

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Patient-centered Care Lies at the Heart of Food Allergy Treatment Center



by David Stukus, MD,
Director, Food Allergy
Treatment Center

Our Food Allergy Treatment Center opened at the Lewis Center Close To HomeSM in April 2021.

We developed this center to offer dedicated space and comprehensive services for the most up-to-date evaluation and management of food allergies. Since opening, we have had over 10,000 visits including 3,000 new consultations and 2,100 oral food challenges. Additionally, we have over 300 patients receiving treatment to help protect them from potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.

Misdiagnosis of food allergy remains common and can lead to unnecessary dietary avoidance, anxiety and poor quality of life. We love helping families clarify if their child is truly allergic to a food. Every symptom that occurs due to food allergy can occur for unrelated reasons and that is a main reason why we “undiagnose” suspected food allergy in 50% of our new patient visits. We often serve as a second or third opinion for children diagnosed with multiple food allergies and almost always find a way to reintroduce many of those foods back into their diet.

Managing food allergies is no longer a passive endeavor. While a cure for food allergies does not exist, we offer oral immunotherapy to desensitize children and lower their risk of reaction from an accidental ingestion. Some children are even able to move on to freely eat the same food that caused a reaction just a few months earlier. There is also now a medication, omalizumab, which binds and removes IgE antibodies, to treat food allergies and protect against accidental ingestion. With all these options available, we take pride in

participating in shared decision making to help each family make the best choice for their needs and preferences.

The Food Allergy Treatment Center is fortunate to have support from Nationwide Children's, as there are only a handful of similar centers across the United States. Since opening, we have hosted teams from nationally acclaimed academic centers, helping them learn from our experience. Our faculty members are routinely invited to educate peers at national conferences and have published dozens of peer-reviewed articles and book chapters since our center opened. Most importantly, our practice is continually evolving, and we strive to offer new approaches as evidence changes.

Other highlights that make our Food Allergy Treatment Center unique:

- Oral immunotherapy for infants
- Threshold challenges to identify each child's personal level of reactivity to a food
- Proximity challenges for children with severe anxiety (showing that they do not react when a food to which they are allergic is nearby or touches their skin)
- Clinical trials investigating cutting-edge therapies
- National reputation – our director, **David Stukus, MD**, is the current vice president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and serves on the Executive Committee for the Section on Allergy/Immunology within the American Academy of Pediatrics

Our goal is to offer comprehensive, evidence-based and personalized food allergy management and support for families and our community. If you're caring for a family with concerns related to food allergies, [please consider referring to our Food Allergy Treatment Center](#). Families may also self-refer through our online portal. We have the time, expertise and experience to clarify the diagnosis, review management options and support every child and family on a positive path forward.

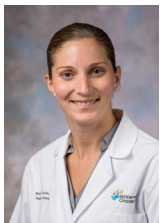
Follow on Instagram: **Farah Kahan, MD** (@farah.khan.md) and **David Stukus, MD** (@AllergyKidsDoc)



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S®

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

Molly Fuchs, MD, Named New Pediatric Urology Department Chief



Molly Fuchs, MD, has been named the new chief of the Department of Pediatric Urology at Nationwide Children's, effective August 1. She will also serve as chief of the Division of Pediatric Urology at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Dr. Fuchs succeeds **Rama Jayanthi, MD**, who has served as chief since 2012 and led the department through a period of remarkable growth and collaboration. Dr. Jayanthi will continue his clinical work at both Nationwide Children's and Dayton Children's Hospital.

Dr. Fuchs joined Nationwide Children's since 2017 and currently serves as director of clinical operations for the Department of Urology and urology director of the Myelomeningocele Clinic. She is a board-certified pediatric urologist and clinical associate professor at The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. Her clinical and research interests include neurogenic bladder, cloacal malformations and anorectal anomalies. Through her collaborative leadership in the Center for Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction, she has helped shape national standards of care and improve outcomes for children with complex congenital conditions.

2025 Physician Recognition Awards

Tuesday, September 16 | Nationwide Children's Conference Center - Allen Auditorium B
4:30 p.m. Social Hour | 5:30 p.m. Program Begins

Nationwide Children's and the Medical Staff Office cordially invite you and your guest to join us for this special event as we celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow physicians to present the following honors:

- Bruce P. Meyer, MD, Family Art of Medicine Award
- Golden Stethoscope Award
- Career Contribution Award Recipients
- Outstanding Community Based Physician Award

In addition to recognizing our honorees, we welcome the new physicians to our medical staff and celebrate the significant milestone anniversaries of those who have served on Nationwide Children's Medical Staff for 25 years or longer. Register at NationwideChildrens.org/awards-rsvp.

FEATURED PHYSICIAN



Adam Ostendorf, MD, is the associate division chief of research at Nationwide Children's and associate professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. He is also the medical co-director of the Epilepsy Surgery Program — one of the largest pediatric programs in the United States — offering state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary treatment for children with severe seizure disorders.

He completed medical school at the University of Iowa, followed by residency in pediatric neurology and fellowship in clinical neurophysiology/pediatric epilepsy at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University in St. Louis. He is board-certified in neurology with special qualifications in child neurology, clinical neurophysiology and epilepsy.

Dr. Ostendorf's primary clinical and research interests focus on the treatment of severe seizures and improving the quality of life for people with epilepsy. He is the principal investigator for an NIH-funded multicenter clinical trial aimed at improving treatment for life-threatening prolonged seizures. He also extensively studies epilepsy surgery practices and outcomes, with the goal of improving the lives of people with epilepsy. Dr. Ostendorf serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Epilepsy Centers and is a member of the American Epilepsy Society.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Comments From Patients and Families

Medical staff leadership acknowledges physicians for recently receiving positive comments from patients and families. These comments are only a brief sample of the many compliments our physicians receive regularly.

Akua Amponsah, MD, Pediatrics

"Thank you to the staff at Linden Primary Care. It's always been a pleasure coming here. My granddaughter has been here all her life. This year she graduated from high school and the career center. Now, she is off to college in New York. Thank you to all the staff here and Dr. Amponsah."

Brendan Boyle, MD, MPH, Pediatrics

"Dr. Boyle is top-notch. He is also my other daughter's specialist. We chose to return to him because he is thorough, knowledgeable and friendly. He listens to my children and goes over and beyond to help them with their stomach problems. I think he's fantastic and I'm so thankful he's at Nationwide Children's."

Renee L. Carpenter-Wells, PCPNP, DNP, Pediatric Neurosurgery

"I could not have asked for a better nurse. The way she interacted with my 7-month-old daughter from the beginning, with a calm voice, helped my daughter stay calm. The way she addressed all my concerns and validated that I was right in asking any question was so comforting to me. I just love the neurosurgery unit so much. So many good, loving and caring humans."

Michael Dunn, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Dunn was phenomenal! He was very personable, cracked jokes with my son and made him feel very comfortable. He explained everything step by step so that we were always in the loop with what was going on. He took the time to connect. We were lucky to get him."

J. Robert Honegger, MD, Pediatrics

"I cannot say enough good things about the doctor. We have been working with him for four years and he has always been very respectful, thorough and works with my son to make him as comfortable as possible."

Lauren Lastinger, MD, Pediatrics

"Dr. Lastinger was very informative, personable, sharp and engaging. We discussed the results of my echocardiogram test in detail. I was very impressed with the way she answered my questions. I was quite impressed with her communication skills and knowledge."

Kelsey Lecerf, MD, Pediatrics

"We had a great experience with the staff. Our nurse and Dr. Lecerf were thorough, helpful and informative. They listened, asked questions, and were professional, friendly, and made us all feel very comfortable. We found their insights and recommendations very insightful and helpful. Dr. Lecerf was fantastic!"

Alicia K. McVity, FNP, Pediatrics

"I was very impressed with her care. We passed two other hospitals to be seen at this one. Everyone exceeded our expectations, and we were blown away by the care and we will continue driving over an hour to bring our children to you."

Richard Wood, MD, Pediatric Colorectal & Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery

"Dr. Wood is an amazing doctor. His knowledge, expertise and kind mannerisms are all great skills that he encompasses. As an already established patient, we already knew our child was in great hands with Dr. Wood. Your staff never fail to amaze us. We've always experienced staff who are friendly, knowledgeable and always willing to go the extra mile to provide whatever is needed for your families."

MOMENTS IN HISTORY

In 1978, Columbus Children's (now Nationwide Children's) was the site of the first successful separation of conjoined twins in Ohio.

In 1991, Columbus Children's (now Nationwide Children's) was the first pediatric hospital in Ohio to establish a certified Level 1 trauma program.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

IMPAACT Summit: Breaking Boundaries With Assistive Technology

September 18-19

This year's focus is on assistive technology for communication, participation and inclusion in daily life activities. Attendees may register for both days or choose a single day option. This in-person event includes hands-on learning labs, offering opportunities to interact with assistive technology from various companies and build skills applicable to multiple disabilities. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/IMPAACT2025.

4th Annual Pediatric Dermatology Symposium

September 26

This conference is hosted by the Nationwide Children's Dermatology Clinic team highlighting updates on pediatric dermatologic conditions frequently seen in the primary care practice. The goal is to equip primary care providers with the knowledge and resources to confidently care for these patients within their setting, as well as, to give providers insights into the pediatric dermatology clinic. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/derm2025.

19th Annual Pediatric Urology Laparoscopy Course

October 3-4

This is a hands-on course designed for urology fellows seeking to enhance their skills in minimally invasive and laparoscopic pediatric surgical techniques. The course serves as an excellent platform to engage with an array of visiting faculty who are highly experienced in laparoscopy. Attendees will benefit from the opportunity to learn directly from leaders in the field of pediatric urology. The course includes expert-led lectures and a hands-on dry skills lab. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/PULC2025.

41st Annual School Health Conference: Featuring Hands-on School Nursing Skills

October 17

This year's conference will feature dynamic speakers covering topics such as childhood grief, situational awareness, diabetes and asthma education, and more. Participants will also have access to hands-on skills sessions in the simulation center. We encourage school nurses, school administrators and other public health professionals involved in caring for children and families through schools to attend. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SHC2025.

Neonatal Simulation Conference

October 28-29

The Neonatal Simulation Conference will provide continuing education designed for delivery hospital and NICU professionals. Participants will work in small group settings, participating in immersive, multidisciplinary patient care simulations focused on the care of the ill neonate. The conference will also include didactic sessions, offering additional training for participants to integrate into their practice setting as preceptors or educators. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/NEOSIM.

Nationwide Children's Extended Reality (XR) Symposium

November 7

This year's symposium builds on the success of the 2024 event and is designed to spotlight cutting-edge applications of XR in health care—from medical education to patient care—and foster interdisciplinary collaborations across research, clinical, industry and community stakeholders. This event strives to accelerate translational research and promote community-engaged science. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/XR2025.

Pediatric Sports Medicine and Orthopedics Conference

November 21-22

This conference is designed for physicians, athletic trainers, physical therapists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who treat pediatric patients with sports medicine injuries and orthopedic problems. Attendees may choose to attend in person or virtually on Friday, where afternoon breakout lectures in sports medicine, rehabilitation and musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSK) will be available. Saturday's optional in-person program will feature hands-on labs in rehabilitation and MSK ultrasound. Register at NationwideChildrens.cloud-cme.com/SMED25.

GRAND ROUNDS

Pediatric Grand Rounds

Pediatric Grand Rounds takes place every Thursday from 8 to 9 a.m. A schedule of upcoming and prior recorded sessions is on the Nationwide Children's Physician Connect app and the ANCHOR calendar.

Upcoming sessions include:

Date	Topic	Speaker and Institution/ Department
8/14	Screen Time: Effect of Media on Children's Learning and Behavior	Eaton Lectureship Jennifer Radesky, MD University of Michigan Medical School

8/21	Advocacy-informed Research: Partnering With Community to Advance Kidney Health Equity and Transform Health Care Policy	Lilia Cervantes, MD, MSCS Denver Health
8/28	TBD	McClung Lecture Martín G. Martín, MD, MPP David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
9/4	TBD	TBD
9/11	Optimizing the Medical Home: Clinical Informatics for Interoperability and Better Patient Care	Shravani Vundavalli, MD, Shama Patel, MD, MPH, and Alysha Taxter, MD
9/18	Until it's Done for Everyone: Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in Cystic Fibrosis Care and Research	Heiser Lecture Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, MD, MSCS, ATSF, and Constance Christian, DO
9/25	Professionalism Education and Remediation: The State of the Art	Ashley Fernandes, MD, PhD, FAAP Nationwide Children's

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Pam and Jack Beeler Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Grand Rounds

Make plans to join the upcoming session from noon to 1 p.m. Find the events on the Zoom links listed below or attend in person in Allen Auditorium at Nationwide Children's Conference Center. Lunch will be provided for these in-person sessions:

Thursday, September 25

Stephanie H. Parade, PhD

Biopsychosocial Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Health Across the Lifespan

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/91496279316>

Thursday, October 2

Amy Margolis, PhD

Environmental Impacts on Cognitive Development in Children

Hybrid: <https://zoom.us/j/97473780889>

COMMUNITY PROVIDER CORNER

Ask A Pediatric Specialist

Get answers directly to your inbox from pediatric experts to stay current with pediatric best practices and standards of care. [Subscribe](#) to the Ask A Specialist newsletter and submit your questions today.

Free Virtual Learning From Project ECHO

Looking to strengthen the care you provide to children and their families? Project ECHO at Nationwide Children's offers a free, innovative way to grow your expertise and connect with fellow pediatric providers. These virtual sessions provide useful tips to find practical solutions to everyday challenges. Whether you work in a rural or urban setting, Project ECHO equips you with tools to improve patient outcomes and reduce health disparities.

Upcoming sessions include:

- [Asthma](#)
- [Obesity Foundations](#)
- [RUBI OG](#)

Learn more at NationwideChildrens.org/ECHO. For caregivers, [Family ECHO](#) offers a supportive space to learn and connect.

Support School Readiness During Literacy Month

August is Literacy Month—a timely reminder of the important role early reading plays in preparing kids for kindergarten and lifelong learning. Reading with young children not only strengthens language and attention skills but also builds meaningful parent-child connections. Through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, families can receive free, age-appropriate books by mail each month until their child turns 5. Celebrate Literacy Month by sharing this resource with your patient families: NationwideChildrens.org/ImaginationLibrary.

Diabetes Management Education – Professional Accreditation

This dynamic, three-hour accredited course is designed for health care professionals involved in the care of children with diabetes. Enhance your clinical knowledge and build confidence in delivering safe, evidence-based diabetes management. This course offers actionable strategies and continuing education credits to support excellence in pediatric diabetes care. Topics include:

- Using glucose meters, continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and insulin pumps
- Responding to hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, including ketone management
- The role of nutrition, exercise and medication in diabetes management

Dates: August 18 | September 17 | October 17 (*9 a.m. start time*)

Time: 1 to 4 p.m. (*Except on 10/17*)

Cost: \$10 per person (includes all materials and instruction)

Accreditation: 2.75 ANCC contact hours for qualified attendees

Register at [Nationwide Children's Hospital Continuing Education](#). For questions, call Community Education at (614) 355- 0589 or email Sheri.Brock@NationwideChildrens.org.

Neuroimmune Family Education Day

Saturday, September 6 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event brings together medical experts, patient advocates and caregivers to explore the latest in early diagnosis, treatment strategies, psychosocial support and research advancements in conditions such as multiple sclerosis and autoimmune encephalitis.

The event features:

- Plenary and concurrent breakout sessions for adults and teens
- Age-appropriate activities and support for kids
- Complimentary lunch, child care and parking provided

There is no charge to attend, but [registration is required](#).

38th Annual Celiac Conference

Saturday, October 18 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event is ideal for anyone living with celiac disease or gluten intolerance—or for those who supports someone who is. Whether you're newly diagnosed or looking to deepen your understanding, don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn and empower your gluten-free journey. Topics include:

- The latest in research and treatment
- Practical tips for managing a gluten-free lifestyle

There is no charge to attend, but [registration is required](#).

Living with Epilepsy Conference

Saturday, October 25 | 8 a.m. to noon

Epilepsy Alliance Ohio and Nationwide Children's have partnered to present a conference for professionals in the field of neurology and for people living with epilepsy and their families and friends.

- Expert Speaker Presentations
- Breakout and Q&A Sessions
- Resources
- Continental breakfast and complimentary parking provided

There is no charge to attend, but [registration is required](#).



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Medical staff can sign up to receive MedStat eAlerts once a month at [NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat-Preferences-Form](https://www.NationwideChildrens.org/MedStat-Preferences-Form).

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