Welcome!

If you want to live, train, and work in one of the most diverse communities in the country, then Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, is the right place for you! Columbus is a dynamic and diverse city offering a favorable cost of living and impressive quality of life.

In this brochure, we wish to share our enthusiasm and deep commitment to recruitment of a diverse group of residents, fellows, and faculty to Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Our hospital is uniquely dedicated to addressing social determinants of health, quality, patient safety, genomic medicine, behavioral health and population health. The intentional recruitment of a diverse workforce that mirrors our patient population is crucial to our success in these initiatives. Similarly, as we train the next generation of talented physicians and researchers, we must embrace diversity as a core value.

We hope you enjoy learning more about Nationwide Children’s Hospital, where passion meets purpose. If you have questions about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Olivia Thomas, MD
Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer

Rebecca Wallihan, MD
Program Director, Pediatric Residency Program
Vice Chair of Education, Department of Pediatrics

John Barnard, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
President, The Abigail Wexner Research Institute

Elizabeth Bonachea, MD
Director of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship
Director of Fellowship Education, Department of Pediatrics
Join Our Team


where PASSION meets PURPOSE

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.
WHO We Are.
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The moment you walk through our doors, you can feel it. When you meet one of our patient families, you believe it. And when you talk with anyone who works here, you want to be a part of it. Welcome to Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Where Passion Meets Purpose.

We invite you to join our team of diverse residents and fellows. Here you will have the opportunity to grow and use your talent to make an impact that truly matters. Nationwide Children’s values diversity, and we know that providers who reflect their patient populations improve patient care.

As one of the largest and busiest pediatric hospitals in the country, we recognize and embrace the crucial role diverse staff play in addressing social determinants of health, quality, patient safety, genomic medicine, behavioral health and population health.

At Nationwide Children’s our passion is to intentionally recruit a diverse workforce so that together we can achieve our purpose – to help children everywhere reach their highest potential.
As Ohio’s capital and the 14th largest city in the United States, Columbus boasts a diverse population and is home to one of the largest networks for young professionals in the country. Columbus has a large immigrant population and is home to the second largest and fastest growing Somali community in the country. Our community is rich with social and advocacy networks for all races and religions, socioeconomic classes, and members of the LGBTQ community. We are proud to be recognized as an LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index.

At Nationwide Children’s, our educational mission includes programs to support students, residents, and fellows who are Underrepresented in Medicine (URM) to attend our medical training programs and to be a part of our vision for Best Outcomes. We also know diversity, combined with our authentic progress to build an inclusive culture, enables our employees to bring their unique differences and talents to work every day.

One way we support a culture that fosters inclusiveness and diversity is through our Employee Resource Groups:

- All Equal – LGBTQ
- APAN – Asian Pacific American
- CapABLE – Disability
- Connect With Us – Black and Multiracial
- HOLA – Hispanic/Latinx
- LEAD – Professionals
- Military/Veterans

Every pediatrician in America should want to work and train at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.
Stand Against Racism (StAR)

The hospital’s Stand Against Racism, Stand For Health Equity initiative has been organized into seven pillars. These pillars are designed to:

• Encompass all intertwined aspects of our organization and shared work.
• Help us identify ways to make antiracism and equity a priority in each of them.
• Provide lenses we can use to evaluate ourselves and our progress.

PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

• All patients, families and staff should be treated with equal dignity.

• Everyone should feel equally welcome at Nationwide Children’s Hospital — regardless of background, race, gender, etc.

• All children deserve an equal chance to achieve Best Outcomes in life and reach their full potential.
**WHO We Are.**

**Residency and Fellowship Programs**

Nationwide Children’s is a place that allows dedicated, hardworking physicians to thrive. Whether your plan is to work in private practice, in an outpatient clinic, treat the sickest patients in a first-rate children’s hospital, advocate for children, teach, conduct research or all of the above, we can help you learn everything you need to know to be successful.

**Residency Programs:**

- 2 Specialty Residencies
- 5 Subspecialty Residencies
- 5 Advanced Training Residency Programs

**Fellowship Programs:**

- 14 Surgical
- 4 Radiology
- 44 Pediatric Medical Subspecialties
- 4 Advanced Training Fellowships
- 6 Anesthesiology

For more information about our Residency and Fellowship Programs, visit: [NationwideChildrens.org/for-Medical-Professionals/Residency--Fellowship](http://NationwideChildrens.org/for-Medical-Professionals/Residency--Fellowship)

**Where Passion Meets Purpose**

The foundation of an organization is its people. At Nationwide Children’s Hospital, we align our strategy with the Best People and Best Programs to achieve the best outcomes. We also know diversity, combined with our authentic progress to build an inclusive culture, enables our employees to bring their unique differences and talents to work every day.
As a residency program, we are experiencing a time of exciting change!
Our residency family is quickly growing, and this expansion of our program comes with a continued commitment to recruit and retain residents who reflect the diversity of the patient population we serve.

For more information about our Resident Diversity and Inclusion Coalition, visit: NationwideChildrens.org/RDIC
I have been at Nationwide Children’s almost 14 years, originally coming to do my residency and then never leaving. Although this was never in my 5- or 10-year plan, I’m becoming a lifer here. For me, it really comes down to three things: the people, the opportunities and the support. I’ll break each of those down a little further:

1. As cliché as it sounds, the people are truly the number one reason I am still at Nationwide Children’s Hospital today. The people at this hospital are truly like a second family for me. They make it such a fun place to work and we are all working toward a shared goal of improving the health of children, not only in central Ohio but around the world. And it doesn’t feel like work when you’re surrounded by such amazing people!

2. The opportunities at Nationwide Children’s are endless! No matter what your interest, you can find expertise, experiences and mentorship to help you be successful.

3. When I talk about support, to me this means that people truly have your best interests in mind and want you to be successful. I have felt this throughout my career at Nationwide Children’s – as a resident, chief resident, fellow and now as a faculty member. I often tell people that we are not trying to make our trainees and faculty fit into a certain mold. We want to help them identify their passions and develop the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful.

Clinically, I am an associate professor in pediatric infectious diseases and care for children with a variety of infections, in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. However, my favorite part of my job is the work I do in medical education as the program director for the Pediatric Residency Program and vice chair of Education, Department of Pediatrics. I obviously love the people in our program – there is such a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, interests and thought that truly elevates everything we do. It is also incredibly exciting to play a role in training the next generation of leaders in pediatrics and, most importantly, it’s a lot of fun! Working with fellows, residents and students makes me a better doctor. They ask amazing questions and really keep me up to date on the latest advances in medicine. I’m always excited about meeting new residents and improving the program. It never gets old watching someone grow from a brand-new doctor to an outstanding physician and leader.
“We are not trying to make our trainees and faculty fit into a certain mold. We want to help them identify their passions and develop the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful.”

– Rebecca Wallihan, MD
Program Director, Pediatric Residency
Vice Chair of Education, Department of Pediatrics
I have been working at Nationwide Children’s Hospital since 2017 when I started working as a research aide in one of the Nephrology labs. From that moment, I knew that I wanted to train here and I set a personal goal to have a positive impact on the residency program. Just one year later, I started residency, and I began working alongside my co-residents to increase the diversity of our residency program through the Resident Diversity and Inclusion coalition (RDIC). This organization is continuously striving to foster an inclusive environment for all trainees not only in creating a sense of community but members have created educational curricula like the Pediatric Equity and Advocacy Resident Learning Series (PEARLS) curriculum as well as pipeline programs, such as the MentorU program formed to mentor underrepresented medical students in collaboration with Internal Medicine residents at Ohio State.

During my three years of residency, I had the chance to work with amazing subspecialists and to learn general pediatrics by being able to customize my learning based on my own goals and interests. I also had the opportunity to continue working in the lab, present at a national conference, work on publications and develop a curriculum with Drs. Monica Hoff and Matthew Smith, two of my co-residents. These experiences allowed me to not only graduate as a general pediatrician but to also complete two advanced competencies, Research and Medical Education. There truly are endless opportunities for residents at nationwide Children’s Hospital!

Since starting my residency training, my love of the program has also made me strive to improve it. I’ve also always been interested in working with hospital and program leadership. I was fortunate to have worked with some of our prior chiefs when they were still senior residents, and I used that opportunity to learn about some of their plans and ideas. It was at that time that I realized that my desire to be an advocate and educator for our residents made applying to be a chief seem like a good next step.

Looking ahead, some of my goals for this year are to continue my work with the RDIC and to continue educating our residents with the new and improved lectures for the PEARLS curriculum. Additionally, as an International Medical Graduate (IMG), I want to share my experience and help other IMGs on their road to and through residency.

I will join the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension at Nationwide Children’s Hospital next year as a fellow, and I am super excited about it! Nationwide Children’s allowed me to explore different fields in pediatrics and work with top subspecialists from all over the country and the world. I will always be grateful to have had the opportunity to train and continue my career here in the upcoming years.
“During my three years of residency, I had the chance to work with amazing subspecialists and to learn general pediatrics by being able to customize my learning based on my own goals and interests.”

– Claudia A. Mosquera Vasquez, MD
Pediatric Chief Resident
Evan Ingram, MD
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: He/him/his

I plan to pursue a career in primary care to focus on preventative medicine and social determinants of health in my community. So, I sought out and applied to several primary care tracks. What stood out about Nationwide Children's was whether you were categorical or in a specific track, there were still several opportunities to pursue your career interest, even early during intern year.

Alyssa Mendoza, MD
Resident – Child Neurology
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I became interested in child neurology at Nationwide Children’s because I wanted to train at a hospital with high patient volumes and a diverse group of child neurology subspecialists to learn from. I am still deciding what I’d like to do because I love everything within neurology, but right now I am particularly interested in neurodevelopmental disabilities, neuroimmunology, neurocritical care and epilepsy.

Rena Kasick, MD
Hospital Pediatrics
Associate Program Director
Pronouns: She/her/hers

My passion and motivation for a career in hospital medicine is the desire to serve and care for children. My purpose is to pay it forward in my career as an educator and mentor of medical students and residents.
Hometown:
Dschang, Cameroon

What do you remember most about your interview/application process?
I was surprised by the warmth I felt from everyone, from the program director during my interview to the residents during the luncheon. I thought there would be a competitive and cold atmosphere for it being a large program, but I was wrong. During the tour and noon report, it was clear to see that at Nationwide Children’s there truly is no “I” in team.

What do you love most about the program?
I enjoy how much the program cares for us and takes care of us as residents. This is evident by the wellness activities that we can get involved in and by how much the program listens to our feedback and makes changes based on it. They are here for us and want us to learn in a healthy and happy environment.

What do you love about Columbus?
It truly is a big, small town with a lot to offer. I can enjoy the outdoors at one of its many metro parks, grab after-work drinks with friends at happy hour, enjoy cuisine from all around the world. Columbus is also well positioned for many weekend trips to other fun cities.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan on pursuing a fellowship in neonatology and a career in global health & medicine.

Fun Fact
I was born by candlelight.

Nadine-Stella Achenjang, MD, Resident – Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers
Blen Weldekidan, DO
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

What I love most about the program is the people! I would describe our residency culture as one of teamwork, dedication to the community and friendship.

Julie A. Luna-Torres, MD
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I did not know what I wanted to do when I started residency. However, after rotating through the GI service and working at the GI clinic, I have decided to become a pediatric gastroenterologist. As a Nationwide Children’s Hospital resident, I’ve been able to work one-on-one with many sub-specialists attending physicians and fellows, which helped in the process of identifying my interests and future goals.

Susan Creary, MD
Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant
Pronouns: She/her/hers

My passion is for children and adolescents with sickle cell disease and their families. As a principal investigator in the Center for Innovation in Pediatric Practice and an assistant professor of pediatrics in the Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, my purpose is to improve utilization of effective preventative therapies to improve the long-term outcomes to children with sickle cell disease.
Hometown:
I’m from a rural area of Ohio, located in the country between the villages of Republic and Attica.

Identity:
Cisgender, Gay

What do you remember most about your interview/application process?
At first, I was intimidated by such a large academic institution. I was afraid that I’d get lost in the mix and not even know my co-residents, but I could immediately tell on interview day that there was something different and special about this program. I was drawn to the incredible people, the culture, and the community of caregivers that have been cultivated here. In my mind, I knew it was a large residency program, but it quickly began to feel small, while still having all the opportunities, resources, support and patient census of a bigger program. The dedicated primary care track also attracted me to the program. It communicated to me that the program valued primary care, and I knew it would be a great way to tailor my residency experience to align with my future career goals.

What do you love most about the program?
The people! I feel so lucky to get to work with and alongside such amazing co-residents, chief residents, program directors, program coordinators, resident assistants and faculty.

What do you love about Columbus?
I love the food scene, ClusterTruck, Jeni’s ice cream, the LGBTQ community and a city that supports us, Equitas Health, the Ohio Theatre (yay Broadway!) and the many different concert venues and Columbus Clippers baseball.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan to be the best primary care pediatrician that I can be. In my future practice, I hope to have dedicated time for the health of LGBTQ youth and mental/behavioral health.

Fun Fact
I taught myself how to play the bassoon in the 8th grade.
Albert A. Phillips II, DO  
Resident - Pediatrics  
*Pronouns: He/him/his*

What I remember most about the application process was how empathetic and eager to help the faculty and residents were due to the interview process being affected by the pandemic. It stood out to me that they wanted me to succeed.

Aisha White, MD  
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Chief Resident  
*Pronouns: She/her/hers*

In addition to enjoying Nationwide Children’s, I’m enjoying exploring Columbus. It has big city opportunities with a smaller city vibe. There is always something to do or new places to explore, and traffic is usually light so getting around the city is so easy!

Rohan Henry, MD  
Endocrinology  
*Pronouns: He/him/his*

*My passion* as an endocrinologist includes type 2 diabetes, care transitions in pediatric patients with growth hormone deficiency, and medical ethics. *My purpose* is to care for our diverse endocrinology patient population and to educate trainees and clinicians on endocrinology and diabetes.
Rafael Lemus, DO, Resident – Pediatrics
Pronouns: He/him/his

Hometown:
Tulsa, Oklahoma

What do you remember most about your interview/application process?
It was evident how invested the program was into the well-being of its residents, being a voice in such a large hospital can be hard, but the program did a good job ensuring the resident voices were heard.

What do you love most about the program?
I love working with my co-residents and then celebrating a hard day of work with happy hours or intramural sports.

What do you love about Columbus?
My favorite thing would be the Scioto trail and getting to run around downtown/German Village/Short North area. My fiancée’s favorite part about Columbus would be Ikea.

What are your plans for the future?
Become a PICU fellow and eventually move closer to our family back in Oklahoma.

Fun Fact
While spending a summer during med school volunteering in a clinic in Cusco, Peru, I got to dance as part of a group with the hospital staff in the Festival of the Sun and got to show off my Incan dance skills in front of the president of Peru!
Meg Barcroft, DO
Resident - Pediatrics
\textit{Pronouns: She/her/hers}

The breadth of training differences, whether small or large, brings additional perspective to the care given. Fellows and attendings have trained all over the country and beyond, including many different types of medical training (MD, DO, NP, PA).

Britney Onuma, MD
Resident – Pediatrics
\textit{Pronouns: She/her/hers}

I appreciate the support amongst the program office and the Resident Diversity and Inclusion Coalition (RDIC). It’s amazing to train at a hospital that actively considers new ways to advance diversity within the program.

Jordée Wells, MD, MPH
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
\textit{Pronouns: She/her/hers}

\textit{My passion} is to create change at the intersection of health care and public policy for children everywhere. \textit{My purpose} is to improve female adolescent health in pediatric emergency department settings and to empower and advocate for communities through honed clinical acumen and compassion.
Ana Maria Cabal Herrera, MD, Resident - Child Neurology

Hometown: Cali, Colombia

What do you remember most about your interview/application process? The interaction with the residents and the virtual tour through Columbus discussing the coffee scene!

What do you love most about the program? It may sound cliché but honestly, the people! Being in such a supportive and welcoming environment has helped smooth the transition into residency!

What do you love about Columbus? The parks, Scioto trail, the coffee scene, the diverse food options (including restaurants where I can have arepas!), the breweries; it is a very lively city!

What are your plans for the future? I plan to become a child neurologist and continuing to work/collaborate with my mentors from Colombia.

Fun Fact I look so like my older sister that I can unlock her phone using Face ID. I’m also an official Picmonic creator under the pseudonym AnnaKreativina.
Jessica Williams, MD
Resident – Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I love that Columbus has a small city feel and is very affordable, especially coming from the Northeast. I enjoy the salsa and bachata dancing community here as well as the many festivals held in the summertime - Latino, Greek, Egyptian, Caribbean, Asian and even Taco Truck Festivals!

Jeanette Schnierle, MD, MPH
Resident – Internal Medicine/Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

Recently, I took care of a Spanish-speaking family. After introducing myself, the child asked her mom, “Who is she? If she’s the doctor, why does she speak Spanish?” Her mom responded, “She is the doctor and is from Mexico; if you study very hard, when you grow up, you can be a doctor, too.” The fact that this child could not understand how I could be Latinx/speak Spanish AND be a doctor demonstrated exactly why representation is so important. I’m so happy to be training at a program that prioritizes having a diverse workforce and supports underrepresented trainees so that we can thrive and better serve our diverse patient population.

Desalegn Yacob, MD
Gastroenterology & Hepatology & Nutrition
Pronouns: He/him/his

My passion as a pediatric gastroenterologist is quality of life for children with impaired gut motility. My purpose as the medical director of the nation’s most prestigious and largest Center for Neurogastroenterology and Motility Disorders is to support education and innovation to improve the outcomes for children everywhere.
Gabby Gonzales, MD
Resident – Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I love the closeness amongst residents, fellows and faculty. I also love all of the metro parks and trails available in Columbus.

Matthew Smith, MD
Resident – Pediatrics
Pronouns: He/him/his

I am impressed by Nationwide Children’s focus on community health and health equity, especially programs such as Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families and our Residents in Schools Initiative. As a physician, I value working at an institution that allows us to work outside of a hospital or clinical setting to address disparities and promote well-being. Our hospital understands its role in correcting intergenerational and systemic injustices.

Sarah Chen, MD
Emergency Medicine Fellow
Pronouns: She/her/hers

My passion for pediatric emergency medicine comes from the challenge of managing critical illnesses with not only efficiency and accuracy but also with compassion. That has been the framework for my purpose, which is to provide empathy to the patient and family during an incredibly scary time and to show them we care.
WHAT We Do

At a Glance

We serve patients from the Columbus metropolitan area as well as patients from across the nation and around the world. As one of the largest and busiest pediatric hospitals in the United States with one of the country’s largest ambulatory and neonatal networks, our patients come to us for their health care needs ranging from heart, lung, kidney and liver transplants to cancer, genetic diseases and broken arms.

MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION PATIENT VISITS FROM 50 STATES AND 54 COUNTRIES

The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital IS ONE OF THE TOP 10 NIH-funded freestanding pediatric research facilities in the U.S.

104,682 donors RAISED MORE THAN $53 million

AMERICA’S LARGEST neonatal network and provider of inpatient pediatric surgeries**

More than 1.6 MILLION patient visits from all 50 U.S. STATES AND 54 COUNTRIES

BEST OF THE BEST Once again listed on U.S News & World Report’s Best Children’s Hospital Honor Roll, a distinction awarded to only 10 children’s centers nationwide

* Most recent data from CHA-member pediatric hospitals based on number of staffed beds
**Most recent data from CHA-member pediatric hospitals, based on highest number of NICU beds and inpatient surgeries ***Based on 2019 information

ZERO HERO Committed to achieving ZERO PREVENTABLE HARM

THREE-TIME MAGNET designation for nursing excellence

Provided more than $260 MILLION IN CHARITY CARE and community benefit services ***
The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital

The Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital is organized into centers of emphasis and the Steve and Cindy Rasmussen Institute for Genomic Medicine, all of which facilitate interdisciplinary team science by transcending traditional academic boundaries. The structure supports discovery, enabled by outstanding shared resources. Each center and institute is home to talented faculty members, staff, graduate students, residents, postdoctoral fellows and other students.

- Battelle Center for Mathematical Medicine
- Biobehavioral Health
- Cardiovascular Research
- Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases
- Clinical and Translational Research
- Gene Therapy
- Injury Research and Policy
- Innovation in Pediatric Practice
- Institute for Genomic Medicine
- Microbial Pathogenesis
- Perinatal Research
- Regenerative Medicine
- Vaccines and Immunity

The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s also offers the Integrated Research Pathway program for residents who have earned an MD or DO (with substantial research experience) or MD/PhD or DO/PhD degree and are committed to an academic research career.

For more information, visit NationwideChildrens.org/Research
Deena Chisolm, PhD, Director of the Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research

Pronouns: She/her/hers

What was your path to Nationwide Children’s Hospital?

My path to Nationwide Children’s was quite “bendy.” Prior to committing to a career in research, I worked as a state health department epidemiologist, a health quality evaluator, and a consultant. The one thing that all of these roles had in common was the responsibility to turn data into information that created improvement in health and health care. That was my niche.

I returned to college to complete a PhD in public health eight years after completing my Master’s degree. After graduation, I was fortunate to meet and collaborate with Dr. Kelly Kelleher on a health care data project, which led to the start of my fifteen years at Nationwide Children’s.

What research are you passionate about?

My key research interest is addressing health outside of health care. It is estimated that only 20% of our health is driven by our actual interactions with the health care system. My question is what approaches work for addressing the social, economic, behavioral and environmental issues that make up the other 80% in addition to understanding how health care systems like Nationwide Children’s and health policies can implement those approaches successfully.

My passion is health equity. My purpose is to generate knowledge that helps us ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to achieve their best health as well as building a world where that opportunity is not limited by factors like race, poverty or neighborhood. I have a special interest in the health of teens. Adolescence can be hard because of the natural physiological and psychosocial changes happening all at once, but it is also a great time to engage youths in their health. When we develop approaches that teach young people how to manage their own health, make good health choices, navigate the health care system, and advocate for their own health interests, we build a generation that can be part of the process for reaching health equity.

Please tell us about your work with health equity research:

The mission of the Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research is to advance child health and well-being through research in and across clinical care, health services, health policy and community initiatives. As center director, I am focused on building multi-disciplinary research initiatives that advance our knowledge of what works to achieve that mission. This work includes condition-specific research in areas including sickle cell disease, infant mortality, and behavioral health. It also goes beyond traditional health outcomes and disparities to focus on issues of child and family well-being including, housing instability, kindergarten readiness, health literacy and poverty.
“My passion is health equity. My purpose is to generate knowledge that helps us ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to achieve their best health and to build a world where that opportunity is not limited by factors like race, poverty, or neighborhood.”

— Deena Chisolm, PhD
Director, Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research
Vice President, Health Services Research
When did you become interested in research?

I originally never thought that I’d be interested in research, but now I can’t imagine my career without it! I graduated a semester early from Johns Hopkins University but stayed in Baltimore to walk with the rest of my friends at graduation. At that time, I had never done research, but I started working in neurobehavioral clinical research and loved it! Since then, I’ve worked on pediatric psychopharmacology clinical trials, human papillomavirus-driven head and neck cancer molecular epidemiology research, Epstein-Barr virus-driven post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease adoptive cellular research, pediatric nephrology urothelial development research, quality improvement and medical education research.

How important was research in your residency search?

When searching for residency programs, I sought out institutions that had the resources and facilities in place to support any research that I might choose to do. I also knew that I would need dedicated time to do research during my training, so having research advanced competencies or elective rotations that allows time for research projects, and not just chart review, was really important to me.

What sort of research opportunities have you had during residency?

I’ve been extremely fortunate that the culture at Nationwide Children’s has promoted my desire to do research even in the midst of a very busy time during my training. As an intern, I had the opportunity to work on a research project during my elective time as well as attend and present at a number of conferences. I’ve had the opportunity to obtain travel awards and have had the honor of being nominated by the Chair of Pediatrics for a Frontiers in Science Symposium. Each of these accomplishments, and so much of my love for science, has been facilitated by amazing opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with my research mentors who strive to challenge me and to nurture my desire to continually learn and ask questions. As a woman of color in science, I understand the importance of great mentors, and I look forward to mentoring others along the way!

“When searching for residency programs, I sought out institutions that had the resources and facilities in place to support any research that I might choose to do.”

– Monica Hoff, MD
Pediatric Chief Resident
WHAT We Do__BREAK STIGMAS
Break Stigmas – Big Lots Behavioral Health Services

As a national leader in pediatric behavioral and mental health, we are pushing the field forward. In March 2020, thanks to a transformational $50 million gift from Big Lots and their Foundation, we constructed America’s largest center dedicated exclusively to child and adolescent behavioral and mental health on a pediatric medical campus.

Featuring inpatient services, intensive outpatient services, a Psychiatric Crisis Department and research all under one roof, this integrated pediatric behavioral health approach serves as a model for other health care systems across the nation.

Through Big Lots Behavioral Health Services, we bring together a comprehensive team comprising psychiatry, psychology, pediatrics, advanced practice providers, nursing, counseling, social work, clinical therapies and parent support specialists to help with every aspect of a child’s treatment.

With one in five children living with a mental health disorder, we realized that children needed a voice. That’s why Nationwide Children’s developed the On Our Sleeves® movement for children’s mental health. Based on the idea that kids don’t wear their thoughts on their sleeves, the mission of On Our Sleeves is to provide every community in America with free educational resources to break the stigmas around children’s mental health.

To learn more, visit www.OnOurSleeves.org
A word from Whitney Raglin Bignall, named to the “40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Behavioral Health” by the National Minority Quality Forum:

My passion is to deliver culturally competent, evidence-based behavioral health care to all children and families, especially within communities in need. I was so impressed by Nationwide Children’s expansive mental and behavioral health programs, and the deep and genuine commitment to treat all children; I really wanted to be a part of this team. Our behavioral system is dedicated to treating mental and behavioral health at all levels – from home visits and school-based therapy, to traditional outpatient and sub-specialty inpatient care. What’s more, we specialize in delivering culturally competent care to our diverse patient population right within the neighborhoods they call home.

What was your path to Nationwide Children’s Hospital?

I am a pediatric psychologist, integrated within the primary care setting at Nationwide Children’s Linden Primary Care Center. As a psychologist driven to eliminate health and mental health disparities experienced by underrepresented communities, working in the Linden neighborhood is a dream come true! At Linden, we practice a multidisciplinary team approach to primary care that is so exciting to be a part of. Our staff is a family, and we are all passionate about making the lives of our patients and community better. At Linden, we take pride in trainee education and we are deeply passionate about medical education.

What is your role at the institution?

Do you do any research?

Yes! My research aims are three-fold: 1) understand psychosocial and cultural factors that contribute to health and mental health disparities, 2) design interventions that are contextually appropriate for underserved communities, and 3) adapt and implement existing evidence-based treatments that are sustainable. My research serves to bridge the gap between health systems and the communities they serve to make psychological interventions more accessible. This includes creating vibrant and robust community-academic partnerships with children’s hospitals, primary care offices, neighborhood schools, and community organizations.

Why is Nationwide Children’s unique in creating an environment where you and your career can thrive?

It is an exciting time to be a child health professional interested in the care of children and communities from diverse backgrounds, and Nationwide Children’s Hospital is the kind of diverse, supportive environment that helps these dreams to become reality. We have a progressive vision to make meaningful, positive change in the community, and being an employee here encourages you to naturally think bigger and aim higher for our children and families.
“Our staff is a family, and we are all passionate about making the lives of our patients and community better.”

– Whitney Raglin Bignall, PhD
Psychologist
I’m a little bit of a jack-of-all-trades as a hospitalist and global health educator. Although my work has taken on different forms throughout my career, my work has a common thread - to promote equity and advocate for underserved and underrepresented communities.

I’m particularly interested in the ethics and communication surrounding the care of immigrant and refugee families, in particular our Somali patient population. I’ve also learned to say “yes” when presented with opportunities to learn – I’m currently a co-investigator on a project looking at direct hospital admissions. I see it as a way to improve access to care and also an opportunity to gain valuable research skills I can translate to other topics. Most recently, I’m excited to support upcoming resident-led work looking at implicit bias.

I’m humbled to co-direct the Nationwide Children’s global health (GH) competency with Drs. Grace Paul and Traci Bouchard, both experts in the field. Our residents have diverse interests and skills – from research to public health to ethics. Our goal is to provide trainees with the opportunity to explore their interests, share unique skills they bring to residency, and also experience aspects of GH they’ve yet to encounter. Faculty are welcome.

We are fortunate to have physicians from every specialty who are engaged in diverse, meaningful work. We continue to build the curriculum and are excited about our new resident-driven competency curriculum committee.

It’s an exciting time to be involved! The scene of GH education and engagement continues to change - new technologies, evolving immigrant policies, and our growing understanding of GH ethics. I hope you come share your story, keep asking the hard questions and join us.

“Our goal is to provide trainees with the opportunity to explore their interests, share unique skills they bring to residency, and also experience aspects of GH they’ve yet to encounter. Faculty are welcome.”

– Stephanie Lauden, MD, CTropMed, FAAP
Pediatric Hospital Medicine
I knew once I matched to Nationwide Children’s Hospital for residency that I wanted to be part of the Advanced Competency in Global Health. The global health competency is a certificate course that residents can complete alongside core residency training. The competency focuses on teaching trainees about global health topics through journal clubs, seminars and one-on-one mentorship. As part of the competency, I completed a global health elective in Kampala, Uganda, with a co-resident. There, I worked at a large referral hospital where I was able to participate in patient care in their PICU, general ward and sickle cell ward. I am also completing an academic project in the field of global health with my mentor. Global health is important to me, and I’m thrilled to be part of a residency program that supports my endeavors and makes them feasible despite being a resident. The program has given me protected time for away electives. There are scholarships, for which residents are encouraged to apply to help fund these trips. We’re also offered many opportunities for scholarship and mentorship.
I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. Although I have been in the United States since 2015 and have continued my training in this country, my initial exposure to the medical realm was in med school in Venezuela. I experienced the struggles of a poorly administered public medical system and not ideal medical outcomes due to lack of resources, despite having amazing medical professionals. It is not uncommon in these settings to see doctors getting creative, using third or fourth lines of therapy to provide appropriate medical care to their patients. As I grow my medical career in the United States and having the ability to practice in a resource-rich environment, these differences have become even more evident to me. It has made me realize that I want to help people, like those in my native country, who sometimes do not have access to good-quality medical care.

My time with the Global Health advance competency at Nationwide Children’s and my past experiences as a doctor in Venezuela have helped me see a career in Global Health as a powerful tool to help people.
O. N. Ray Bignall II, MD

Pronouns: He/him/his

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR PASSION FOR CHILD HEALTH ADVOCACY?

As one of a small number of African American men in medicine nationwide, and a first-generation American of immigrant parents, my interest in medicine is driven by a desire to promote social justice and make a positive impact on my community. During my time as an undergraduate at Howard University and medical student at Meharry Medical College, I realized that advocating for my community would be an essential part of my career as a physician. I was blessed with fantastic mentors who pushed me to pursue my passion and make an impact early in my career. As a pediatric resident, I was awarded a Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics to partner with inner-city African American fathers studying barriers to their involvement in the pediatric medical home. Later, as a fellow in pediatric nephrology, I was named a Lewy Fund Advocacy Scholar and learned how to advocate for health equity for children with kidney disease. I am fortunate that my training as a pediatrician has included opportunities to advocate for vulnerable populations.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE WORK YOU ARE DOING TO PROMOTE CHILD HEALTH ADVOCACY AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS?

Here at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, I’ve been given an opportunity to make advocacy a core part of my work. This includes mentoring medical students, residents and fellows interested in advocacy, as well as meeting with lawmakers in Columbus, Ohio and Washington, D.C. to inspire policies that promote health equity for children and families. I am a member of the Public Policy Committee of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology, and the inaugural chair of the Health Care Justice Committee of the American Society of Nephrology. I am privileged in this capacity to promote national policies and legislation that will help improve care for children with kidney disease, and address many of the root causes of health disparities in this population.

Locally, I work with teams of health care providers and community leaders on initiatives like the Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families program, which is helping to provide safe and affordable housing and promote community wellness to our historically disadvantaged neighbors. Our location in the state capital gives us unique access to change-makers; and at Nationwide Children’s, my colleagues and I are encouraged to use our expertise to advocate at both the local and national levels to promote health for the children and families we serve. I also have the privilege to mentor and team up with medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty colleagues to travel to the Ohio Statehouse and meet with lawmakers about proposals that champion justice and equity for underserved children and families across our state.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS AS A CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATE, AND HOW DOES NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S HELP FOSTER THOSE GOALS?

As a physician-advocate, my goal is to use community engagement and community partnership as tools to promote child health equity. This means listening to and learning from members of underserved and ethnic minority communities where health disparities have the greatest impact and working with them to promote health equity from the inside out. I’m always excited for the opportunity to foster relationships with pediatric trainees at Nationwide Children’s who are interested in advocacy – from grassroots community work to national health policy – we are doing important work!

To learn more about Nationwide Children’s community outreach and the Advocacy Advanced Competency, please visit: NationwideChildrens.org/About-Us
“... to promote child health equity. This means listening to and learning from members of underserved and ethnic minority communities where health disparities have the greatest impact and working with them to promote health equity from the inside-out.”

– O. N. Ray Bignall II, MD, FAAP, FASN
Assistant Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer
Pediatric Nephrologist
WHERE We Live — HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS HEALTHY FAMILIES

Tell us about your role at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

I began working in the Department of Community Relations 12 years ago because I saw the potential of the organization to build a deeper relationship with the neighborhood. I love that our institution values population health enough to make it part of the strategic plan through the Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative. The camaraderie throughout the organization and community is what makes initiatives like this possible.

What are we doing as an institution to work together with our community?

The South Side of Columbus is home to Nationwide Children’s Hospital and this community’s greatest asset is the families that reside within the corridor. However, there’s a great need in the area. Therefore, Nationwide Children’s has partnered with Community Development for All People (CD4AP) to support the work of the Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative. Through this program, we have the opportunity to collaborate in the utilization of a $20 million fund that facilitates the redevelopment of up to 170 affordable housing units on the South Side, with a vision of creating safer and healthier homes for our patients and community without changing the affordability, and therefore the demographics, of the neighborhood that we call home.

Q&A Angela Mingo

Community Wellness

200 EMPLOYEES serve as mentors at neighborhood schools and organizations

96% OF CHILDREN were prepared for kindergarten after participating in a readiness program

MORE THAN 350 HOMES improved through rehabilitations, home improvement grants and new builds

MORE THAN 700 RESIDENTS of zip codes 43205, 43206 and 43207 employed by Nationwide Children’s
“I love that our institution values population health enough to make it part of the strategic plan through the Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families initiative.”

— Angela Mingo
Director of Community Relations
With a population of over 890,000, Columbus is the 14th largest city in the United States. The city is perfect for active lifestyles, having recently invested $20 million to develop a growing system of bike and fitness trails that connect the suburbs and river trails to downtown’s $44 million riverfront park system restoration. Columbus is recognized for its neighborhoods ranging from historic to hopping, for its fabulous casual and fine dining venues, shopping experiences, museums and more.

If you are a sports enthusiast, there is no offseason in the Columbus area with a wide variety of events and venues. One of the most open and smart cities in the country, Columbus is diverse and home to one of the largest young professional networks in the country. There are several young professional organizations that regularly hold networking events, social and philanthropic activities.

Continued
One of our city’s proud achievements is the diversity of its economic base. Columbus is at the heart of the largest concentration of population and economic activity in North America. Government, service, distribution, retail and manufacturing companies all make Columbus their headquarters. Columbus also fosters an emerging tech-start-up and retail scene.

Columbus is centrally located within a day’s drive of Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Toronto, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Visit [www.Columbus.gov](http://www.Columbus.gov), [www.ExperienceColumbus.com](http://www.ExperienceColumbus.com) and [ColumbusRegion.com](http://ColumbusRegion.com) to learn more about Columbus.
At Nationwide Children's our passion is to intentionally recruit a diverse workforce so that together we can achieve our purpose – to help children everywhere reach their highest potential.

Nationwide Children’s Hospital has once again been named to U.S. News & World Report’s Best Children’s Hospitals Honor Roll. The Honor Roll is a top distinction awarded to only 10 children’s centers nationwide.
For more information about residency and fellowship programs at Nationwide Children’s, visit NationwideChildrens.org/Residency-Fellowship

**Residencies**
Kathy Trace
Pediatric Residency Program Coordinator
Kathy.Trace@NationwideChildrens.org

**Fellowships**
See the individual programs for contact information:
NationwideChildrens.org/for-medical-professionals/education-and-training/fellowship-programs

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