

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD, has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society (ANMS) during its annual meeting in August. ANMS is a national organization that brings together experts — both pediatric and adult — in the field of neurogastroenterology, fostering excellence in research, education, training and patient care.

Dr. Di Lorenzo is currently the chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology at Nationwide Children's and is a professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. He also holds the Robert F. and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation Endowed Chair in Pediatric Gastroenterology. His academic work focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the gut-brain interaction and motility disorders in children.

He has published more than 400 peer-review and invited manuscripts and co-authored the only four books dedicated to pediatric gastrointestinal motility. Dr. Di Lorenzo has served as president of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) and has held leadership positions within ANMS, the Brain-Gut Club, the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Board of Pediatrics.

Widely regarded as the pre-eminent international expert in treating children with neurogastroenterology and motility disorders, Dr. Di Lorenzo chaired both Rome III and Rome IV Child-Adolescent committees and currently co-chairs one of the Rome V committees. His accolades include the Master Award in Gastroenterology from the American Gastroenterological Association, the International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders Clinical Research in Pediatrics Award, the Rome Foundation/Torsoli Foundation Award and the NASPGHAN Shwachman Award.

Forbes' 2025 List of America's Best Employers for Women



Nationwide Children's has ranked in the top 10 and has been recognized as the top employer in Ohio on Forbes' 2025 America's Best Employers for Women list. The recognition is based on a survey of 140,000 women working at U.S. companies with at least 1,000 employees.

Nationwide Children's earned a spot among the top 10 out of 700 companies evaluated.

Alicia Rodgers, DO, MS, Awarded 2025 Outstanding Resident of the Year Award in Pediatrics



Alicia Rodgers, DO, MS, a Nationwide Children's resident physician specializing in child abuse, has been named the 2025 Outstanding Resident of the Year in Pediatrics by the American Osteopathic Foundation and the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians. This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Rodgers' dedication to pediatric care, clinical excellence and compassionate advocacy for child abuse prevention.



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Ivana Stojkic, MD, MS, Awarded CARRA Grant for Rheumatology Research



Nationwide Children's Rheumatologist Dr. Ivana was awarded one of Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA)-Arthritis Foundation Grant Program to further research and discovery in pediatric rheumatology.

Dr. Stojkic's work lays the groundwork for more individualized treatments for patients with kidney disease caused by anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis, which leads to kidney failure in about 25% of patients. Her team uses cutting edge genetic technologies to better understand the root causes of kidney damage in these patients. Dr. Stojkic will examine proteins from urine of patients to see which proteins are associated with kidney inflammation and the risk of end-stage kidney disease. This builds on her previous research looking at genetic expression of kidney tissue in AAGN, which provided evidence that immune cells play an important role. [Read more online about this important work.](#)

Entrepreneurship Educational Sessions From the Innovation Center

The Innovation Center at Nationwide Children's kicked off its Entrepreneurship Bootcamp on August 8. This three-month course is designed to strengthen the commercial readiness of concepts by overviewing customer discovery, market validation, regulatory strategies and funding opportunities.

These free educational lectures are open to Nationwide Children's employees and focus on technology commercialization. Sessions are led by guest lecturers and employees can register on [ANCHOR](#). Lectures will be held from noon to 12:45 p.m. via a Microsoft Teams. A calendar invite with the meeting link will be sent upon registration.

Upcoming sessions:

- Friday September 19 – Medical Device Regulatory Overview
- Friday, October 3 – Intellectual Property
- Friday October 17 – Timeline and Milestones

Recordings of each session will be available on the [Innovation Center ANCHOR page](#). For more information, contact NIC@NationwideChildrens.org.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Karla R. Hauersperger, MD, is the medical director of Nationwide Children's Marysville Urgent Care and is the physician advisor for advanced practice providers in the Division of Urgent Pediatrics. She is a clinical associate professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr.

Hauersperger has been an attending physician in the Emergency Department and Urgent Care since 1995. Her academic interests include pediatric airway management, recognition and management of respiratory distress in children, recognition and management of shock in children, orthopedic and burn trauma.

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.

Anthony Audino, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Audino made a personal phone call in the evening to make sure we knew bloodwork results that weren't in yet at our appointment. He wanted to make sure we followed up with another specialist the next morning. We felt very well cared for."

Barry Belcher, DO, Pediatrics

"The doctor was amazing with my son. He was very sick, tired and scared, and the doctor made him feel comfortable and kept him calm throughout the exam. He explained things easily and made me feel good about the course of treatment for my son. I could really tell how much this doctor cared about my child!"

Christina Ching, MD, Pediatric Urology

"Dr. Ching is truly exceptional. She spent nearly an hour carefully reviewing my daughter's test results and discussing a personalized care plan that clearly prioritized her well-being. She came highly recommended by our previous urologist, who relocated out of state. We travel two hours to see her, and she's absolutely worth it!"

Molly Fuchs, MD, and Amy Wahl, FNP, Pediatric Urology

"Our journey with the urology team began with an after-hours emergency. We had to call the on-call team, and they clearly and calmly helped us work through our emergency situation. The next day, when our overnight situation morphed into another issue, the team never missed a beat. We continued to receive wonderful care. The team was kind and thorough and acted with urgency to help us resolve our urology emergency."

Jennifer Ladd, MD, MSc, Pediatrics

"I can't say enough good things about Dr. Ladd! She is phenomenal and engages with my daughter. Dr. Ladd makes my daughter feel like she is very interested in everything she wants to talk about. We are always excited to see Dr. Ladd!"

Andrew Linkugel, MD, Pediatric Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

"I have thought about how nice the doctor was multiple times this week. He was so great with my son, amazing at explaining what was happening, why he was feeling what he was feeling and putting his nervous mind at ease. He was friendly and relatable. He remembered things about my son from months before, which made my son really feel seen. The procedure was quick and pain-free. He did a great job."

Jennifer Melvin, MD, Pediatrics

"I was very impressed with my son's care here in the ED. The nurses attended to us the second we walked into the room. We never even had to sit in the waiting room. The doctor also came in immediately to see my son. It was a scary situation with his breathing, so I was relieved to have him cared for right away. I appreciated all the nurses and doctors' positive attitudes in the middle of the night. Thank you for taking such great care of my son!"

Sean Rose, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Rose is a saint! He bent over backwards to help my son. Scheduling a last-minute telehealth consult during his already busy day. We are so fortunate to have brilliant and caring physicians like him at Nationwide Children's."

Megan Saelinger, PCPNP, Pediatrics

"Megan is one of the most sensitive medical professionals with whom we have ever had the pleasure of working. She was so intuitive with my daughter. Megan put her at ease, encouraged direct conversation, and made us feel 100% valued and heard. Megan's bedside manner is exceptional, and her knowledge and medical expertise allowed us to fully trust that my daughter's needs would be met."

Heather Terry, FNP, Pediatric Urology

"We have worked with Heather Terry through urology in general and have been impressed at every turn how helpful, responsive and encouraging she is as a practitioner. Our child has medically complex issues. I feel that urology and nephrology have been very helpful in giving answers for our kiddo!"

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

4th Annual Pediatric Dermatology Symposium

September 26

This conference is hosted by the Nationwide Children's Dermatology Clinic team highlighting updates on pediatric dermatologic conditions frequently seen in the primary care practice. The goal is to equip primary care providers with the knowledge and resources to confidently care for these patients within their setting, as well as, to give providers insights into the pediatric dermatology clinic. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/derm2025](https://cloud-cme.com/derm2025).

19th Annual Pediatric Urology Laparoscopy Course

October 3-4

This is a hands-on course designed for urology fellows seeking to enhance their skills in minimally invasive and laparoscopic pediatric surgical techniques. The course serves as an excellent platform to engage with an array of visiting faculty who are highly experienced in laparoscopy. Attendees will benefit from the opportunity to learn directly from leaders in the field of pediatric urology. The course includes expert-led lectures and a hands-on dry skills lab. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/PULC2025](https://cloud-cme.com/PULC2025).

41st Annual School Health Conference: Featuring Hands-on School Nursing Skills

October 17

This year's conference will feature dynamic speakers covering topics such as childhood grief, situational awareness, diabetes and asthma education and more. Participants will also have access to hands-on skills sessions in the simulation center. We encourage school nurses, school administrators and other public health professionals involved in caring for children and families through schools to attend. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SHC2025](https://cloud-cme.com/SHC2025).

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
9/11	Optimizing the Medical Home: Clinical Informatics for Interoperability and Better Patient Care	Shravani Vundavalli, MD, Shama Patel, MD, MPH, and Alysha Taxter, MD
9/18	Until it’s Done for Everyone: Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in Cystic Fibrosis Care and Research	Heiser Lecture Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, MD, MSCS, ATSF, and Constance Christian, DO
9/25	Professionalism Education and Remediation: The State of the Art	Ashley Fernandes, MD, PhD, FAAP Nationwide Children’s
10/2	S'more Than Medicine: The Impact of Specialty Camp on Kids and Medical Professionals	Melissa Argraves, MD, and Bethany Uhl, MD Flying Horse Farms
10/9	Innovations in Medical Education	John Mahan, MD, Suzanne Reed, MD, and Rebecca Wallihan, MD Nationwide Children’s
10/16	TBD	Rohyans Lecture Michael Osterholm, PhD, MPH
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 Nationwide Children’s

Annual MOC Deadlines Approaching

Be sure to check your board cycle dates and claim your credit in time. It's easy and free. If you need to get your quality improvement (QI) project approved for MOC Part 4 credit, 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 your credit claim 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:

September 12 – John Russo, MD, Indications for Scoping & Update on EoE

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

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

Thursday, September 25

Stephanie H. Parade, PhD

Biopsychosocial Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health Across the Lifespan

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/91496279316>

Thursday, October 2

Amy Margolis, PhD

Environmental Impacts on Cognitive Development in Children

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/97473780889>

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

Nationwide Children's 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.

CAP4Kids: Free and Low-Cost Resources for the School Year

With the new school year underway, help families stay supported by sharing free and low-cost resources available through the [CAP4Kids website](#). The site offers tools to help students thrive, including:

- School clothing
- Afterschool programs
- Vaccines and sports physicals
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- School meal assistance
- And more

Need brochures in your office or waiting rooms?

[Request them here.](#)

Diagnosis Code Update for Homecare Referrals

The goal of Nationwide Children's Homecare is to make the referral process as easy as possible. Third-party payors are increasingly placing new coding demands on referring providers, which can be both burdensome and confusing.

This article is meant to support you and your practice by helping minimize unnecessary emails and reduce delays in patient care. The Homecare team is actively developing additional tools and resources to further simplify the referral process and reduce confusion. Below are the three most common coding issues that frequently hold up the prior authorization approval process:

1. Unspecified Diagnosis Code

An unspecified code is a diagnostic code used when the documentation in the patient's medical record lacks sufficient detail to assign a more specific code. This means the general category of the condition is known, but key information — such as the exact type, location (e.g., left or right) or severity — is missing. Providing specific information is essential for approval.

2. Z-Diagnosis Code Denials in the Primary Position

Z codes may not be considered appropriate as the sole or principal diagnosis for billing purposes in Ohio, as they generally indicate factors influencing health status rather than a primary illness or injury.

3. Two Conditions Billed as a Single Diagnosis

An Excludes1 is used when two conditions cannot occur together, such as coding to bill for a congenital and an acquired form of a disease under the same code.

An Excludes1 indicates that the code excluded should never be used at the same time as the code above the Excludes1 note.

For questions about Nationwide Children's Homecare services or programs, email **Carolyn.Figi@NationwideChildrens.org**.

Reminder: Nationwide Children's Homecare has now been serving children in the Toledo region for over a year. Visit the [Nationwide Children's Toledo webpage](#) or open this month's Homecare Toledo insert to learn more.



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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).

2025 MEDICAL STAFF OFFICERS

Greg D. Pearson, MD; *President*

(614) 722-5845

Robert W. Snyder, MD; *Past President*

(614) 722-4550

Brent H. Adler, MD; *Vice President*

(614) 722-2331

Medical Staff Office

(614) 722-3040

To contact the editor, email Catherine.Roebuck@NationwideChildrens.org.



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