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

Catherine Krawczeski, MD
Physician-in-Chief
Chief of the Department of Pediatrics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital

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

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

O.N. Ray Bignall II, MD, FAAP, FASN
Assistant Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer

Valencia Walker, MD, MPH, FAAP
Associate Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer
Join Our Team


where PASSION meets PURPOSE

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.
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.

WHERE We Live.
Healthy Neighborhoods ..................................................... 38-39
Healthy Families .............................................................. 32-35
About Columbus ............................................................ 40-43

WHAT We Do.
At a Glance ................................................................. 22
Research & Innovation .................................................... 23-27
Break Stigmas ............................................................... 28-31
Global Health ............................................................... 32-35
Advocacy ................................................................. 36-37

WHO We Are.
Culture of Inclusion .................................................. 4
Stand Against Racism (StAR) .................................... 5
About Our Program ................................................... 6-7
Our Providers ......................................................... 8-21

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.
WHO We Are.

A Culture of Inclusion

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 (URiM) 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
- 3 Subspecialty Residencies
- 5 Advanced Training Residency Programs
- 6 Anesthesiology

Fellowship Programs:
- 16 Surgical
- 4 Radiology
- 48 Pediatric Medical Subspecialties
- 5 Advanced Training Fellowships

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

Resident Diversity and Inclusion Coalition

The purpose of the RESIDENT DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COALITION (RDIC) is to create an environment of inclusive excellence while increasing the diversity of our providers to be reflective of the patients we care for in central Ohio and around the world.

- Annual URiM intern welcome party
- Pediatric Equity and Advocacy Resident Learning Series (P.E.A.R.L.S.)
- Opportunities for networking and social events
- Representation at events such as the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) Annual Conferences
- Increasing minority fellows/faculty members to attend and give lectures for residents and medical students
- Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Pediatric Visiting Student Elective Scholarship Program for fourth year medical students
- Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Pediatric Visiting Student Elective Scholarship Program for fourth year medical students
- Representation at events such as the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) Annual Conferences

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
WHOA We Are RESIDENTS

Q&A

Jessica Williams, MD, Chief Resident - Pediatrics

What was your path to Nationwide Children’s Hospital?

When I applied to medical school, I took a chance and interviewed at The Ohio State University. I have no family in Ohio, nor had I visited before, so I was very nervous. But I went with my gut feeling and chose to attend because of the impact the faculty and students had on my interview day. Everyone was so nice. And I was impressed by Nationwide Children’s diversity efforts, especially coming from Boston. One of the biggest draws to the program was my interest in pediatrics and the opportunities to rotate at such an amazing hospital as Nationwide Children’s. It wasn’t hard to decide to stay for residency!

What made you want to be a chief resident, and what are some of your goals for the upcoming year?

Throughout my residency career, I really appreciated the teaching and support the chiefs offered us. Whether they were teaching me at noon report or calling to support me through personal life hardships, they were always there. I became a chief not only because of my interest in medical education but because I wanted to give back to a program that shaped me into the type of doctor I am today. One of my passions is diversity and inclusion and the impact on health equity. I plan to find ways to integrate health equity topics into resident education and continue to be involved in the recruitment and retention of residents from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.

What are some of your career goals and how has training at Nationwide Children’s made you uniquely positioned to be successful in achieving your goals?

I was someone who liked a little bit of everything in medical school, and Nationwide Children’s gave me great insight into a variety of fields, including subspecialties, primary care, private practice and urgent care. Few hospitals are set up similar to Nationwide Children’s where residents get to work closely with subspecialists on their ward rotations. We also have wonderful opportunities to explore advocacy, medical education, global health and research. I believe that the training I received has made me a well-rounded doctor. I am hoping to ultimately work as a generalist caring for children of all ages in the Emergency Department.

“I became a chief not only because of my interest in medical education but because I wanted to give back to a program that shaped me into the type of doctor I am today.”

– Jessica Williams, MD, Chief Resident - Pediatrics
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.

What was your path to Nationwide Children’s Hospital?
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 The Ohio State University.

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 Hazle, 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.

What are some of your career goals and how has training at Nationwide Children’s made you uniquely positioned to be successful in achieving your goals?
In July 2022, I joined the Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension at Nationwide Children’s Hospital as a fellow. 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.

Claudia A. Mosquera Vasquez, MD, Fellow - Nephrology and Hypertension
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.
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 subspecialists 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.

Alicia Rodgers, DO, MS, Resident - Pediatrics  
Pronouns: She/her/hers  

This is a really special community with whom I felt seen and cared for from the early interactions.

What do you love about Columbus?  
I love that it’s a large metro city without a crazy, fast pace. I think there’s a great balance to meet varied preferences – suburbia, urban living and rural. I grew up here, and I’m amazed by how much this city has grown by creating a more inviting scene for young professionals, with lots of sporting events, districts for arts, entertainment and dining. It is also welcoming of diversity with a robust LGBT+ community and a wide variety of cultures that make up the community. It’s easy to find green space, affordable activities and summer concerts. Same for surrounding neighborhoods, with their own identity with festivals year-round.

What are your plans for the future?  
Primary Care and Sports Medicine  

Fun Fact  
I studied abroad for a month in India in public health.
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.

Alison Brittain, DO, PhD
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I love that Nationwide Children’s offers many opportunities to learn cutting-edge pediatric medicine in an environment where people are supportive and welcoming.

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.

Kaia Amoah, MD, Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

What do you love about Columbus?
I have really enjoyed the Scioto biking trails and grabbing a bite to eat at North Market on the weekends! Also, having lived in multiple cities, Columbus has some of the friendliest and most genuine people in the country!

What are your plans for the future?
So far, my interactions with mentors, attendings and hospital staff at Nationwide Children’s have allowed me to explore interests that I have not considered before. I am excited about exploring every facet of pediatrics so that I will be well-informed before making my final decision.

Fun Fact
I was a national competitor in track and field and karate!
WHO We Are __ RESIDENTS

Abena Obeng, DO
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: She/her/hers

I really love how supportive and friendly everyone is. Everyone is always so willing to help, which has been amazing, especially with starting residency in a new city I had never visited.

Sebastian Powell, MD, MSc
Resident - Pediatrics
Pronouns: He/him/his

I feel like I can walk up to any of my co-residents and talk about medicine or even everyday life. There is no shortage of opportunities at Nationwide Children’s. Whatever your interests, there is always someone willing to help you achieve them; or connect you to somebody already working on something similar. I love to tell the story of how I helped work on a legislative bill and advocate for patients within one week of expressing an interest in policy and advocacy!

Jordie Wells, MD, MPH
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Pronouns: She/her/hers

My passion is to create change at the intersection of health care and public policy for children everywhere. 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
Pronouns: She/her/hers

“Being in such a supportive and welcoming environment has helped smooth the transition into residency!”

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.
Matthew Schreier, MD  
Chief Resident - Internal Medicine/Pediatrics  
*Pronouns: He/him/his*

Columbus very sneakily has an amazing food scene. There are food trucks representative of a wide array of cuisines and cultures. And hidden away in some of the surrounding neighborhoods are some of the best hole-in-the-wall places I’ve ever eaten. There’s also an open and welcoming LGBTQIA+ scene that stands on its own but is also accessible most places you go, with drag shows, community events and a strong presence even in typically non-LGBTQIA+ spaces.

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  
Fellow - Sports Medicine  
*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.

Nichole Anderez, DO  
Resident - Pediatrics  
*Pronouns: She/her/hers*

The program, particularly the people, creates the most supportive and inclusive environment for us to train as physicians. The senior residents lead with patience, the attendings prioritize resident autonomy, and the administration values having a diverse workforce and recognize the importance of increasing representation in medicine. I feel safe here, not only to push myself, learn and make mistakes, but to be myself.

Sarah Chen, MD  
Fellow - Emergency Medicine  
*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 some 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.

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
- Center for Biobehavioral Health
- Center for Cardiovascular Research
- Center for Child Health Equity and Outcomes Research
- Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Diseases
- Center for Clinical and Translational Research
- Center for Gene Therapy
- Center for Injury Research and Policy
- Institute for Genomic Medicine
- Center for Microbial Pathogenesis
- Center for Perinatal Research
- Center for Regenerative Medicine
- Center for Vaccines and Immunology

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

MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION PATIENT VISITS FROM 50 STATES AND 46 COUNTRIES

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

84,850 DONORS contributed more than $51.4 MILLION

AMERICA’S LARGEST NUMBER OF:
- NICU beds
- Inpatient surgeries
- Clinic, Urgent Care, Diagnostic and Therapy Outpatient Visits***

84,850 DONORS contributed more than $51.4 MILLION

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

Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Provided more than $358 MILLION IN CHARITY CARE and community benefit services ***

AMERICA’S LARGEST NUMBER OF:
- NICU beds
- Inpatient surgeries
- Clinic, Urgent Care, Diagnostic and Therapy Outpatient Visits***

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
- Named one of America’s Best Employers for Diversity by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Larger Employers by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Employers for Diversity by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Larger Employers by Forbes

AMERICA’S LARGEST NUMBER OF:
- NICU beds
- Inpatient surgeries
- Clinic, Urgent Care, Diagnostic and Therapy Outpatient Visits***

FOUR-TIME MAGNET designation for nursing excellence

0 Z E R O H E R O Committed to achieving ZERO PREVENTABLE HARM

For more information, visit NationwideChildrens.org/Research

MORE THAN 1.6 MILLION PATIENT VISITS FROM 50 STATES AND 46 COUNTRIES

Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Provided more than $358 MILLION IN CHARITY CARE and community benefit services ***

AMERICA’S LARGEST NUMBER OF:
- NICU beds
- Inpatient surgeries
- Clinic, Urgent Care, Diagnostic and Therapy Outpatient Visits***

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
- Named one of America’s Best Employers for Diversity by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Larger Employers by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Larger Employers by Forbes
- Named one of America’s Best Employers for Diversity by Forbes

AMERICA’S LARGEST NUMBER OF:
- NICU beds
- Inpatient surgeries
- Clinic, Urgent Care, Diagnostic and Therapy Outpatient Visits***

FOUR-TIME MAGNET designation for nursing excellence

0 Z E R O H E R O Committed to achieving ZERO PREVENTABLE HARM

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

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 15 years at Nationwide Children’s.

I have stayed at Nationwide Children’s because I love knowing that the research I do goes directly into the hands of clinicians and administrators who can apply it to improving the lives of children. I feel like what I do here can create real-time change.

What I love most about Nationwide Children’s is the collegiality and collaboration. Clinician-scientists and research scientists share their varying skills in a way that advances science and health with little competition or “turf-ism.” The concept of “One Team” is not just words, it permeates the way we work.

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.

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
**Q&A**

**Monica Hoff, MD, Fellow - Pediatric Hospital Medicine**

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**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 allowed 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
Fellow - Pediatric Hospital Medicine
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 with free educational resources to break stigmas around children's mental health.

To learn more, visit www.OnOurSleeves.org

My passion is to promote the mental health and well-being of all children. My purpose is to increase equity and access to mental health educational resources and tools for every community.

Ariana C. Hoet, PhD

On Our Sleeves movement for children’s mental health
WHAT We Do__BREAK STIGMAS

Q&A

Whitney Raglin Bignall, PhD
Pronouns: She/her/hers

A word from Whitney Raglin Bignall, named to the “40 under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Behavioral Health” by the National Minority Quality Forum:

What was your path to Nationwide Children’s Hospital?

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 subspecialty 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 is your role at the institution?

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.

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
Integrated Primary Care Psychology Fellowship Track Director
Tell us a little about your research interests.

**GRACE R. PAUL, MD**

Even after immigrating to the United States more than 20 years ago, the conviction and passion to serve the medical community and patients in India and other low-and-middle-income countries remain strong. I find this my calling and privilege to work and teach about pulmonary diseases affecting children, not only in the United States but globally, as respiratory illnesses are major contributors to early morbidity and mortality worldwide.

I am blessed to be the principal investigator for the Cystic Fibrosis-India project, a well-structured initiative to promote diagnosis and management of cystic fibrosis in India. Our work is funded by the U.S. CF Foundation and aims to improve awareness and access to CF diagnostic services while creating cost-effective management protocols that would benefit many children with CF living in developing nations. Even a small investment of time, planning and effort go a long way in resource-limited areas—an important factor that motivates my work. I serve on a few national and international committees to promote awareness of pediatric pulmonary health and participate in strategic planning to improve health care outcomes. Navigating through the complexities of international research during the COVID-19 pandemic was a very interesting learning experience!

**TRACI A. BOUCHARD, MD**

I have been working with medical trainees in global health since 2004 and was thrilled to join the leadership team of Nationwide Children’s Global Health Advanced Competency in 2021.

I am passionate about working with children and their families locally and globally to improve their health and the health of their community. I am very excited to bring my prior experience and knowledge to work with the very talented and enthusiastic residents, fellows and faculty at Nationwide Children’s and train the next generation of physicians to improve the health of children everywhere. Our program is truly a collaborative experience, with many residents, fellows and faculty with diverse experiences, backgrounds and skills—I often learn as much as I teach at our global health meetings.

I am currently working with a resident on understanding our non-English speaking patients’ needs beyond just the use of translators and understanding the complexities of medical literacy and its impact on treatment and health outcomes. I am also working with Nationwide Children’s Center for Injury Research and Policy on a study exploring the use of Fitbits and home motion sensors to prevent relapse in patients with substance use disorder in recovery. Working with this patient population and the growing opioid crisis in Ohio and globally is another passion of mine. My purpose as a physician and public health educator is to make a difference in the lives of families and children, particularly those marginalized or with limited resources.

**What is your vision for global education at Nationwide Children’s?**

As co-directors of the Advanced Competency in Global Health, our vision is to strengthen medical knowledge and skills of our pediatric residents in addressing the health care needs of diverse populations living in areas with limited resources.

Through participation in the program, our residents will be able to demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the pediatrician’s role as a global health practitioner and learn to deliver culturally sensitive care in under-resourced environments in the United States and international settings. Our program aims to provide basic knowledge in the following: global indicators of disease, population health, maternal-child health, infectious diseases, tropical diseases, managing the sick child and chronic diseases in resource-limited settings, local and global health, and addressing health needs of new immigrant communities in the United States.

We plan to achieve these goals through online modules, formal and informal didactic sessions presented by renowned global health faculty, journal clubs, and scholarly projects with a special focus on quality improvement. We are excited about making our program even more robust with our partners in Uganda and India, our joint work with The Ohio State University global health colleagues, and our new partnership with the Indian Health Services to give our residents more options for their experiential learning elective. Our goal is that the knowledge and skills gained through the competency, travel experiences, and scholarly work would inspire and encourage them to incorporate global health/underserved population health as part of future career plans.
Abha Athale, DO, Fellow - Emergency Medicine

What sort of global health work have you done in residency, and how was that feasible with busy resident schedules?

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.

Guillermo Yepes Junquera, MD, Fellow - Infectious Diseases

How did you become interested in Global Health?

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 have 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 Advanced Competency in Global Health 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.
**WHAT We Do**

**ADVOCACY**

**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 of the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology where I 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’ve been honored to serve as a member of The White House Health Equity Roundtable Series on Access to Care, and as the inaugural chair of the Health Care Justice Committee of the American Society of Nephrology. These opportunities enable me 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 – and I can’t wait to work with you!

To learn more about Nationwide Children’s community outreach and the Advocacy Advanced Competency, please visit: NationwideChildrens.org/About-Us

---

“**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.”**

---

---

-- O. N. Ray Bignall II, MD, FAAP, FASN
Assistant Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer
Pediatric Nephrologist

Nationwide Children’s Hospital | 37
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.

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

The South Side is the neighborhood Nationwide Children’s calls home. Its greatest asset is the children and families that live in the community. We are proud to partner with Community Development for All People to support the health and wellness of the corridor through the Healthy Neighborhood Healthy Families Initiative.

Our efforts have expanded into the Linden neighborhood in Columbus thanks to strong partnerships with Linden community stakeholders. The work of Healthy Neighborhoods Healthy Families is informed by neighborhood residents, clergy and civic leaders who serve as everyday experts on the journey to best outcomes. Together, we can ensure that families thrive where they live and health equity abounds.

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

NEARLY 200 EMPLOYEES serve as mentors at neighborhood schools and organizations

96% OF CHILDREN who finished our kindergarten readiness program improved their numeracy skills

MORE THAN 500 HOMES improved through rehabilitations, home improvement grants and new builds

MORE THAN 1,220 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

Vice President of Corporate Affairs

WHERE We Live _ HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS HEALTHY FAMILIES

Angela Mingo

Q&A

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. 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, www.ExperienceColumbus.com and ColumbusRegion.com to learn more about Columbus.
For more information about residency and fellowship programs at Nationwide Children’s, visit  
NationwideChildrens.org/Residency-Fellowship

Residencies
Justin King
Pediatric Residency Program Coordinator
Justin.King@NationwideChildrens.org

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

Nationwide Children’s Hospital
700 Children’s Drive  |  Columbus, OH 43205
NationwideChildrens.org