



Nicklaus
Children's
Hospital

Volume 15, Issue 3
May 2025

Milestones

in Medical Education



Special points of interest

- Fundamentals of Self-Directed Learning
- E-Recognitions
- Trainees & Faculty Scholarship
- Incoming Trainees
- Scholarly Activities
- Chief residents Selected
- Legislative Advocacy
- Graduation Celebrations
- 60th Annual PPGC
- 75th Anniversary Celebrations

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From the Editor

Our Medical Education Spring Seeds are Blooming

This May issue of ***Milestones in Medical Education*** comes at the time of the Medical Education Academic year where we start planting, nurturing, and plan for our yearly harvest.

As we celebrated our 2025 match, we are preparing to plant new seeds of upcoming classes of residents and fellows who will join us in July 2025. We are also seeing the sprouting of our current trainees, presenting at national meetings, participating in community advocacy, and maturing into their roles from first to second years. In addition, this is the time of the year where we complete our CME calendar, from Grand Rounds, to PPGC, to Board Review. And last but not least, this is the time when we prepare for the picking of the fruits of our crops culminating in our Scholarship Week and our Graduation celebrations where we

share our trainees with the celebration of the fruits of their labor.

In this issue of ***Milestones in Medical Education***, we continue to highlight the many milestones achieved in the past two months by our faculty and trainees:

- ◆ Trainees continue to receive e-Recognitions from patients, colleagues, and staff for their dedication and professionalism.
- ◆ Trainees receive awards and recognitions.
- ◆ The NCH trainees and faculty continue to disseminate their scholarly work in print and on national stages as presentations
- ◆ Preparations underway for the Annual Scholarship

ship week and Graduation events

- ◆ Medical Education prepares to welcome a new class of residents and fellows.
- ◆ Medical Education celebrates 75 years of excellence in Clinical care and 60 years of CME through the 60th Annual PPGC celebrated with Alumni.

As we prepare for a fruitful end of our academic year, I hope that you take the time to enjoy this issue, savor the wins, the proud moments, and the continued focus on our academic mission as we prepare to launch a new class of Alumni to the world of Pediatrics. Happy reading.

Rani S. Gereige, MD, MPH,
FAAP - DIO

Milestones in Faculty Development

Nuts & Bolts: Fundamentals of Self-Directed Learning (SDL)

The *Academic Pediatrics* Journal started a micro-faculty development section called

“Nuts & Bolts”. In each of the Milestones in Medical Education Issues, we will begin featuring

one of the Nuts & Bolts short articles or snippets from the articles.

NUTS AND BOLTS

FUNDAMENTALS OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING (SDL)



Kristin Tiedt MD¹, Richelle Baker MD MS², Jerry Rushton MD MPH², Mary Ciccarelli MD², Department of Pediatrics, UW School of Medicine, Madison WI¹; Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN²
On Behalf of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors Faculty and Professional Development Learning Community

FUNDAMENTALS OF SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING (SDL)

Give a person a fish, and he will be hungry again tomorrow; teach him to catch a fish, and he will be richer all his life.

IN THIS EDITION:

- What is self-directed learning?
- What contributes to SDL?
- How can you promote your learner's SDL?



Consider this situation...

A PGY-2 resident just started a cardiology rotation. She has plans to become a community pediatrician and shares with you that she is struggling to remember how to differentiate the types of congenital heart diseases. She meets with you to ask for help improving her skill in this content area.

How will you help her plan her learning approach?

What is Self-Directed Learning (SDL)?

Self-Directed Learning is the competency in which a professional uses individualized, self-regulated, and effective learning strategies to successfully address the lifelong demands of an ever-evolving field of medicine.



Learner characteristics



Teacher-learner interactions



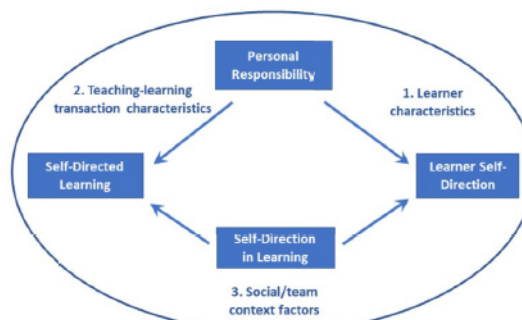
Social/team context

What contributes to SDL?

Learner characteristics— Adult learners thrive when they have ownership of learning content and methods.

Teacher-learner interactions— Faculty should promote safe learning climates, facilitate critical thinking and self-reflection, and suggest resources and strategies.

Social/team context— The training environment fosters intellectual curiosity by supporting group learning and individualized study opportunities.



The Personal Responsibility Orientation Learning Model
(Adapted from Brockett & Hiemstra, 1991)

16th Annual
Virtual
Scholarship Week
(May 27-30th;
2025)

Milestones in Faculty Development

Nuts & Bolts: Fundamentals of Self-Directed Learning (SDL) (Cont'ed)



PRACTICAL PEARLS

Promote SDL by...

- Stimulating self-assessment
- Supporting development of individualized learning plans
- Facilitating the formation of SMART learning goals

FURTHER READINGS

Eva KW, Regehr G. Self-assessment in the health professions: a reformulation and research agenda. *Acad Med* 80: S46-S54, 2005.

Hiemstra R. Self-directed learning. In T. Husen & T. N. Postlethwaite (Eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Education* (2nd edition), Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1994.

<https://icenetblog.royalcollege.ca/2017/03/10/education-theory-made-practical-self-directed-learning/>, 2017

Li ST, Burke AE. Individualized learning plans: basics and beyond. *Acad Ped* 10(5):289-92, 2010 Sept-Oct.

Shershneva MB, et.al. Learning to use learning resources during medical school and residency. *J Med Libr Assoc* 93:263-70, 2005.

How YOU Can Promote Your Learner's SDL

1. Guide your learners' needs assessment and reflection

- Trainees vary in their ability to self-assess. Stimulate these skills by encouraging the learner to ask themselves:
 - What skills are my strengths/weaknesses?
 - Am I struggling or in need of help?

2. Assist learners in creating effective goals & objectives

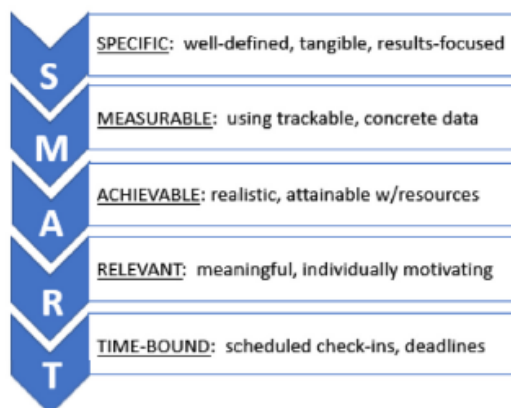
- The ACGME recommends use of individual learning plans (ILPs) as a contract to promote improvement across the competencies and lifelong learning.
- Encourage a SMART framework to construct goals & achievable objectives.

3. Aid learners in implementing effective individualized learning strategies

- Role model habits of finding, interpreting, and applying evidence
- Demonstrate how to use preferred sources, how to digest complex information, and how to reflect upon it in small portions.

4. Facilitate learners' evaluation of their learning efficacy

- Recommend learners self-quiz on learning, and/or teach others.
- Promote use of a learning portfolio, follow up on progress measurements.



Back to your resident

You praise the resident for identifying her need to learn more about the major congenital cyanotic heart lesions. You help her update the Individual Learning Plan with the SMART framework to set new goals. Over the remainder of the rotation, she plans to study one key diagnosis every three days and create an outline of the major clinical findings, prognosis and treatment for each. She shares new pearls with the students on the team and tests herself with related cardiology questions. By the end of the first week, she feels encouraged by her progress.



Milestones in Humanism and Professionalism

NCH Trainees Compliments and e-Recognitions



Milena
Fraustro
Sanchez,
MD (PGY3)

Dr. Milena Fraustro Sanchez received a recognition from Ms Aileen Antich; Clinical Education Specialist for her display of the **NCHS Pillar: Amazing Patient Care**. Ms Antich commented: *"I would like to recognize Dr. Fraustro Sanchez for her outstanding care and leadership on 3S. She guided the team with confidence, setting an excellent example through her dedication, professionalism, and clinical expertise. Her clear and timely communication with the nursing staff ensured amazing patient care. She created an environment of teamwork and learning, making a significant impact on both her colleagues and the quality of care provided. Thank you!"*. Congratulations Milena on your display of the iCREATE NCHS Values.



Mark Pilarski,
DO
(PGY3)

Dr. Mark Pilarski received an e-Recognition from Ms Alessandra Carrillo, 3N Clinical Coordinator for his display of the **NCHS Value: Collaboration**. Ms Carrillo commented: *"Thank you Mark for being such a great support yesterday on shift. I really appreciate you being so helpful especially in working with us nurses. It's great when we have a leader who listens and values our input. In difficult moments, you keep your cool and know exactly what to*

say to patients and families. We had a safety issue yesterday on shift with a difficult family who was upset and having you come in to talk to the family made us feel safe and helped calm the situation down. That is so greatly appreciated. Your time with us has been eventful yet fun and such a pleasure each shift. Thank you for your hard work and dedication and also your support for nursing. We really appreciate you!". Congratulations Mark on a job well-done!!!



Oscar Fonseca,
MD
(PGY1)

Dr. Oscar Fonseca received an e-Recognition recognition from Ms Alessandra Carrillo, 3N Clinical Coordinator for his display of the **NCHS Values: Advocacy, Empathy**. Ms Carrillo commented: *"I wanted to recognize Oscar for doing an amazing job last week speaking with a family. We had a patient that came in overnight who is well known to our unit. This patient is complex and known to the unit. On this particular morning, the patient began to decompensate. It was noted the AND was expired and PACT was consulted to see the patient that day for renewal. The timing in this situation was rough and Oscar had to have the difficult conversation with the mother about the AND while we were in the midst of transferring the patient to the ICU. Oscar did a great job of speaking to the mother in a very empathetic way. He let me know he had never had that kind of conversation before. I think he did a great job and was an amazing advocate for the patient and mother. He was able to get the PACT on the*

unit prior to transfer so they could comfort the mother in this difficult time. Thank you Oscar for your hard work and patience and for doing a great job!". Congratulations Oscar on a great job!!!



Donovan
Dowers, MD
(PGY2)



Jake Lesser,
MD (PGY3)

Drs. Donovan Dowers & Jake Lesser were recognized by Dr. Freddy Martin; PEM Attending. Dr. Martin commented: *"Yesterday while on shift I was awed by Dr. Dowers and Dr. Lesser. It is rare when residents or our fellows pick up so many patients that I only see one patient on my own in a shift, but these young doctors did it and did it well. I just wanted to let you all know that I appreciate their effort"*. Congratulations Donovan & Jake.



Jessica Pollow,
DO
(PGY1)

Dr. Jessica Pollow received an e-Recognition from Ms Alessandra Carrillo, 3N Clinical Coordinator with **kudos: Thanks for your help!** Ms Carrillo commented: *"Jessica I really appreciate all your hard work and attention to detail - especially with the difficult patients on the unit. Thank you for such a quick response today when one of our patients was anxious to leave. You made sure the discharge was prepared properly and did everything that was needed so we could discharge the patient in a timely manner. Your patience and calm demeanor is appreciated by not*

Milestones in Humanism and Professionalism

NCH Trainees Compliments and e-Recognitions (Cont'ed)

us the staff but our families as well. **THANK YOU!!!!**. Congratulations Jessica on a job well done!



Ariel Collazo Lamb, MD
(Pediatric GI Fellow)

Dr. Ariel Collazo Lamb received an e-Recognition from Dr. Rani Gereige, DIO for his display of the **NCHS Values: Collaboration & Responsibility**. Dr. Gereige commented: **"I want to recognize Dr. Ariel Collazo Lamb for his commitment to lifelong learning, professional demeanor, and responsibility in performing**

expected tasks. He is a role model for his peers. THANK YOU for your dedication. We are very proud of you and your achievements. Keep up the good work!". Congratulations Ariel on a job well done!!

Milestones in Med Ed Trainees Awards & Recognitions - Trainees in the Spotlight

GME Trainees Prestigious Award Recipients

Dr. Claudia Vega Castellvi (PHM Fellow) Honored with Patient Safety Hero Award

Dr. Claudia Vega Castellvi was honored in March 2025 as being the recipient of the **Patient Safety Hero Award**. The speech below was shared during the Award ceremony: **"Tonight, we are honored to recognize Dr. Claudia Vega Castellvi for her unwavering commitment to patient safety and her dedication to fostering a culture of safety at NCH. From the very beginning of her fellowship, Claudia has been a passionate advocate—not only for improving safety awareness among patients and families but also for educating and empowering residents and staff.**

Over the past two years, Dr.

Vega has dedicated herself to multiple patient safety initiatives, working alongside risk management and other departments to enhance incident reporting and strengthen our overall safety practices. She has made it her mission to increase awareness among trainees, teaching them how to identify risks, report incidents, and actively participate in quality improvement efforts. Through her leadership, she has transformed safety education into an engaging and impactful experience, ensuring that the next generation of physicians prioritizes safety and accountability in their practice.

Her dedication, expertise, and passion for patient safety have left a lasting impact on our institution, and we have no doubt that she will continue to be an exceptional leader in this field.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Claudia Vega

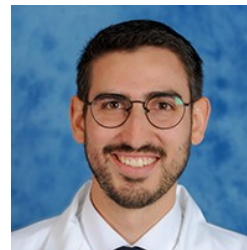
Castellvi on this well-deserved recognition!"

Congratulations Claudia on this prestigious award. You make us proud!!! Below are some photos from the award ceremony.

Dr. Andres Vargas Espana (NCH PGY1 Pediatric Resident) is the Recipient of the 2025 FIU Resident & Fellow Clinical Teaching Award

FIU

Herbert Wertheim
College of Medicine



Dr. Andres Vargas Espana (PGY1) was notified on April 21 2025 that he is the recipient of the **2025 FIU Resident & Fellow Clinical Teaching Award**. This award is voted on by the FIU Medical Students for the best Resident/ Fellow Clinical Teacher who they had the chance of interacting with during all their clerkships across specialties. Congratulations Andres on your well deserved award and thank you for your dedication to teaching the FIU Medical Students. You make us proud!!



NCH Pediatric

Endocrinology

Fellowship

Receives ACGME

Initial

Accreditation.

The Fellowship Will

Recruit in the

upcoming Interview

Season for July 2026

Milestones in Scholarly Activities

NCH Trainees & Faculty Continue to Disseminate Their Scholarly Work on National Stages & in Print

Hot off the Press

Dr. Andrea Granados, MD (Pediatric Endocrinology Faculty) published her manuscript titled: **"Hemoglobin A1C in Youth and Adults with Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes Decreases After Elexacaftor-Tezacaftor-Ivacaftor"** in the March 2025 issue of the *Journal of Cystic Fibrosis*. Congratulations!!!

Dr. Aqsa Khan, MD (PCCM Fellow) along with NCH Residency Alumni Drs Ajay Gupta and Ali Ahmad, published their manuscript titled: **"Advance Care Planning Conversations in Pediatric Patients with Refractory Oncologic Disease"** in the 12th issue of *Children* in 2025. Congratulations!!!

Drs. Bala Totapally, MD & Michael Leoncio, DO (PCCM NCH Faculty) along with FIU faculty and medical students published their manuscript titled: **"Prevalence of Arginine Vasopressin Deficiency in Pediatric Patients Declared Dead by Neurological Criteria"** in the *Journal of Pediatrics*. Congratulations!

Dr. Manette Ness-Cochinwala, MD (PCCM Faculty) & NCH Alumnus Dr. Madhu Chegondi & co-authors, published their manuscript

titled: **"Use and Outcomes of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters in Hospitalized Infants"** was accepted for publication in *Hospital Pediatrics*. Congratulations!

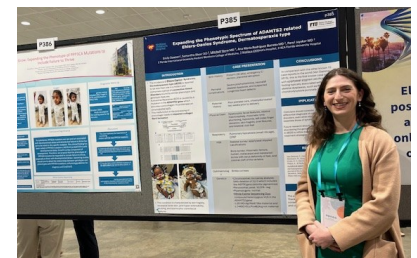
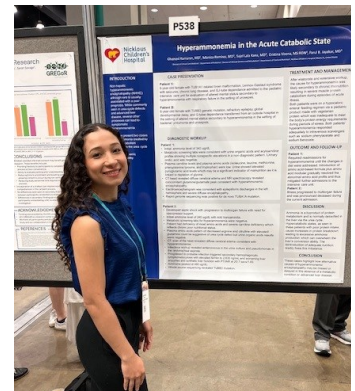
National Presentations

Dr. Joselyn Ye Tay, MD (PL3) presented her case report titled: **"Facing PHACE Syndrome: A Mysterious Case of Transient Weakness"** as a podium presentation at the 37th Annual Pre-AAD Meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology. Congratulations!!



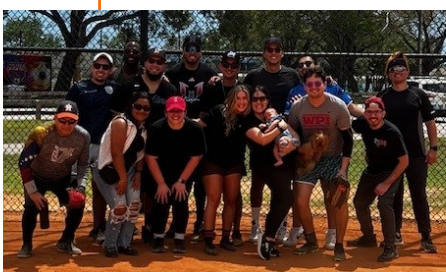
Dr. Samantha Shear, DO (PGY2) & her co-authors presented her poster titled: **"Let It Grow: Expanding the Phenotype of PPP3CA Mutations to Include Failure to Thrive"** at the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) Clinical Genetics Meeting in Los Angeles in March 2025. Congratulations!!

Drs. Ghanavi Kumaran, MD (PCCM Fellow) & **Monica Ramirez, MD** (PGY2) & their co-authors presented their poster titled: **"Hyperammonemia in the Acute Catabolic State"** at the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) Clinical Genetics Meeting in Los Angeles in March 2025. Congratulations!!



Milestones in Trainees vs Faculty Fun Activities

NCH Faculty Claim Victory Over Trainees



The Annual Faculty vs Trainees Softball Game & Picnic was held Sunday April 6th 2025. This year, the faculty claimed victory over the trainees 25-15. Congratulations to all!!



Milestones in Recruitment

NCH Medical Education New Incoming Trainees

In June/July 2025; the Department of Medical Education & Nicklaus Children's Hospital will welcome a new group of trainees. Below are the Pediatric & Dental Residents along with the Specialty Fellows who will begin their educational journey at NCH in June/July 2025.

PEDIATRIC RESIDENTS – CLASS OF 2028

Name	Medical School
Kendal Nicole Allen, DO	A.T. Still University of Health Sciences Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Missouri
Kimberly Baez Nicodemo, MD	Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Dominican Republic
Nicolas David Benelli, MD	St. George's University School of Medicine, Grenada
Laura Calderon Suarez, MD	Universidad de Los Andes Facultad de Medicina, Colombia
Maria Cristina Diaz Munoz, MD	Universidad San Francisco de Quito Colegio de Ciencias de la Salud, Ecuador
Ana Maria Espinosa Monteros, MD	Universidad Nacional de Loja Área de la Salud Humana, Ecuador
Camila Nicole Gallegos Caicedo, MD	Universidad San Francisco de Quito Colegio de Ciencias de la Salud, Ecuador
Laura Beatriz Gutierrez, MD	Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida
Alexandra Samira Hassan, DO	Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tennessee
Marcello Immediato-Scuotto, DO	Marian University Wood College of Osteopathic Medicine, Indiana
Jacqueline Judith Jean-Gilles, MD	St. George's University School of Medicine, Grenada
Aarij Yave Khan, MD	Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Dominican Republic
Dana Rose McCarney, MD	Tufts University School of Medicine, Maine Medical Center, Maine
Himanshu Meena, MD	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
Dana Melody Mysler, MD	Instituto Universitario Escuela de Medicina del Hospital Italiano, Argentina
Maria Alejandra Nova Patino, DO	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Florida
Victoria Alejandra Quintero-Riestra,	Northeast Ohio Medical University, Ohio
Hafsah Ashfaq Shireen, MD	St. George's University School of Medicine, Grenada
Gabriela Solorzano, DO	Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Florida
Gayathri Srinivasan, DO	Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, Florida
Carly Alyssa Stewart, DO	Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Oklahoma
Samantha Amelia Tano, MD	Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida
Ivette Troitino, MD	Indiana University School of Medicine, Indiana
Maria Sara Valle Gonzalez, MD	Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida
Daniela Carolina Vasquez, MD	Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Florida
Emely Iderlyn Vasquez Sanchez, MD	Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Dominican Republic
Luisa Maria Vasquez Reyes, MD	Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM) Facultad de Ciencias de la
Flavio Alfonso Veintemilla Burgos,	Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil Facultad de Ciencias Médicas, Ecuador

Milestones in Recruitment

NCH Medical Education New Incoming Trainees (Cont'd)



CHILD NEUROLOGY RESIDENCY

Name	Medical School	Residency
Claudia Francia, MD	Universidad Central del Caribe School of Medicine	Pediatric University Hospital of Puerto Rico

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY RESIDENTS

Name	Dental School
Angela Palacios, DDS	University of California Los Angeles
Carolina Gonzales, DDS	Texas A&M College of Dentistry
Christopher Hall, DMD	Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine
Kristen Anderson, DMD	University of Florida College of Dentistry
Stephanie Ferrer, DMD	University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine

Milestones in Recruitment

NCH Medical Education New Incoming Trainees (Cont'ed)

INCOMING FELLOWS

Name	Medical School	Residency
ALLERGY-IMMUNOLOGY		
Alessia Zambrano, DO	Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine	Hackensack University Medical Center Program (Pediatrics - General) - Hackensack University Medical Center
PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE		
Rebecca Basch, DO	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Carolinas Campus	University of Connecticut Program (Pediatrics - General) - University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Ariel Faber, MD	University of New Mexico School of Medicine	Medical University of South Carolina Program (Internal Medicine & Pediatrics - General) - Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine
Sushma Kakkerala, MD	Osmania Medical College	Harlem Hospital Center Program (Pediatrics - General) - Harlem Hospital Center
PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL MEDICINE		
Natalia Figueroa Ramos	University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
Dianelis Hernandez, MD	FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine - Miami, Florida	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE		
Karina Delgado, DO	Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
Tomas Leng, MD	Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Lekárska Fakulta	Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science (Rochester) Program (Pediatrics - General) - Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
Christina Perez-Arche, MD	American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY		
Daniela Ramirez Duque, MD	Universidad Centro-Occidental Lisandro Alvarado Decanato de Ciencias de la Salud	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY		
Ahmad Abdulkader, MD	University of Szeged Faculty of Medicine	Richmond University Medical Center Program (Pediatrics - General) - Richmond University Medical Center
Maraida Serrant Hernandez, MD	University of Medicine and Health Sciences, St. Kitts	San Juan City Hospital Program (Pediatrics - General) - San Juan City Hospital
PEDIATRIC CICU		
Manoj Chakiath, MD	University of Miami Miller School of Medicine	Nicklaus Children's Hospital - Miami, Florida
CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY		
Michelina Pando, MD	American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine	Citrus Health Network, Inc. Program (Psychiatry - General) - Citrus Health Network, Inc.
Mariame Shaw, MD	Ross University School of Medicine	SUNY Upstate Medical University Program (Psychiatry - General) - SUNY Upstate Medical University
PEDIATRIC RADIOLOGY		
Geoffy Miller, DO	Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine	Larkin Community Hospital
PEDIATRIC SURGERY		
Nicole Narayan, MD	Boston University School of Medicine	New York Presbyterian Hospital (Cornell Campus) Program (Surgery - General) - New York Presbyterian Hospital

Milestones in Recruitment

NCH Medical Education New Incoming Trainees (Cont'd)

Name	Medical School	Residency
PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY		
Meleine Landry Konan, MD	University Felix Houphouet Boigny -- Cote d'Ivoire	University Felix Houphouet Boigny -- Cote d'Ivoire Neurosurgery Residency
PEDIATRIC UROLOGY		
Gabriel Fernandez, MD	University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine	Rutgers New Jersey Medical School- Urology Residency Program
PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY		
Marina Dias, DO	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Auburn Campus	University of Florida Program (Pediatrics - General) - University of Florida College of Medicine
PEDIATRIC ORTHO/SPINE		
Pooya M. Tehrany, MD, MPH	Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran	University of Kebangsaan, Malaysia
CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY		
Jeremy Becton, MD	University of Mississippi School of Medicine	University of Virginia (Child Neurology) - University of Virginia Medical Center
Kirsten Consing, DO	Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine	University of Florida (Child Neurology) - University of Florida College of Medicine

Milestones in Recruitment

NCH Pediatric Residency Program Announces the 2026-2027 Academic Year Chief Residents



Maria Rodriguez, MD

On May 1 2025, the NCH Pediatric Residency Program announced that **Drs Maria Rodriguez & Lucila Servitje Azcarraga** will serve as the **Pediatric Chief Residents in the 2026-2027 Academic Year**. Congratulations to Maria and Lucila on this appointment.



Lucila Servitje Azcarraga, MD

Milestones in Medical Education Staff Celebration

The Medical Education & Medical Administration Family Celebrates Gabby with a Baby Shower

On April 29th 2025, the Departments of Medical Education & Medical Administration celebrated **Ms Gabriela Atkin** (CME Specialist) and her husband Dean Atkin with a baby shower for them. Congratulations and best wishes to Gabby & Dean. Looking forward to welcoming your new bundle of joy to the family!!



Milestones in Legislative Advocacy

NCH Pediatric Residents Reps Participate in FCAAP Children's Week Legislative Advocacy Training & Events

Drs. Alicia German Dihmes, MD (PGY-3) & Janelle Torres, DO (PGY-2) represented our NCH Pediatric Residency Program at the **FCAAP Children's Week**

Legislative Advocacy Training Event held in Tallahassee on April 14-15. Additionally, they met with various Florida senators and representatives throughout the day

to advocate for their legislative support on initiatives that will benefit our pediatric patients! Congratulations and thank you for your advocacy efforts!!!



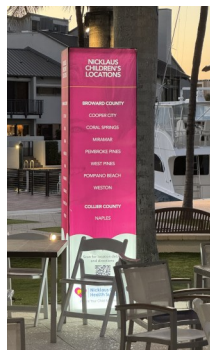
Milestones in CME News

The 60th Annual PPGC,... A Huge Success!!

The **60th Annual PPGC** was held **March 28-30; 2025** at the Hilton Marina Resort in Fort Lauderdale. This year, the course celebrated its 60th Anniversary and the 75th Anniversary of the Hospital. The event was

a celebration of education, reconnection, and networking as all of our course speakers were Alumni of our training programs in various specialties from various classes, years, and destinations. The courses highlighted the academic excellence

and the teaching legacy of Nicklaus Children's Hospital for the past 75 years of clinical care and 60 years of the PPGC Course. **We hope to see you all next year March 20-22; 2026.**



Milestones in 75th Anniversary Celebration

Timeline for 75 Years of Joy, Innovation, & Healing with Hope



Memory Lane

Variety Children's Hospital
begins a \$2.5 million expansion

1964



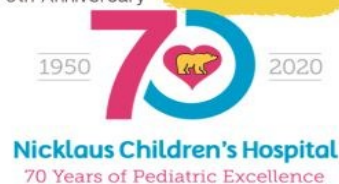
Miami Children's Hospital
expansion

1986



Nicklaus Children's Hospital
70th Anniversary

2020



Nicklaus Children's Hospital
75th Anniversary

2025



1950

Variety Children's Hospital
opened on March 20



1983

Variety Children's is renamed
Miami Children's Hospital



2015

Miami Children's is renamed
Nicklaus Children's Hospital



2024

Kenneth C. Griffin
Surgical Tower opened!






Where Your Child Matters Most™

MATCH DAY IS HERE!

We're thrilled to welcome our newest resident class to Nicklaus Children's!



TAG OUR ACCOUNT IN YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT PHOTOS, SO WE CAN SHARE THEM!



Where Your Child Matters Most™

Welcomes

Pediatric Residents

Class of
2028

 Kendal Allen, DO A.T. Still University of Health Sciences Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine Missouri	 Kimberly Rae Woodson, MD Florida International University Pamela J. Thomas (PJC) School of Medicine Miami	 Nicolas Benelli, MD St. George's University School of Medicine Grenada	 Laura Calderon Suarez, MD Universidad de Los Andes Facultad de Medicina Caracas	 Maria Diaz Munoz, MD Universidad San Francisco de Quito Facultad de Medicina Quito	 Ana Espinosa Montano, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Camila Gallardo Caceres, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Laura Gutierrez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Alexandra Hassen, DO Loma Linda University College of Osteopathic Medicine Tennessee	 Marcelo Immediato-Santos, DO Marion University School of Osteopathic Medicine Indiana
 Jacqueline Jean Gilles, MD St. George's University School of Medicine Grenada	 Ranjithan, MD All India Institute of Medical Sciences Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Delhi	 Dana McCarney, MD University of Medicine and Health Sciences St. George's University Grenada	 Himanshu Menon, MD All India Institute of Medical Sciences Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Delhi	 Dana Myler, MD University of Medicine and Health Sciences St. George's University Grenada	 Maria Nova Perino, DO Loma Linda University College of Osteopathic Medicine Tennessee	 Victoria Quintana-Ruiz, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Hafsa Shireen, MD St. George's University School of Medicine Grenada	 Gabriela Solares, DO Loma Linda University College of Osteopathic Medicine Tennessee	 Gayathri Srinivasan, DO Marion University School of Osteopathic Medicine Indiana
 Carly Stewart, DO Loma Linda University College of Osteopathic Medicine Tennessee	 Samantha Tano, MD University of Medicine and Health Sciences St. George's University Grenada	 Ivonne Tronzo, MD University of Medicine and Health Sciences St. George's University Grenada	 Maria Valia Gonzalez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Daniela Varquez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Emily Vazquez Sanchez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 Luisa Vazquez Reyes, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 María Velez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	 María Velez, MD Universidad Nacional de La Plata Facultad de Medicina Buenos Aires	



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Congrats to all the incoming residents who matched at Nicklaus Children's Hospital!



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May	
Monica Ramirez Mendizabal	4
Ghanavi Kumaran	6
Erica Lobmeyer	15
Jessica Valencia	15
George Yacoub	16
Stephanie San Martin	17
Callie Alt	18
Melanie Hew	18
Skyler Brandfon	20
Dianelis Hernandez	21
Amanda Smith	24
Russell Spotnitz	25
Milena Fraustro Sanchez	25

Medical Education Birthdays



June	
Andrew Ryu	3
Christian Martinez	4
Paola Torres	5
Stephanie Blount	5
Daniel Tennenbaum	6
Sara Solano Zevallos	6
Saud Alkhaldi	8
Lina Ayala Castro	8
Yanira Ortega	9
Anirudh Pidugu	10
Joselyn Ye Tay	12
Becky Li	13
Madison Rhodes	22
Kristen Valdes	22
Claudia Vega Castellvi	26



Alumni Network
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Nicklaus Children's Hospital

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