Caring for Patients With Obesity: It Takes a Village (Healthy Weight Nutrition Update)

April 11 - Margaret Redmond, MD, Feed the Baby! Updates on Food Allergy

May 9 - Sean Tabaie, MD, MBA, FAAOS, FAOA, What's new in Cerebral Palsy and Lower Extremity Deformities (Cerebral Palsy and Club Foot Update)

Visit NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat for additional information regarding many of these articles.



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