

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Forbes List of "America's Best Employers"

Nationwide Children's has been named one of America's Best Employers by *Forbes* for the sixth

consecutive year. Named to the national list of 700 top large employers (companies with more than 5,000 U.S.-based employees), Nationwide Children's is ranked as the number one employer and hospital in Ohio. The hospital was also ranked in the top two of children's hospitals nationwide.

Congratulations to Jennifer Cass, PhD, ABPP



Jennifer Cass, PhD, ABPP, has been named president of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN). As associate chief of Psychology and director of Pediatric Neuropsychology at Nationwide Children's, Dr. Cass brings exceptional expertise, innovation and leadership to this national role. She has served on the AACN Board of Directors since 2019, including key positions as chair of the AACN Conference Management Committee and chair of the AACN Electronic Communications Committee.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Meredith N. Lind, MD, FACS, FAAP, is a member of the Department of Otolaryngology at Nationwide Children's and a professor of clinical otolaryngology at The Ohio State University. She is board certified in otolaryngology - head and neck surgery and in complex pediatric otolaryngology. She completed her fellowship training in pediatric otolaryngology at Rady Children's

Hospital/University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Lind's clinical interests include complex pediatric airway and aerodigestive disorders; sinus disease, including complications of cystic fibrosis; and the entire range of general pediatric otolaryngology. She is responsible for otolaryngology trainee education at Nationwide Children's, serving as program director for the Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship and associate program director for The Ohio State University Otolaryngology residency program. Her research interests include health care disparities and simulation in medical education. She also is active nationally and leads multiple programs in otolaryngology education.



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

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.

Emile El-Shammaa, MD, Pediatrics

“Highly recommend this emergency department. We were helped quickly, the nurses were kind and attentive, and the doctor was compassionate, clear, and made my daughter feel comfortable. Excellent care all around. The doctor was kind and funny, explained everything clearly, and helped my daughter feel comfortable and at ease. Exactly the care you hope for.”

Rama Jayanthi, MD, Pediatric Urology

“Our daughter is autistic and nonverbal and currently in a difficult time of her life with anxiety and so forth. Staff were wonderful with her (and us) - understanding, compassionate and helpful - putting us at ease. Beautiful, welcoming facility for children and waiting area for parents with a restroom, vending machines nearby and nice waiting area. Everyone at this appointment and surgery/procedure were wonderful and our daughter is not easy to work with due to her special needs. We greatly appreciate how we were treated and cared for throughout. We look forward to her follow-ups even though she has a hard time traveling and going to appointments because everyone was so nice!”

Michelle Miller, MD, Pediatrics

“Dr. Miller has always been very helpful, knowledgeable and proactive in tracking and treating our son's health issues. She was kind, listened actively, and gave helpful feedback and information and treatment options. She understands issues facing people in the disability community. She has a sense of humor and has always been very nonjudgmental and encouraging concerning efforts made to maintain and improve our son's health.”

Eric Mull, DO, Pediatrics

“We have consistently had such a good experience with Dr. Mull and the nurses and staff in pulmonology. It is so less stressful to take my extremely active child here than other appointments because they are so kind, helpful and understanding. Dr. Mull takes such a good approach of applying medical knowledge while also incorporating information provided by the family. The ability to do this, along with his bedside manner, is the true mark of a good physician.”

John David Spencer, MD, Pediatrics

“We always have a great visit. Dr. Spencer is very thorough and always listens to our concerns. He has been a great doctor to

us, and we are so lucky to have someone as understanding and compassionate as him. The nursing staff is also fantastic to deal with. We love Pam. She always returns our calls whether it's a concern or just to check on test results. She is always so sweet to talk to, we recommend nephrology at Nationwide Children's!”

Morgan Von Holle, PCPNP, Orthopedics

“We showed up about five minutes before closing, and everyone was super calm and professional. We didn't feel like anyone was annoyed at our last-minute arrival. The medical professionals took their time to fully and carefully evaluate my child. I was worried about bringing my child in last minute with an urgent medical concern because I thought we'd be turned away or sent to the ER. Not only was I relieved that they still saw him, but I was touched and impressed with everyone's kindness, understanding and professionalism, from the reception desk to the medical professionals. And, of course, they were able to identify the problems, provide a solid plan of care for my child, and even made sure the pharmacy was open before sending the prescriptions. Their patient and kind interaction with my child also went above and beyond. I could not be happier with the level of care and professionalism we experienced. The nurse practitioner, like the nurse, patiently listened to my child, explained what she was doing and answered every question. She made recommendations, explained her reasoning, and made sure I was comfortable with the treatment plan. I was so impressed with the collaborative feel that I received with my child's care. Thank you for all that you do!”

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

Lectureship on Measles During ID Conference

Adam Ratner, MD, MPH, director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone, will present the hourlong **“William J. Barson, MD Lectureship: Lessons Unlearned: The Return of Measles”** during this year's Infectious Diseases Conference on April 10. For more details or how to register, see the full article in this publication or visit [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ID2026](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/ID2026).

Franklin County Domestic Violence Hotline Transitions

Effective March 2, 2026, The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH) will assume operations of the Franklin County 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline, previously managed by LSS CHOICES. This transition is designed to significantly strengthen support for individuals experiencing domestic violence by creating a more coordinated, seamless system of care.

By integrating the hotline with TCFSH's Intake Department, people in crisis will gain faster, more direct access to comprehensive services, including safety planning, shelter, counseling and advocacy. This consolidation will enhance coordination among community partners and allow for more efficient use of critical emergency resources, ensuring survivors receive the help they need without delay.

The hotline number, (614) 224-HOME (4663), remains the same and continues to operate 24/7. LSS CHOICES will continue providing emergency shelter and crisis services.

Free Tax Help Available for Patient Families

Nationwide Children's Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative, in partnership with United Way of Central Ohio, is offering free tax filing services to Franklin County residents with a total annual household income under \$70,000. Trained volunteers are available at 16 tax clinic sites across Franklin County to help families claim eligible tax credits, maximize refunds and answer tax-related questions. Appointments are open now through April 17. Please direct patient families to [614FileFree.org](https://www.614filefree.org) for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Continuing Education Credits

As we head into spring, it's the perfect time to grow your professional skills with the Behavioral Health Learning Library, a collection of evidence-based, on-demand courses designed for health care professionals. These free modules support a wide range of disciplines, including nursing, social work, psychology, pharmacy and more. Participants can also earn continuing education credits for completing courses, making this a great season to refresh your knowledge and renew your credentials. Start exploring today at [NationwideChildrens.org/BH-Learning-Library](https://www.NationwideChildrens.org/BH-Learning-Library).

Partners For Kids® Primary Care Webinar

Join **Jessica Retzke, MD**, from Nationwide Children's and **Alonzo Patterson, III, MD**, from Dayton Children's Hospital for the first Partners For Kids' quarterly webinar of the year titled, "Primary Approach to Asthma and Addressing Equity Concerns," held on Monday, March 23, from noon to 1 p.m. CME credit will be available. [Register today.](#)

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 or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Locations/Toledo/Patient-Resources/Financial-Assistance](https://www.NationwideChildrens.org/Locations/Toledo/Patient-Resources/Financial-Assistance).

FDA Extends Approval for the Nexplanon® Birth Control Implant From 3 to 5 Years

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has extended the approved duration of use for the Nexplanon (etonogestrel) contraceptive implant from three years to five. This update reflects clinical trial data showing the implant remains highly effective through years four and five, with no reported pregnancies during the extended period. The updated labeling also confirms strong effectiveness across a wide range of patient BMIs.

As part of this change, a new Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program has been introduced to support safe insertion and removal of the implant. All Nexplanon-trained providers must [register for the updated REMS program](#) to continue placing Nexplanon. [Learn more.](#)

HEMOCARE

Nationwide Children's Homecare is now a WIC provider

The Home Medical Equipment (HME) department at Nationwide Children's Homecare is the newest provider of specialty formulas to Franklin County's WIC-eligible families. WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is a program that supplies food and specialty formulas to income-eligible families with children under the age of 5.

WIC families are required to physically present their card to a WIC provider to obtain their benefits. To accommodate this, there are now drive-up spots in the Homecare office parking lot. Families will park in a designated spot, call the phone number listed on the sign and then an employee will meet them at their vehicle to provide their formula.

Homecare and HME are proud and excited to begin offering this new service. For more information, visit

[NationwideChildrens.org/Homecare](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Homecare). If you have any questions regarding WIC or any Homecare service, email Meghan.Mertz@NationwideChildrens.org.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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://www.nationwidechildrens.org/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](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/GI2026).

Pediatric Otolaryngology Research Symposium

April 1

This conference is directed to present clinical updates and research discoveries for the otolaryngologic care of children. This one-day meeting will include expert panels, multidisciplinary discussions and strategies to improve quality care for children. Register at [NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/ENT26](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/ENT26).

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](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/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](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/cloud-cme.com/ASTHMA26).

2026 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 any 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.org/cloud-cme.com/NEOFET2026).

2026 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/cloud-cme.com/OFCS26).

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/conferences/2026/05/29/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/conferences/2026/06/05/pediatric-cardiology-symposium).

Upcoming Conferences

- July 29, Bereavement and Tissue Donation Symposium
- August 6-7, Ohio Pediatric Forensic/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Conference
- August 14, Adaptive Sports Conference
- August 19-21, 4th Annual Robotic Surgery for Pediatric Surgeons: Program Development and Beyond
- August 28-29, 20th Annual Pediatric Urology Laparoscopy Course
- August 31-September 4, Myology Course
- September 9-11, Targeted Therapies
- September 23, XR Extended Reality
- September 25, Heart Center Research
- October 2, Dermatology Symposium
- October 9, Nationwide Children's EMS Conference
- October 16, School Health Update
- November 17-19, Research Retreat
- November 20-21, Sports Medicine 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
3/12	Fighting Eczema Without a Prescription Pad: Environmental and Behavioral Mitigations for Patients and Caregivers	Ian Myles, MD, MPH National Institutes of Health - NIAID
3/19	TBD	
3/26	Doctor's Day Leading with Purpose: Lessons in Leadership for Physicians Across Medicine and Beyond	Mary Leonard, MD, MSCE Stanford University School of Medicine
4/2	Precision Pediatrics: Genetic Testing for Kids With Kidney Disease	Nina Mann, MD, and Bianca Zapanta, DO Nationwide Children's Hospital
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	Brilli Lectureship	TBD
4/30	Let Babies and Their Mothers Eat: Dietary Avoidance is NOT a Benign Recommendation	David Stukus, MD, FAAP, FAAAAI, FACAAI Nationwide Children's Hospital

Doctor's Day Celebration – March 26

Join us for a special Pediatric Grand Rounds presentation on March 26 at 8 a.m. Arrive early for a hot breakfast buffet and enjoy a special visiting professorship lecture from **Mary Leonard, MD, MSCE**. Dr. Leonard is the Arline and Pete Harman professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine and the Adalyn Jay physician-in-chief at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. The Physician of the Year award will also be presented.

Maintenance of Certification

Do you have an MOC cycle ending this year? Be sure to 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, be sure to submit your [credit claim](#) no later than November 27, 2026. If you need to get your QI project approved for MOC Part 4 credit, [submit application materials](#) no later than October 16, 2026. For more information, visit the ANCHOR MOC page or email MOC@NationwideChildrens.org.

Intro to R Workshop - April 20-24

This free workshop is designed for attendees who have never worked with the R programming language, as well as those who have some familiarity with R but want to improve their skills. If you plan to attend the **2026 scRGOT Coder Upgrade Week** and are not familiar with R, this is a prerequisite to ensure you can fully participate. For more information and to register, visit NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/IntroToR.

The fourth annual **Single Cell Research Group for 'Omics Technologies (scRGOT) Coder Upgrade Week**, held June 15 to 18, is a four-day intensive coding boot camp designed to strengthen single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) data analysis skills for participants of all experience levels. The workshop features beginner and advanced tracks, covering topics from data importing, differential expression, cell type assignment, velocity analysis and multiomics integration. With hands-on sessions, expert mentors and expanded in-person support, Coder Upgrade Week provides an engaging, immersive and collaborative learning experience for researchers seeking to hone their analysis skills. For more information and to register, visit NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SCRGOT26.

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:

March 13 – Edward Oberle, MD, and Laura Pratt, MD, Hypermobility
April 10 – Greg Pearson, MD, Update on Plagiocephaly
May 8 – Alessandra Gasior, DO, Colorectal Update

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, March 26

Sarah Beal, PhD

Leveraging Health Services Research to Improving the Lives of Children in Foster Care

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/97534333443>

Thursday, April 16

Ethan Berke

Digital-first Integrated Care: Moving From Virtual Visits to Continuous Care Delivery

Virtual: <https://zoom.us/j/91625072885>



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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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