

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Joan Han, MD, Named Chief of Endocrinology

Joan Han, MD, has been named chief of the Division of Endocrinology at Nationwide Children's, effective January 2026.

Before coming to Nationwide Children's, Dr. Han was a professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital. She is board-certified in pediatric endocrinology and obesity medicine.

In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Han has published broadly in the field of pediatric endocrinology. Her research studies have been funded by the National Institutes of Health as well as multiple foundations and focus on the neuroendocrine regulation of energy balance and cognitive function while also looking at the genetic, environmental and behavioral determinants of metabolic health in the general population and in patients with rare genetic disorders associated with obesity and type 2 diabetes.

She earned her undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University, followed by pediatrics residency at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center. Dr. Han then completed a clinical research fellowship at Nemours Children's Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, and a pediatric endocrinology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Han served as pediatric associate editor for the *International Journal of Obesity* from 2015 to 2021. She is a member of the American Pediatric Society, the Society for Pediatric Research, the American Pediatric Society, the Pediatric Endocrine Society,

the Endocrine Society and The Obesity Society. Dr. Han is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Downtown Adolescent Medicine Clinic Moves to Livingston Ambulatory Center

Nationwide Children's Adolescent Medicine Clinic, previously located at the 500 E. Main St. Close To HomeSM Center, has moved to the Livingston Ambulatory Center (LAC) at 380 Butterfly Gardens Drive. Services from this location are now on the second floor of the LAC, bringing our adolescent medicine physician clinic and gynecology services together in one convenient space. This move makes it easier for adolescents and young adults (ages 12-25) to access comprehensive care in one place, including primary care, specialized services for reproductive health, substance use and more.

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.

Andrea Bonny, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Bonny is so amazing! She cares about her patients. The counselors are nice and care about your mental health and well-being. That clinic and Dr. Bonny deserve a recognition reward or something to recognize how great they are and how they help people!"

Victoria Elliott, MD, Pediatrics

"The team explained complicated concepts in an easy-to-understand way and empowered my son to feel like he was a part of the treatment and suggestions. The team listened carefully and respectfully to my son and me, and their suggestions kept in mind"



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both of us as humans, not just a condition. They were supportive, positive and solution based. We left feeling more educated, more confident and well taken care of."

Ihab Halaweish, MD, Pediatrics

"We are so thankful for all the staff at Nationwide Children's and how well they cared for our daughter. Even through the most difficult moments, our care team made things feel less overwhelming. Our surgeon, Dr. Halaweish, had incredible bedside manner and made us feel at ease."

Angela Jones, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Jones is amazing. She clearly cares so much about her patients. She also never makes me feel stupid for any questions and answers things in a way that helps my anxiety. She also trusts me and my concerns as a parent, instead of brushing off things. I have had experiences in the past that have made me feel uneasy quickly trusting health care providers, but Dr. Jones has my trust, and I really appreciate her. I know my son is in good hands in her care."

Kevin Klingele, MD, Orthopedics

"They were thorough and kind and above and beyond amazing. The entire staff was amazing, and I would not want my son to ever get surgery at any other hospital. I absolutely give Nationwide Children's the highest mark possible."

Kara Morris, DDS, Dentistry

"Dr. Morris is amazing! She listens well and remembers things about patients to connect with them. She communicates effectively and in an understandable way. I will recommend her, her team and this experience!"

Craig Smith, MD, Orthopedics

"Dr. Smith is an outstanding surgeon. We've had an excellent experience and will always appreciate Dr. Smith's way of connecting with us. He has amazing communication skills and is an active listener. We couldn't be more pleased with Dr. Smith and his staff."

Alysha Taxter, MD, Pediatrics

"She was single-handedly the best physician I have ever taken my children to. She interacted with the children so well. She listened. She did a thorough assessment. She answered all questions. The kids adored her. She made everyone laugh and made them feel so comfortable. This physician gets five stars from my family!"

Alexander Weymann, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Weymann is a very wonderful doctor! We travel three hours there and three hours home just to see him. He is very knowledgeable, kind, caring and spends time with his patients. We will continue to take our daughter there until she doesn't have to see him anymore. (If that ever happens). I will always recommend the hospital and Dr. Weymann to anyone!"

Desalegn Yacob, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Yacob doesn't make us feel like it's just a follow-up visit. He remembers personal things about my son, like hobbies, favorite foods, etc. That takes away the worry my son has about being there for a visit. Dr. Yacob and the rest of the GI team are amazing. My son enjoys seeing Dr. Yacob. Our family loves Dr. Yacob."

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

11th Annual Pediatric Update for Advanced Practice Providers

January 30

The Annual Pediatric Update for Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) is the continuing education conference hosted by the Nationwide Children's APP Council. A variety of topics will be covered that will provide all APPs with information that can improve their care of pediatric patients. Additionally, there will be opportunities for networking with other nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/APP2026](https://nationwidechildrens.cloud-cme.com/APP2026).

Ohio EMS for Children Conference

March 6

The Ohio EMSC Annual Conference is a statewide educational event designed to advance the clinical knowledge and skills of EMS and emergency department professionals in pediatric emergency care. Through lectures, breakout sessions, panel discussions and hands-on workshops. Participants will engage in evidence-based learning focused on improving outcomes for children in emergency settings. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/2026OHEMSC](https://nationwidechildrens.cloud-cme.com/2026OHEMSC).

Kidney and Urinary Tract Center Symposium The Kidney-Cancer Connection: Translating Research Into Clinical Impact

March 19-20

This symposium will showcase state-of-the-art mechanistic insights and management strategies for kidney and urological complications in pediatric oncology. It will feature cutting-edge approaches and address gaps in early risk detection and timely intervention to improve cancer treatment tolerability, long-term outcomes and quality of life. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/KUTC2026](https://nationwidechildrens.cloud-cme.com/KUTC2026).

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.

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference

April 10

The 43rd Annual Dwight A. Powell Pediatric Infectious Diseases Conference in conjunction with the 41st 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. The goal is to share the current diagnostic techniques and therapeutic options to improve management of these conditions. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ID2026.

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.

Upcoming Conferences

- April 1, Otolaryngology Research Symposium
- May 11-14, Neonatal/Fetal Conference
- May 27-28, Foster Care Summit
- May 29, Ohio Integrated Primary Care Conference
- June 5, Pediatric Cardiology Symposium

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
1/8	Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes in Youth: A New Landscape	Leena Mamilly, MD Nationwide Children's
1/15	Pediatric Tuberculosis	Jeffrey Starke, MD Baylor College of Medicine
1/22	Malice in Chains – Group A Streptococcus in the Post-COVID Era	Anthony Flores, MD, MPH, PhD, FPIDS Vanderbilt University
1/29	Bleeding Disorders in Young Women	Sarah O'Brien, MD Nationwide Children's
2/5	Public Benefits and Child Maltreatment: Implications for Prevention and Equity; Do Anti-poverty Programs Reduce Child Abuse	Hank Puls, MD Children's Mercy Kansas City
2/12	Food Allergy Updates for the Practicing Pediatrician	Anne Marie Singh, MD University of Wisconsin - Madison
2/19	TBD	
2/26	Rare Disease Day	Tara Wenger, MD, PhD Seattle Children's Hospital

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:

January 9 – Alessandra Gasior, MD, Colorectal Update

February 13 – Charles Elmaraghy, MD, Ear Tubes in Office Setting

March 13 – Edward Oberle, MD, and Laura Pratt, MD, Hypermobility

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, January 22

Jennifer L. Hughes, PhD, MPH, Donna Ruch, PhD, and Jeff Bridge, PhD

Adapting a Suicide Prevention, Screening, Assessment and Management Approach in Collaboration With Lived-Experience Community Members in Ethiopia

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/92454691382>

Thursday, February 19

Paola Malerba, PhD

Sleep

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/93791673443>

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

HOPE Line Services Focused on 16 Central Ohio Counties

The HOPE (Helping Ohio Preschoolers Excel) line partners with early learning professionals working with children from birth to age 8 to strengthen practices through evidence-informed consultation. Effective January 1, 2026, the HOPE (Helping Ohio Preschoolers Excel) line has reorganized to continue delivering high-quality support to early learning professionals. As part of this update, free on-site consultation services will now be available in 16 counties across central Ohio: Clark, Coshocton, Crawford, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hardin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway, Union and Wyandot.

While geographic focus has shifted, our commitment remains the same: helping early learning providers create positive, nurturing learning environments where every child has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of Ohio's children. Questions or referrals? Contact the HOPE line at (844) 678-ABCS (2227) or visit NationwideChildrens.org/ABCS.

Start the New Year by Elevating Your Pediatric Care Skills

As we step into a new year, there's no better time to invest in your professional growth and improve outcomes for the children and families you serve, for free! Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a virtual program designed to empower providers with the latest knowledge and practical tools. Through expert-led presentations and real-world case discussions, you'll build 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:

- [Pain Continuity](#)
- [Cerebral Palsy Foundations](#)

Visit NationwideChildrens.org/ECHO-series to learn more.

For your patient families, [Family ECHO](#) offers a supportive space to learn and connect.

New Opportunities for Boosting Early Literacy

As trusted partners in early childhood development, you know how powerful reading can be. It builds vocabulary, strengthens caregiver-child bonds and lays out the foundation for lifelong learning. Programs like [Imagination Library](#) make it easy for families to start this journey by delivering a free, age-appropriate book each month to children ages 0-5. Encouraging families to sign up is a simple way to support early literacy and kindergarten readiness.

You can also make an impact in your practice. Through [Reach Out and Read](#), primary care providers integrate literacy into well-child visits by giving families books and modeling shared reading. If you're working in another type of practice, you can help spark a love of reading by creating literacy-friendly spaces and placing books in your waiting area to give families more opportunities to read together.

ADHD Academy 2026 Classes

The ADHD Academy is a virtual education series designed for parents, caregivers, educators and others who support children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The series includes 10 topics offered during the school year, beginning January 8 and continuing through June 2. Participants can register at any time for individual classes or for multiple sessions. Certificates of completion are available upon request to meet foster care and adoption training requirements. For questions, email Sheri.Brock@NationwideChildrens.org.

Giggle & Groove

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 the East Columbus and Westerville Close To HomeSM Centers. For session times, visit [Nationwide Children's Hospital Continuing Education](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/continuing-education).

Training Opportunities on Trafficking Awareness

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Every year, thousands of youths are at risk of trafficking and exploitation. The Center for Family Safety and Healing at Nationwide Children's has a team dedicated to protecting trafficked and exploited youth. They also provide resources and educational training for clinical professionals. To request a training for your team or department, email TraffickedandExploitedYouth@NationwideChildrens.org.

PRIMARY CARE MATTERS

Advancement With Intention: My Experience With an AI Scribe

by Jonathan Mathis, MD, FAAP

For most of my career, I viewed the electronic health record as both a necessity and a nemesis, vital to patient care but draining in every other sense. Evenings often ended with a laptop still open, notes half-finished and a sense that my professional documentation was taking more time than the patients themselves. I often asked myself: Is this sustainable? That question became the starting point for my exploration of AI-enabled charting.

I first heard about AI medical scribes through peer discussions and professional meetings. I was skeptical. Could a software algorithm really capture the nuance of a pediatric visit, the tone of a parent's concern, the developmental subtleties and the rapport built in a few minutes? Still, curiosity and fatigue

coexisted, and that combination pushed me to pilot an AI scribe integrated with our Athena system.

Implementation was seamless. The system records natural conversation in the exam room and generates a structured clinical note ready for review. Over time, it became clear: The scribe was not perfect, but it was reliable enough to trust and its benefits quickly outweighed the learning curve.

Before using an AI scribe, documentation consumed a disproportionate share of my day. I often stayed late or logged in after hours to finish notes. Within weeks of adoption, my workflow changed entirely. I could complete most charts the same day, often before the patient left the office.

The AI scribe handles histories and physicals with surprising fidelity and learns patterns over time. I still review and edit, but instead of starting from scratch, I refine. The difference is not incremental; it's transformative. My after-hours charting has dropped by more than half. That's not just efficiency; it's recovery of time and mental bandwidth.

Restoring Work-Life Balance

The greatest change isn't in how I document; it's in how I feel. I leave the office with fewer unfinished tasks, more mental clarity and less guilt about what remains undone. My family notices the difference; I'm more present. I can think creatively again, not just reactively.

Physicians often speak about burnout as if it's a fixed state, but I've learned that efficiency and rest are deeply moral issues in medicine. When we're exhausted, empathy suffers. When technology removes unnecessary friction, empathy returns. AI didn't replace my work; it restored my ability to focus on the parts of medicine that matter most: listening, connecting, teaching.

Colleague Reactions and Cultural Shift

Among my colleagues, reactions have ranged from intrigue to cautious optimism. Many ask, "Does it really save that much time?" My honest answer is yes, with caveats. It works best for those willing to adapt their workflow and maintain oversight.

A few peers have since begun pilots of their own. Others prefer to wait and see. That's natural. Adoption of new tools in medicine always follows a familiar arc: first skepticism; then curiosity; then quiet acceptance as results speak for themselves. Our younger physicians adapt fastest; they see technology as an enabler, not a threat.

Support staff appreciate the efficiency as well. Fewer charting delays mean smoother follow-up, cleaner documentation and fewer bottlenecks for billing or referrals. The ripple effects are organizational, not just personal.

Reflections on AI in Health Care and Life

My experience using an AI scribe has been both positive and eye-opening. It has reminded me that balance demands discipline. Overreliance or blind trust in automation can compromise accuracy, safety and the professional judgment that anchors good medicine. AI can listen and summarize, but it cannot care, contextualize or comfort. Those responsibilities remain uniquely ours. The technology is an asset, not a substitute, and leveraging it well requires vigilance, intention and a firm commitment to clinical integrity.

Closing Thoughts

For me, this journey began as an experiment in efficiency and ended as an exercise in perspective. I now see AI not as a tool of replacement, but as one of restoration. It reminds me that innovation is only meaningful when it helps us reclaim our humanity.

If you're considering an AI scribe, begin with curiosity but anchor it with discernment. Review your notes carefully, learn their strengths and set clear boundaries. But also, notice what happens when your time returns, and you restore work-life balance.

For the first time in years, I leave the clinic feeling like the work is complete and that simple shift has changed both my practice and my peace.



About the Author

Jonathan Mathis, MD, FAAP, is a pediatrician and emerging physician executive with interests in health equity, operational innovation and AI-driven health care transformation. He serves on several institutional boards and is completing an Executive MBA with an applied certificate in business and AI

analytics. Dr. Mathis works at the intersection of clinical care, policy and technology to improve access, efficiency and patient experience across diverse communities.



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2026 MEDICAL STAFF OFFICERS

Brent H. Adler, MD; *President*

(614) 722-2331

Greg D. Pearson, MD; *Past President*

(614) 722-5845

Karen A. Diefenbach, MD; *Vice President*

(614) 722-2103

Medical Staff Office

(614) 722-3040

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



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