

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Nationwide Children's Recognized Among Best of the Best



Nationwide Children's Hospital has been named to U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals Honor Roll for the 12th consecutive year. The Honor Roll is a top distinction awarded to only 10 children's hospitals nationally. Nationwide Children's is also ranked in the top 10 in seven of the 10 specialties, with four specialties ranked in the top five.

For the second year, U.S. News has not given numbered rankings to its 10 Honor Roll hospitals but continues to rank individual pediatric specialties. U.S. News also recognizes the best children's hospitals in each state and region. Nationwide Children's has been named by U.S. News as tied for the No. 1 pediatric hospital in Ohio and the Midwest.

For the second year, U.S. News & World Report has recognized Nationwide Children's among the "Top 50" pediatric hospitals for Behavioral Health Services. This list recognizes the "Top 50" without specific, individual rankings.

The annual Best Children's Hospitals rankings, now in their 19th year, are designed to assist parents and caregivers, along with their physicians, in navigating the challenges of choosing the best possible care for children with serious illnesses or complex medical needs.

2025 American Academy of Pediatrics Awards

Congratulations to the Nationwide Children's physicians honored at the 2025 AAP National Conference & Exhibition.

2025 AAP Education Award

John D. Mahan, MD, FAAP

Council on Children with Disabilities Early Career Award

Elizabeth Barnhardt, DO, MA, FAAP

Council on Clinical Information Technology Byron Oberst Award

Jeffrey M. Hoffman, MD, FAMIA, FAAP

Council on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention Fellow Achievement Award

Sarah A. Denny, MD, FAAP

Section on Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Murray Davidson Award

Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, FAAP

2026 Medical Leadership Program

The Medical Leadership Program (MLP) is a 10-month leadership program that consists of two monthly in-person 60-minute sessions. The program also includes quarterly peer sessions with an assigned coach. Prior to each class, participants will complete short online assignments to prepare them for each interactive, experiential session.

For more information, search "Medical Leadership Program" on ANCHOR. Applications open now through November 30.



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Albert Isaacs, MD, PhD, is a pediatric neurosurgeon, director of the Hydrocephalus Program at Nationwide Children's, and assistant professor of Neurological Surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Isaacs obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Carleton University in Ottawa, followed by his medical degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. During residency training in neurosurgery at the University of Calgary, Dr. Isaacs completed graduate studies in neuroscience at both the University of Calgary and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He completed his pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Vanderbilt University's Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville. Dr. Isaacs' extensive background and training across various institutions and countries reflect his unyielding commitment to excellence and dedication to mentoring the next generation of neurosurgeons.

As the principal investigator at the [Steve and Cindy Rasmussen Institute for Genomic Medicine](#), Dr. Isaacs leads an advanced translational neurosurgery lab. The [Isaacs Lab](#) is dedicated to tackling significant challenges in neonatal medicine, specifically neonatal intraventricular hemorrhage and perinatal sepsis, which frequently result in post-hemorrhagic or post-infectious hydrocephalus. The lab blends clinical expertise with experimental research to investigate the inflammatory pathways contributing to these neurodevelopmental disorders. State-of-the-art neuroimaging techniques and comprehensive genomic and proteomic analysis tools are employed to deepen the understanding of the disease mechanisms at a molecular level. Innovatively, the lab uses nanoparticles for cellular studies and targeted therapy delivery, and pioneers the use of cerebrospinal fluid as a liquid biopsy tool in pediatric neurosurgery. The research team, led by Dr. Isaacs, also focuses on genetic and epigenetic factors, aiming to develop personalized treatment strategies. With the use of experimental models for both in vitro and in vivo experiments, the lab strives to translate its research findings into enhanced clinical and neurodevelopmental outcomes for neonates affected by these conditions.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

1965 – Columbus Children's (now Nationwide Children's) Articles of Incorporation were amended to designate the hospital as a scientific and educational institution.

2003 – The Center for Behavioral Health is created at Nationwide Children's.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Comments From Patients and Families

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.

Abha Athale, DO, Pediatrics

"The doctors brought such comfort to our daughter and us, took time to listen and really helped us understand our daughter's prognosis. We felt so cared for and equipped to care for our child's needs when returning home. The Lewis Center team is the best emergency care we have received in Columbus."

Charles Elmaraghy, MD, FAAP, FACS, Otolaryngology

"Not only is he great at what he does professionally, he's also very empathetic and explains everything very patiently. You can tell it's not just a job for him. It's a mission and a passion. You see it in the staff as well. My daughter wants to attend medical school, and she's mentioned the positive interactions dealing with an unfortunate accident as one of the reasons why she feels inspired. Thank you for the great treatment you've always shown our family!"

Renata Fabia, MD, PhD, General Pediatric Surgery

"The burn clinic is amazing. Per my teen, regarding her visits to the clinic, 'Despite this being the most painful injury I've ever had, these visits were the best experience ever in a hospital/doctor's office.' I've already recommended the burn clinic to others. It truly is a great example of the level of care that can be provided when an interdisciplinary team works together!"

Christopher Gaw, MD, MPH, MBE, Pediatrics

"They did such a good job taking care of our girl. Everyone was usually telling us information before we had to ask. You could tell they were focused on giving us the best care possible."

Reno Ravindran, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Ravindran is patient and thorough. I am thankful for the ways he has listened to me since my daughter has been under his care. I appreciate how attentive he is to my daughter and how well he communicates with her. Thank you, Dr. Ravindran, for your kind and patient heart."

Rachel Sells, DMD, Dentistry Resident

"Dr. Sells and the dental assistant were outstanding. They truly engaged with my son with special needs, took their time, while moving rapidly when he was ready to proceed. To say they are an

asset is a complete understatement. I hope we get to see them again at return follow ups. We do not usually fill out surveys. But I've been awaiting this one. Great job!"

Erica Sivak, MD, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine

"Dr. Sivak was great! My son is interested in becoming an anesthesiologist, and she talked to him about her education and the profession in general. We thought that was very nice. She explained everything well about what would happen in the OR."

Heather Stewart, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Stewart and team are top notch. So professional, caring, explaining at our level, connecting with patient and parents. With our shy child, she is able to connect and build trust. She provides care for the whole child - mentally, emotionally and physically. Her team also follows her lead in great care."

Jennifer Thaete, MD, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

"Dr. Jen has been a blessing to my family! Her interactions with my child are caring and engaged. We feel so lucky to have her as our provider."

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Pediatric Sports Medicine and Orthopedics Conference

November 21-22

This conference is designed for physicians, athletic trainers, physical therapists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who treat pediatric patients with sports medicine injuries and orthopedic problems. Attendees may choose to attend in person or virtually on Friday, where afternoon breakout lectures in sports medicine, rehabilitation and musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSK) will be available. Saturday's optional in-person program will feature hands-on labs in rehabilitation and MSK ultrasound. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SMED25.

2026 Pediatric Gastroenterology Conference for Primary Care Clinicians

March 27

This one-day, hybrid conference is designed to provide primary care and general pediatric clinicians with up-to-date information on the identification, diagnosis and management of common gastrointestinal conditions. Attendees will receive practical resources to help care for their patients and the opportunity to build community with the pediatric gastroenterology team at Nationwide Children's. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/GI2026.

Upcoming Conferences in 2026

- January 30, 11th Annual Pediatric Update for Advanced Practice Providers
- March 6, Ohio EMSC Update on Pediatric Readiness
- March 19-20, Kidney and Urinary Tract Symposium
- April 1, Otolaryngology Research Symposium
- April 10, Pediatric Infection Diseases Conference
- May 7-8, Pediatric Asthma Conference
- May 11-14, Neonatal/Fetal Conference
- May 29, Ohio Integrated Primary Care 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.

Upcoming sessions include:

Date	Topic	Speaker and Institution/Department
11/6	The Paradoxical Relationship Between Infection and Childhood Arterial Ischemic Stroke	Johnson Lecture Heather Fullerton, MD, MAS
11/13	Not Living to Wait, Not Waiting to Live – Thriving With Muscular Dystrophy	Pat Moeschen Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
11/20	Improving Care for Children With Severe Neurological Impairment and Their Families	The Humphrey Family Hospice and Palliative Medicine Lectureship Jori Bogetz, MD Seattle Children's Hospital
11/27	No Pediatric Grand Rounds – Thanksgiving Day	
12/4	Monitoring and Treating Mental Health in Subspecialty Pediatrics	Tamar Rubinstein, MD, MS Children's Hospital at Montefiore

12/11	Care of Children With Neuromuscular Disease and Chronic Critical Illness	Robert Graham, MD Boston Children's Hospital
12/18 and 12/25	No Pediatric Grand Rounds	

Claim Your MOC Part 4 Credit

Be sure to check your board MOC cycle dates and claim your credit in time. It's easy and free. If you actively participated in a [Nationwide Children's approved MOC Part 4 QI project, claim credit](#) no later than November 30. For more information or questions, visit the [ANCHOR MOC](#) page or email MOC@NationwideChildrens.org. New projects were due by October 17.

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:

November 14 – Kevin Flanagan, MD, Update on Gene Therapies

December 12 – Maryam Fouladi, MD, Updates on Therapies for Brain Tumors

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Pam and Jack Beeler Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Grand Rounds

Make plans to join the upcoming session from noon to 1 p.m. Find the events on the Zoom links listed below.

Thursday, November 20

Emre Sezgin, PhD

Using Artificial Intelligence and Pre-trained Language Models in Behavioral Health: Opportunities and Challenges
Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/97472084364>

Thursday, December 11

Sarah Keim, PhD, MA, MS, and Lisa Robinette, PhD, MS

Omega Tots With Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Anxiety and Depression Outcomes
Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/97305950663>

PRIMARY CARE MATTERS

Why I Offer HPV (Gardasil) Immunization at Age 9

by William W. Long, MD, FAAP

I often get asked why I recommend starting the HPV vaccine series at age 9, rather than waiting until patients are 11 or older. For me, the answer is both practical and rooted in the evidence. I'd like to share why this has become standard in my practice.

The goal for preventing HPV-related disease is immunization. We have a safe and highly effective vaccine that can dramatically reduce the burden of cervical cancer, oropharyngeal cancer and other HPV-associated conditions. Offering it early gives us the best chance of protecting patients before they are ever exposed.

Better immune response at younger ages

Children mount a stronger immune response to the HPV vaccine at 9 to 11 years compared with later adolescence. Antibody titers are higher, and this enhanced immunogenicity translates to durable protection. By starting earlier, we take advantage of this biologic window to optimize vaccine effectiveness. Studies are in progress to see if just one dose of vaccine given in this age range produces durable immunity.

Higher series completion rates

In my own practice, I've seen how difficult it can be to complete a multi-dose vaccine series once kids are older and busier. Adolescents at 13 or 14 are juggling sports, school, activities and (often) reduced well-child visits. When I start the HPV vaccine at 9, parents are generally more receptive, and follow-up doses align with existing visits. Also, if they don't start at age 9, we bring it up every year as a reminder. Completion rates are significantly higher, something the literature confirms as well.

Separating HPV from conversations about sexual activity

By framing HPV immunization as "just another routine vaccine" at age 9, I can avoid some of the stigma and discomfort families may feel when the vaccine is first presented in the context of adolescence and sexual debut. That's why I mention the vaccine at the 8-year-old visit to prepare the patient and family. Parents are more likely to accept it when it's part of the routine 9- and 10-year-old immunization schedule, alongside Tdap and meningococcal discussions that will come later.

Equity and prevention

Finally, offering the vaccine at age 9 helps ensure we reach children who might otherwise fall through the cracks. Missed opportunities accumulate quickly, and delaying vaccination increases the chance that a child may never receive it. Or worse,

if they're exposed to HPV before they're protected. From a public health perspective, earlier initiation is a matter of equity and cancer prevention.

For all these reasons, I've shifted to offering HPV starting at age 9. It's a small change in timing, but it has made a big difference in uptake, in parent acceptance and ultimately in my confidence that I'm giving my patients the best protection possible against HPV-related disease.

Some learnings to share

- Forewarn your patients at the 8-year-old checkup
- Be flexible in shared decision-making with parents, but be consistent about offering it to every 9-year-old and every year thereafter
- Families will generally fall into three groups: those who accept the vaccine and start it at age 9, those who want to wait and those who will never consent to the vaccine. It's helpful to know all those groups and listen to their concerns.

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

Nationwide Children's Offers Guidance on Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy

Nationwide Children's has issued updated guidance for parents following recent federal announcements from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration regarding potential links between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and neurodevelopmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorder. Click here to [View guidance.](#)

Register for the Last Behavioral Health Training in 2025

Registration is now open for the December training, "Balancing Act: Navigating Competency and Bias in Suicide Care Ethics," on Friday, December 12, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. [Register Now.](#)

Introducing the SPRING Clinic

The SPRING (Specialized Program that Respects Individuals and Nurtures Growth) Clinic focuses on complex urologic and gynecologic care, along with support for rare conditions affecting the reproductive organs. Previously part of the THRIVE program, the team includes clinical medical social work, pediatric psychology, urology, endocrinology, gynecology and genetics.

Together, providers work closely with families from birth to adulthood to provide support, education and clinical expertise to help individuals and families make informed decisions about their care. [Learn more about the clinic.](#)

Support Families With CAP4Kids

As colder weather approaches, many of our patient families will face seasonal challenges beyond staying healthy. CAP4Kids is a valuable resource you can share to help connect families with essential winter support, all in one place. From housing and job assistance to affordable produce, warm clothing programs and utility support, CAP4Kids makes it easy to guide families toward the resources they need to stay safe, warm and well. Visit CAP4Kids.org/Columbus to explore and share these resources. You can also [request free brochures](#) for your clinics and waiting rooms.

TIP Program Earns Gold Rating for Excellence in Early Childhood Care

The Therapeutic Interagency Program (TIP), a behavioral health preschool for children who have experienced trauma, has been recognized as a gold-rated Step Up to Quality program, Ohio's highest distinction for early learning centers. This rating reflects TIP's commitment to high standards in education, staff qualifications and family engagement.

TIP's success is strengthened through its collaboration with the Child Development Council of Franklin County Head Start, working together to provide safe, supportive spaces where children can heal, grow and thrive. Gold-rated programs are linked to stronger emotional development and improved kindergarten readiness rates, helping children build a foundation for lifelong learning. Congratulations to the TIP team for their dedication to excellence in early childhood care!

Revolutionize Pediatric Health Care With Project ECHO

Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a free virtual program that empowers providers with the tools and knowledge to make a lasting impact. Through expert-led presentations and real-world case discussions, you'll gain clinical confidence, strengthen care delivery and expand specialty access for families — all while learning alongside a network of peers and pediatric specialists.

Save your spot today for these upcoming series starting early 2026:

- [Behavioral Health in Primary Care: Foundations](#)
- [Cerebral Palsy Foundations](#)
- [Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain in Primary Care](#)

- [Feeding Foundations](#)
- [Pediatric Pain Continuity](#)
- [RUBI Integrated Care](#)

Visit [NationwideChildrens.org/ECHO-series](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/ECHO-series) to learn more. For your patient families, [Family ECHO](#) offers a supportive space to learn and connect.

HEMOCARE

Celebrating November and Continued Homecare Growth

As part of National Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care Month, Homecare and Hospice is celebrating with activities and staff recognition for their dedication to patients and families. You can support best outcomes for hospice and palliative care patients by participating in [NovemBEARD online](#). Donations will close with a traditional “Shave Off” celebration, December 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Endeavor Brewing and Spirits, located at 909 W. 5th Ave., Columbus.

Looking ahead, Homecare’s Home Medical Equipment (HME) will begin providing oxygen services in the first quarter of 2026. The team is pleased to welcome Renae Forsythe as the new manager of Respiratory Services. Renae has been a respiratory therapist at Nationwide Children’s for more than 20 years, including 15 years as the clinical lead respiratory therapist for pulmonary and complex care. During her tenure, she has led numerous multidisciplinary projects, organized clinical rounds, provided clinical care and education, collaborated with Homecare care coordinators and discharge planners and managed a team of respiratory therapists delivering expert pediatric care. In her new role, Renae will support a continuum of care, enabling families to receive all their home medical supplies, including oxygen, from one provider.

In 2026, Homecare’s intermittent skilled nurses will expand its service area, to include Marion, Richland and Morrow counties. Homecare Skilled Nursing and Therapy Services has been available in the Toledo region since March 2024, and HME delivers medical supplies and equipment to all 88 Ohio counties, except for phototherapy equipment.

Visit the [Homecare website](#) to view an updated service area map. For questions about referrals or any Nationwide Children’s Homecare services or programs, email Megan.Mertz@NationwideChildrens.org.



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Medical staff can sign up to receive MedStat eAlerts once a month at [NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat-Preferences-Form](https://www.NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat-Preferences-Form).

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