

## Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Announces New Chief



Laboratory Services is excited to announce Dr. Kamran Badizadegan as our new Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Dr. Badizadegan served as the Founding Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida. He was Professor of Pathology at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine in Orlando. Prior to joining Nemours, he was the head of pediatric pathology at Massachusetts General Hospital and served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology.

Kamran holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He completed his anatomic pathology residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston and his pediatric pathology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Badizadegan is board certified in anatomic pathology, pediatric pathology, and clinical informatics. He is a member of multiple pathology related professional societies, is a reviewer for multiple peer reviewed medical journals, and received the Nemours Physician Excellence Award for Quality in 2014. Dr. Badizadegan has received multiple extra-mural grants for his research and is the author of more than 90 peer reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and editorials.

Kamran brings broad clinical expertise, leadership experience, innovation, and an ambitious vision for the future of pediatric pathology on the local, national, and international landscape. Dr. Badizadegan articulates expectations for seamless integration and collaboration between pathology services and Nationwide Children's Hospital's other clinical services.

## Mansfield *Close To Home*<sup>SM</sup> and Laboratory Services Moves to New Location



The Mansfield *Close To Home* Center with laboratory services, located at 680 Park Avenue West, will move to 536 S. Trimble Road. The new location is slated to open on October 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue to provide you with pediatric services and expertise. Laboratory hours will remain the same; **Monday – Friday: 8:30 am – 5 pm**

Other Nationwide Children's clinic services that are available by appointment are Cardiology, Electrocardiogram Testing (EKG), Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Pediatric Surgery, and Urology.

## Placing Lab Orders in Your EMR System

When placing an order in your EMR system, it is important to answer the questions on order-entry, such as source of specimen for cultures and urinalysis or race and type of puncture for lead testing. Without these answers, the order remains pending in ChildLink, doesn't print a requisition and label, and requires a call to the office. Even if the patient is being sent to one of our Laboratory Service Centers, these answers need to be sent to ChildLink in order for the order to process and print a ChildLink requisition.

# INFORMATION TO KNOW

## **Is Vitamin D the Answer to Preventing Asthma Attacks?** by David Stukus, MD

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 IN: ALLERGIES & ASTHMA

Over the past decade, researchers have identified a strong association with low vitamin D levels and increased risk for asthma development and exacerbation among children and adults. Low vitamin D levels have been associated with many other health conditions as well, such as depression, cancer, and heart disease, but the first rule of thumb for trying to determine sources of health conditions is knowing that a relationship between two events does not necessarily mean that one caused the other.

Not all research studies are created equal. Despite dozens of studies investigating whether vitamin D supplementation may prevent asthma attacks, only a few have been randomized controlled trials – which is the most rigorous way to determine true cause and effect. A recent review of these limited studies was published and has been making the headlines. The studies all differed according to many key factors, including: overall outcome measure, measurement of baseline vitamin D level, age of participants, dose of vitamin D and length of time, determination of asthma severity, and location.

### **What is vitamin D and what does it do?**

Vitamin D is a vitamin that helps our bodies absorb calcium, promote bone and cell growth, and can reduce inflammation. For asthma, it is hypothesized that vitamin D may help reduce inflammation present inside the lower airways.

We get vitamin D through two main sources: absorption of sunlight through our skin and through foods naturally high in vitamin D or fortified with it, such as milk, orange juice, and cereals. The best way to measure vitamin D levels is through a blood test, but some disagreement remains regarding the definition of vitamin D deficiency levels.

People with darker skin, who live in urban cities, or who are obese have lower levels of vitamin D. These same individuals are at highest risk for having asthma, and poorly controlled asthma. Since asthma is the most common chronic pediatric condition and a leading cause of emergency room visits and hospitalizations, the link between vitamin D and asthma absolutely merits further study.

### **What do we know about Vitamin D and asthma?**

The authors of the recent Cochrane review concluded that vitamin D is likely to reduce risk of severe asthma attack and need for emergency room use. However, there were no differences in long term asthma control or lung function. In addition, the data from children was very small and required additional evaluation. Unfortunately, without knowing the baseline vitamin D level and other key features such as level of asthma severity, it is nearly impossible to determine which patients may benefit and at what dose.

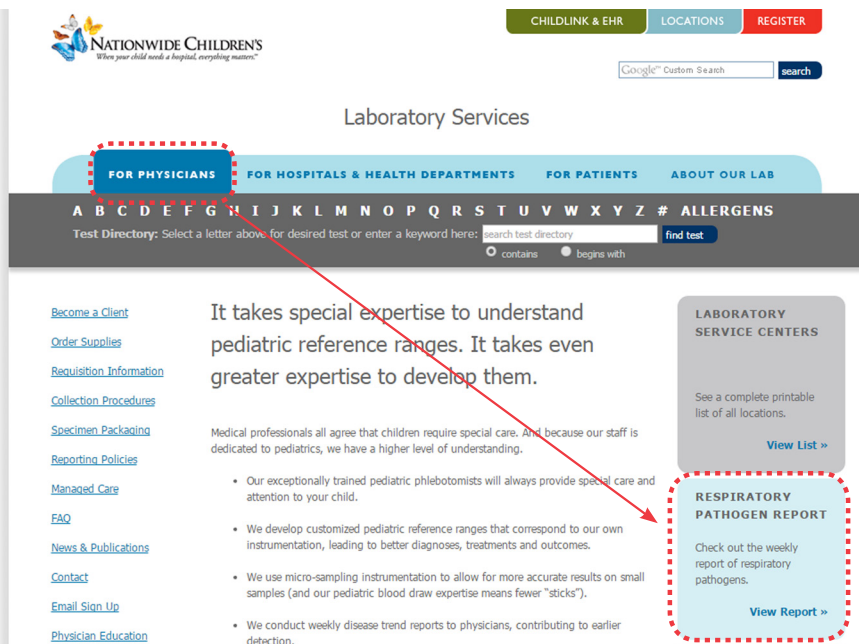
While there appears to be a strong link between low vitamin D levels and asthma exacerbation, there are many important factors that remain unknown before we recommend supplementation as an intervention for everyone. However, it is becoming commonplace to measure baseline vitamin D levels for anyone with poorly controlled asthma, particularly if they have had prior or frequent emergency visits, have darker skin, or live in urban environments. These are likely the patients that will benefit most from vitamin D supplementation. But at what dose and for how long? That question remains to be answered.

**Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services accepts 25-OH (Hydroxy) Vitamin D testing collected from a finger stick. Please call Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Lab) if you have questions about vitamin D testing and collections.**

*About the author: Dr. David Stukus is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Allergy and Immunology, at Nationwide Children's Hospital.*

# INFORMATION TO KNOW

## Weekly Respiratory Pathogens Report on the Web



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

CHILD LINK & EHR LOCATIONS REGISTER

Google Custom Search search

Laboratory Services

FOR PHYSICIANS FOR HOSPITALS & HEALTH DEPARTMENTS FOR PATIENTS ABOUT OUR LAB

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z # ALLERGENS

Test Directory: Select a letter above for desired test or enter a keyword here: search test directory find test

contains begins with

Become a Client  
Order Supplies  
Requisition Information  
Collection Procedures  
Specimen Packaging  
Reporting Policies  
Managed Care  
FAQ  
News & Publications  
Contact  
Email Sign Up  
Physician Education

It takes special expertise to understand pediatric reference ranges. It takes even greater expertise to develop them.

Medical professionals all agree that children require special care. And because our staff is dedicated to pediatrics, we have a higher level of understanding.

- Our exceptionally trained pediatric phlebotomists will always provide special care and attention to your child.
- We develop customized pediatric reference ranges that correspond to our own instrumentation, leading to better diagnoses, treatments and outcomes.
- We use micro-sampling instrumentation to allow for more accurate results on small samples (and our pediatric blood draw expertise means fewer "sticks").
- We conduct weekly disease trend reports to physicians, contributing to earlier detection.

LABORATORY SERVICE CENTERS

See a complete printable list of all locations.

View List >>

RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN REPORT

Check out the weekly report of respiratory pathogens.

View Report >>

Winter is fast approaching and respiratory illnesses will soon be on the rise. Laboratory Services would like to remind you of the great practice tool we offer you to track respiratory pathogens in the community.

When you visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Lab) make sure you check out the **Weekly Respiratory Pathogens Report**. You can obtain weekly respiratory positivity reports on 10 pathogens such as RSV, Influenza, and Pertussis, and note respiratory illness trends in the Central Ohio area. Simply click on the 'For Physicians' link on the Laboratory Services home page then click on 'View Report' located under 'Respiratory Pathogen Report' in the light blue box on the right side of the web page!

## Be Prepared!

Respiratory season is almost here and Laboratory Services would like to encourage you to check your expiration dates and stock up on supplies for suspected respiratory illnesses that Laboratory Services can provide for you.

- M4 Viral Media Collection Kits
- COPAN Diagnostics - Dual swabs
- COPAN Diagnostics - Nylon Flocked Minitip, flexible plastic applicator swabs
- Fisherbrand Polyester-tipped applicator swab

## Look What's New!

Laboratory Services has added a new course, *Gastrointestinal FilmArray Panel: Decoding Multiplex Testing*, to our provider in-office education course listing. The provider education courses are offered by experts from their technical areas to provide your staff with information and educational topics to provide best outcomes for your patients. Ask your Laboratory Services Representative or call (800) 934-6575 to receive a brochure of the courses offered.



### Gastrointestinal FilmArray Panel: Decoding Multiplex Testing

- Understanding the PCR technology and specimen processing behind the array
- Identifying the multiple targets detected by the array
- Evaluating the meaning of positive targets provided by this testing methodology in the pediatric patient population



**NATIONWIDE  
CHILDREN'S**

*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™*

Nationwide Children's Hospital  
700 Children's Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2664

## **How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?**

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges
- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems



**If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Lab).**

**Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at [LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org](mailto:LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org) and let us know!**