

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Early Career Award Recipient: Elizabeth W. Barnhardt, DO



Elizabeth W. Barnhardt, DO, was honored with the Early Career Award by the Council on Children with Disabilities at the American Academy of Pediatrics conference for her exceptional work with children with developmental differences.

Dr. Barnhardt is an attending physician in Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics and assistant professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Her efforts focus on improving care through education, access and interdisciplinary collaboration.

She leads the Primary Care Autism ECHO series, helping community clinicians better identify and manage autism and related conditions. Her clinical work emphasizes autism and Williams Syndrome, and she co-directs the Williams Syndrome Program at Nationwide Children's. She also launched a clinic embedded in primary care to reduce wait times for developmental assessments.

Dr. Barnhardt is the founding editor of the Medical Education and Innovations section of the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, promoting education's role in advancing care. Nationally, she supports workforce development through leadership roles in the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, mentoring future clinicians and addressing workforce shortages.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



David Stukus, MD, is a professor of Clinical Pediatrics in the Division of Allergy and Immunology. Prior to becoming the director of the Food Allergy Treatment Center, Dr. Stukus started the Complex Asthma Clinic at Nationwide Children's in 2011, which treats children with severe or difficult-to-

treat asthma. In addition to providing clinical care for children with food allergies, Dr. Stukus participates in clinical research, quality improvement, patient advocacy and medical education. An internationally recognized keynote speaker, Dr. Stukus has received named lectureships and awards from various national and international organizations. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications, a dozen book chapters and two textbooks. Dr. Stukus has held multiple leadership positions in professional organizations and is the current president-elect for the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He has been named a Top Doctor in *Pediatric Allergy* every year since 2015.

Dr. Stukus has devoted his career to communicating evidence-based medicine and best clinical practice to colleagues, medical professionals of all backgrounds, patients and the general public. He is very active on social media and uses his popular Instagram account @AllergyKidsDoc to dispel myths and combat misinformation. Dr. Stukus obtained his medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Nationwide Children's and his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic.



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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.

Elise Berlan, MD, MPH, Pediatrics

"Dr. Berlan was amazing. She was so kind, caring and put my daughter at ease. I have already recommended her to others and will continue to do so. The BC4teens clinic is wonderful."

Carl Gelfius, MD, Pediatrics

"I can't say enough positive things about Dr. Gelfius! He listens and addresses my concerns with empathy and reassurance. His knowledge and passion for his work are evident in every interaction we have, whether it's through the portal or in the office. He is a professional and a strong advocate for helping children reach their maximum potential. I have full confidence and trust in Dr. Gelfius' guidance and care for our daughter."

Amy E. Gbemi, FNP, Pediatrics

"My daughter and I felt very comfortable from the moment the NP stepped into the room. She listened; she asked questions. We felt very validated. We weren't rushed, and we weren't brushed aside. It was an amazing experience. We are so appreciative."

Seyhr Imran, MD, Pediatrics

"First time using Nationwide Children's for care, it felt like the first time a doctor ever listened, cared, was very informative and made a plan."

Albert Isaacs, MD, Pediatric Neurosurgery

"Dr. Isaacs is such a good soul. When he came into the room, he immediately gave us the good results of the MRI, started playing with our daughter to put her at ease, and then pulled up her MRIs in sequential order so we could visually see her progress. We love how he explains everything in a detailed manner that we can understand. We appreciate him so much and are grateful he is our neurosurgeon."

Neil Kulkarni, MD, Pediatrics

"I would like to just say that you don't come across as many doctors who show the passion, but my son's new doctor clearly has that passion. He talked with us and gave us information about our son's condition that we had never had clarification on. Thank you so much!"

Grace Paul, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Paul is a 10/10 health care provider. She is a brilliant provider, listens carefully, goes above and beyond, is compassionate and responsive. We are blessed to have crossed paths with her, more than words can describe."

Caroline Weingart, MD, Pediatrics

"My girls and I love Dr. Weingart. She is so kind, so caring, she listens to all my concerns, she's very patient and understanding. She always answers my chaotic MyChart messages quickly, and sometimes we even share a laugh, which is sometimes all you need. Finding her to be my girl's pediatrician was the best thing for my family. She is such a wonderful human being! I recommend Dr. Weingart to everyone."

Lindsey Yant, PCPNP, Pediatrics

"The nurse practitioner interacted with my son very well. He has multiple special needs, and she 'got it' right away, talked to him respectfully, listened when he expressed fear or concerns. It was a wonderful interaction, and her patience and understanding led to a quicker visit and diagnosis."

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

1994 - Partners For Kids® is created, currently the largest pediatric accountable care organization in the country.

2002 - The Heart Center is established, a revolutionary combination of cardiothoracic surgery, interventional cardiology and pediatric cardiology.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Neonatal Simulation Conference

October 28-29

The Neonatal Simulation Conference will provide continuing education designed for delivery hospital and NICU professionals. Participants will work in small group settings, participating in immersive, multidisciplinary patient care simulations focused on the care of the ill neonate. The conference will also include didactic sessions, offering additional training for participants to integrate into their practice setting as preceptors or educators. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/NEOSIM.

Nationwide Children’s Extended Reality (XR) Symposium

November 7

This year’s symposium builds on the success of the 2024 event and is designed to spotlight cutting-edge applications of XR in health care — from medical education to patient care — and foster interdisciplinary collaborations across research, clinical, industry and community stakeholders. This event strives to accelerate translational research and promote community-engaged science. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/XR2025.

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.

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
10/9	Half a Century of Transformation in Medical Education: Lessons and Legacy	John Mahan, MD, Suzanne Reed, MD and Rebecca Wallihan, MD Nationwide Children’s

10/16	Rohyans Lecture TBD	Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH University of Minnesota
10/23	Update on Management of Spina Bifida: From Prenatal to Adult	Albert Isaacs, MD, PhD, and Katherine Steingass, MD Nationwide Children’s
10/30	Autism: Evidenced-based Treatments	Anita Narayanan, MD, FAAP, and Megan Norris, PhD Nationwide Children’s
11/6	Johnson Lecture	Heather Fullerton, MD, MAS UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital
11/13	Not Living to Wait, Not Waiting to Live – Thriving With Muscular Dystrophy	Pat Moeschen Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
11/20	The Humphrey Family Hospice and Palliative Medicine Lectureship	Jori Bogetz, MD Seattle Children’s Hospital

Annual MOC Deadlines

Are you up to date? Be sure to check your board cycle dates and claim your MOC Part 4 credit in time. It’s easy and free. [Submit application materials](#) no later than October 17, 2025. If you actively participated in a Nationwide Children’s approved MOC Part 4 QI project, [claim credit](#) no later than November 30, 2025. For more information or questions, visit the [ANCHOR MOC](#) page or email MOC@NationwideChildrens.org.

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:

- October 10 – Justin A. Indyk, MD, PhD, and Amjad Ali, MD, Type 1 Diabetes Screening
- November 14 – Kevin Flanigan, MD, Update on Gene Therapies
- December 12 – Maryam Fouladi, MD, Updates on Therapies for Brain Tumors

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 or attend in person in Allen Auditorium at Nationwide Children's Conference Center. Lunch will be provided for this in-person session:

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>

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

SMART for Asthma Resource Available

Partners For Kids® has developed a new resource for primary care providers on the Single Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (SMART) for Asthma. This new resource includes information on the benefits of SMART, maximum dosages and scripting for providers. The resource has been added to the [Asthma Toolkit for Primary Care](#) – where you can find other helpful tools for your practice. [Click here](#) to access the resource.

Watch Asthma Updates With Lisa Ulrich, MD

Partners For Kids® August quarterly webinar covered the latest in asthma management, led by **Lisa Ulrich, MD**. Attendees learned how to accurately diagnose and grade asthma severity, match therapies to patient needs and apply new guidance on the use of as-needed inhaled steroids. The session also highlighted when advanced treatments may be necessary. You can watch the webinar [on demand](#).

Help Make Contraception More Accessible for Teens

If you're passionate about improving contraceptive access — or currently working on a related project — consider joining the Contraceptive Access Collaborative. This group brings together advocates, clinical leaders, program managers and quality improvement professionals from across Nationwide Children's to share best practices and brainstorm solutions to expand contraceptive access.

While the overarching goal is to expand access to contraception and comprehensive sexual health information for females ages 15 to 19 in central Ohio, the collaborative acknowledges the importance of affirming the patients' right to make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures. The group also works to address related issues such as period poverty.

If you're interested in joining a solutions-focused team, join the next meeting on Tuesday, November 11, at noon — either in person at Nationwide Children's Education Building (ED040) or virtually via Teams. To sign up, reach out to **Tricia Montgomery** or **Ashley Ebersole, MD**. Nationwide Children's team members can visit the [ANCHOR page](#) to learn more.

Harvest a Love for Reading

Early literacy is a key part of childhood development, and one simple way to support it is by encouraging families to sign up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This free program delivers free books directly to children's homes each month, from birth to age 5. Encourage patient families to sign up and watch their child's love for reading grow. Visit NationwideChildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary to access the registration page.

Support Early Childhood Mental Health

Health care providers play a vital role in supporting children's development beyond the clinical setting. The HOPE program is a free, statewide resource that connects early learning professionals with mental health consultants to support children from birth to age 8 — before any challenges can escalate. By calling the HOPE helpline at (844) 678-2227 or [submitting an online request](#), educators can receive expert guidance within 48 hours, which includes classroom observations, professional development and referrals for behavioral health services. Providers can help by sharing this resource with families and community schools and child care centers. Learn more at NationwideChildrens.org/ABCs.

Diabetes Management Education

October 17, 9 a.m. to noon
Education Building – ED025A

This accredited course is designed for health care professionals who care for children with diabetes. Enhance your clinical knowledge and build confidence in delivering safe, evidence-based diabetes management. Topics include:

- Using glucose meters, continuous glucose monitors

- (CGMs) and insulin pumps
- Responding to hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, including ketone management
- The role of nutrition, exercise and medication in diabetes management

Cost: \$10 per person (includes all materials and instruction)
 Accreditation: 2.75 ANCC contact hours for qualified attendees
 Register at [Nationwide Children's Hospital Continuing Education](#).

38th Annual Celiac Conference

Saturday, October 18 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Stecker Auditorium - Education Building

This event is ideal for anyone living with celiac disease or gluten intolerance — or for those who support someone who is. Whether you're newly diagnosed or looking to deepen your understanding, don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn and empower your gluten-free journey.

Topics include:

- The latest in research and treatment
- Practical tips for managing a gluten-free lifestyle

The cost is \$45 per person 17 and up. There is no charge for ages 16 and under. [Register today](#).

Living With Epilepsy Conference

Saturday, October 25 | 8 a.m. to noon
 Stecker Auditorium - Education Building

Epilepsy Alliance Ohio and Nationwide Children's have partnered to present a conference for professionals in the field of neurology, as well as for individuals living with epilepsy and their families and friends.

- Expert Speaker Presentations
- Breakout and Q&A Sessions
- Resources
- Continental breakfast and complimentary parking provided

There is no charge to attend, but [registration is required](#).

Down Syndrome Program: Enhancing Care and Expanding Services

The Down Syndrome program will offer a new care model starting in November. All Down Syndrome patient visits will include multispecialty care tailored specifically to the patient's age. Program enhancements also include a dedicated

patient navigator and nurse to help patients and families with scheduling and appointments. The program, led by co-medical directors **Patricia Nash, MD**, and **Murugu Manickam, MD**, will offer appointments on Monday and Thursday mornings (previously, appointments were offered only once a month). For more information, contact (614) 722-6160.

Homecare

Homecare Infusion Pharmacy Update

Nationwide Children's Homecare Infusion Pharmacy provides specialized injectable and infusion medications to support pediatric patients and families across Ohio. The skilled pharmacy and nursing teams collaborate to deliver safe infusion care in central and northwest regions. The team offers medication and infusion instructions in the home and empowers patients who safely self-administer treatments.

Indications Homecare treats include, but are not limited to, those listed below:

- Beta thalassemia
- Chemotherapy-induced neutropenia
- Crohn's disease
- Diabetes insipidus
- Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Hemophilia and other bleeding disorders
- Hypophosphatemia – X-linked
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Intestinal rehab patients
- Osteoporosis
- Pediatric atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS)
- Pediatric paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH)
- Short bowel or gut
- Ulcerative colitis

Find the full list of provided medications and therapies, plus a video tour of the facility, [online](#). Homecare's financial and referral team will help patients and providers navigate their insurance coverage as it pertains to these services. Visit the [provider information page](#) and open the Referral Resources tab for more details.

November is National Home Care, Hospice, and Palliative Care Month. Celebration details and information about Novembeard, which supports Hospice and Palliative Care, will be in the November *MedStat* and on the [website](#). For questions, email Carolyn.Figi@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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