

## NEWS YOU CAN USE



### Grove City *Close To Home*<sup>SM</sup> Center Opening in May

The Grove City *Close To Home* Center will provide convenient access to a wide range of pediatric services, including urgent care, Pediatrics of Grove City, laboratory and imaging services (EKG and x-ray), sports and orthopedic physical therapy and developmental occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech pathology. Additional details about the opening date and community open house will be available in May. For more information, visit [NationwideChildrens.org/GroveCity](https://NationwideChildrens.org/GroveCity).

### Congratulations to Anna Kerlek, MD



**Anna Kerlek, MD**, has been appointed to the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) for the 2026-2027 term. This prestigious, national role recognizes Dr. Kerlek for her dedication and leadership in psychiatric education.

At Nationwide Children's, Dr. Kerlek serves as the training director for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship program. In addition to educating the next generation of mental health professionals, she is the medical director of the adolescent psychiatric unit and sees patients daily. She treats and educates hospitalized adolescents with severe and persistent mental illness, such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia and works closely with their families and caregivers.

## Medical Alumni Program



Nationwide Children's Medical Alumni Program celebrates the achievements of the pediatric residents and fellows who have trained with us and continue to lead in specialties across the country. Membership is free for all who trained with us for six months or more and offers benefits such as our quarterly *Connect* newsletter, event invitations, networking and more. We invite all alumni to stay connected and keep their profiles updated so we can continue supporting and celebrating your career milestones. Update your profile today at [NationwideChildrens.org/Alumni](https://NationwideChildrens.org/Alumni) or by scanning the QR code.

## 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.

#### Wendy Babbert, FNP, Pediatric Urology

*"We have been receiving care with NP Wendy for almost four years now and she is the best! Wendy is a wonderful communicator and even better listener. She hears our concerns, addresses them and is never rushed."*

#### Christopher Gaw, MD, MPH, Pediatrics

*"I am truly thankful that we came into the ED when we did. Our specialists and certainly our ED staff were the best. Dr. Gaw was a gift to us in a very hard time. He was kind. Calm. Patient. Efficient. Explained everything unexpected in a very approachable and clear way. It's clear to me that he sees people as individuals and listens. He does what he says he will do as well. We are so thankful for him."*



## Sehyr Imran, MD, Pediatrics

*“Dr. Imran is the best! My daughter loves seeing her. We are both extremely happy with her care and treatment plan. She makes my daughter feel good and not different or bad for her condition. She even made her a special sticker at our last appointment that my 18-year-old wore all day.”*

## May Ling Mah, MD, Pediatrics

*“Dr. Mah was so thorough, spent a lot of time with me and answered all my questions. She was great at explaining things in a way I could understand and made me feel she genuinely cared about my overall health and wellness. I felt included in my future plan of care. She went above and beyond reviewing my medical history before my arrival, which made me feel as if I was her only patient. I'm so grateful to have her managing my care. Her knowledge and expertise in adult congenital heart disease were remarkable.”*

## Charles McCombs, MD, Pediatrics

*“Taking your child to the emergency room is a terrifying experience, but every single person we interacted with was calm, kind and comforting. It was incredible. From security to admin and insurance to the doctor and nurses, I am so beyond grateful for the care we received.”*

## Ethan Mezzoff, MD, Pediatrics

*“As always, Dr. Mezzoff and the team were very helpful. We couldn't hope for better care for our son. Having a medically fragile child is nerve wracking and we always are left feeling like our nerves have been put at ease after our appointments. Our feedback is always welcomed and encouraged. We truly feel like we are part of a team working towards what is best for our son. We feel like we won the lottery with this team. They are great at communicating and explaining things, which we really appreciate.”*

## Jasmine Robinson, MD, Pediatrics

*“We had a wonderful experience with Dr. Jasmine Robinson! My child's exam was thorough. She listened to all my concerns and connected us with follow-up care. She spent time connecting with my child making sure to use closed-looped communication with him regarding his health matters. I was truly impressed with the care provided during this visit and her ability to help him understand the importance of following up on his health matter.”*

## MOMENTS IN HISTORY

1910 – An outpatient department, almost unheard of at the time, is established at Columbus Children's Hospital (now Nationwide Children's).

2004 – Nationwide Children's becomes the first freestanding children's hospital in Ohio to receive Magnet Recognition, the highest honor for excellence in nursing.

## COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

# Support Confident Vaccine Conversations

As trusted partners in families' health, primary care providers play a vital role in guiding parents and caregivers through vaccine decisions. To support these conversations, Nationwide Children's has created a ready-to-use flyer (see PDF attachment in the April *MedStat* email) designed for exam rooms, waiting areas and other family spaces. This resource supports the messages you already share and offers families clear, easy-to-understand information during their visit — helping you continue offering the confident, high-quality guidance they rely on.

## Oral Health Matters

Children should have their first dental visit by age 1 or within six months of their first tooth erupting. Early guidance helps build healthy habits, prevent problems and increase confidence as children learn to care for their smiles.

The Partners For Kids® Oral Health team provides resources and tools to help families and clinicians start meaningful conversations about oral health in the primary care setting, including:

- [Oral Health Toolkit for Primary Care](#)
- [Tips for Toothbrushing](#)
- [Tips for Choosing a Toothpaste](#)
- [Oral Health Matters Podcast](#)

For more information about Partners For Kids' oral health initiatives in primary care, contact [Andrea.Workman@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Andrea.Workman@NationwideChildrens.org).

## Mobile Health Locator App

The Mobile Health Locator app makes it easy for families to find mobile health units nearby and access the care they need wherever they are. These units offer a wide range of services for adults and children, including primary care, urgent care, mental health counseling, prenatal care and more. By reducing barriers to care, the app supports greater access to high quality health services in communities across Ohio. Visit [MobileHealthLocator.com](http://MobileHealthLocator.com) to download the app today.

## Boost Kindergarten Readiness

Did you know only about one in three children in Ohio are ready to start kindergarten? Building strong reading habits early is one of the easiest ways to help change that. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library gives families with children aged 0 to 5 a free book every month, delivered right to their home. It's a simple, high-impact way to support early literacy and help future generations start school with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Encourage families you work with to visit [NationwideChildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary) to register.

## Free Courses Available on the Behavioral Health Learning Library

The Behavioral Health Learning Library (BHLL) is a collection of free, interactive and on-demand courses for professionals. The courses teach evidence-based pediatric mental and behavioral health assessment and treatment tailored for different professional practices like nursing, social work, psychology, pharmacy and more. The courses can also be used for continuing education credits. The BHLL helps to ensure all children receive timely and effective mental and behavioral health treatment. Learn more and get started today at [NationwideChildrens.org/BH-Learning-Library](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/BH-Learning-Library). For questions, contact [BHEducation@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:BHEducation@NationwideChildrens.org).

## Community Education Offerings

The ADHD Academy is a virtual education series designed for parents, caregivers, educators and others who support children with ADHD. Participants may register at any time for individual classes or for multiple sessions.

Giggle & Groove is a research-based music therapy class that supports growth and development through interactive music and play. Each class includes 45-minute sessions every Wednesday at East Columbus *Close To Home*<sup>SM</sup> and Westerville *Close To Home*<sup>SM</sup>.

For more information on these programs or to register, visit [Nationwide Children's Hospital Continuing Education](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/continuing-education). For questions, call Community Education at (614) 355- 0589 or [Sheri.Brock@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Sheri.Brock@NationwideChildrens.org).



## Christine Thomas Selected to Serve on Statewide Maternal and Infant Health Leadership Council

Congratulations to **Christine Thomas, BSN, RN**, Healthy Start program manager, on being selected to represent Southeast Ohio on the Leadership Council for the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality (OCPIM). This reflects her strong commitment to advancing maternal and infant health equity across Ross, Pike and Scioto counties. In this role, she will help strengthen connections between communities and health systems to improve outcomes for families and reduce disparities throughout the region.

### INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

## Pediatric Asthma Conference

May 7-8

The 16th Annual Pediatric Asthma Conference will highlight emerging information and practical advice regarding asthma management for providers of asthma patients across all levels of care. A pre-conference day will focus on updates in the diagnosis and management of food allergies. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ASTHMA26](https://www.nationwidechildrens.cloud-cme.com/ASTHMA26).

## Neonatal/Fetal Conference

May 11-14

The 2026 Neonatal/Fetal Conference will highlight concepts of the use of evidence-based principles of care in perinatal, fetal and neonatal practice. The goal of the conference is to offer science, methodology, practice initiatives and discussion points for the participants to explore. The target audience includes nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, social workers and other health care workers who need to broaden their abilities to support babies, parents and families in the health care setting. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/NEOFET2026](https://www.nationwidechildrens.cloud-cme.com/NEOFET2026).

# Ohio Foster Care Summit

May 27-28

The Ohio Foster Care Summit is a collaborative two-day event bringing together health care professionals, child welfare teams, foster and kinship families, group homes and residential facilities and youth with lived experience. This engaging conference highlights statewide initiatives, practical strategies and trauma-informed approaches to improve care and support for youth in foster care. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/OFCS26](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/education/continuing-education/ohio-foster-care-summit).

# Ohio Integrated Primary Care Conference

May 29

This conference will bring together professionals across a range of disciplines to foster connection, share best practices and explore innovative approaches that advance integrated care models for children and families. Discover how integrated primary care is transforming patients, clinicians and communities, and collaborate to shape the future of pediatric integrated care in Ohio. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/OIPC2026](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/education/continuing-education/ohio-integrated-primary-care-conference)

# Pediatric Cardiology Symposium

June 5

The 2026 Pediatric Cardiology Symposium is designed to provide pediatric practitioners with practical, up-to-date knowledge for recognizing and managing both common and complex cardiovascular conditions in children. Through focused lectures, interactive case discussions and hands-on breakout sessions, participants will build confidence in identifying cardiac red flags, understanding current diagnostic and treatment approaches and knowing when to refer to subspecialty care. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/cardio2026](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/education/continuing-education/pediatric-cardiology-symposium).

# Ohio Pediatric Forensic Multidisciplinary Teams and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Conference

August 6-7

This statewide conference unites sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs), legal professionals, law enforcement, child protective services and multidisciplinary team members dedicated to improving the response to child abuse. Through interactive sessions, case reviews and panels,

attendees will explore innovative practices, share perspectives and build stronger partnerships to ensure Ohio's children and families receive the highest standard of care. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/PSANE26](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/education/continuing-education/psane26).

# 4th Annual Robotic Surgery for Pediatric Surgeons: Program Development and Beyond

August 19-21

Nationwide Children's Hospital's Center for Robotic Surgery has planned an educational conference featuring case presentations and panel discussions focused on robotic surgery program development and common clinical applications. This event also includes introductory and advanced hands-on robotic surgery lab experience for practicing pediatric surgeons. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ROBOTICS26](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/education/continuing-education/robotics26).

# Upcoming Conferences

- July 29, Bereavement and Tissue Donation Symposium
- August 14, Adaptive Sports Conference
- August 28-29, 20th Annual Pediatric Urology Laparoscopy Course
- August 31-September 4, Myology Course
- September 9-11, Second Pediatric Oncology Integrative Diagnostics and Targeted Therapies Symposium
- September 23, XR Extended Reality
- September 25, Heart Center Research
- October 2, 5th Annual Pediatric Dermatology Symposium
- October 9, Nationwide Children's EMS Conference
- October 16, School Health Update
- November 17-19, Research Retreat
- November 20-21, Pediatric Sports Medicine and Orthopedics Conference

## 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
4/2	Precision Pediatrics: Genetic Testing for Kids With Kidney Disease	Nina Mann, MD, and Bianca Zapanta, DO Nationwide Children's
4/9	Lessons Unlearned: The Return of Measles	Adam Ratner, MD NYU Langone Health
4/16	Neonatal and Pediatric Drug and Device Development	Jonathan Davis, MD Tufts University
4/23	<b>Richard J. Brilli Visiting Professorship in Pediatric Quality and Safety Introduction</b>	Paul Sharek, MD, MPH Seattle Children's Hospital
4/30	Let Babies and Their Mothers Eat: Dietary Avoidance is NOT a Benign Recommendation	David Stukus, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI, FACAAI Nationwide Children's
5/7	Hypothermic Infants	Kathryn Westphal, MD, and Vignesh Doraiswamy, MD Nationwide Children's
5/14	Presentation of Platelet Transfusion Clinical Practice Guidelines	Ryan Metcalf, MD, CQA University of Utah
5/21	TBD	
5/28	Drug Allergy for the Practicing Pediatrician	Allison Ramsey, MD, FACAAI, FAAAAI University of Rochester

## 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](mailto:Bruce.Meyer@NationwideChildrens.org) or [Rhonda.Burk@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:Rhonda.Burk@NationwideChildrens.org) or call the office to leave a message at (614) 722-4550.

Upcoming virtual sessions:

April 10 – Greg Pearson, MD, Update on Plagiocephaly

May 8 – Joan Han, MD, Changes to Obesity Management at Nationwide Children's



# NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

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Columbus, OH 43205

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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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